

The Accounting Historians Notebook

Vol. 42, No. 2

October 2019

AAH Section Celebrates the Life & Contributions of Life Member & Two-Time Hourglass Recipient, Richard (Ricco) Mattessich

*As the sands of time pass through
the funnel, when you flip the
hourglass over the past becomes
the future.*

Each year the Academy of Accounting Historians section presents the Hourglass Award to an individual who has made a demonstrable and significant contribution to knowledge through research and publication in accounting history. This year's recipient was Richard (Ricco) Mattessich. On August 11, 2019, at the AAH Section's Business Meeting at the AAA Annual Meeting, Guiseppe Galassi accepted the 2019 Hourglass Award on behalf of Richard Mattessich. He shared the following message.

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**American
Accounting
Association**

**Academy of
Accounting Historians**

THE ACADEMY OF ACCOUNTING HISTORIANS

A Section of the American Accounting Association
<http://aaahq.org/AAH>

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THE ACCOUNTING HISTORIANS NOTEBOOK

To submit items to the Accounting Historians Notebook, please contact the AAH Section Administrator, Tiffany Schwendeman, at acchistory@case.edu, (216) 368-2058 or the address below.

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President's Message

Gary Spraakman

The theme of the 2019 AAA annual conference, “Bold Transformation towards a Prosperous Society”, was extreme as were the successes of the Academy of Accounting Historians section’s workshop, concurrent sessions, and related activities.

The activities started on the Sunday with our workshop. Yvette Lazdowski, Jennifer Reynolds-Moehrle, and Bill Black reviewed the progress of our section and journal. The conclusions were that we are doing well particularly financially. The workshop was fully subscribed; attendees were treated to surprisingly insightful accounting history research. Stephen Zeff of Rice University explained the development of eight financial accounting standards with the benefit of his inimitable personal understanding and knowledge of the motivations and actions of participants. Paul Madsen, University of Florida, discussed his use of longitudinal data that can be accessed by Google’s Ngram. London School of Economics professor, Nadia Matringe, demonstrated to us how an historian approaches accounting information. Tom King, from Case Western Reserve, informed us on the impact of passive investors on stewardship accounting.

On Sunday evening after the afternoon workshop, we had the trustees meeting, business meeting, and ice cream social. It was at Sunday’s business meeting that I formally became the president of the section and Jen-

nifer Reynolds-Moehrle, as former president, began her term as a trustee.

Gratefully, the other officers, Stephan Fafatas, Tom King, Stephanie Moussalli-Kurtz and Yvette Lazdowski, all began subsequent terms in office. Lastly, while most of the trustees remained the same, two new trustees were welcomed, Diane Roberts (University of San Francisco) and Garen Markarian (WHU Otto Bleisheim School of Management) see page 2 for a full list of Officers & Trustees.

The following three days were occupied with the conference and our time slots for accounting history concurrent papers. Presenters included: Louella Moore, Brianne Smith, Robert Walsh, Yves Levant, Mitsunori Kasukabe, Dale Flesher, Chris Napier, C. Richard Baker, Sadalaru Takeshima, Marina Gurskaya, Alan Sangster, Mikhail Kuter, Daijiro Fujimura, Fuminobu Mizutani, and myself. We greatly appreciated the presenters, discussants, moderators, reviewers, and the coordinator, Martin Persson. In addition to our sessions, there were many other outstanding sessions and plenary speakers. I particularly enjoyed MIT professor Erick Brynjolfsson’s discussion of his research on the digital economy.

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Dear Colleagues,

I am here on behalf of Prof. Richard Mattessich who two days ago turned 97. Happy birthday! He wants to convey many thanks to all of you, particularly to the Selection Committee of the Academy for the Hourglass Award of 2019. He accepts this great honor once again with gratitude. The first time was in 2003. After that date he published three new books, specifically two of accounting history, and many articles.

He is a trained accounting historian, but also a theoretician and philosopher of accounting. He regards historical research as no less a search for truth than science. In his book, *The Beginnings of Accounting and Accounting thought* (2000), he expressed this issue with words that might be worth repeating at such an august moment:

Between history and science, there may be important methodological differences (as to generalizability, etc.), but the ultimate goal is surely the same: to approximate what one hopes to be truth, in as rigorous and honest a way, as one is capable of. But no human being can do this without at least some personal judgments. This is precisely why no history or other science can be an individual undertaking; it must be a social enterprise, inculcated with a dialectical process of not merely personal but, above all, a collective soul-searching, constantly adjusting and readjusting for all kinds of biases, be they those of individuals, of fashions, or technical-scientific limitations,

etc. Only through such dialectics it is possible to keep one's bearing on that loft objective which all authentic truth-seekers pursue.

He would be pleased if these words would be conveyed to the conference participants or an even wider audience, and sends kind personal regards to all of you.

Giuseppe Galassi
San Francisco, August 11, 2019

The following obituary was published in *The Globe and Mail* from Oct. 17 to Oct. 21, 2019

RICHARD MATTESSICH

In his 98th year, Richard (Ricco) Mattessich died peacefully on September 30, 2019 following a heart attack. Born in Trieste on August 9, 1922, Ricco demonstrated an early fascination with the structure, form, and configuration of his grandfather's financial records. The physical attributes of bookkeepers' notations fascinated the boy; in a 2014 interview, Ricco recalled how he "loved gazing at tidy columns of numbers, varying lengths of debit and credit lists, and the diagonal flourishes at the end of a reporting period." It was a passion that remained undimmed throughout his life. But with WWII on the horizon, Ricco needed a practical career and in 1940, he earned a degree in mechanical engineering from the Engineering College, Vienna.

