



GENESIS OF ACCOUNTING SCIENCE DEVELOPMENT - FROM EUROPE TO RUSSIA

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Abstract

The present research article summarizes the available facts, opinions of accounting historians and describes the author's own vision on the birth of accounting and double-entry bookkeeping, which is presented as a great discovery, comparable to significant achievements in science.

Key words: Accounting, Double-entry bookkeeping, Periodization and Development of accounting.

1. Introduction

The phenomenon of accounting, the accounting system, to be more precise, has always excited the human imagination, at least the imagination of the thinking part of humanity. We are talking, of course, about the time when the descriptive understanding of accounting began, set forth in the famous 11 "Treatise on Accounts and Records", included by the author Luca Pacioli in his fundamental work. "The sum of arithmetic, geometry, the doctrine of proportions and relationships", published in Venice in 1494, when a treatise, written not in Latin, but in Italian, translated into many languages, began a victorious march across Europe, and then across the planet, with Many, many people, even very far from accounting, met him, including outstanding thinkers, philosophers, poets and writers, doctors, engineers, scientists. Johann Friedrich Goethe called double-entry bookkeeping one of the most remarkable inventions of the human mind. The English physician and naturalist William Harvey in the 17th century, having become acquainted with the English translation of the treatise, created his doctrine of blood circulation, based on the rules for the circulation of information on accounts presented in the treatise.

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2. Literature Review

The legendary theorist of anarchism Pierre Joseph Proudhon, who studied accounting, made his no less legendary conclusion: "An accountant is a real economist, from whom a clique of imaginary scientists stole his name!" (Syrovátka and Schlossarek, 2019). The renowned economist and sociologist Werner Sombart believed that the double entry was brought into being by the same spirit as the systems of Galileo and Newton. The first Russian pure accounting theorist (opinion of Ya. V. Sokolov) VD Belov stated the following: "The law of double counting turned out to be the most comprehensive supreme law, beyond which there is nowhere to go and which, therefore, exhausts the entire volume of knowledge. The law of double counting is that last stage of accounting knowledge, at which it does not need its further development "(Belov V.D. 1888, p. 392). Mankind has been reading the "Decline of Europe" for more than a hundred years, to this day being amazed at his insights. Spengler argued that "Double-entry bookkeeping is a pure analysis of the space of values, correlated with a coordinate system, the reference point in which is the "firm".

Who is the author of such a miraculous system that reveals to us the "Space of the Economic World", and where was it first built? Enlightened senior students on this question



easily and freely call the author - Luca Pacioli and the country - Italy! Once upon a time, the enlightened accounting majority also thought. but the fact is that Luca Pacioli is not the author of the Italian Double Bookkeeping, but the author of the first published book about it, the so-called Treatise on Accounts and Records. In addition, an attentive reader will immediately find in this book an epigraph that precedes the treatise itself: "That which lay in the dust and languished forgotten in prison, Luke found for you, friend and reader." In other words, the author claims to be describing an already known system. One can certainly recall Benedetto Cotrugli, an Italian merchant from Ragusa, whose book "On Trade and the Perfect Merchant" was written in 1458, almost 40 years earlier than Luca Pacioli's treatise.

Cotrulya's book introduced a chapter on the dual way bookkeeping. But the fact is that this book was published only in 1573, and although "the manuscripts do not burn", the accounting procedure outlined in the published book was more of historical than practical value. Nevertheless, the South Italian accounting procedure described by Cotrulhi (Ragusa is a city in Sicily), which differs from the Venetian accounting procedure described by Luca Pacioli, was of interest, it should be noted that the accounting system of that time was not the most perfect. For example, Florentine accounting was certainly more perfect in those days. In this paper, we classified scientific works of Dmitrieva (1969), Grontkowski (1992), Tsygankov (1998), Spengler (1998), Bebbington and Larrinaga (2014), Medvedev (2013), Ezerskiy (2020). Accounting and sustainable development were researched by Bebbington and Larrinaga (2014). An evolutionary account of the social and conceptual development of science were learned by David L. Hull. Chicago, Grontkowski (1992). The role of distribution in development is important both because people generally prefer lower inequality and inequality tends to have negative effects on development outcomes (Syrovátka and Schlossarek, 2019).

