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Review of the McGraw-Hill Calendar

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his books do not mean as much to him as they did. Now, his sole reason for maintaining the collection is as a source for historical research. He is no longer adding to his collection.

Costs and Care

McMickle's hobby has essentially paid for itself. He is probably one of the few people who has made money from accounting history. He has done this by buying and selling nonaccounting books that he has discovered in old-book stores. For example, he bought an old atlas for \$165 that is now appraised at \$6,500. He also purchased a Chinese manuscript for \$200 which he later sold at auction for \$3,700.

As far as care is concerned, little effort is required for maintaining old books in good condition. As long as the humidity is kept at a reasonable level and insects are kept out, then nothing else is required. Acid-free storage facilities are not needed for old books because they were published on fine quality paper. Today's books, however, are printed on lower quality paper and may disintegrate within forty years. Thus, McMickle feels that rare book collecting is an ideal hobby because of the ease of care.

Summary

Dr. Peter McMickle set out to amass the world's greatest collection of English language accounting books. That was certainly a monumental goal, and one that most individuals would never attempt to accomplish. But, through hard work, and constant attention to his goal, he did build an outstanding collection. In fact, it took McMickle less than five years to build the world's greatest collection of historic accounting books. Pete is now sharing his collection with others by making them available for reprinting. McMickle's employer (Memphis State University), his alma mater (the University of Alabama) and its professors who inspired him, the Academy of Accounting Historians, and the accounting profession in general should all be proud of Pete McMickle's accomplishment and his dedication to excellence.



REVIEW OF THE McGraw-Hill CALENDAR

Although thousands of book reviews are published each year, there are rarely any reviews of calendars. This slight is hereby remedied since the McGraw-Hill Book Company has for each of the past two years issued an accounting history calendar that is deserving of consideration.

Images, McGraw-Hill's 1981-1982 calendar, is a useful and informative reference that can be used by both the academician and student. It is not only interesting and enlightening, but it also provides a humorous look at the accounting profession.

Short articles on the history of accounting are of particular interest. Summaries of the Fugger and Medici accounts in the 15th and 16th centuries provide insight as to the origin of industrial accounts. For those interested, references for additional reading are given.

Continuing into the calendar, a condensed biography of Arthur Young affords a view of the life of a pioneer in modern accounting.

For those with literary interests, there is Henry Thoreau's detailed account of the costs incurred in building his house in 1845. In times of skyrocketing housing costs, it is disheartening to discover that Thoreau built his house for the grand sum of \$28.12½. Furthermore, it is interesting to note that his net income for the year was \$25.21¾.

Additional features range from the McKesson-Robbins controversy to a history of women in accounting and the use of computers in perpetrating fraud.

Anyone who enjoys a challenging crossword puzzle would not be disappointed by taking on the puzzle included. If it proves to be too challenging, a solution is supplied.

There is even a section of trivia for trivia buffs. For example, did you know that accountants were not always paid a regular fee? That 14th century business people cheated on their expense accounts? That the Kings of England were poor credit risks? The underlying reasons are to be found in the calendar.

One does not have to be an accountant to enjoy reading the features. The articles are of general interest and the cartoons and film stills can be enjoyed by everyone. After perusing the calendar, one looks forward to the 1982-1983 edition. McGraw-Hill is to be commended for publishing a very inspirational work.

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