Ricco spent much of the war in Thessaloniki (Salonica), Greece, where he

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carried out the detailed cost accounting required to build and repair bridges; partisan forces repeatedly destroyed these essential structures which in turn, were repaired by Nazi crews over and over again. As a young adult, Ricco experienced the effect of spiraling inflation first-hand when the cost of a glass of wine purchased one day was doubled the next. In 1944, Ricco returned to Vienna to pursue his interest in accounting, graduating with an MBA and later, a Ph.D. in economics. Throughout the intense bombardment of Vienna by Soviet forces, Ricco worked diligently on his dissertation in a series of air-raid shelters, such was his determination to complete his degree that a final oral exam was taken in a supposedly safe and secure location: a prison cell in the Rossauer Kaserne Barracks.

Exhausted by terrible post-war conditions in Vienna, Ricco sought, and found, solace teaching commerce in St. Gallen, Switzerland. Among Ricco's students was Christian Strauss, grandson of the composer and conductor, Richard Strauss, and Ricco was delighted to share the composer's box at the Zurich opening of his opera, *Elektra*. On an impromptu visit home to Vienna, Ricco met the great love of his life, Hermine (Hermi), who shared Ricco's interest in accounting and his deep knowledge and appreciation of classical music. On their first date they attended a performance of *Der Rosenkavalier* and listening to the work became an anniversary tradi-



tion shared throughout their long-married life.

The couple emigrated to Canada in 1952, settling first in Montreal, then in Sackville, NB, where Ricco taught commerce at Mount Allison University. During this time, Ricco published a seminal paper discussing the application of matrix theory to accounting; the work introduced Ricco as a highly original thinker with the capacity to profoundly affect accounting theory and practice. The paper led to a Visiting Professorship at UC Berkeley, which evolved into a tenured associate professorship. In 1964, Ricco's career took off with the publication of two books demonstrating how computer technology could successfully be applied to business accounting. In 1967, Ricco was offered a position at UBC and he and Hermi settled permanently in Vancouver, walking distance from campus.

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Ricco continued to publish widely and the couple traveled extensively as he presented papers around the globe and received numerous accolades for his work, including four honorary degrees from the Universities of Madrid (Complutense), Malaga, Montesquieu (Bordeaux, France), and Graz (Austria). He retired in 1988 and was granted the rank of Professor Emeritus. Following Hermi's death in 2012, Ricco remained in his home, reading and writing in his UBC office most days until age 95. His most recent paper was published in 2016, co-authored with his close friend and colleague, Prof. Dr. Giuseppe Galassi. An unexpected joy in Ricco's later years came from the many close friendships he developed with his neighbors. Ricco was a warm, engaging host, always ready to

welcome visitors with old-world grace and elegance.

Ricco made many significant contributions to the field of accounting. In addition to anticipating today's familiar spreadsheets, Ricco thought deeply about the analytical methods and the theoretical and philosophical underpinnings of accounting; similarly, he was a dedicated historian of the field.

*Into that hidden passage my guide
and I entered, to find again the world
of light, and, without thinking of a
moment's rest, we climbed up, he first
and I behind him, far enough to see,
through a round opening, a few of
those fair things the heavens bear.
Then we came forth, to see again the
stars.*

Dante, L'inferno, XXXIV

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At the end of the business meeting, I committed to continuing with the good work of my predecessors with six objectives for myself:

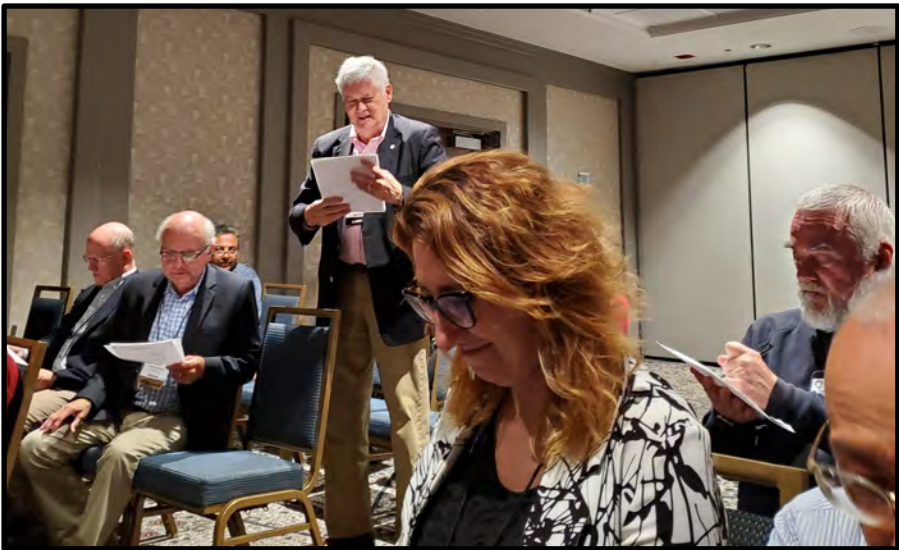
1. Increase the number of members,
2. Encourage members of other AAA sections to present papers at our annual conference sessions and our mid-year webinar and to submit papers to our journal,
3. More aggressively promote our awards to AAH members and also to members in other AAA sections,
4. Encourage AAH members and AAA members in other sections to submit their brief accounting history teaching materials for publication in the Notebook,
5. Work closely with the editor (Bill Black) of our journal and the annual conference coordinator (Martin Persson) to expand the mid-year research webinar from six to eight presentations/papers.
6. Use the mid-year research webinar to generate high quality papers for our journal.

Thank you. I look forward to working with all of you during the next two years.

