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I want to thank the membership for offering me this opportunity to serve the Academy. As we enter the decade of the 1990s, I believe that the Academy has the opportunity to make important contributions to accounting education and research. I plan a proactive Presidency to try to capitalize on those opportunities and feel extremely fortunate to have the support of 125 members who volunteered to serve on committees this year. With this kind of support, the Academy should be able to achieve the objectives stated in our Bylaws of encouraging "research, teaching and personal interchanges in all phases of accounting history."

Since its organization, Academy membership has steadily increased and we have become increasingly international in scope. Today, we have members in 30 countries and one of my objectives will be to further broaden our base. As we enter the decade of the 1990s, internationalization of the world economy should foster more comparative research, and the Academy is in a unique position to provide leadership in this area.

Similarly, the extensive use of historical data in critical, international and positive research, has provided the opportunity for the Academy to increase its visibility. One of my objectives will be to try to increase interaction between Academy members and other groups interested in historical research. Three programs have been planned to achieve that objective. Cooperation with the International Center for Education and Research at the University of Illinois resulted in an excellent history session at the Center's annual international conference in March. There will be a CPE history session at the AAA meeting in Toronto on August 8, and the Academy will cosponsor an AOS conference at the University of North Texas in November. I have appointed four research committees and task forces to develop a new long-range strategy for programs that will increase our visibility and our interaction with researchers in other areas.

I look forward to serving you during the coming year and hope to meet many of you at the various conferences and programs we have planned during 1990.

Barbara Merino