

Accounting Historians Notebook

Volume 5
Number 2 *Fall 1982*

Article 2

Fall 1982

Message from the president [1982, Vol. 5, no. 2]

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Recommended Citation

Johnson, H. Thomas (1982) "Message from the president [1982, Vol. 5, no. 2]," *Accounting Historians Notebook*: Vol. 5 : No. 2 , Article 2.

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Johnson: Message from the president [1982, Vol. 5, no. 2]
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I was privileged to chair the liveliest and largest annual meeting in the Academy's history, held in San Diego this past August. It was a great pleasure to see old acquaintances and many newcomers at the meeting. The enthusiasm of Academy members at the San Diego meetings is an encouraging sign that our organization's second decade, beginning in 1983, will be as exciting and productive as the past decade.

One of the Academy's brightest hopes for the next decade is the new Accounting History Research Center at Georgia State University in Atlanta. A dream of Academy members for many years, the Center now occupies a spacious facility in the School of Accountancy at Georgia State. To Al Roberts and Norm Dressel, for your tireless efforts, and to Gary Luoma and his colleagues, for your generous support, the entire membership of the Academy of Accounting Historians and I say thank you and congratulations.

To mark the birth of the Academy's Accounting History Research Center, I would ask that every Academy member join me this year in assembling information and ideas about the relevance of accounting history to accounting education. I believe that we can do more than ever to help educators introduce historical material into accounting courses at all levels, and in all fields. We must show others, as we ourselves already know, that historical literature lends excitement and imagination to the teaching of accounting subjects. Students whose accounting program includes imaginative teaching in accounting history will understand and adapt to changing conditions better, I am sure, than students who receive merely competent training in current procedures and techniques. Moreover, by integrating exciting and imaginative historical material into accounting courses, we reach one of the largest markets for new Academy members—our own students.

I am very happy that Ken Elvik has agreed to coordinate this "History in Accounting Education" project during the coming year. Please send Ken materials that you believe help others understand the role of history in accounting education, such as: history course syllabi; historical anecdotes that you use to enliven accounting courses; particular historical readings that you find helpful in teaching accounting topics; etc. We plan to assemble this information and make it available to Academy members by the end of next year. Please help by sending your ideas and information to Professor Ken Elvik, 370 Carver Hall, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa, 50011.



H. Thomas Johnson

Finally, I cannot write about the role of accounting history in accounting education without mentioning this year's Hourglass Award which went to Williard Stone, a truly great educator whose research and writing have inspired an entire generation of accounting historians. Ken Most, who accepted the Hourglass Award on Will Stone's behalf, spoke eloquently in San Diego about the influence of Will's teaching and research on countless graduate students at the University of Florida. I would add to Ken's remarks my own personal appreciation of Will's tireless, patient and masterful editorship of the *Accounting Historians Journal* during its formative years. The Academy is indebted to Will for starting the *Journal* on the road to becoming the premier scholarly periodical in accounting history. The Academy's Hourglass Award for 1982 is at once a token of our gratitude to Will and a recognition of his enormous contribution to the field of accounting history.

H. Thomas Johnson

THE ACCOUNTING HISTORIANS NOTEBOOK

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