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Message From the President

Dear Academy Members,

First of all, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to serve you as President of the Academy. I have been a member of the Academy since I began my career as an accounting academic in 1983, and I have made many of my closest friends through Academy activities. Indeed, the Academy has in many ways shaped my career, and I am grateful for the opportunities it has afforded me. I would also like to thank all of you who have accepted committee assignments. All of the services that the Academy provides would not be possible without the hard work of the Academy's committees.

There are several individuals whom I would like to thank individually for their outstanding and special service in the recent past. Dick Fleischman handed over the editorial reins of *The Accounting Historians Journal* to Steve Walker after the appearance of the last issue. The quality and significance of *AHJ* have grown steadily over the years, Dick being the most recent in a succession of editors who have contributed to the journal's maturation. The journal, however, was ripe for Dick's intellectual prowess and uncompromising standards when he assumed the editorship. Thank you Dick for consolidating the work of the previous editors and moving the journal forward. The Academy is most fortunate that Steve Walker has accepted the editorship. We can rest assured that the journal will continue to grow in stature with Steve in charge.

Another individual who deserves our thanks is Elliott Slocum. Elliott has for a number of years served as editor of *The Accounting Historians Notebook*, but has handed his duties over to Joann Noe Cross. Indeed, the last issue was his final one. The *Notebook* is in many respects the lifeline of the Academy, keeping us informed of the organization's activities and members' achievements. Elliott has faithfully performed his duties as editor, and we thank him for his service. Elliott, however, has hardly retired. He remains Director of the Academy's Accounting History Research Center at Georgia State University and is working with Ram Sriram and Kumar Sivakumar to organize the Academy's AAA pre-conference in Atlanta Georgia in August.

We owe a great deal of thanks to Kathy Sinning for her work on improving the Academy's Homepage. Kathy took on that responsibility during her Presidency last year, and she has made a tremendous difference. If you have not visited our Homepage recently, you should do so (<http://weatherhead.cwru.edu/Accounting/>). It is well designed and easy to use. This year, Kathy has agreed to serve as chair of the Information Technology Committee and to see her efforts through. At her suggestion, I asked Tommie Singleton to serve as the Academy's Webmaster. Tommie is extremely knowledgeable and will help us keep our Homepage attractive and up to date.

At last year's business meeting in Columbus, Ohio, the Academy voted to change its structure. Although Kathy Sinning described the proposed changes in her last President's message, they warrant recounting since they are far-reaching and now in effect. In the past, there was a three-year path to the Presidency. One served first as Second Vice President, then as First Vice President, and finally as President Elect before becoming President. The duties of the First and Second Vice Presidents were minimal. In addition, the primary duty of the President was to organize the Academy's fall research conference. And since organizing the conference also entailed choosing a location and negotiating hotel space, planning the conference often occupied the President's attention from the time he or she was Second Vice President. Preoccupation with the conference left little time for strategic planning or visioning. To alleviate this problem, last year's Strategic Planning Committee proposed transforming the First and Second Vice President's offices to functional offices. These offices are now Vice President-Communications and Vice President-Conferences and Partnerships. The Vice President-Communications will oversee the operation of the Academy's publications as well as any transitions between editors. The Vice President-Conferences and Partnerships will select conference sites, identify potential co-sponsors of conferences, and liaise

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with World Congress committees, among other duties. Dick Fleischman was elected Vice President-Communications for 2001, and Alan Richardson, Vice President-Conferences and Partnerships. The path to President of the Academy has also been shortened. The Vice President positions are no longer necessary or automatic steps to President Elect.

Of particular note among Committee activities this year are (1) a new Innovation in Accounting History Education Award whose winner will be selected by the Education Committee and (2) the organization of the second AAA pre-conference at Georgia State University. The new Innovation in Accounting History Education Award will recognize an individual (or individuals) who has developed and implemented an innovative technique or method for incorporating accounting history topics into undergraduate or graduate accounting courses. To be eligible, the innovation must have been used in a course that the applicant has taught or is currently teaching. Details about nominations have been distributed by the Education Committee and are included in this newsletter. They should be addressed to Ross Tondkar at Virginia Commonwealth University. The deadline for nominations is August 31, 2001. The AAA Pre-Conference Committee, the names of whose members were mentioned above, has issued a Call for Papers for the 2001 AAA pre-conference. This year the pre-conference will be held on Saturday rather than Sunday. The date is August 11, 2001, and the location is Georgia State University. The theme of the pre-conference is "Accounting History: Gateway to Understanding the Future." The deadline for submissions, which should be addressed to Ram Sririam at Georgia State, is June 15, 2001. Because the pre-conference will be held on Saturday, participants will be able to attend the conference and register for AAA pre-conference workshops on Sunday.

The Academy's fall research conference will be held November 15-17, 2001, in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The theme is "Writing Accounting Histories: Genres and Constructions." Members of the Program Committee are Finley Graves, Joni Young, and Vaughan Radcliffe. Plenary speakers will be Sue Llewelyn of the University of Edin-

burgh and Luca Zan of the University of Bologna. Papers and panel proposals should be submitted to Finley Graves at Kansas State University by June 15, 2001. The conference hotel is La Fonda. La Fonda has been in operation at the same location on the Santa Fe Plaza since the 1600s. It is known as the Inn at the End of the Santa Fe Trail. From the lobby of La Fonda, one steps onto the Santa Fe Plaza, which is surrounded by shops and restaurants on three sides and an Indian market on the other. The Friday evening banquet will be held in a beautiful balconied room immediately beneath the cathedral, which is illuminated at night. The conference will conclude at noon on Saturday, so that participants can enjoy the uniqueness of Santa Fe. We hope many of you will make plans to attend, especially since the Academy does not plan to hold a separate fall research conference in 2002.

The Academy has decided not to hold a separate fall research conference in 2002 because the World Congress of Accounting Historians has moved to a two-year cycle and will be held in Melbourne, Australia, in 2002. Instead, the Academy will merge its research conference with its 2002 AAA pre-conference, which will be held in San Antonio, Texas. President Elect Bill Samson has already begun laying the plans for the San Antonio pre-conference, the theme of which will relate to the history of railroad accounting. The research conference will return in 2003, and the World Congress will be held in St. Louis, Missouri, in 2004. Dale Flesher has been spearheading the 2004 World Congress effort, and I have formed a 2004 World Congress Liaison Committee under Dale's chairmanship. Alan Richardson, as Vice President-Conferences and Partnerships, is, of course, ex officio a member of the committee.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have concerns about the Academy and its programs. My telephone number at Kansas State University is (785) 532-6184 and my E-mail address is fgraves@ksu.edu.

*Finley Graves
Manhattan, Kansas State University
March 20, 2001*