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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT-ELECT

As incoming President of the Academy for 1991, I felt it appropriate to communicate with all members concerning my aspirations for the Academy and its activities during 1991. I must say that I am deeply honoured to have been asked by my colleagues to take on this important role for the Academy, and I am looking forward to our programs and activities in 1991 with considerable enthusiasm. At the Presidential level, we have been moving increasingly in the direction of coordinating the efforts and programs of current and incoming Presidents, and to that end, President Merino and I have been in constant communication during this year. I would like to express the appreciation of all members of the Academy to President Merino and her committees and task forces for their prodigious and productive efforts throughout this year. 1990 has been a year of great progress in many of the areas of activity undertaken by the Academy. It will certainly be a great challenge to sustain the momentum that has been achieved this year and to carry it forward into 1991.

It seemed to me to be appropriate at this time to telegraph some of the major themes and directions that I shall be attempting to sponsor in the life of the Academy next year. My major theme could best be summarised as "Expanding and Intensifying Historical Research." I am keen to encourage the further upgrading of research skills amongst our accounting history community, to support new directions in historical research (such as critical, contextual and oral histories), to attract new researchers into our fold, and to press home to the general accounting research community the contemporary relevance of much historical accounting research.

In addition, I am concerned to further



strengthen the continuity and coherence that can be achieved from Presidency to Presidency. It is my belief that given our current structure of Vice-Presidents, President-Elect, and President, that it should be possible for incoming, present, and immediately past Presidents to share and discuss their visions for the Academy and to provide a degree of continuity and support for initiatives that need to be sponsored across more than one year. Therefore in 1991, in addition to the fine work already undertaken by Dick Vangermeersch and colleagues on a strategic plan for the Academy, I shall be paying further attention to Presidential discussions of their own strategic directions.

I would like to call your attention to a number of important events that will occur in 1991. I commend to your support, the Southwest Region Doctoral Consortium that has been sponsored by President Merino for March 1991. This represents an

important new initiative in developing new historical research talent under Academy auspices.

I also commend to you the Accounting History Research Methodology Conference scheduled at the University of Mississippi in December 1991. The task force responsible for this is ably chaired by Finley Graves and represents a major plank of the Academy's 1991 program. It will take place on December 6-7, 1991, and you will be hearing more on this topic as time goes by.

I would also like to encourage Academy members to consider submitting papers for the 1991 American Accounting Association Annual Meeting in the following thematic areas:

1. Accounting history research and its contemporary implications.
2. Research methodology in accounting history.
3. The historical interface of accounting with its social, political and institutional environment.

These are important areas of future development, not only for the accounting history research community, but for the accounting research community in general. I urge you, my colleagues, to take up this challenge, and to put forward research material that addresses these important contemporary issues.

In later reports, I shall be informing you of other developments and initiatives to be undertaken in 1991. For the present, I hope that this has given the flavour of just some of the work that is planned for next year. At this point I must emphasise that all of the major committees and task forces of the Academy have and will continue to have my support and encouragement for the fundamentally important work that they are doing. I thank all my fellow officers, trustees and committee members and I wish them well. Together, we shall look forward to a challenging and productive 1991.

Lee D. Parker



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