

# Accounting Historians Notebook

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Article 9

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April 1999

## Evolution of business disclosure

Academy of Accounting Historians

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## Accounting Historians: Evolution of business disclosure

- Treasurer, Sarah A. Holmes, Texas A&M University
- Secretary, Alan J. Richardson, Queen's University

### Trustees

- Dale L. Flesher, University of Mississippi, Chairman of the Board of Trustees
- Gene Flegm, Chairman Emeritus
- Hiroshi Okano, Osaka City University
- Daniel L. Jensen, Ohio State University

The slate of candidates were seconded, voted by the membership and elected.

14. Paul Miranti gave the Research Committee's report and indicated slow progress in finishing the research book.
15. Donna Street reported that the Vangermeersch Award Committee had sent out the announcements for the 1999 award.
16. Ashton Bishop reported that the Strategic Action Committee was concluding its work and passing the initiative to the new president, Tom Lee.
17. New business included discussion that the World Congress meeting in 2004 be proposed for the city of St. Louis. Dick Vangermeersch will chair a committee to investigate this possibility.
18. Dale Flesher reported that the Tax History Research Center has issued a grant to support one scholar, and the McMickle book collection will be shelved in the new facility. This collection will be listed on the Academy's web page.
19. Elliott Slocum reported that the Accounting History Research Center will put the holdings on the web. The books are being rearranged on the shelves to make the groupings more logical.
20. The meeting was adjourned by Elliott Slocum at 3:40 p.m.



## THE EVOLUTION OF BUSINESS DISCLOSURE

The Academy of Accounting Historians held the Fifth Charles Waldo Haskins Accounting History Seminar on November 12-14, 1998. The theme of conference, "The Evolution of Business Disclosure," brought a number of presenters from various countries including Japan, Australia, Ireland, Canada, and the United States. The subjects presented ranged from International Perspectives on Financial Reporting to Ethics and Governance. In the first Plenary Session, Edmund Jenkins, Chairman of the Financial Accounting Standards Board, spoke on the topic, "Business Reporting in an Era of Change."

The Academy is grateful to the conference sponsors that made this research conference a great success. The sponsors include Arthur Andersen, LLP, Chrysler Corporation Fund, Deloitte & Touche, LLP, Ernst &

Young, LLP, the General Motors Foundation, and the KPMG Peat Marwick Foundation. The Academy appreciates the chairmen and their efforts of organizing the conference. The conference program was co-chaired by Kumar Sivakumar and Ram Sriram. The organization of the facilities was chaired by A. R. Roberts. The following is the conference program:

### **Plenary Session: "Business Reporting in an Era of Change"**

Edmund L. Jenkins, Chairman,  
*Financial Accounting Standards Board*

### **Plenary Session: Research Methodologies and Acceptance of Accounting History in Education and Dissertation Research**

**Moderator:** Ram S. Sriram, *Georgia State University*

"Comments about the Acceptance of

Accounting History Research in Dissertations, Promotion and Tenure, and Academic Employment”

Panel: Joann Noe Cross, *University of Wisconsin Oshkosh*

“A Genealogy of Accounting History Dissertations”

Robert J. Bricker, *Case Western Reserve University*

Barbara Merino, *University of North Texas*

“Making Historical Research Meaningful and Relevant”

Vaughan Radcliffe, *Case Western Reserve University*

“Methodologies: Old and New”

### Lunch and Awards

Panel: “Academy of Accounting Historians: Its History”

Edward Coffman,  
*Virginia Commonwealth University*

Al Roberts, *Georgia State University*,  
*Retired*

Gary J. Previts, *Case Western Reserve University*



### Concurrent Sessions

Session A: International Perspectives on Financial Reporting

Moderator: Charles W. Wootton, *Eastern Illinois University*

“Cultural and Administrative Antecedents of Financial Disclosure in Modern China”

Max Aiken, *La Trobe University*

Wei Lu, *Monash University*

“The Development of Financial Reporting in Ireland”

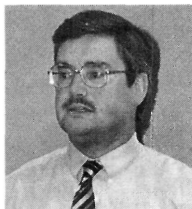
Peter Clarke,

*University College Dublin*

“A Comparison of the British and United States Balance Sheets to 1917”

Darwin L. King, *St.*

*Bonaventure University*

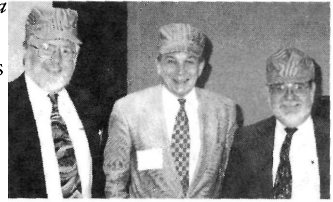


Session B: Financial Reporting for Railroads and Coal Industry

Moderator: Victoria Beard, *University of*

*North Dakota*

“Exploring the Contents of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad



Annual Reports: 1827-1856”

Gary J. Previts, *Case Western Reserve University*

William D. Samson, *The University of Alabama*

“The Interstate Commerce Commission and the Development of a Uniform Accounting System for U.S. Railroads: 1887-1915”

Jan Richard Heier, *Auburn University Montgomery*

“Financial Reporting in the Belgian Coal Industry: Cases from the First Half of the 20th Century”

Ignace De Beelde, *University of Gent (Belgium)*

Session C: Concepts, Issues, and Roles of Financial Reporting

Moderator: Judith C. Walo, *Central Connecticut State University*

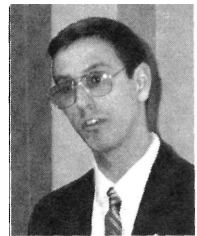
“Primacy of the Balance Sheet or Income Statement: Politics and Conceptual Development in Standard Setting”

Dale L. Flesher, *University of Mississippi*

Jeffrey S. Zanzig, *Millsaps College*

“The Roll of Accounting in Reconciling Changes in Socioeconomic Relationships in the United States Following World War II”

Diane Kay Pence,  
*Prairie View A&M University*



“Historical and Philosophical Looks at the Pre-SFAS #95 World of the Funds Statement”

Richard Vangermeersch,  
*University of Rhode Island*



## Accounting Historians: Evolution of business disclosure

### Concurrent Sessions

#### Session D: Auditing and the Audit Report

Moderator: Keith McMillian, S.J.,  
*Rockhurst College*

“Auditing and Stewardship: The Role of Agency Theory and Stewardship Theory in the Assessment of Audit Risks”

Donald L. Atrial, Atrial & Company,  
P.C.

