

Accounting Historians Notebook

Volume 21
Number 2 *October 1998*

Article 2

October 1998

Message from the president [1998, Vol. 21, no. 2]

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Recommended Citation

Slocum, Elliott L. (1998) "Message from the president [1998, Vol. 21, no. 2]," *Accounting Historians Notebook*: Vol. 21 : No. 2 , Article 2.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As the Academy's 25th year enters its last quarter, I want to thank the officers and committees for their dedication and work. Much has been achieved, and decisions were made which will benefit the Academy in the future.

The 1998 Accounting History Research Conference will be held in Atlanta on november 12-14, at the Westin Peachtree Plaza-Atlanta. I encourage you to attend and participate. This year's conference theme is "The Evolution of Business Disclosures," which is intended to focus on the developments in financial reporting. The Academy's research conferences provide opportunities to learn of and discuss new research in accounting history and represents one of the important ways in which the Academy promotes accounting history research.

The Academy has established the position of Academy Administrator and selected Mrs. Kathy Rice at the University of Alabama for the position. Mrs. Rice will maintain Academy records, facilitate communication with the membership, and provide continuity in various other administrative activities.

For some time, the Academy has sought ways to better serve members outside the U.S., to expand membership, and increase their participation in the Academy. The expanded International Relations Committee has had limited success, thus far. Of course distance, time, and costs make participation of non U.S. members difficult. Moreover, organizations in other countries, which promote accounting history and related research conferences and publications, have greatly increased the opportunities for those interested in accounting history. This issue of the *Notebook* includes more



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calls for papers involving accounting history for research conferences and publication opportunities in other countries and reports of recent accounting history research conferences in other countries than ever before. These events provide both opportunities and challenges of which the Academy will need to address. Indeed, many Academy members have taken advantage of the increasing research and publication opportunities outside the U.S.

The Academy has taken two additional actions that will help to increase participation by non U.S. members. First, the 1999 Accounting History Research Conference will be held in Toronto, November 18-20. Gary Spraakman and Alan Richardson were instrumental in the initial planning and developing support for the conference from accounting professionals and universities in Canada. Second, a proposal for the formation of the Comparative International Accounting History Research Consortium was approved at the Academy meeting of officers and trustees in New Orleans. The proposed consortium will be funded from sources outside the Academy and be made up of selected, young research oriented members of the Academy membership. The proposed first meeting of the consortium is May 20-22, 1999, in Tuscaloosa, Alabama in conjunction with the Spring meeting of trustees, officers, and key members. This consortium is expected to provide opportunities for greater participation of non U.S. members in the Academy and to elevate accounting history research in the Academy.

The Academy's various committees have worked hard this year on various projects. Jeanette Sanfilippo and the public relations
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ACADEMY BOOTH A SUCCESS

Jeanette Sanfilippo hosted the Academy's booth at the annual meeting of the American Accounting Association in New Orleans with great success. During the three-day event, all visitors to the booth were invited to place their business cards in a box for a special drawing. At the end of the conference, Alexandra Carpenter, a doctoral student from Nova Southeastern University,

was awarded an autographed copy of *A History of Accountancy in the United States* by Gary Previts and Barbara Merino. We are particularly happy that the winner of drawing was a doctoral student. The Academy is very appreciative that Gary and Barbara donated and autographed their new book for the drawing.

The annual booth and display achieves a significant purpose for the Academy. Hundreds of people visited the display, discussed publications, bought the newly designed souvenir t-shirts, and a number became new members. The booth provides a means of socializing while promoting the Academy by distributing its publications and informing members and non-members of future research conferences. The Academy especially appreciates the hard work of Jeanette Sanfilippo in preparing and hosting the booth and the volunteers that helped during the three days.



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committee have prepared a newly designed t-shirt, hosted the Academy booth in New Orleans, prepared for another silent auction at the 1998 research conference in Atlanta, and continues to work on other projects. The membership committee is, among other things, planning to survey the membership. The research committee is nearing completion of the research methodology project. Donna Street, chair, and members of the Richard G. Vangermeersch Manuscript Award Committee have again done an excellent job this year. Dr. Michael Schoderbek, Rutgers University-New Brunswick, was selected for this award for his manuscript entitled, "Robert Morris and Reporting for the Treasury under the U.S. Continental

Congress."

Finley Graves and Vaughan Radcliffe are to be congratulated for the development of a half-day CPE session presented in New Orleans. The program, which included Richard Fleischman and Barbara Merino, was well attended. Vaughan, Richard, and Barbara discussed various types of accounting history research methodology and opportunities for publication. Several other editors rounded out the program by discussing publishing opportunities in their journals.

As the year ends, I am proud of the many achievements of the officers and committees, while somewhat disappointed that so much remains to be done. However, challenges make the future worthwhile.

Elliott L. Slocum