2019 AAA ANNUAL MEETING

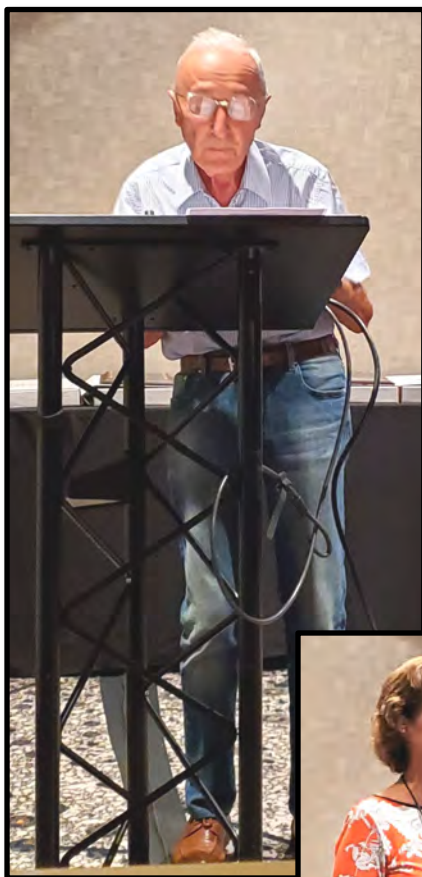


San Francisco made for a beautiful backdrop to the annual meeting.



Trustee Chair, Dale Flesher, gives an update on AAA Council activities.

2019 AAA ANNUAL MEETING



*Clockwise from top right:
Massimo Sargiacomo
reports on plans for the
2020 World Congress;
Outgoing President
Jennifer Reynolds-Moehrle
presents an award to father
and daughter, Kelly
Williams and Howard
Lawrence; Giuseppe
Galassi accepts the
Hourglass Award on behalf
of Richard Mattessich.*

2019 AAA ANNUAL MEETING



*Clockwise from top right:
AHJ Editor Bill Black;
Outgoing President
Jennifer Reynolds-Moehrle
presents an award to C.
Richard Baker; Secretary
Stephanie Moussalli thanks
Outgoing President
Jennifer Reynolds-Moehrle
for her years of service and
dedication to the AAH.*

eGrove - The New Digital Platform of the AICPA Library at the University of Mississippi

The University of Mississippi Library has recently made two changes in its digital platforms for its accounting collections.

1. The citations for the library's extensive accounting book, journal, and pamphlet collection are now all in one place in the University of Mississippi's online catalog: <https://libraries.olemiss.edu/>. Items in the catalog with call numbers may be obtained through your inter-library loan department. For those items in the online catalog marked with the AICPA icon, you may simply email the record to: aicpalib@olemiss.edu and the staff will retrieve, scan, and email you a digitized copy. These items are small, fragile pamphlets stored in acid-free library boxes.
2. Items that have been digitized, so that searchable full-text digital objects are publicly available, are now in the University's digital commons, named eGrove. EGrove items (see links below) include articles in the *Accounting Historians Journal*, the *Accounting Historians Notebook*, AICPA publications ten years or older, Haskins & Sells publications, Touche Ross publications, and an assortment of old accounting pamphlets, generally pre-1923.

Search all the full-text accounting collections at:

- <https://egrove.olemiss.edu/adac/>

Or search individual collections:

- Accounting Archive (1888-2014), accounting library collection pamphlets
 - o <https://egrove.olemiss.edu/acctarch/> (981 items)
- *Accounting Historians Journal* (1974-2014)
 - o https://egrove.olemiss.edu/aah_journal/
- *Accounting Historians Notebook* (1978-2016)
 - o https://egrove.olemiss.edu/aah_notebook/
- AICPA publications (1905-2009)
 - o https://egrove.olemiss.edu/aicpa_pubs/ (4,800 items)
- Deloitte Collection (1895-1983)
 - o <https://egrove.olemiss.edu/deloitte/> (3,226 items)

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Scholars may be interested in the new additions to the full-text on-line collection:

- AICPA. *Accountants' Index* (1920-1976)
- AICPA. Minority Recruitment and Equal Opportunity Committee. *Annual Reports (1978-1989)*
- AICPA. *Checklists and Illustrative Financial Statements....* (1980-2009)
- American Society of Certified Public Accountants *Directory of Members* (1924-1936)
- AIA and AICPA. *List of Officers and Committees* 1942-1963
- AICPA. *Digest of Washington Issues* (1987-2001)
- *The Pace Student* (1915-1926)

Previously-digitized materials, totaling some 500,000 pages, include, *inter alia*:

- AAPA & AIA *Year-book*, 1905-1947
- *Accounting Trends and techniques*, 1947-2009
- Auditing Standards Board Minutes, 1996-2005
- *Bulletin* of the AIA, 1924-1936
- *Certified Public Accountant*, 1922-1949
- *Comment Letters* (1977, 1987, 1991, 1995-1997, 2001): 26 sets in 32 volumes totaling 7,075 pages.
- *CPA & CPA Letter*, 1950-2008
- CPA Examination questions and answers, 1917-1995
- *CPA Expert*, 1995-2008
- Exposure Drafts, 1962-2007
- Public Oversight Board publications, 1977-2002
- H&S Engagement Records, 1901-1903 (663 pp.)
- *Haskins and Sells Bulletin*, 1918-1932
- *Haskins & Sells Reports*, 1963-1982
- *Quarterly Review* (Touche, Niven, Bailey and Smart), 1957-1967 & *Tempo* (Touche Ross), 1968-1983

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Dale Flesher and Richard Vangermeersch Help IMA Celebrate 100 Years

On June 1, 2019, IMA published the “Special Issue: 100 Years of IMA” edition of *Strategic Finance*. Included was an article by Dale Flesher, “IMA Pioneers: Four Who Made a Difference”.

