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Academy receives large endowment; Did you notice the Notebook was late...?

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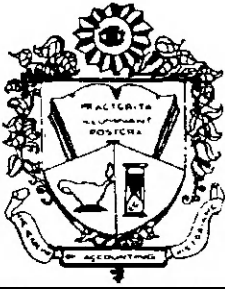
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The Accounting Historians Notebook

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April 2008

Academy Receives Large Endowment

By Stephanie D. Moussalli

In November, Dr. John Yeakel endowed the Academy of Accounting Historians with \$50,176.

This extraordinarily generous donation brought the General Endowment Fund from about \$25,000 to \$75,000. Since then, an anonymous friend of Yeakel has contributed another \$10,000.

Yeakel did not restrict the earnings from the donation. "The purpose of the endowment," he said in a May 6 interview, "is to inspire others to do the same."

His idea has already started working. The anonymous donor of \$10,000 plans eventually to match his friend's donation. Both philanthropists hope their contributions are just the first of many repeated gifts to the Academy endowment fund.

"The fund should help the Academy ride through low points, make awards, encourage research, and raise new interest in accounting history," said the anonymous donor. At the Academy business meeting in April, discussions of how to use the fund earnings began.

John Yeakel, now 77, "never expected to go to college," he said. But after his Army service in Korea, the GI bill made it possible to attend Pennsylvania State

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Did You Notice the *Notebook* Was Late...?

Your editor apologizes for the late preparation of the *Notebook*. For a while it looked like there would be NO April issue because I had only ONE item for inclusion. Is this publication useful to you? Do you want it to continue? THEN, we need your help. Any news items would be welcome. We would like to publish anything of interest to the Accounting History community, particularly those new items not available conveniently elsewhere. Contact Joann Cross at crossj@uwosh.edu with your submissions.

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University in his home state. There he studied accounting, eventually earning his CPA license. He worked for Peat Marwick in the late 1950s.

In 1965, Yeakel started teaching at the University of New Mexico and soon joined the doctoral program in accounting at the University of Florida. Graduating in 1971, he returned to UNM, where he taught until his retirement in 1990. "Some of the people at Florida wanted me to go to a more prominent school," he said, "but I didn't want to be a little fish in a big pond." UNM was small enough that he could make a difference.

UNM briefly had a doctoral program in international management, focused on Latin America. Students had to be fluent in Spanish and had to spend time in the region, where the program was very well-received. Yeakel's UNM appointment was as a professor of management and Latin American studies. These interests led to a 1983 article on the *quipu-camayocs*, the keepers of the Incan knotted-string records ("The accountant-historians of the Incas," *Accounting Historians Journal* 10 (no. 2, Fall): 39-51. Available in the Digital Accounting Collection of the University of Mississippi at: <http://130.74.92.202:82/record=b1000380>).

Asked how he became interested in accounting history, Yeakel credited the efforts of Willard Stone, chairman of the accounting department at the University of Florida. "Willard did a good job of inviting lots of different people to speak," remembered Yeakel. One was Carmen Blough, the first chief accountant of the SEC, "an amazing guy." Stone also loved history. His

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4. Concise statement of key research question(s)
5. Research methodology
6. Period selection
7. Limitations of the study
8. Expected (original) contribution of the study to the literature
9. List of no more than eight key references relating to the proposed study
10. Where the proposal relates to the completion of a PhD, provide details of the names and addresses of the doctoral supervisors and the institution where the research will be/is being conducted

Research proposals should be no longer than six pages (double spaced typing). Formal invitations to attend the Colloquium will be issued on receipt and review of research proposals.

Further information is available at the IAHIESC website:

<http://www.disas.unisi.it/ahiesc/index.php>

Inquiries may be directed to the Colloquium Convenor, Elena Giovannoni, University of Siena, at the following e-mail address: giovannoni@dii.unisi.it

Information about the Certosa di Pontignano is found at:

<http://www.unisi.it/servizi/certosa/>

Information about visiting Siena is obtainable at:

<http://www.aboutsiena.com/>

An AHIESC will be conducted on a regular basis around the globe from 2009.

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out as soon as possible on the website, and that it is characteristic of the ad hoc nature of Academy processes that this happens haphazardly. Flesher asked if the ice cream social would indeed be planned for the AAA confer

ence and Tiffany Welch replied that it would.

The meeting adjourned at 2:15PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie D. Moussalli, Secretary

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wide-ranging interests inspired Yeakel, whose own interests were also varied.

Now retired and still living in Albuquerque with his wife Deborah, Yeakel has contacts with innumerable former students, many now in prominent positions. "That kind of knowledge of an area only happens if you stay in one place for a long time," remarked

Yeakel. "It was a very satisfying career, no two ways about it."

Yeakel emphasized that his contribution to the Academy is intended to inspire other donors. "I hope everybody else will feel guilty," he laughed. Accounting history is important, Yeakel believes, and a general endowment to the Academy is especially important in furthering the discipline.