Highlights of the 1980 annual meeting; Hourglass award won by Previts and Merino

Academy of Accounting Historians

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The annual business meeting of the Academy of Accounting Historians was held on August 11 in Boston, in conjunction with the American Accounting Association. President Dick Brief made announcements pertaining to new personnel in various academy positions. The new co-editors of the ACCOUNTING HISTORIANS JOURNAL are Ed Coffman (Virginia Commonwealth University) and Mervyn Wingfield (James Madison University). Brief also announced that the 1981 dues were being raised to $20 because of higher printing and postage costs. Also, members residing outside of the United States are asked to remit payments in U.S. funds. The increase in collection costs on non-U.S. fund remittances has risen sharply in the past year.

President Brief announced that the Board of Trustees had voted not to affiliate with the American Accounting Association as a section. The question will, however, be considered again in future years. Brief closed the formal meeting by announcing that the 1980 winners of the Academy's Hourglass Award were Gary Previts and Barbara Merino.

The accounting history session at the AAA meeting (organized by Academy vice-president, H. Thomas Johnson) was well attended. Accounting history was evident in other parts of the meeting as well. For example, former Congressman, Wilbur Mills spoke at the American Taxation Association luncheon on the subject of the 1964 Tax Reform Act. The approaching World Congress of Accounting Historians also tended to fuel the enthusiasm toward accounting history since many of the Boston attendees were going on to London.

Notable Contributions to Accounting Literature Award

Members of the Academy are invited to suggest works for nomination for the AICPA Notable Contributions to Accounting Literature Award. These nominations are restricted to articles published in either regular or irregular periodicals during the calendar year ending December 31, 1980, and books or irregular publications published during the five calendar years then ending.

Recommendations must be received by March 1, 1981. Please address your suggestions to Clifford Brown, Area of Accounting, Clarkson College, Potsdam, NY 13676 and/or A. George Pettie, P.O. Box 62, Loyola University, New Orleans, LA 70118.

Gary John Previts of Case Western Reserve University and Barbara Dubis Merino of New York University won this year's prestigious Hourglass Award for their book, A HISTORY OF ACCOUNTING IN AMERICA. The Hourglass Award is presented annually to the author or authors of the publication deemed to be the most noteworthy in the field of accounting history. The publisher of this year's award winner was John Wiley and Sons.

The Previts and Merino book represents the first comprehensive historical analysis of American accountancy from the time of Columbus to the modern day. The book is a highly readable Chronicle that evaluates the role of major thoughts, institutions and events in the development of the accounting profession in the United States.

Previts and Merino join an elite group of scholars by winning the Hourglass Award. Previous winners of the award include some of the leading names in accounting history research. The previous Hourglass winners, and the publications that won them the award, are as follows:

1973-Steve Zeff, Forging Accounting Principles in Five Countries.
1976-Osamu Kojima and Basil Yamey, for reproduction of Ympyn's: A Notable and Very Excellent Woorke (1547).
1979-Murray Wells, Accounting for Common Costs.