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Accounting Historians: History in print [1982 Vol. 5, no. 2]

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NEW REPRINT SERIES

A new forty volume reprint series of major books in the history, practice, and theory of accounting has recently been published by Garland Publishing Company, 136 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016. The series is edited by Richard P. Brief, a former president of the Academy of Accounting Historians. The collection is divided into three major areas of interest: Accounting History, the Accounting Profession, and Accounting Theory.

Of the eleven books that emphasize history, two are anthologies. Yamey's work contains his recent writings on Peele's early treatise, accounting in the Middle Ages, and other interesting and scholarly subjects. In addition, Hatton's notable 1695 treatise, Hamilton's chapters on bookkeeping in An Introduction to Merchandise (1788), and Lee's early The American Accomptant (1797) are reprinted for the first time. These are rare and valuable items. Several other books depicting the profession's history are also presented, including the American Institute of Accountants' first library catalogue, the Institute's fiftieth-year anniversary volume, the early history of Beta Alpha Psi, the most important educational fraternity accounting, a splendid history of Deloitte & Co., and Ernest Cooper's famous address from 1921, "Fifty-Seven Years in an Accountant's Office."

The second area covered is the accounting profession and matters relating to practice. Two books are international in scope: the proceedings of the 1929 and 1933 world congresses. Other subjects covered are fraud, liability, and negligence, including the U.S. Congressional hearings on the infamous McKesson-Robbins case. Zeff's two anthologies, one a selection of papers delivered at the AIA meetings, 1938-1954, and the other on the profession's attempt in the 1960s to develop accounting postulates and principles, particularly noteworthy additions to the literature, as is the reprint of the classic auditing text by Cutforth.

Selected topics in accounting theory and problems of measurement round out this series. These include inflation accounting (Clarke, Dean and Wells, and Lacey), consolidations (Cutforth, Garnsey, Newlove, and Robson), and other work on theory and measurement by Bray, Couchman, Edey, Fabricant, Gilman and Rorem. Fisher's notable work on the rate of interest and Hawawini's anthology on duration are, from a traditionalist's view, in the area of finance, but both have relevance for today's accounting profession.

A copy of the catalog, entitled "Accountancy in Transition", may be obtained from the publisher at the address given above.

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