“The Changing Format of the United States Audit Report Responding to Stakeholders Needs and Wants”

Darwin L. King, St. Bonaventure  
University

“Images of Audit 1844-1944”

Gerard McHugh, *Trinity College*

#### Session E: Business Disclosures as Illustrated by Various Companies

Moderator: Marilynn Collins, John Carroll  
University

“The Disclosed Profit and Loss accounts of Schneider and Co. (1837-1852)”

Daijiro Fujimura,  
*Hiroshima Shudo  
University*



“Accounting and Business Disclosure Practices of the St. Joseph Lead Company 1864 to 1900”

Glenn Vent, *University of Nevada,  
Las Vegas*

Ronald A. Milne, *University of Nevada,  
Las Vegas*

“United States Rubber Company, 1893-1917: An Examination of Reporting Practices”

Elliott L. Slocum, *Georgia State  
University*

### Concurrent Sessions

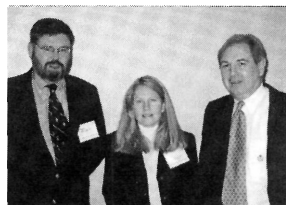
#### Session F: Ethics and Governance

Moderator: Alan Mayper, *University of  
North Texas*

“Business Ethics and Social Responsibility - A Historical Perspective Derived from Annual Reports”

Duffy A. Morf, Ph.D. Candidate,  
*University of Mississippi*

Dale L. Flesher,  
*The University  
of Mississippi*  
“Information,  
Contingency  
and the  
Evolution of US



Corporate Monitoring”

Paul J. Miranti, Jr., *Rutgers University -  
New Brunswick*

Mary Ellen O'Grady, *Ramapo College*

Discussant: Gary J. Previts, *Case Western  
Reserve University*

#### Session G: Taylorism and Rhetoric

Moderator: Ann L. Watkins, *North  
Carolina A&T State University*

“Completing the Triangle: Taylorism and the Paradigms”

Richard K. Fleischman, *John Carroll  
University*

Discussant: Daniel L. Jensen, *Ohio State  
University*

“Conditional Truth: The Rhetoric of Cost in Twentieth Century America”

C.J. McNair, *Babson College*

Richard Vangermeersch, *University of  
Rhode Island*

Discussant: Edward C. Arrington,  
*University of North Carolina-Greensboro*

### Concurrent Sessions

#### Session H: Business and Government Reporting Practices

Moderator: Ashton Bishop, *James Madison  
University*

“Analysis of an Early American (1801) Reference Book on



Business and Accounting Practices”

Robert Bloom, *John Carroll University*  
John Solotko

“A Historical Test of the AICPA Model of Business Reporting”

Joel E. Thompson, *Northern Michigan  
University*

“The Development of Performance

Reporting within State and Local Government”

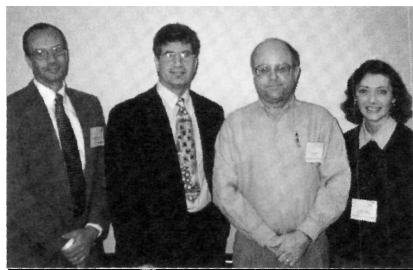
Judith A. Kamnikar, *Auburn University Montgomery*

Edward G. Kamnikar, *State of Alabama*

Session I: Issues in Reporting to Stakeholders, Internal Audit, and a Case of Political Influence

Moderator: Donna L. Street, *James Madison University*

“The Ford Motor Company’s Financial Reporting to Stakeholders - Dormant or Extinct?”



Lawrence R. Hudack, *Barry University*

Larry L. Orsini, *St. Bonaventure University*

“Internal Audit at the Historical Hudson’s Bay Company: A Challenge to the Discipline’s Accepted History”

Gary Spraakman, *York University*

“Perley Morse V. Board of Examiners of New York”

George C. Romeo, *Rowan University*

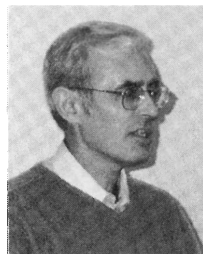
Lunch

“The Academy of Accounting Historians: Its Future”

Tom Lee, *The University of Alabama*

Kathleen Sinning, *Western Michigan University*

Finley Graves, *Kansas State University*



## CALL FOR PAPERS

JAI Press, Inc. has announced that it will begin publishing a new research annual titled *Advances in Business History* and has appointed Professor Ray H. Anderson as Editor-in-Chief. JAI Press is the publisher of numerous journals and research annuals in all areas of business as well as other disciplines.

This announcement serves as an initial CALL FOR PAPERS. *Advances in Business History* will be a scholarly publication whose purpose is to provide for the dissemination of original, quality research in business history which confirm with generally accepted standards of scientific enquires, interpreted in its widest sense. The series will contribute to the development of business and related disciplines, encompassing accounting, economics, banking and finance, education, management, marketing, administration, law and information technology. Recognizing the breadth of research, the annual will accept for publication papers that encompass different methodology and theoretical backgrounds.

All manuscripts and correspondence should be sent to the address below. Descriptions of editorial policy and manuscripts form may be requested from Professor Anderson.

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