

Accounting Historians Notebook

Volume 37
Number 2 October 2014

Article 16

October 2014

IN MEMORIUM: LIFE MEMBER ROBERT W. GIBSON (1931-2014)

Dale L. Flesher

Follow this and additional works at: https://egrove.olemiss.edu/aah_notebook



Part of the [Accounting Commons](#), and the [Taxation Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Flesher, Dale L. (2014) "IN MEMORIUM: LIFE MEMBER ROBERT W. GIBSON (1931-2014)," *Accounting Historians Notebook*: Vol. 37 : No. 2 , Article 16.

Available at: https://egrove.olemiss.edu/aah_notebook/vol37/iss2/16

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Archival Digital Accounting Collection at eGrove. It has been accepted for inclusion in Accounting Historians Notebook by an authorized editor of eGrove. For more information, please contact egrove@olemiss.edu.

IN MEMORIUM: LIFE MEMBER ROBERT W. GIBSON (1931-2014)

Dale L. Flesher, University of Mississippi

Academy Life Member Robert William Gibson died on July 28, 2014, at the age of 83. He was a long-time faculty member at Deakin University in Australia and did much to promote the study of accounting history on the island continent and in nearby New Zealand. Bob retired from Deakin University on March 31, 1993 at the end of his term as Associate Dean, Faculty of Management. For fifteen years (1980-1994), Bob served as editor (founding editor) of *Accounting History Newsletter* and its successor, *Accounting History* (Australia), which were publications of the Accounting History Special Interest Group of the Accounting Association of Australia and New Zealand (AAANZ). Bob developed the style of these publications and encouraged the submission of manuscripts. As a tribute to Bob, Garland Publishing, Inc. issued a 1996 volume consisting of 25 papers that Bob had shepherded through the publishing process at the AAANZ journals. That volume, edited by Garry D. Carnegie and Peter W. Wolnizer, was entitled *Accounting History Newsletter 1980-1989 and Accounting History 1989-1994: A Tribute to Robert William Gibson*.

Bob received both bachelors (1960) and masters (1968) degrees in commerce from the University of Melbourne. With three young children, including a baby, Bob came to the USA in 1970, at the age of 39, where he entered the Ph.D. program at the University of Cincinnati. He returned to Australia to write his dissertation and finished his degree in 1976. The

title of his dissertation, which was chaired by Dr. Clara Lelievre, was “The Uniformity Problem and the State of Australian Company Financial Reporting.” It was Clara Lelievre who introduced Bob to the field of accounting history research. He took her doctoral-level course in accounting history, and as was true of many of Lelievre’s mentees, Bob was forever a disciple of accounting history.

From the time he finished his doctorate, Bob was a regular attendee at meetings of the AAANZ, the American Accounting Association, the Academy of Accounting Historians, and the quadrennial World Congresses of Accounting Historians. His last overseas trip was in 2004 when he attended the 10th World Congress at the University of Mississippi in Oxford. Bob was the author of many articles over the years and several books—some in multiple editions.

Bob was elected to Life Member status in the Academy of Accounting Historians in 2001. He is survived by his wife, Wendy, and four adult children.