From the article:

Leadership has played an important role in the 100-year history of IMA. Four leaders who made particularly important contributions to the organization and enriched the literature of management accounting are Major J. Lee Nicholson, founder and first President; Stuart Cameron McLeod, the first employee; Clinton H. Scovell, a founding member and the 1925-1926 President; and I. Wayne Keller, the 1953-1954 President. All four were extremely active in the organization throughout their careers, and all were prolific authors in the field of management accounting.

Read the full article at:

<https://sfmagazine.com/post-entry/june-2019-ima-pioneers-four-who-made-a-difference/>



On December 1, 2018, *Strategic Finance* included the article, “IMA 100 Years: Capturing the Moment” by Lori Parks and Richard Vangermeersch.

From the article:

Richard Vangermeersch loves history. An accounting professor at the University of Rhode Island (URI) for 33 years (retiring in 2004), he devoted part of his long career to writing about the historical origins of several organizations and entities: his alma mater, Narragansett, accounting, and, of course, IMA®.

Although Richard spent several years working in industry as a plant accountant, he soon found his way back to Rhode Island and teaching. He joined the faculty of URI as an assistant professor of accounting in 1971 and spent the rest of his career there teaching cost accounting.

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The Association of
Accountants and
Financial Professionals
in Business

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Among Richard's favorite creations is a play he wrote for IMA's 75th Anniversary. Published in June 1994 in Management Accounting magazine (predecessor of Strategic Finance), the play recounts the day in October 1919 when 37 individuals gathered in Buffalo, N.Y., to create the National Association of Cost Accountants (NACA), an accounting group specifically for cost accountants. "It was the perfect way to capture the immediacy of the moment and to describe some of the influences that prompted this

group to come together and found this great organization," Richard explains.

The play was performed by members of IMA's Buffalo Chapter (with Richard playing Major J. Lee Nicholson, described as "fresh from his heroic war service from the Ordnance Department, author of two standard texts in our new field of cost accounting, and a lecturer at Columbia University"). It was a rousing success.

Read the full article at:

<https://sfmagazine.com/post-entry/december-2018-ima-100-years-capturing-the-moment/>

Nominate a colleague or yourself for an AAH Section award.

Hourglass Award

Vangermeersch Manuscript Award

Thomas J. Burns Biographical Research Award

Innovation in Accounting History Education Award

Margit F. and Hanns-Martin Schoenfeld Scholarship

*Barbara D. Merino Award for Excellence in
Accounting History Publication*

The Alfred R. Roberts Memorial Research Award

For more information visit: www.aaahq.org/AAH/Awards

Accounting History Research Database Now Available Through Case Western Reserve University

Taking advantage of the newest technology of data set development the Accounting History Research Database (“AHRD”) seeks to improve scholarly efforts by facilitating identification and access of published materials in the above journals. AHRD permits researching the full period and full text content of the three English language accounting history research journals.



WEATHERHEAD
SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT
CASE WESTERN RESERVE
UNIVERSITY

- *Accounting Historians Journal* [1974 to date] - published by the American Accounting Association;
- *Accounting History Review* (previously *Accounting, Business and Financial History*) dates from 1990 - published by Taylor & Francis (UK); and
- *Accounting History* dates from 1996 - published by Sage Publications in cooperation with the Accounting History Special Interest Group of AFAANZ (Australia and New Zealand).

To access the AHRD: <https://weatherhead.case.edu/research/accounting-history/>



SAVE THE DATE:

World Congress of Accounting Historians
Saint Petersburg, Russia

June 28—July 1, 2020



SAINT-PETERSBURG
STATE UNIVERSITY
OF ECONOMICS

<http://wcah2020.org>

2019 Barbara D. Merino Award for Excellence in Accounting History Publication

***Kelly Williams & Howard Lawrence
for***

***William A. Paton:
A Study of His Accounting Thought***

(November 2018, Emerald Publishing)

This annual award is to recognize the author of the best book on an accounting historical topic published in a given year.

Kelly L. Williams is an assistant professor of accounting at the Jones College of Business at Middle Tennessee State University. She received her Ph.D. in accounting, with a minor in Management Information Systems, at the University of Mississippi. She received both her M.B.A. and B.S.A. from Christian Brothers University in Memphis, TN. Also a C.P.A., she previously worked in public accounting, specializing in automobile dealerships, and in private accounting, specializing in risk and insurance. She has held instructor and lead instructor positions for Becker Professional Education. She has published in such journals as *Issues in Accounting Education*, *Journal of Accountancy*, and *The CPA Journal*.



Howard Lawrence is a clinical professor of accountancy at the Patterson School of Accountancy at the University of Mississippi. He received his PhD in accounting from the University of Mississippi, and MBA from the University of Memphis, and a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Christian Brothers University. He has held various positions in the steel and paper industry and leadership positions in education such as president and dean at 2-year colleges. His research interests are accounting history, and international accounting. He has published in such journals as *Advances in Accounting Behavioral Research*, the *International Business & Economics Research Journal*, and the *Soo Chow Journal of Economics*.

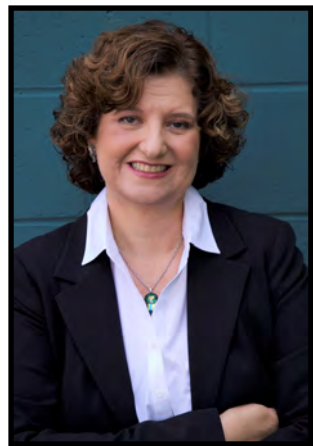
2019 Margit F. and Hanns Martin Schoenfeld Scholarship Award

The purpose of the scholarship is to encourage and support research on the history of accounting by doctoral students and recently appointed accounting faculty. The scholarship was initiated by the generous gift of Dr. Hanns Martin Schoenfeld and the late Dr. Margit Schoenfeld in recognition of their belief in the importance of historical scholarship to accounting education and research.