3. Analysis and Results

Until the middle of the twentieth century in Europe, it was believed that double-entry bookkeeping was born in Genoa around 1340, and then merchants brought it to Venice, Milan and Florence. Genoa is a special city in the history of Italy and in the world; Christopher Columbus was born in Genoa, the discoverer of a new previously unknown continent, which was called the New World, and Europe has since been called the Old World. And the printed word played an almost key role in these events. The fact is that from the expeditions of Columbus (and there were three of them, starting from 1492), only reports to the Castilian royal court, which financed the expeditions, and the logbooks of some ships that took part in the expeditions, have survived. And the old woman Europe did not attach any special importance to the newly discovered fourth continent. But the Florentine Amerigo Vespucci got down to business, he prepared the 2nd and 3rd expeditions of Columbus, he himself several times went to the shores of the New World, it was he who discovered the Amazon River, explored the coast of Brazil. But most importantly, he wrote letters, hundreds and hundreds of letters about the newly discovered lands. Some of them were rewritten and even reprinted, for the author was undoubtedly a gifted journalist, traveler, geographer, economist. Such were all the representatives of the Renaissance, they did everything at once and very successfully. With the word "rebirth" what associations arise first of all? I remember faces. Close-up faces, brightened, minted with clarity of medals, sometimes remarkably beautiful, sometimes irregular, but always significant. unlike one another, but having something in common, very individual, but internally not fully revealed, and therefore a little mysterious.

We recall the black-haired Florentine youths, slender female profiles with large open foreheads, the haughty face of Giuliano Medici with half-closed eyelids and a barely noticeable cold smile in the portrait of Botticelli, the heads of the canotiers in Donatello and Verrocchio full of fierce energy, the menacingly beautiful face



of Michelangelo's David. Entrepreneurial is one of the most accurate characteristics of the Renaissance man. Such were Pacioli, and Cotrugli, and Amerigo Vespucci. Vespucci's largest letter about the New World in 1507, without his knowledge, was included in an Introduction to Cosmography, published by Martin Waldseemüller in the Lorraine city of Saint Dieu. it was the author of this treatise who suggested calling the fourth continent America ". Since, it was found by Amerigo, it should have been called the land of America, or America." This is the power of the printed word! It doesn't matter that Christopher Columbus discovered the new continent, what matters is that from now on it began to be called America! (Colombia, it should be noted, is also in the New World). It does not matter that for the first time in a manuscript double-entry bookkeeping is presented in the book of Cotrulia, it is important that the first published treatise on accounts and records was authored by Luca Pacioli. most likely, he did not even know about the enlightened merchant from the island of Sicily (city of Ragusa), for he himself was a Franciscan monk, mathematician, partly an artist. Digraphic accounting, double-entry bookkeeping, in other words, apparently, was born in medieval Italy, as most researchers believe. This phenomenon was prepared by many achievements in mathematics, technology, and the structure of society. According to modern accounting theorists MF Van Breda and especially E. S. Hendriksen, "Accounting is not a creation of either white, Anglo-Saxon or Protestant males: its development was decisively dependent on the events taking place in Africa, India, Iran and maybe somewhere else, i.e. the product of the intellectual activity of Jews, Christians, Muslims is the result of the interaction of many cultures", "its development was stimulated by technical progress".

"Accounting has been the product of many hands and many lands. The richest results of human intellectual activity were obtained at a time when multinational cultures mutually enriched each other". Of course, this mutual enrichment became most noticeable in the era of great geographical discoveries, mid. 15 - ser.

17th century, when different civilizations with completely different cultural codes complemented each other. Nevertheless, double-entry bookkeeping does not have an author-inventor, just as money, an alphabet, a spoken language, a wheel do not have one. And yet at the congress in Venice dedicated to the 500th anniversary of the publication of the "Treatise on Accounts and Records" in April 1994, the global accounting community, through direct open voting, recognized Luca Pacioli as the founding father! I myself participated in this vote taking place at the Palazzo Redentore on the island of Giudecca, where the congress was held. At the same time, the International Academy of Accounting Historians presented new approaches to the periodization of the development of accounting. To this day, there are almost as many views in this area as there are authors who study the problems of accounting history. It is easiest to divide the accounting history into two periods: pre-literary; literary.

The famous economist Syrovátka, M and Schlossarek (2019) divided the history of accounting into two stages: natural - precapitalist and value (capitalist). However, with such a generalized periodization, Rodbertus bypasses the difficulties associated with the selection of various accounting paradigms. The outstanding Italian scientist G. Cerboni in 1873 identified four stages: the ancient world - the absence of objective principles in the formation of accounting thought; from Leonardo Fibonacci to Luca Pacioli - the time of commercial arithmetic; from Luca Pacioli to Francesco Villa - the rise of double-entry bookkeeping; the emergence and development of scientific accounting.

