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Prof. Lee Parker Shares Collection at Adelaide's Annual History Month

Past-president of the Academy of Accounting Historians, Professor Lee Parker, recently sponsored an exhibition of his collection of historical accounting, management and business texts at the library of the University of South Australia, as part of Adelaide's History Month.

Parker is now a Professor of Accounting at RMIT University, Melbourne. He is also Honorary Professor in the School of Management at the University of St Andrews in Scotland, and Adjunct Professor in the School of Business at Auckland University of Technology, New Zealand. He is also joint founding editor of *Accounting, Auditing & Accountability Journal*.

His exhibition featured examples of books and ephemera from his personal collection of over 1000 items on accounting history, management and business dating from the 17th century to the 1980s. The bulk of his collection focuses

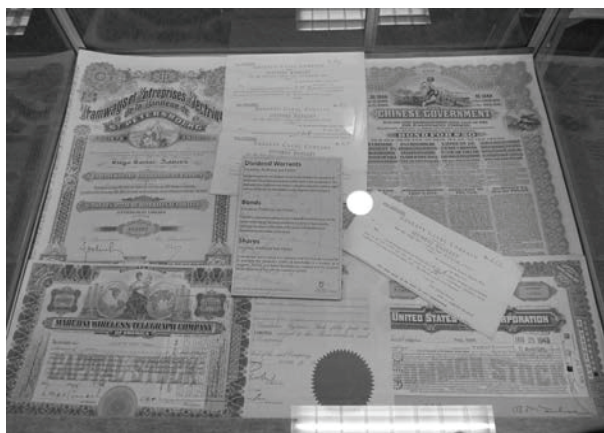
on the period 1880 to 1950. The exhibition explored the links between accounting and communication, from accounting's role in Mesopotamia 5000 years ago, where writing began, to the 1950's. His collection also includes 19th and 20th century stock and debenture certificates and a vellum parchment from King James the 1st era. Also on display were memorabilia and papers from The South Australia Company, which founded the colony of South Australia and other prominent longstanding South Australian SA businesses.

A wide range of subjects are covered in Lee's collection including accountancy profession, accounting & business history, accounting theory, auditing, book-keeping, budgeting, business forecasting, costing, ethics, industrial psychology, industry practices, management, management control, marketing, office management, scientific management, social responsibility, the South Australian Company and many more

The exhibition was launched on 14th May 2013 at UniSA's City West Library in Adelaide, with presentations from Professor Parker and guest speaker Professor Garry Carnegie. Garry Carnegie is a Professor of Accounting and Head of the School of Accounting at RMIT University, Melbourne. He is a highly published author in accounting history, with current research interests in governance and accountability from both contemporary and historical perspectives.

Professor Carnegie spoke about what accounting is, its development throughout his-

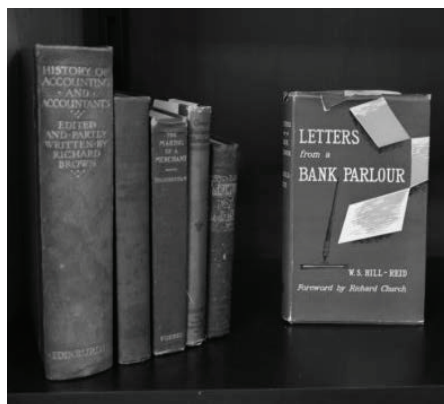
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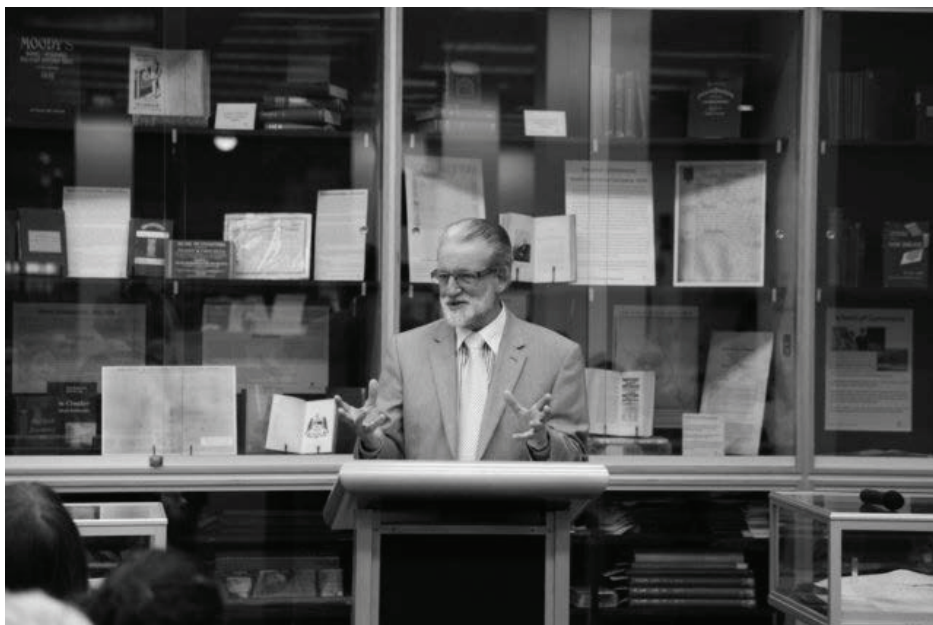
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tory and the wide-ranging contribution of accounting and accountants to society. In his speech at the launch, Professor Parker expressed his passion for collecting historical accounting and business texts, describing how his collection began and how it became one of the largest collections of its kind. Guests were regaled with 'tales from the hunt' for these texts, and were shown some of his personal favourite items on display in the exhibition.

Such extensive personal historical accounting and business collections are a rarity in today's academe, the largest previous personal collection in Australia having been held by the late professor Louis Goldberg of the University of Melbourne from whom Lee Parker drew his personal collecting inspiration.



A display of books from Prof. Lee Parker's collection at the library of the University of South Australia, as part of Adelaide's annual History Month. For more information on the collection visit the UniSA library website at www.library.unisa.edu.au/about/exhibitions/accounting.aspx.



Professor Lee Parker