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Message from president Dick Fleishman [2004, Vol. 27, no. 1]; 2003-2004 officers

Richard K. Fleischman

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Message From President Dick Fleischman

It is an honor to have this opportunity to communicate with you as the incoming President of the Academy of Accounting Historians. I am excited about the events upcoming in August. The World Congress of Accounting Historians, to be held in St. Louis and at Ole Miss from August 1-5, figures to be an event not to be missed. The co-conveners, Dale Flesher and Richard Vangermeersch, are working y hard to make this, the first World Congress on U.S. soil since 1976, an outstanding value for money. The conference fee for the five days is significantly lower than I have paid for three-day conferences abroad in recent years. Of course, the cheapness of the dollar makes the 10WCAH an unbelievable bargain.

For those going on to the AAA national convention in Orlando, the Academy and the Public Interest Section of the AAA are jointly sponsoring a one-day conference at the Orlando headquarters hotel on Saturday, August 7. In recent years, the Academy has held events of this type in order to assist the authors of history papers to secure funding to attend the national meeting. While it appears that we may not be entirely shut out of the AAA program this year as in the past, this conference is still offered in an effort to promote accounting history at national. The fee for the event will be the cost of the lunch and equipment rental – approxi-

mately \$35. In Orlando as well, the Academy will hosti an ice-cream social on the evening of Sunday, August 8.

I have a number of initiatives in mind for the Academy during my presidential year. Membership has been declining recently, jeopardizing our financial position should the trend continue. I have written to friends and acquaintances urging them to join us. Growing the membership seems a better alternative from numerous perspectives than raising annual dues. A second direction, and one that has been prominent in Academy action for several years, is to tie our foreign membership more closely to the U.S.-based seat of operations. Three years ago, the editorship of *AHJ* went abroad for the first time, and Steve Walker has made that transition an outstanding success. *AHJ* now has a policy to spare no efforts in assisting scholars whose first language is not English to make their articles suitable for publication in the journal. This year both Vice Presidents (Salvador Carmona and Michael Gaffikin) are foreign members, as are three trustees (Garry Carnegie, Cheryl McWatters, and Vaughan Radcliffe). We are now launching a reciprocal arrangement with the Italian and Spanish accounting historian societies that will result in *AHJ*'s publishing abstracts of articles currently appearing in their national journals.

(Continued on page 2)

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**THE ACADEMY OF
ACCOUNTING
HISTORIANS
2004 FUNCTIONS**

**Midyear Meeting of Board
of Directors**

Lexington KY
April 3, 2004

**10th World Congress of
Accounting Historians**

St. Louis, Missouri and
Oxford, Mississippi, U.S.A.
August 1-5, 2004

Annual Business Meeting

1:30 PM
August 5, 2004
Oxford MS

HOME PAGE

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Finally, a personal project of mine, not only for the Academy but also for my own research, is the attempt to tie critical scholars, both those who do history and those who inform their contemporary research with recourse to history, to our organization. The World Congress will feature Tony Tinker as a plenary speaker, and Barbara Merino will conduct workshops on critical history at both St. Louis and Oxford.

I am excited about the months ahead

and hope that you will participate actively in making the year a success for the Academy and for accounting history. If you have any fresh ideas as to how to move the organization forward or if you have concerns about how the Academy operates, please feel free to contact me.

Best wishes to all,
Dick Fleischman,
President,
Academy of Accounting Historians