One of the most detailed periodizations belongs to the Russian Fyodor Yezersky, who demanded from the account the maximum accuracy of records with the complete elimination of registration and arithmetic errors (an orthodox requirement). All the proposed stages in the development of accounting should consistently bring this maximum accuracy closer: recounting, in which only an inventory of



values was compiled; recalculated debt - in addition to property, personal settlement accounts (rescontro) were taken into account, while inventory was compared with rescontro; simple - records were controlled only by comparing opposite turns; double Italian - all registration and counts are controlled by double entry; English - control is tightened with the help of special techniques; combined double and English - a combination of control techniques of the two previous stages; Russian triple - the Italian double had two criteria of correctness (debit and credit), and in Russian there were nineteen such criteria. Unfortunately, the author, who was called at that time a "heretic from accounting", considered his triple system the crown of the entire evolution of accounting thought, and without a doubt, called double Italian accounting "accounting debauchery"! The accuracy of the records was turned into an end in itself by Yezersky. The most complete periodization of the development of accounting belongs to Ya. V. Sokolov, firstly because it was carried out on many grounds, starting with the nature of the accounting media. Various contradictory tendencies are noted here, for in different places and different civilizations accountants used the materials that were at hand as information carriers. Almost at the same time, papyrus was used in Egypt, in Babylon - clay tablets, in Greece - shards, in Rome - wax tablets, in the Inca empire - ropes and cords, in medieval Europe - parchment, etc. in the 2nd century AD. NS. in China, paper was obtained, since the 10th century, paper has penetrated into Europe and for almost a thousand years it has become the only carrier of initial data and resultant information.

Further, such periodization criteria as the goals of accounting, the accounting methodology, the composition of accounts, the interests of persons employed in the economic process, and the change in scientific doctrines are considered. and all these criteria, to one degree or another, separated the stages of development of accounting. A simple question of accounting methodology immediately distinguished budget accounting and commercial accounting, and two measures - natural and

monetary - clearly separated cameral and commercial accounting. The first has as its subject the accounting of expenses and income, the second is the accounting of property and the results of its use, so the second name arose - patrimonial accounting.

Money became an accounting meter and formed two paradigms: cameral and simple patrimonial accounting, the latter will also be called unigraphic. Generally speaking, the very idea of reflecting all accounting objects in a single monetary measure of the almost universal scale, because with its implementation, it became possible to connect incompatible objects: cattle with slaves, farm buildings with grain reserves, etc., etc. When it happened to determine almost impossible, but it is clear that after the invention of coins. And coins, i.e. For a long time, money was considered simply as an independent accounting object, and there was no way to add up different objects in order, for example, to estimate the size of the farm or determine the results of management! But about 2.5 thousand years ago, objects began to be assessed, and the price was not calculated. And directly according to Marx, who argued that the price cannot be calculated, it can only be found out on the market! And when the accounts of own funds were introduced into the composition of the indicators - the accounts of the unigraphic accounting system, accounting became a closed digital system, the very double-entry bookkeeping that so admired the already mentioned philosophers and poets. I must say that until now, three answers are possible to the question of when accounting arose: 6,000 years ago, when the purposeful registration of facts of economic life began, 500 years ago, when Luca Pacioli's "treatise on accounts and records" was published and began as Ya. V. Sokolov says "descriptive understanding of accounting" and about 100 years ago, when the first works on accounting theory appeared. And it was the second stage that delighted the enlightened contemporaries, when a slender accounting building arose, which still stands unshakably.



Six thousand years ago, in different parts of the planet, on different continents, the very traces of purposeful registration of facts appeared, in some places, where life froze in its prehistoric forms, examples of such registration still exist. About twenty years ago, in Chukotka, I was told that among the Chukchi (there are very few of them) and among the Eskimos (there are much more of them) in the communities there were selected people called "inhumatak" - the one who thinks. These thinkers recorded information about the world around them, about prey, about members of the community on the most reliable medium - a walrus tusk! In the local history museum of Yakutsk, we later saw such walrus bones with hieroglyphic writing containing information about people, food supplies, etc., but this is in the past. And more recently, in the Novosibirsk House of Scientists, the famous extreme traveler Vitaly Sundakov talked about a solo hike through the Amazon wilds, from the mouth almost a thousand kilometers inland. And all the tribes we met (including even cannibals) had wooden plaques with information about the tribe, harvest, weather. In other words, the very primitive accounting of six thousand years ago has survived to this day! In medieval Europe, many intellectual achievements of the ancient world were also lost, in the surviving medieval inventories, along with inventory, cattle, products, money is usually absent, and this is a direct consequence of the low level of commodity-money relations in comparison with the ancient world. You can consider the periods of development of accounting in relation to the change in scientific doctrines.