2019 Margit F. and Hanns Martin Schoenfeld Scholarship Award *Joy Gray*

Joy Gray is a Lecturer in the Department of Accountancy and the Internal Audit Education Partnership (IAEP) coordinator at Bentley University. She teaches courses in IT Audit, Internal Audit, and Introductory Accounting. She is active in research regarding topics related to IT audit history, the IT audit activities of internal auditors, and technology in accounting education. Prior to her academic roles, Joy worked in various practitioner roles in internal audit, and financial/business analysis. She is a Certified Internal Auditor (CIA) and Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA).

Joy completed her PhD in Accountancy in 2016 at Bentley University. Her dissertation studied the evolution of the integrated information technology auditor within internal audit. She also holds a Graduate Certificate in Forensic Accounting and a Master of Science degree in Business Education from Southern New Hampshire University, a Bachelor of Science degree with an area in Accounting from Murray State University in Kentucky; and is a graduate of the GE Financial Management Program. She is involved in numerous service activities, including serving on a task for the Boston Public Schools to establish an internal audit function, as a member of the board of governors for the Greater Boston Chapter of the Institute of Internal Auditors, and as a member of the Education Committee for the AIS Section of the American Accounting Association.



2019 Margit F. and Hanns Martin Schoenfeld Scholarship Award

Alessia Patuelli & Jonida Carungu

Alessia Patuelli is an *Assistant Professor* in *Management Science* at the IMT School for Advanced Studies in Lucca (Italy). She is an *Adjunct Professor* of *Public Management* at the University of Ferrara.



Alessia obtained her Ph.D. in *Business Administration and Management* at the University of Pisa in 2017. During her studies, she visited the University of Leeds (United Kingdom) and the Institute of Economic Affairs in London.

Her research interests and publications vary around management themes, including Family Business, Organizational Behavior, Public Management and Accounting History.



Jonida Carungu is an *Honorary Fellow in Accounting* in the Department of Business and Law, University of Siena (Italy) and a *Chartered Accountant*.

Jonida obtained her Ph.D. in *Business Administration and Management* at the University of Pisa in 2017. During her academic career, she visited UNED (*Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia*), Madrid (Spain) and the University of Roehampton, London (United Kingdom).

Her research interests include International Accounting, Accounting History and Social and Environmental Accounting.

Alessia and Jonida are developing a research path in the history of accounting research, which started as a study of the oldest Italian accounting journal and developed into an international comparison of accounting research from an historical perspective, focusing on non-English speaking countries.

2019 Alfred R. Roberts Memorial Research Award *Brandi Holley*

This award is named in honor of Dr. Alfred R. Roberts, second President and long serving Secretary of the Academy, and provides grants for research which seeks to support the 35 goals identified by Prof. Emeritus Richard Vangermeersch as to accounting history research in the April 2012 issue of the Accounting Historians Notebook.

Brandi Holley, CPA is a May 2020 Ph.D. candidate at the Patterson School of Accountancy at The University of Mississippi where she also earned a Master of Taxation. Her primary research interests are in the area of accounting history, where she explores the dynamic relationship between accounting and society through a variety of topics. Her research has been published in the *Accounting Historians Journal*. Her dissertation, is on the career of Maurice E. Peloubet.



Prior to pursuing her Ph.D., Brandi worked in public accounting (tax) for seven years and the non-profit sector for two years. In 2019, she received the Patterson School of Accountancy Doctoral Teaching Award.

2019 Thomas J. Burns Biographical Research Award *C. Richard Baker*

This Award is given for outstanding biographical research in the discipline of accountancy.



Since teaching his first accounting course in 1972, **Richard Baker** has taught more than one thousand students, many of whom have gone on to become successful CPAs and business executives. His areas of teaching and research interest focus on the regulation, disciplinary practices, ethics and legal liability of the Public Accounting Profession.

Richard has published over 100 articles in academic and professional journals, as well as chapters in vari-

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2019 Innovation in Accounting History Education Award *Edward Mendlowitz*

The intent of the Innovation in Accounting History Education Award is to encourage innovations in accounting history education.

Edward Mendlowitz, CPA, is a partner at WithumSmith+Brown, PC and is one of *Accounting Today's* 100 Most Influential People. Ed is the author of 27 books, and has written over 1500 articles and blogs and developed and presented over 300 professional speeches, CPE programs and webinars. Ed won the Lawler Award for the best article in 2001 in the *Journal of Accountancy* and The Eddie Award in 2018 from *Folio Magazine* for his Art of Accounting series in *Accounting Today*. His practice management techniques are posted weekly at CPATrendlines.com and have been reported on in *The Wall Street Journal*, the *Journal of Accountancy* and many other publications.

Ed is accredited as a personal financial specialist, in business valuations and in financial forensics by the AICPA; is admitted to practice and has argued cases before the U.S. Tax Court; testified twice before the House Ways and Means Committee on Tax Reform, Fairness and Equity; is a professor in the Fairleigh Dickinson University MBA program; is on the editorial board of QuickReadBuzz blog, the co-editor of *The CPA Journal's* Personal Financial Planning column, and has been on the *Bottom Line / Personal* Panel of Experts for Taxes since the publication's inception and is the author of their monthly tax blog. Ed has also been a team captain and conducted quality and peer reviews of CPA practices. In 2017 Ed was inducted into the Estate Planning Hall of Fame.



