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Message from the president [1998, Vol. 21, no. 1]

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Slocum: Message from the president [1998, Vol. 21, no. 1]
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As the Academy begins its twenty-fifth year, we can look with great pride on the accomplishments of the past and the challenges of the future. The many contributions of individual members and supporting institutions and firms have made it possible. I especially want to thank you who have so readily volunteered to serve the Academy in various capacities this year.

The committees are currently working on the many activities of the Academy. In the areas of membership and education, I believe that we need to formulate long-term plans which will encourage new members and better maintain and serve existing members. Each year, we appear to begin anew, whereas, we need to establish more continuity and to build on accomplishments of previous years. Your suggestions will be greatly appreciated.

Expanding membership, participation, and service internationally continues to be an area of challenge. Based on suggestions from prior year committees, the international relations committee has been expanded to include greater numbers of members in other countries with an objective of improving communications and membership. A new proposal is under consideration for development of a new international group in "comparative accounting history research" to encourage research efforts globally among members, especially younger members. I am especially pleased regarding the potential of this new group to expand international involvement in the Academy and research in accounting history.

The difficulties the Academy experienced in 1996 and early 1997 with the distribution of *The Accounting Historians Journal*



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have been dealt with, and we do not believe such problems will occur in the future. I want to thank Barbara Merino, Ross Tondkar, Gary Previts, Alan Mayper, Richard Fleishman, and other members who contributed much effort in this matter. I particularly appreciate your patience and understanding regarding the delay and replacement of missing issues.

Due to the suggestions of several officers and members, we will have a session regarding accounting history research at the Annual Meeting of the American Accounting Association in New Orleans. Finley Graves and Vaughan Radcliffe will offer a CPE session prior to the regular program. The planned program will focus on various types of accounting history research.

Work is continuing regarding the Academy's 1998 Research Conference in Atlanta, at the Atlanta Hilton, on November 12-14. This conference will culminate the activities of the Academy's twenty-fifth year, and we plan for the conference to be a celebration. The program committee, in choosing the theme, "The Evolution of Business Disclosures," expects to provide a program which will trace the origins and purposes of reporting and disclosures, structure and content of financial statements, and the social, economic, and political influences on accounting disclosures. We especially encourage papers concerning these issues from international members in order to illustrate comparative developments among countries. Regardless, make plans to come to Atlanta and join in the scholarly discussions and celebration.

Elliott L. Slocum