

4-1981

Editor's Notes: Eggs, and perpetuity

Constance T. Barcelona

Follow this and additional works at: <https://egrove.olemiss.edu/wcpa>



Part of the [Accounting Commons](#), and the [Women's Studies Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Barcelona, Constance T. (1981) "Editor's Notes: Eggs, and perpetuity," *Woman C.P.A.*: Vol. 43 : Iss. 2 , Article 1.

Available at: <https://egrove.olemiss.edu/wcpa/vol43/iss2/1>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Archival Digital Accounting Collection at eGrove. It has been accepted for inclusion in Woman C.P.A. by an authorized editor of eGrove. For more information, please contact egrove@olemiss.edu.

Editor's Notes

Eggs, and perpetuity

In the chill of an uncertain springtime we note in the magazines that we can order a Wedgwood egg pendant, a cloisonne egg with delicate multifloral design for the coffee table, or a set of fine colorful tin eggs, 2 1/2" long, lithographed with old world designs. Symbols of hope and renewal, for a price.

Not for sale at any price are the jewel encrusted eggs originally crafted for Russian czarinas, or the intricately ornamented and filigreed eggs fashioned in gold by fifteenth century Italian artisans. Egg motifs are carved into the moldings on classical architecture such as the Erechtheum in Athens, the Arles Cathedral, and the Temple of Jupiter in Rome. An artist's eye is delighted by the tapering oval shape of an egg, the religious mind is stirred with thoughts of immortality, and the hands of a child cradle an egg with a caress and timeless wonderment.

Eggs are new life, packaged with marvelous efficiency. Sometimes they are clustered together in a gelatinous mass or piled in a froth on a branch by some procreant butterfly

or tree frog, and sometimes, if the mother is a bird or oviparous reptile, appearing as individual eggs. Each in its own way is beautiful.

Whatever the genesis, if life is to be perpetual it must renew itself for the older forms will surely die away. Eggs mean that the species is going on to tomorrow. The accounting profession has eggs in a number of nests this very minute, and that is a cheering state of affairs.

At times it is hard to distinguish the progeny from the parent, especially in accounting where identical phraseology occurs in APB Statements, APB Opinions, and FASB Statements of Standards and Concepts. Changes are subtle from one generation to another but that's the way of biology, too, genes and chromosomes being as they are. Fr. Luca Pacioli carries the popular misnomer of "father of accounting" — the original chicken if we may mix the sex of the metaphor — whereas in fact Fr. Pacioli simply gathered all the Venetian accounting eggs in one basket and set them out on display. (This issue of The Woman CPA

reports on an apocryphal speech by one Prudence Pacioli, identified by the Editor for the International Accounting Department as an "indirect descendant" of the celibate scholar.)

Notable new eggs in the accounting nest, presented by the Financial Accounting Standards Board as arbiter of generally accepted accounting principles, include concepts and standards related to the Board's Conceptual Framework, to pensions, and to accounting for nonbusiness organizations.

The FASB Conceptual Framework is having a long period of development, and incubation by the accounting profession may be even longer. The eggs of ideas presented to date, i.e., Concepts Statements Nos. 1 through 4, include cogent arguments for change, particularly when considering how accounting mirrors the real world of business. Those particular eggs of ideas are not going to hatch out into birds whose songs, pitched to historic costs, may be slightly out of tune but nevertheless sweetly familiar.

Accounting for nonbusiness organizations is a problem of such scope that the FASB has engaged in much research about it, and has devoted Concept No. 4 (December, 1980) to its objectives. This issue of The Woman CPA presents articles that describe the actual practice of accounting in several nonbusiness activities. Our intent is to be reportorial, not critical, and the articles are published to highlight the current interest in financial reporting by nonbusiness organizations.

Constance T. Barcelona