(Continued from page 18)

ous academic books along with six books dealing with professional accounting topics. He currently serves on the editorial boards of ten academic journals, and is an active member of professional accounting and academic associations in the United States and other countries.

2018 Best Paper Award *Accounting Historians Journal*

First Place:
Maria Ryabova
(Lomonosov Moscow State University)

“The Account Books of the Soranzo Fraterna (Venice 1406-1434) and their Place in the History of Bookkeeping”

(Accounting Historians Journal, June 2018)

At the beginning of each year, the editor of the AHJ chooses a recipient of the Best Paper Award from the previous year's journals.

In the study, Ryabova contributes to the study of the accounting and legal practice existing in the Venetian Republic in the late Middle Ages through the examination of two account books created by the Soranzo Fraterna, a trading firm organized as a family partnership and operating in the first half of the 15th century. The larger of the surviving ledgers, known as the *libro real novo*, is generally considered to be the earliest extant Venetian example of double-entry bookkeeping. New sources discovered by the author in the State Archives of Venice confirm that the *libro real novo* represents a compilation of accounts (a so-called *estratto*) prepared in view of a complicated litigation at the *giudici di petizione* court. The detailed examination of the judicial conflict in question reveals the purposes behind the composition of this book and the impact that the circumstances of its creation had on the accounting techniques used.



Maria Ryabova is a researcher in the Faculty of History at Lomonosov Moscow State University. She graduated with honors in history from Lomonosov Moscow State University in 2011. In 2012, Maria completed a 3-month research internship exchange program at the University of Padua (Italy). In 2014-2018, she was part of the research team for the project “The Greater Black Sea Area and the Mediterranean World in the System of Relations between Rus’, the East, and the West in the Middle Ages”, supported by the Russian Science Foundation and directed by Professor Sergey P. Karpov. Maria’s research interests include history of the Venetian Republic, economic history of the Mediterranean and the Black Sea region in the Late Middle Ages, and accounting history.

2018 Best Paper Award ***Accounting Historians Journal***

Award for Excellence:
Stephen A. Zeff
(Rice University)

"An Introduction to Corporate Accounting Standards: Detecting Paton's and Littleton's Influences"

(Accounting Historians Journal, June 2018)

At the beginning of each year, the editor of the AHJ chooses 1-2 recipients of the Award for Excellence from the previous year's journals.

This article is to trace the principal ideas in Paton and Littleton's influential 1940 monograph to their previous and contemporaneous writings, and thus to uncover the ideas' origins in the literature. Through a study of each of the 7 chapters of the famous monograph, Zeff draws upon the coauthors' earlier and contemporaneous writings and thinkings to attribute the principal ideas to the influences of each co-author.



Stephen A. Zeff holds B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of Colorado, and M.B.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Michigan. He was Editor of *The Accounting Review* in 1978-83 and was President of the American Accounting Association (AAA) in 1985-86. In 1988, he received the AAA's Outstanding Accounting Educator Award, and in 1999 the AAA's International Accounting Section named him the recipient of its Outstanding International Accounting Educator Award. In August 2017, he received the AAA's Lifetime Service Award.

In 1973 and 2001, Zeff received the Hourglass Award from the Academy of Accounting Historians, thus becoming one of the few two-time recipients of the award. In 2008, the Academy gave him the Thomas J. Burns Biographical Research Award. In 2002, he was inducted as the 70th member of the Accounting Hall of Fame of The Ohio State University.

Zeff is author or editor of 31 books and has written more than 100 articles. He serves on the editorial board of fifteen research journals edited in 11 countries. Since 1991, he has been a member of the academic panel of the UK's Accounting Standards Board/Corporate Reporting Council.

**THE ACADEMY OF ACCOUNTING HISTORIANS SECTION
of the
AMERICAN ACCOUNTING ASSOCIATION**

BUSINESS MEETING

**At the 2019 Annual Conference of the American Accounting Association
Hilton Union Square, San Francisco, California
Ballroom Level, Franciscan A
Sunday, August 11, 2019**

MINUTES

(Unofficial minutes pending approval of attendees)

The meeting convened about 7:08 PM.

Present: Jennifer Reynolds-Moehrle (outgoing president), Gary Spraakman (incoming president), Saad Alkazemi, C. Richard Baker, Bill Black, Rajib Doogar, Dale Flesher, Tonya Flesher, Guiseppe Galassi, Peter Gillett, Marina Gurskaya, Bam-bi Hora, Mitsunori Kasukabe, John Keyser, Tom King, Royce Kurtz, Mikhail I. Kuter, Howard Lawrence, Yoshinao Matsumoto, Steve Moehrle, Louella Moore, Stephanie Moussalli, Christopher Napier, Pedro Ortiz, Martin Persson, Gary Previts, Vaughan Radcliffe, Diane Roberts, Alan Sangster, Chie Sawanobori, Stefania Serval-li, Mitch Stein, Greg Stoner, Gloria Vollmers, Kelly Williams, Stephen Zeff.

Guests: Shauna Bigelow (AAA Segment Member Services Coordinator).

For Information Only:

Call to order and welcome – President Jennifer Reynolds-Moehrle

“Welcome to the annual business meeting of the Academy of Accounting Historians as a section of the AAA. I am glad to see you here and hopeful that you will remain engaged in the section activities in this coming year and in the years to come.”

Trustee meeting update – Chairman Dale Flesher

President’s report – Reynolds-Moehrle

“This continues to be an exciting time for the AAH section as we leverage our successful past and expand our reach as a 21st century global organization. I want to take just a few minutes to highlight some items from the last year and to talk about some items for the future.

“Our section strives to recognize outstanding scholarly achievements of our members through the many awards that we will be awarding later in this meeting.

