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WILLIARD E. STONE LIFE MEMBER OF THE ACADEMY

In August, 1991, The Academy of Accounting Historians elected Dr. Williard E. Stone to Life Membership in recognition of his long service to the Academy and to the community of scholars in Accounting History. At that time, only a brief notice of the election was published. Dr. Richard Vangermeersch was commissioned to provide the following comments in honor of Dr. Stone.

Williard Stone rose through the ranks in accounting academics the old-fashioned way—through hard work over a long period of time. A mathematics graduate of Penn State in 1933, he joined the accounting field as an auditor for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in that year. He was a principal auditor with the U.S. General Accounting Office in 1943. Williard received the CPA Certificate in 1945. In 1947, he became a partner in Stone and Fisher, CPAs, in Philadelphia and started his teaching career with the Wharton School, in which he received his M.A. in Finance in 1950 and a Ph.D. in Management and Economics in 1957. From 1950 to 1952, he also was assistant to the President and Controller for Rollie Manufacturing Co. In 1960, Williard became Chairman of the Accounting Department at the University of Florida. He chaired that department for 14 years and retired from the University of Florida in 1980. He held visiting posts in such schools as the University of New South Wales, The University of Virginia, the University of Port Elizabeth in South Africa, the University of Kentucky, and Deakin University in Australia.

Williard, along with Dr. Gary Previts and Paul Garner, founded the Academy of

Accounting Historians in 1973. He was Manuscript Editor of *The Accounting Historians Journal* from 1973 to 1980. While Williard was a frequent contributor to the accounting literature since 1956, it was only in 1969 that he started to publish historical work with “Antecedents of the Accounting Profession” published in *The Accounting Review*. With the start of the Academy, Williard also began to produce a prolific stream of historical pieces. An example of these are “Accounting Records Reveal History: The Virginia Cobbler” in the July, 1976 issue of the *Journal of Accountancy*. In 1982, he and Gary Previts served as editors of the Yushodo American Historic Accounting Literature. Williard also conveyed his personal library of over a thousand books to the Osaka Genkins Stone Library at the University of Osaka. Many of his books were autographed. Williard continues to be an active contributor to the literature of accounting. He was recently ranked as the eighth most prolific writer in 24 academic journals.

Williard helped to make historical research in accounting an acceptable academic endeavor. Those who were not present in the 1960s and early 1970s probably fail to realize the struggle it was to publish pieces in accounting history. Williard’s efforts and lifetime interests in history and geology have been successful, and here we are today. Personally, as a Ph.D. graduate of the University of Florida, I am proud to write these comments in honor of a fine gentleman and scholar, Williard E. Stone.

Richard Vangermeersch
University of Rhode Island

