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Message from the president [1987, Vol. 10, no. 2]

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Vangermeersch: Message from the president [1987, Vol. 10, no. 2]
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be your President for 1987 and for your support of me. Both are deeply appreciated.

As President, I had the opportunity to represent The Academy in Wuhan, China with Professor Guo, who is in the process of forming an Institute of Accounting History in China. We have much to learn from the Chinese and I hope you will join in a dialog with Professor Guo. Did you know Confucius started his working career as an accountant?

Ed Coffman did an excellent job in selecting vignettes in James Don Edward's outstanding Centennial Issue of *The Journal of Accountancy*. Peter McMickle has done a truly magnificent effort as my co-editor of our souvenir booklet in honor of the AICPA Centennial. Please visit our Exhibit at Columbia University from September 1 to November 25.

I will write every member by the end of my term and will devote my last three months to another membership initiative. We have a nucleus for a major thrust for new members and I hope to leave our 1988 President, Dale Fleisher, with a strong membership campaign.

Where do we go in the future? Accounting history contributions to such celebrations as THE SUMMA 500, THE COLUMBIAN 500, CPA Exam 100, the 200th Anniversary of our Federal Budget and Accounting Reports, and the 75th Anniversary of the NAA are some examples. While there were some positive signals on increased contributions to The Academy, more effort needs to be made for specific purpose giving. I'd like to tip my cap to Arthur Andersen & Company for its immense help to us and would like to earmark its generous contributions to The Academy.

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Richard Vangermeersch

Continuity has occurred and will be fostered by Dale Fleisher and Gene Flegm. Ed Coffman provides a wealth of experience as our Chairman of the Trustees. Our Committees are in good order. Creativity is always needed. If I had a choice to leave you only one thought, it would be this. Be willing to commit much time to a given project before you decide to be concerned about funding. You cannot get funding without a product in very good working order. Be willing to let the excellence of your well developed research attract funding, rather than seeking funding at a much too early stage.

We need continued attention on our Accounting History Research Center and to our Tax History Research Center. We need more creative packaging of our scholarly products. We need more formal relationships with accounting institutional bodies, with history groups, and with librarians in accounting organizations and in libraries. We need to encourage more oral histories. We need to get more Ph.D. students involved in accounting history by our Accounting History Manuscript

Award. We need to expand our membership in South America, in the Middle East, the USSR, and Africa. We need to encourage translations of work by Professors Vlaeminck and Guo and many, many others. We need periodically to conduct a research workshop on historical methodology. We need to develop an undergraduate text to meet, as Norton Bedford and Bill Shenkir state in the August, 1987 issue of *The Journal of Accountancy*, the AAA recommendation to provide a historical perspective of the evolution of the role of the accounting profession in society.

I am proud to have been in Quebec at the forming of our academy and to have served it through the years. I hope that I can be of service to you and our Academy well into the third millennium. Thank you again.

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