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Accounting History Symposium Parma, Italy November 29, 2013

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Accounting History Symposium Parma, Italy November 29, 2013

On November 29, 2013 the Accounting History Symposium was held in Parma, as part of the programme of the XII biennial Conference of the Italian Accounting History Society (SISR), organized by Prof. Paolo Andrei. Prof. Massimo Sargiacomo has chaired the Symposium, inviting the editors/delegates of the three specialist accounting history journals and of the Italian SISR official journal to speak about the "New Frontiers in Accounting History Research". Thus, in front of 250 delegates, Prof. Delfina Gomes - member of the EB of *Accounting History* -, Prof. Stefania Servalli - Vice-Director of *Contabilità e Cultura Aziendale*-, Prof. Gloria Vollmers - Editor of *The Accounting Historians*, and Prof. Steve Walker - Editor of *Accounting History Review*, have firstly talked about their own journals research agenda, observation periods and pre-

ferred themes. Accordingly, journals delegates have provided a comprehensive portrayal of all the forthcoming special issues (e.g., *Accounting History: Accounting's Past in Sport*; *Accounting History Review- Accounting and the First World War*), at the same time announcing the birth of new sections in their journals (e.g., "Salmagundi", as an opportunity for discussion, in *The Accounting Historians Journal*), or illuminating the potential of new digital historical archives, electronic databases and sources to be investigated (e.g. Theatre Archives, or Business School Archives, *Contabilità e Cultura Aziendale*), thus unveiling the new suggested accounting history frontiers to be targeted.



Prof. Delfina Gomes



Prof. Stefania Servalli

In the second part of the Symposium, the discussion rotated around the "new challenges" which may undermine the future success of the accounting history journals, as well as of its community of Scholars. All the delegates agreed that the common issue to solve is the positioning of the

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specialist accounting history journals in the different journal ratings around the world. Indeed, in diverse rankings exercises specialist accounting history journals have been recently - and unfairly - downgraded (e.g., Italy). Nevertheless, delegates have strongly recommended to continue to publish strong and robust research on specialist journals, as authors, editors and publishers play a pivotal role in the academic perception of the quality of the journals. Nevertheless, given that journals are mainly judged by national research agencies on the quality of what they publish "as measured by the citations that they achieve that feed in to the methodologies of journal rankings mechanism", perhaps one incentive to publish on specialist journals may be to increase the number of prizes and awards,

thus inviting young and senior academics not to try to publish "only" in higher rated journals. Delegates were all aware of the journal rating serious issues, and have ensured that it will remain on their agenda for their near future discussion and work. Massimo Sargiacomo, closing the Accounting History Symposium, has warmly invited all the attendants to try to increase their university lobbying and defense of the accounting history journals (i.e., to ask research agencies to put accounting history specialists in research evaluation boards, as well as in journal ratings panels), improving the cooperation among different journals and national associations, and thus paving the way for the future better survival of the worldwide accounting history community of Scholars.



Stephen Walker & Gloria Vollmers at the Royal Theatre of Parma