“We continue with a commitment to coordinate as wide a set of quality paper sessions

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as possible at the annual and regional meetings of the AAA. You have hopefully had a chance to plan out your schedule for the paper sessions at this meeting as Martin will discuss in a few minutes and we will also hear from Tom King regarding opportunities for regional meetings in the upcoming year.

“We have been able to develop a memorandum of understanding between the AAH section and the AAA regarding the memorial project for memorials to be published in *Accounting Horizons*. I will speak more to that in a few minutes.

“I recently received a note from long-time member and past President Richard Vangermeersch in which he asked that we start thinking seriously about 2023 and the 50th celebration of the AAH. It is his intention to be present at that meeting so if you are interested in helping plan that party please contact an officer and make sure you include Professor Vangermeersch.

“This evening brings to a close my term as President of this section. I have been honored to be a part of the officer team for 15 years and I have especially been honored to have the opportunity to work with the other officers and trustees over that time. It is my expectation that the section will continue to flourish under the leadership and participation of our many members around the world.”

Treasurer’s report – Yvette Lazdowski

For the fiscal year ended May 31, 2019, assets totaled \$508,708. The previous year-end fiscal total was \$486,980.

Net cash inflows were \$18,111 and net journal inflows were \$1,554. The net outflows for the mid-year webinar were \$288.

Membership report – Stephanie Moussalli

No membership report was available due to conflicting data.

***Accounting Historians Journal* editor’s report – Bill Black**

Transitional problems with timing seem to have been resolved. The AAA is changing to a new submission tracking system and dropping Allentrack. The editor called for more oral history and biography. Authors may submit such items to Salmagundi if they prefer.

Activities

Gary Spraakman discussed the mid-year research webinar. Two sessions of two hours each were held in February and March. International attendance was good; a total of 40 attended the first session and 30 the second. Spraakman plans to organize a similar webinar for 2020.

The CPE session held earlier today at AAA went well.

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Martin Persson discussed the history paper sessions planned for this year's AAA.

The memorial writing committee email call for interested parties was discussed.

Massimo Sargiacomo discussed the 2020 World Congress of Accounting Historians in Saint Petersburg, Russia, and the information available on the WCAH website about visas.

Regional coordinators for the regional meetings – Tom King

King reported on the success in organizing a history panel for some of the regional meetings.

Presentation of Academy awards - Jennifer Reynolds-Moehrle

A. Margit F. and Hanns-Martin Schoenfeld Scholarship

The Margit F. and Hanns Martin Schoenfeld Scholarship is given each year to encourage and support research by doctoral students or recently appointed faculty on the history of accounting. This year the AAH section is proud to be able to make 2 awards.

The first \$3,000 award is given to Professors Jonida Carungu and Alessia Patuelli who both recently completed PhDs at the University of Pisa, Italy. Now at different universities, Professors Carungu and Patuelli seek support for their development of an international comparison of historical accounting research from the perspective of Comparative International Accounting History. Their particular focus is on Spanish and Italian research trends. With the Schoenfeld scholarship award Professors Carungu and Patuelli can present their research at international conferences and conduct fieldwork in archives related to future research in their area. They also see this award as an encouragement to the on-going collaborative efforts between researchers and different universities. Join me in congratulating Professors Carungu and Patuelli

The second \$3,000 award is given to Professor Joy Gray who recently completed her PhD at the Bentley University. One chapter in Professor Gray's dissertation, entitled "The Integrated Information Technology Audit in Internal Audit: History and Future Perspectives" synthesizes existing literature through an historical lens to examine the evolution of IT auditing. With the Schoenfeld scholarship award Professor Gray will be able to expand her work on the historical perspective through use of a research assistant to help analyze practitioner literature and develop cataloguing of these materials for future historical research. Congratulations to Professor Gray.

B. Innovation in Accounting History Education Award

The intent of the Innovation in Accounting History Education Award is to encourage those who develop and implement an innovative technique/method for incorporating accounting history topics into undergraduate or graduate accounting courses.

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This year the award goes to Edward Mendlowitz, CPA, from Fairleigh Dickinson University who uses Topps Accounting History Cards (these are small trading cards, like baseball cards for those that are not familiar with the Topps name) in his Managerial and Forensic Auditing MBA courses at Fairleigh Dickinson University and Montclair State University, along with a handbook titled, “What Accounting Is and What Accountants Do including a History of Accounting”. The 20 Accounting History Cards bring accounting to life with points of interest relevant to students. Throughout the courses the various cards are distributed to students to impart an appreciation of the significance of accounting in business and society. Congratulations to Mr. Mendlowitz!

C. Alfred R. Roberts Memorial Research Award

The intent of the Alfred R. Roberts Memorial Research Award is to provide grants for research supporting the 35 goals identified by Richard Vangermeersch in the April 2012 issue of the Accounting Historians Notebook. The award is a grant based upon a proposal that seeks to increase the scope of the history of accounting.

This year’s award is given to Brandi Holley, CPA, a doctoral student at the University of Mississippi in support of her dissertation work entitled, “Maruice E. Peloubet: A Life of Impact on Accountancy and Society”, which supports the sixth goal of the “need to reestablish the legitimacy of biographical research as a dissertation topic for PhDs in accounting”. Her study examines the life and career of Maruice E. Peloubet, and American public accountant from 1911 to 1964, and in particular his role in the evolution of the AICPA, his lobbying efforts before Congress concerning inventory methods and depreciation reform, his contribution to accounting thought and literature, and the development of his accounting firm. With expected completion in Spring 2020, Ms. Holley expects to seek publication shortly thereafter. We look forward to seeing the output of her efforts – congratulations Brandi Holley!

