

Accounting Historians Notebook

Volume 15
Number 1 *Spring 1992*

Article 11

Spring 1992

Conferences, periodicals, and things; Continuing agenda from Fall, 1991, Notebook; New book of special interest; Conference on academic knowledge and political power; New Series calls for papers; Call for papers in social policy; Interface; Accounting enquires

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Recommended Citation

Accounting Historians, Academy of (1992) "Conferences, periodicals, and things; Continuing agenda from Fall, 1991, Notebook; New book of special interest; Conference on academic knowledge and political power; New Series calls for papers; Call for papers in social policy; Interface; Accounting enquires," *Accounting Historians Notebook*: Vol. 15 : No. 1 , Article 11.

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Interview: continued from page 13

Public Library. Ruth deserves much credit as a trained librarian and sleuth of exceptional talent. Ruth also realized the importance of her notes which she donated through John Cathcart to Bentley College. A personal thanks to Ruth for your time and efforts in the field of the history of accounting and for granting an interview.

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CONFERENCES, PERIODICALS, AND THINGS

CONTINUING AGENDA FROM FALL, 1991, NOTEBOOK —

American Accounting Association 1992 Annual Meeting is to be held in Washington, D.C. on August 9-12, 1992.

Seventh International Conference on Accounting Education is scheduled for October 8-10, 1992, in Arlington, Virginia.

XIV World Congress of Accountants will be held in Washington, D.C. on October 11-14, 1992.

The festive preview visit to Sansepolcro by The Pacioli Society in preparation for the

1992 Quincentennial is scheduled for September, 1992. Tentative schedule begins on September 8, with departure from the USA to Rome.

A NEW BOOK OF SPECIAL INTEREST

Denise Schmandt-Besserat, Professor of Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Texas at Austin, has a new two volume study which should be of particular interest to accounting historians. The study is entitled, *Before Writing, Volume I: From Counting*

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to *Cuneiform and Volume II: A Catalog of Near Eastern Tokens*. The study is currently expected to be published in May, 1992, by the University of Texas Press.

The announcement of the study indicates that Schmandt-Besserat offers convincing evidence that the beginning of writing in the Near East was not a sudden and spontaneous invention as previously thought. Rather, writing was the outgrowth of thousands of years of experience at manipulating symbols.

Following the rise of agriculture around 8000 B.C., a system of counters or tokens appeared which were used to count and account for various agricultural products for which the tokens represented. The tokens were small, geometrically shaped clay objects. These counters were used until their representations became impressions in clay. It is from these impressions that cuneiform script, the first written language in the western world developed.

This study should raise some interesting points about the relationship of accounting and writing. Particularly, the traditional position of Littleton that the development of writing was necessary for the development of accounting.

CONFERENCE ON ACADEMIC KNOWLEDGE AND POLITICAL POWER

The University of Maryland at College Park, Department of Sociology, is sponsoring a multidisciplinary, international conference on "Academic Knowledge and Political Power." The conference will be held at the university on November 20-22, 1992. All interested in this conference should contact Professor Richard Harvey Brown, Department of Sociology, UMCP, for further information.

A NEW SERIES CALLS FOR PAPERS

The new Sage Publications, Inc., Race and Ethnic Relations Series, is soliciting manuscript proposals and manuscripts for contract consideration. The editors are especially interested in publishing manuscripts which offer new theoretical insights and innovative methodological applications in the race and ethnic relations field. Interdisciplinary and comparative perspectives are highly welcomed. For an initial evaluation, please send a letter detailing the particulars of the proposed book, monograph, or anthology to: John H. Stanfield II, Department of Sociology, Box 8795, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA, 23187-8795.

A CALL FOR PAPERS IN SOCIAL POLICY

Research in Social Policy publishes theoretically informed interdisciplinary analyses of the values, attitudes, beliefs, politics, and organizational contexts of policy makers and their impacts on target populations and problems. Critical theoretical and methodological perspectives are encouraged. December 1, 1992, is the deadline for Volume IV: "Science and Technology Policy Studies" and June 15, 1993, is the deadline for Volume V: "Medical and Health Policies." Manuscripts should not exceed 40 pages, including notes. Send papers and inquiries to the general editor: John H. Standfield II, Department of Sociology, College of William and Mary,

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INTERFACE

INTERFACE will host the Sixteenth Annual Humanities and Technology Conference in Atlanta, Georgia on October 9-10, 1992. For information, contact: Dr. Mark Stevens or Dr. Pam McMahon, Humanities and Social Sciences, Southern College of Technology, 110 South Marietta Parkway, Marietta, GA 30060-2896.

INTERFACE brings together professionals from diverse fields such as engineering, technology, computer science, history, literature, and physics to discuss issues that cut across traditional disciplinary boundaries.

ACCOUNTING ENQUIRES

Accounting Enquires is a new research journal devoted to the study of accounting and accounting related issues. The journal will publish articles in, but not limited to, the following areas: accounting theory and practice, accounting history, auditing theory and practice, standard setting, and behavior issues in accounting and auditing. The journal expects to provide a forum for scholarly debate and exchange of ideas. No paradigm will be espoused by this journal. Articles will be referred double blind. For further information, contact Stanley C. W. Salvary, Canisius College, Buffalo, NY 14208 or Business Manager, Stanversal Publishing, 117 Courtlands Dr., Scarborough, Ontario, Canada M1B4N1.



FOOTNOTES

The following represent short items submitted for your interest by the respective authors.

AN ACCOUNTANT AS DESCRIBED IN 1860 SICILY

by
Dr. Paul Garner
Dean Emeritus
University of Alabama

The fascinating historical novel by the Sicilian author, Giuseppe D. Lampedusa, entitled, *The Leopard*, vividly describes the feelings and final acceptance by the people of Sicily of the consolidation of the various kingdoms and provinces of the Italian Peninsula into one kingdom under the rule of King Victor Emmanuel. There is an unusual scene and description of an accountant on pages 44 and 45 of the book.

A prince of Sicily named Fabrizio had engaged as his accountant the services of Don Ciccio Ferrara. In this episode of the novel, the Prince has asked the accountant to come to his mansion and make a report. Lampedusa describes the episode in these words:

But he (the Prince) was soon exiled from these stellar realms. In came Don Ciccio Ferrara, the accountant. He was a scraggy