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Former Trustee & 3rd Congress Organizer, Robert “Bob” Henry Parker Leaves a Long Legacy

Robert Henry Parker was born in September 1932 in North Walsham, Norfolk and passed away on July 24, 2016 in Exeter, Devon, England. He earned an economics degree at University College, was articled in a London firm of auditors and qualified as a chartered accountant in 1958.



*Source: University of
Dundee Archive
c. 1980*

Immediately after qualifying, he took a job in Nigeria with Cassleton Elliott (a legacy firm of KPMG). Less than two years later, he was lecturing at the University of Adelaide. Then he was at the University of Western Australia (UWA), LSE, Manchester Business School, INSEAD in Fontainebleau and the University of Dundee (for six years). After this, Bob held the inaugural chair of accounting at the University of Exeter from 1976 until retirement in the 1990s.

Bob’s influence on British academe was great. In the 1960s, he helped resuscitate the Association of University Teachers of Accounting (AUTA), which became the British Accounting Association (BAA) and then BAFA. He was chairman of the AUTA in 1977/8. In 1966, he was the founding editor of a journal which became the British Accounting Review. In 1975, four years after it was founded, Bob became the editor (and then joint editor) of ABR for 18 years.

Bob’s contributions to literature were mainly in two fields: international aspects of financial reporting, and the history of accountants and accountancy bodies. He published 30 books and 20 chapters in the books of other editors.

The Third International Congress of Accounting Historians was held at the London Graduate School of Business Studies during August 16-18, 1980. The Accounting History Society (England) organized the Third Congress, and Robert H. Parker and Geoffrey A. Lee served as primary coordinators.

Bob’s many contributions were acknowledged by the BAA’s 1996 ‘Distinguished Academic Award’ and the 2003 American Accounting Association’s ‘Outstanding International Educator’ award.

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time. Professor Fafatas' other current research focus relates to the history of financial reporting in the U.S. He is particularly interested in the evolution of financial statement presentation and disclosure choice among 19th century transportation companies.

Stephan is a recently elected Vice President of the Academy of Accounting Historians. He is a member of several organizations related to both his personal and academic interests in history including the Virginia Historical Society, the Rockbridge (VA) Historical Society, and the Society for American Baseball Research.

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Who in American Colleges and Universities. She received her doctorate from the University of Texas at Austin in 1968. In 1997, she was honored as the accounting department's outstanding alumna.

Information from an article by the University of Arkansas, Sam M. Walton College of Business, January 8, 2016.

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Bob leaves another legacy in Australia: a daughter (Theresa) and granddaughter (Carina), who flew back to Exeter in time to be with him, his ailing wife (Agnelle) and his son (Michael) for his last few weeks.

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