Analysis of the life and writings of Harvey Stuart Chase (1861-1946): Book about Harvey Stuart Chase published privately; Book about Harvey Stuart Chase published privately

Richard G.J. Vangermeersch
AN ANALYSIS OF
THE LIFE AND WRITINGS OF HARVEY STUART CHASE
(1861-1946) ALONG WITH SELECTED READINGS
by Richard Vangermeersch

Harvey Stuart Chase was not only a leader of the public accounting profession from 1895 through 1925, he could be considered the father of municipal accounting, of depreciation, of the national budget, and of two State Societies of CPAs (Massachusetts and Colorado). He, at that time, was mentioned in the same breath with Haskins, Sells, Montgomery, and May. They are still remembered now by accounting historians and accountants but Harvey Stuart Chase is forgotten. This book places him back into the recognition he deserves.

Harvey Stuart Chase was also the father of Stuart Chase (1888-1985) who attained great fame as a political economist in the Great Depression. This book reviews four generations of the Chase family of Massachusetts and looks at the family involvement in the public accounting profession from 1873 through the death of Arthur Taft Chase in 1955. There is an appendix devoted to Robert Stuart Chase (1831-1916) and a longer appendix on Stuart Chase. There are fifteen readings of Harvey Stuart Chase included. Some of these readings were the result of much digging by the author.

This book concludes that Harvey Stuart Chase needs to be replicated today in the area of governmental accounting. He is an ideal role model for leadership by accountants in many different areas of their expertise, for literacy, and for international involvement. The author suggests that there are some exciting accounting historical research areas in the workings of the Taft Commission of Economy and Efficiency in the Federal Government and in the formation of the U.S. national budget. The book ends with the call to place Harvey Stuart Chase into the Accounting Hall of Fame and to award him the Accounting Exemplar Award of the Accounting Public Interest of the American Accounting Association.

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