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Eleventh World Congress Of Accounting Historians

Nantes (France)
July 19 - 22, 2006

Six years after the Madrid Congress in 2000, the WCAH will return to Europe, after stops in Melbourne in 2002 and St-Louis in 2004. In fact in July 2006, the Eleventh World Congress of Accounting Historians will take place in Nantes, and France will welcome this gathering for the first time.

Ideally situated, Nantes is only two hours from Paris by TGV (the high speed train with 20 round trips daily) and approximately two hours by plane from the majority of European Capitals. Gateway to Brittany and its ports, it is equally very close to a number of major tourist sites, such as Mont Saint-Michel, le Puy du Fou, the Futuroscope, and the “Chateaux of the Loire”.

Settled over two millennia ago on the banks of the Loire, fifty kilometres from the Atlantic Ocean, Nantes was, during the middle ages, the capital of the Duchy of Bretagne. In the eighteenth century, the city became the great merchant port of the French crown, opening commercial and maritime routes of the Americas and Africa. The leading industrial shipyards of the western half of France from the nineteenth century, noted for its naval engineering and its canning industry, Nantes and the Loire estuary have developed into a leading metropolis for the service and high technology sectors. Economic capital of western France and the major French city in terms of its rate of demographic growth, Nantes draws interest not only for its economic achievements but also for its quality of life and its environment.

The Congress will take place at the University of Nantes, a few steps from the historic centre of the city and from the majority of the hotels likely to lodge congress attendees. In 1995, the *Journées d'histoire de la Comptabilité et du Management*, which takes place in France in March of each year, was organized for the first time in Nantes. The same year, the University of Nantes made a major acquisition of a collection of works dealing with accounting and its history, amassed by the Belgian Accounting Historian Ernest Stevelinck. Deceased in 2001, Ernest Stevelinck was the initiator and organiser of the first World Congress of Accounting Historians, which took place in Brussels in 1970. Holding the eleventh Congress in Nantes will therefore possess symbolic value and will be an opportunity to recognise his legacy.