

University of Mississippi

eGrove

AICPA Annual Reports

American Institute of Certified Public
Accountants (AICPA) Historical Collection

1988

Elijah Watt Sells Awards

American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA)

Follow this and additional works at: https://egrove.olemiss.edu/aicpa_arprts



Part of the [Accounting Commons](#), and the [Taxation Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), "Elijah Watt Sells Awards" (1988). *AICPA Annual Reports*. 220.

https://egrove.olemiss.edu/aicpa_arprts/220

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) Historical Collection at eGrove. It has been accepted for inclusion in AICPA Annual Reports by an authorized administrator of eGrove. For more information, please contact egrove@olemiss.edu.

ELIJAH WATT SELLS AWARDS

Elijah Watt Sells Awards are presented to CPA candidates who take all four sections of the Uniform Certified Public Accountant Examination at one time and receive the highest grades. This examination is used by all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. For the highest grades a Gold Medal is awarded; for the second highest grades a Silver Medal is awarded; and for the third highest grades a Bronze Medal is awarded. For the November 1987 examination, 113 certificates for performance With High Distinction will also be awarded.

These awards were originally established by the Council of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants in 1923. Permanence was assured by contributions to the special scholarship fund by friends of the late Elijah Watt Sells with the understanding that the income from the fund should be used for scholarship prizes. Until 1933 a cash prize was given to the candidate receiving the highest average grade. From that time until 1978, Gold and Silver Medals were awarded for the two best grades combining all sections, and certificates were given for honorable mention papers. Beginning with the May 1978 examination, the Board of Examiners has been awarding medals for the three best grades and certificates for performance With High Distinction to the balance of the winners.

Selection of the winners is made without knowledge of the identity of the candidates. The sections of the examination are assigned the following weights: Auditing, 1; Accounting Practice, 2; Accounting Theory, 1; and Business Law, 1. An additional requirement is that a candidate must attain a score of 80 or better on each section of the examination.

The honor attached to the award is especially significant when consideration is given to the number of candidates taking the examination. For the November 1987 examination, approximately 72,000 candidates completed a total of approximately 258,000 papers.