D. Barbara D. Merino Award for Excellence in Accounting History Publication

This award recognizes the author of an outstanding book on an accounting historical topic.

This year’s award goes to Professors Kelly Williams of Middle Tennessee State University and Howard Lawrence of University of Mississippi for their book, “William A. Paton: A Study of His Accounting Thought”, published in 2018. This work provides the first full account of the life, career, and ideas of William Paton. The groundbreaking study not only explores major influences on Paton’s thoughts on accounting, but also shows how Paton was a participant in the professional accounting groups of his day, how he urged the societies to conduct research to develop a consistent and rational body of knowledge, and how, with other early scholars, he was instrumental in developing the first issues of *The Accounting Review*. Congratulations Professors Williams and Lawrence!

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E. Thomas J. Burns Biographical Research Award

This award is given annually for outstanding biographical research in the discipline of accountancy and is named for a past president of the Academy of Accounting Historians and a long-time professor at Ohio State.

This year's award is given to Dr. Richard Baker of Adelphi University in recognition of his work, "What can Thomas Jefferson's accounting records tell us about plantation management, slavery, and Enlightenment philosophy in colonial America". This work provides insight into the management of a colonial America plantation through analysis of its accounting records and what these records reveal about Jefferson's perspectives on 18th century Enlightenment philosophy. Congratulations Prof. Baker!

F. Best Paper Award, *Accounting Historians Journal*

At the beginning of each year, the editor of the *AHJ* chooses a recipient of the Best Paper Award from the previous year's issues of our journal.

This year the award is given to Professor Maria Ryabova of Lomonosov Moscow State University for her work, "The Account Books of the Soranzo Fraterna (Venice 1406–1434) and Their Place in the History of Bookkeeping, which appeared in the June 2018 issue of the *Accounting Historians Journal*. In the study, Ryabova contributes to the study of the accounting and legal practice existing in the Venetian Republic in the late Middle Ages through the examination of two account books created by the Soranzo Fraterna, a trading firm organized as a family partnership and operating in the first half of the 15th century. The larger of the surviving ledgers, known as the libro real novo, is generally considered to be the earliest extant Venetian example of double-entry bookkeeping. New sources discovered by the author in the State Archives of Venice confirm that the libro real novo represents a compilation of accounts (a so-called estratto) prepared in view of a complicated litigation at the giudici di petizione court. The detailed examination of the judicial conflict in question reveals the purposes behind the composition of this book and the impact that the circumstances of its creation had on the accounting techniques used. Congratulations to Pro. Ryabova!

G. Award of Excellence, *Accounting Historians Journal*

The editor of the *Accounting Historians Journal* selects a paper to be recognized for the Award of Excellence.

This year's award goes to Professor Stephen Zeff for his work, "An Introduction to Corporate Accounting Standards: Detecting Paton's and Littleton's Influences". This article is to trace the principal ideas in Paton and Littleton's influential 1940 monograph to their previous and contemporaneous writings, and thus to uncover the ideas' origins in the literature. Through a study of each of the 7 chapters of the famous monograph, Zeff draws upon the coauthors' earlier and contemporaneous writings and thinkings to attribute the principal ideas to the influences of each co-author. Congratulations Professor Zeff!

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H. Hourglass Award

As the sands of time pass through the funnel of an hourglass, when you flip the hourglass over, the past becomes the future. Each year the Academy of Accounting Historians section presents the Hourglass Award to an individual who has made a demonstrable and significant contribution to knowledge through research and publication in accounting history.

This year's award is given to Professor Richard Mattessich, Emeritus Professor of University of British Columbia, in honor of his body of research regarding accounting thought and the history of accounting research, and for his contributions to the practice of accounting, including his recognition as the person responsible for the concept and foundations of the electronic spreadsheet. While some 28 books bear his name, most notably for this award is his sole-authored book, "Two Hundred Years of Accounting Research: An International Survey of Personalities, Ideas, and Publications from about 1800 to 2000", published in 2009 as Volume 8 in the Routledge New Works in Accounting History series. From the preface:

"our focus is not on the history of accounting, but on the history of its research and the publications underlying it (though, wherever necessary, accounting facts beyond research were taken into consideration). Nor is the book merely based on accounting literature of the English tongue. A major goal was to offer a broad overview, covering the pertinent publications of an international spectrum, as wide as possible" and "it is our hope that this book will guide the reader and inspire her or him to turn occasionally to the more specialized literature here listed. The book may also serve accounting historians as a reference work for many years to come, and be an impetus to scholars for delving deeper into historical aspects not yet revealed."

Professor Mattessich has been profiled in several works as a leader in accounting thought and he has received four honorary doctoral degrees and numerous other honors (including memberships in two national academies, and research awards from Canadian and American accounting associations). He turned 97 just two days ago and has remained actively engaged in his work. We are fortunate to have his dear colleague Guiseppe Galassi here with us this evening on his behalf. It is our honor to add the Hourglass Award to his many accolades. Please accept our congratulations to Professor Mattessich!

Remarks from incoming president – Gary Spraakman

Other business

The attendees gave a round of applause to outgoing president Jennifer Reynolds-Moehrle for her outstanding work as Academy president.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Moussalli, Secretary



**American
Accounting
Association**

**Academy of
Accounting Historians**

Calls for Papers & Upcoming Conferences

For current information, visit the AAH Section's website at
www.aaahq.org/AAH.

Notebook Content

To submit items for inclusion in the Notebook, email the AAH Section Administrator, Tiffany Schwendeman, at acchistory@case.edu.

Award Nominations

For detailed information on AAH Section awards and current deadlines, visit the Awards section of the AAH Section website at
www.aaahq.org/AAH/Awards.

