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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

My year as president is coming to a close. The highlight of the year will occur in December with the Conference on Biographical Research in Accounting and the Annual Business Meeting. The Conference is scheduled for December 3 and 4 on the campus of The University of Mississippi. The business meeting will be held at the conclusion of the Conference.

The purpose of the Conference on Biographical Research in Accounting is to focus on the importance of studying and assessing the influence of individuals on the development of accounting thought and practice. The papers and discussion will include methodologies and assessment of the impact of individuals on the development of accounting. Papers which show the use of biography or illustrate the influence of an individual on the profession of accountancy will be presented in plenary and concurrent sessions. Plenary speakers will include Professors Stephen Zeff and David Solomons. Twenty-six papers have been accepted for presentation. Abstracts of the papers will be sent to registrants in advance. Dale Flesher is acting as co-director of the Conference.

Conference registration materials have been sent to all members of the Academy. I look forward to seeing you in December.

Committee and task force chairs will present reports of their activities at the Annual Business Meeting on Saturday afternoon, December 4. These groups have been busy this year, and their reports should spark much discussion. The Hourglass Award will be presented at this Meeting. All members are encouraged to attend and participate.

Two task forces have been meeting and deliberating on very important matters that affect the future of the Academy. One group has been examining the role of the Academy's research centers. The resources of the Academy have grown dramatically in recent years beginning with the original Accounting History Research Center at Georgia State University and adding the Tax History Research Center, Videotape Library and EDP auditing Archives at The University of Mississippi. This task force is chaired by Professor Richard Vangermeersch who will present the results of the group's analysis at the Business Meeting.

The charge of the second task force was to explore options for the strategic organizational structure of the Academy. This study group was led by Professor Gary Previts. Dr. Previts will present the options for organizational structure that have been identified by the task force. These options will provide the foundation for deliberations by the task force which will be formed by 1994 President Ashton Bishop who served on this year's task force.

The matters to be discussed at this year's business meeting are vital to the continuing success of the Academy. The organization is at a critical point in its development. I am pleading with all Academy members to be active participants in these crucial discussions so that the ultimate decisions will insure that the Academy of Accounting Historians secures its position as the international organization for the study of accounting history.

I would like to close by thanking all of the officers, committees and task forces, and members who have helped me during my presidency. Everyone has been cooperative and quite willing to serve the Academy. Thank you all for allowing me to be your president. I extend my best wishes to the 1994 President, Ashton Bishop.

Tonya Kay Flesher

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