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Sydney World Congress highly successful; Scenes from Sydney

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SYDNEY WORLD CONGRESS HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL

Over 130 accounting academics from 14 countries gathered in Sydney, Australia this past August to convene the Fifth World Congress of Accounting Historians. The United States, Australia, Japan and Italy sent the largest delegations. Other countries with representatives included Great Britain, New Zealand, Finland, Spain, Canada, Norway, Hungary, Sweden, Poland and China. Most delegates found the Congress quite inspirational, perhaps because of the presence of such luminaries as Sydney's own Ray Chambers and Murray Wells and individuals of similar stature from other nations. Professor Chambers attended every session and his encouragement of younger scholars was appreciated by all in attendance. This also marked the first Congress attended by a professor from the Peoples Republic of China, in the person of Professor Guo of Wuhan University, the most renowned accounting academic in China.

Editors of various accounting journals were much in evidence. At least seven editors were in attendance and at times seemed to be vying for submissions of the best conference papers. Again, the presenters benefited from the availability of this expertise.

An international conference such as the

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Gary Previts (Case Western) serves Ray Chambers (University of Sydney) a cup of Cocoa.

Paul Garner (University of Alabama), Gary Previts (Case Western), Lee Parker (Flinders University), and Finley Graves (University of Mississippi) wait for a bus back to the Koala Hotel. As is evident by Paul Garner’s overcoat, it was winter “down under.”

Academy past presidents Richard Vangermeersch (University of Rhode Island) and Al Roberts (Georgia State University) stand on either side of Dale Flesher (University of Mississippi) who bravely holds a live koala. The three humans were visiting a wild game park outside of Sydney.
Speakers at the plenary sessions at the Fifth World Congress of Accounting Historians included Tom Johnson (USA), Ray Chambers (Australia), Guo Daoyang (China), Alicja Jaruga (Poland), and Kyojiro Someya (Japan).
Academy President Dale Flesher (University of Mississippi) confers with Ray Chambers (University of Sydney).

Three Aussies, James Guthrie (University of New South Wales), Michael Gaffikin (University of Wollongong), and Ross Stewart (Seattle Pacific University), discuss whether Sydney will recover from the invasion of foreign accounting historians.

At the time this picture was snapped, Gary Previs (Case Western Reserve University), Ed Peragallo (Holy Cross), and Giuseppe Galassi (University of Parma) were discussing the fact that Peragallo was celebrating his 80th birthday at the Congress. It was also the 50th anniversary of Peragallo's Classic book on accounting history.
one in Sydney gives researchers the opportunity to learn of others working in their field of interest. Many of the delegates believed that they were the sole researchers in their specific fields of interest, only to learn that others in Poland, China, Australia, or elsewhere were working in similar areas. In this respect, the delegates became appreciative of how small our world really is and how similar accounting is from one culture to another.

Americans accustomed to attending only American Accounting Association meetings would have been surprised at how scholarly the Congress participants were. Virtually every delegate attended a session every hour, and there was spirited discussion following the presentations, and that discussion centered around the papers presented—not recruiting and job hunting. In essence, the Congress was the type of scholarly meeting that nonacademics probably imagine all academic conferences to be.

The next Congress is scheduled for Kyoto, Japan in 1992. Start now to make your plans to attend.
A.T. Craswell (University of Sydney) edited the Proceedings of the Congress. Murray Wells (University of Sydney) was the principal organizer of the Fifth World Congress.

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