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President's message [1992, Vol. 15, no. 2]

Thomas Junior Burns

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I write this letter, I have just returned from Washington, D.C. where the Academy held another successful annual convention (August 9). As usual, the American Accounting Association convention (August 10-12) followed our meeting and the Beta Alpha Psi convention (August 7-8) preceded the Academy meeting. Many tour members attended not only our meeting but one or both of the other meetings. These three meetings in the same city, one following the other, are the usual occurrence and vividly symbolize the dynamic interaction between the Academy and the other two organizations.

As I have read the recent histories of both organizations (the AAA Histories by Dale Fleisher and Terry Sheldahl and Beta Alpha Psi history by Terry Sheldahl), I have been impressed by how each organization reached a point where in order for the organization to progress further each had to establish a permanent office and hire an administrator. Both organizations did so and have literally flourished ever since.

As your president, I believe the Academy now needs to consider this issue. This is whether we should set up a permanent office and hire an administrator. Presumably if such an office is opened (and an administrator hired), Sarasota would be the site in order to maintain and improve our relationship with these two organizations. I would appreciate receiving your views on this subject.

A related subject is whether we should maintain the present structure of our organization or whether we should change to a Beta Alpha Psi type relationship with the Association or possibly even section status with the Association. Investigation may demonstrate that not all these options (or possibly others) are realistic. Certainly as

your president, I was very conscious of the continued long-term devotion to the Academy shown once again at the convention by the secretary, the treasurer, the editors, the research center directors, the president-elect, the founding president and many trustees including our chief fundraiser. But I do have the distinct impression that we have often exploited their devotion even to the extent that their universities are absorbing financial costs that should be borne by the Academy. This was also the experience of both the AAA and Beta Alpha Psi before they set up permanent offices.

Two nominees for office who have not been previously active at a national level were introduced at our Washington meeting. Both are prominent scholars and widely known. A nominee to eventually assume the position of secretary is Professor Doris Cook, University of Arkansas. Professor James Don Edwards, University of Georgia, will be serving as a vice president. We welcome them in their new leadership roles. Special recognition should be given to Sharon Moody, George Washington University, who managed most ably, in her initial effort, the Academy Exhibit in Washington, D.C.

Finally, I encourage our membership to attend our research conference next November 20-21 in Columbus, Ohio at the Hilton North-Worthington Hotel. The registration fee for the conference is \$75 per individual. Rooms must be reserved directly with the hotel. The theme of the conference is "U.S. Accounting History: 1965-1990." The Academy conference is co-sponsored by the Accounting Hall of Fame and The Ohio State University. The format will be oral history conducted in group discussion by prominent

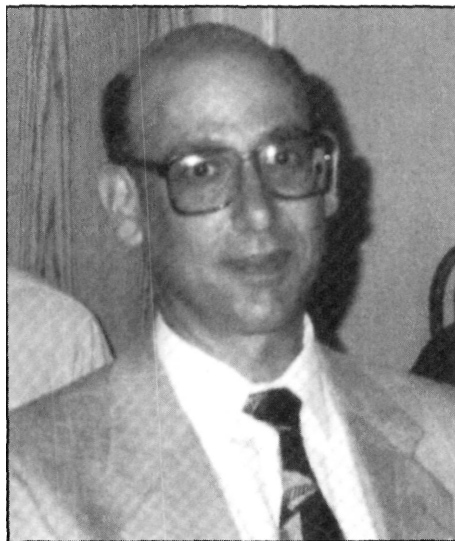
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The Accounting Historians Notebook, Fall, 1992

TYSON RECEIVES THE MANUSCRIPT AWARD

Professor Thomas Tyson was presented with the 1992 Vangermeersch Manuscript Award at the First Annual Academy Reception held in Washington, D.C. on August 9. This annual award is one of the programs of the Academy established to encourage young accounting scholars to pursue historical research. The call for participation in the 1993 award program is included in this issue of *The Notebook*.

Tom is Associate Professor of Accounting at St. John Fisher College in Rochester, New York. He is a Certified Management Accountant and an Enrolled Agent with the Internal Revenue Service. Tom has more than seven years of experience as an industrial accountant. Dr. Tyson earned his doctorate degree in Accounting from Georgia State University, a Master of Business Administration from New Mexico State University, and a Masters in Counseling Education from the University of Pittsburgh. Tom has published articles in a variety of academic and professional



journals which include *The Accounting Historians Journal*, *Issues in Accounting Education*, *The Journal of Business Ethics*, and *Management Accounting*. Certificate of Merit Awards were received for two of his articles in *Management Accounting*.



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accountants. There will be three major sessions, each one from a different perspective, academic, industrial, and professional. Each session will be video taped and recorded. The special participants at the conference include many Hall of Fame members and other prominent accountants.

The academics include: Robert Anthony (Harvard), Norton Bedford (Illinois), Sidney Davidson (Chicago), Chuck Horngren (Stanford), Yuji Ijiri (Carnegie), Maurice Moonitz (Berkeley), and David Solomons (Wharton). Steve Zeff (Rice) will moderate the first session. The second session, which is the industrial perspective,

will consist of Chief Financial Officers of major corporations and will be moderated by James Don Edwards (Georgia). The third session on the profession will consist of leading professionals of the Big Six, the current or former managing partner. We encourage you to attend. It should be an historic occasion. The Academy's annual business meeting will be held on Sunday morning at the same hotel on November 22. Saturday afternoon will be devoted to the annual University of Michigan football game with Ohio State. Ticket scalping is not illegal in Columbus. Again, we hope you can attend.

Thomas J. Burns