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Tom Lee

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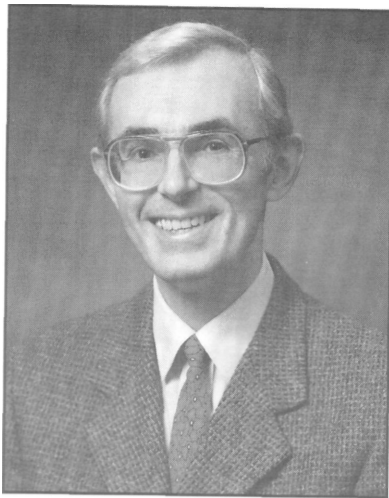
SECOND MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Academy Members:

It is traditional for the Academy's president to write a second message to its members to coincide with the Fall issue of the Notebook. I am delighted to take this opportunity to communicate with you, and use it to bring you up to speed on the Academy's operations during 1999.

Although it may not appear to be the case, the Academy's committees and officers work continuously throughout the year in order to ensure that you are getting value for money from your membership dues. Here are just a few of the things that have been done since I last wrote to you in the Spring.

The Comparative International Accounting History Consortium met for three days in May on the campus of the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa. A total of twenty-five individuals met to discuss a number of research papers, get to know one another as colleagues in the global accounting history community, and share ideas with the Academy's officers as to its future strategy. The event proved to be an outstanding success if the feedback I have received is typical. The papers were excellent, there was enjoyable debate and discussion, and the officers obtained valuable feedback concerning where the Academy should be directed in the next century. What was most important in this context was that the Consortium participants came from nine countries and represented the leading edge of current accounting history research. A number of other invitees (from a further four countries) also added comment in writing. I am absolutely certain that the officers will take this feedback on board their agendas for the next two to three years and ensure that the Academy



Tom Lee

is properly focused on the needs of its membership throughout the world. In particular, the needs of members outside North America are being specifically addressed.

A first move in this direction involves the editorship of the *Accounting Historians Journal*. It has been necessary for the officers to look for a replacement for the current editor, Dick Fleischman of John Carroll University. Dick has done an outstanding job producing the *Journal* in what is now proving to be a highly competitive market for quality manuscripts. There are two other accounting history journals and a number of general journals which major in historical studies from time to time. Dick has provided a sound basis for us to build the *Journal* into being the premiere publisher of accounting history research, and will continue doing this for the next few issues. However, he wishes to step down by 2001, and I set up a search committee chaired by Lee Parker, a past president, and also including Paul Williams, Dick Edwards, and Mike Gaffikin, all of whom have distinguished research records. The committee sought nominations, deliberated and selected a recommended name, and this was approved by the Board of Trustees at its August meeting in San Diego.

I am delighted to report that Dr. Steve Walker of the University of Edinburgh in Scotland has agreed to a three-year term as editor when Dick Fleischman steps down. He will work with Dick over the transition period. Steve has a distinguished research record as an accounting historian, specializing in late nineteenth century

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professional accounting, but also dealing with more contemporary issues in recent years. With a doctorate in social history and a training as a chartered accountant, Steve is well-qualified to take the *Journal* to a new level of excellence. He is also the first non-American editor, and this is a deliberate decision by the trustees to embrace the accounting history community beyond North America. I wish Steve well in his endeavors and know from personal experience with him that he will be successful in whatever objectives he sets for the *Journal*.

The vice presidents of the Academy (Kathy Sinning, Finley Graves, and Bill Samson) have been busy putting into place the next annual conferences. The 1999 conference is taking place in November in downtown Toronto, and details of the hotel and paper submissions should have been in your hands for some time. The 2000 conference is being planned for Columbus, Ohio, with the assistance of Ohio State University, and the 2001 conference will be in Santa Fe, New Mexico, with the assistance of the University of New Mexico. The location of the 2002 conference has yet to be decided but it is likely to be in the South of England with ease of access to Heathrow and Gatwick airports. We will keep you notified of details for all of these conferences. Meantime, I must thank Kathy, Finley and Bill, and the supporting universities for all of the work that goes into planning these complex events.

On a personal note, I have been busy during the year as an active accounting history researcher promoting the work of the Academy. My current research projects have taken me to a number of locations in the United Kingdom as I search for data on my professional formation and emigration projects. When doing this, I have taken every opportunity to inform colleagues and students of the work of the Academy. I will be visiting the United Kingdom again this Fall for the annual accounting and business his-

tory. I also hope to visit Australia briefly later in the Fall, and will use that opportunity to promote the Academy. I am also convener of the Scottish Committee on Accounting History of The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland. As far as I know, this is the only history committee of a major professional accountancy body world-wide, and we distribute research funds to various projects around the world. I am also in the process of linking the Academy and Institute web sites to improve communications for accounting history researchers. If there are any other related web sites which wished to be joined in this way, please let me know.

Finally, it would be exceedingly unfair if I did not use this opportunity to thank a number of individuals for their hard work and support during 1999. First, to Kathy Rice, the Academy's administrator, for taking a huge burden from me and future presidents. Kathy has handled all the day to day detail of the Academy's operations with efficiency and a smile. I also need to thank my fellow officers and trustees for their advice and support (particularly with respect to the International Consortium). And also many thanks to the committees and their chairs for attending to their remits and meeting impossible or difficult reporting deadlines. Each member of the Academy ought to be aware of the considerable work that goes on behind the scenes with these various committees. Thank you all too for allowing me to be president for this year. It has been a great honour, and I hope I have not let any of you down in attempting to remind nonhistorians of the intellectual and practical importance of accounting history.

Tom Lee
Tuscaloosa, Alabama
September 6, 1999