Until the middle of the 19th century, accounting existed only as a practical activity, as a set of mandatory procedures described by Luca Pacioli, with minor later changes and additions. Francesco Villa in 1864 described the main accounting categories, thus forming the beginning of accounting theory. At the beginning of the 20th century, J. B. Dumarchet substantiated the economic understanding of accounting, following the direct precepts of P. J. Proudhon. And even his most thorough review of the periodization of the development of

accounting Ya. V. Sokolov ends with a sad remark that an adequate periodization of the development of the theory of accounting is essentially impossible. Periodization, which is sometimes given too much importance, is needed, first of all, for a better presentation and understanding of parallel events. What about Russia? She, too, did not stand aside from the modern, as they say now, geopolitical and economic processes. It is generally accepted that the Russian state arose in 862, when the northern Slavs (northerners) invited the Varangian Rurik to their reign, and with him his brothers Sineus and Truvor, to the glorious city of Ladoga. The main street of Staraya Ladoga and to this day has the name "Varangian", it happily avoided renaming into Leninskaya, Pervomaiskaya or Kommunis ticheskaya. The first century and a half in Russia, the most primitive accounting methods were used, associated with the collection of tribute and the registration of trade turnovers. The darkness of the Middle Ages fell over Europe at that time, because on August 24, 476, the last emperor of the Roman Empire, Romulus Augustus, was deposed.

According to the historical calendar, the ancient world ended, the Middle Ages began. By the 10th century, Russia and Kiev and Novgorod was a populated state, in the surviving chronicles it was even called Gardarika - the country of cities. And she adopted Christianity according to the Orthodox Byzantine model, and Slavic writing from the 9th century was actively spreading, and not only the so-called "Cyrillic", but also "Glagolitic". and literacy in Russia, especially in its northeastern part, was higher than Central European, first of all, this refers to the huge medieval republic called Mr. Veliky Novgorod, stretching from Arkhangelsk in the north to Tver in the south, and from the Baltic Sea in the west to the Ob River in east. The hundreds and hundreds of birch bark letters that have survived to this day in Novgorod and Pskov contain a lot of interesting accounting, financial and economic information, no lyrics. And it was not only boyars, podyachyi, princely gentlemen who wrote, but also simple blacksmiths, carpenters, gunsmiths, farmers (serfdom in Novgorod did not work out).



Freedom was almost the main factor in the social life of the Novgorod Republic, and the Novgorodians elected their prince, and in fact hired him as a skillful military leader. Therefore, Ivan the fourth, nicknamed the Terrible, had to make two punitive expeditions to Novgorod and Pskov, when the heads were chopped off at once for families, and the Volkhov and Velikaya rivers flowed red with blood from morning to night. On the other hand, even the thought of secession from Moscow was forever discouraged from the proud Novgorodians, and everything became like everyone else. And for everyone in Russia it was so that the owner of all or almost all property in the country was the state in the person of the prince, the Grand Duke, and then the tsar. This feature had a huge impact on Russian accounting, forming its most important principle: the state is the owner of almost all property located in the country. This is the opinion of Ya. V. Sokolov and V.V. Kovalev. And if this is so, then there should be a single body regulating the order of accounting records, and in general, vertical relations in the state are more important than horizontal ones. When Russia adopted Christianity, during the first decades, many monasteries arose on its territory, which became major centers of the country's spiritual and economic growth. It was behind the monastery walls that many ideas of Russian accounting were born, including its principle: a strictly defined person (financially responsible person) or a group of persons is responsible for each property object. The responsibility was not only material, but also personal, even criminal. A well-known publicist of the 16th century. Ivan Semenovich Peresvetov, a kind writer soul, advised in the warehouse premises to nail the skin of the former storekeepers who made a shortage to the walls. Most likely, he also knew that two thousand years before him, similar punishments, called "Egyptian executions", were practiced in Egypt. As it is written in the sermon of Joseph Volotsky: "Human life in Russia is cheaper than a sparrow!" and therefore they did not spare people, but they kept a strict account of them. Especially after the first population census in Russia in 1257, carried out by the Tatars by the forces of Chinese officials - the Baskaks. Ya. V. Sokolov believes that this was not a statistical

record of the population, but simply an accounting inventory of people "included in the number." this is how the third principle of Russian accounting arose: a person is an object of accounting, because each person is accountable in such a different way (Syrovátka and Schlossarek, 2019).

Ya. V. Sokolov formulated 10 principles of Russian accounting, almost all of them are unique. I will focus on the eighth: the prices of items depend on the costs associated with their production. This principle goes back to Plato's ideas about a fair price, according to which labor and only labor should be compensated. Experts believe that this principle has brought innumerable calamities to the country's accounting and economy. Further we will constantly return to it. This principle required the strictest calculation of the cost of finished goods and services rendered, and as a result, already in the conditions of a socialist economy, led to the so-called "cost-based pricing". Everything is very simple: the necessary mark-ups are added to the most accurately calculated total cost price and the wholesale price is obtained. So, it was in the Stalinist economy, and in the Alexander, under the sovereigns the second and third Alexander. It is especially noticeable under Peter I, when Russian industrial accounting and the basics of calculation were born at the Ural Demidov factories. Was there accounting in pre-Petrine Russia? If you associate accounting with double entry, the answer is no. But the double entry paradigm is only one of the accounting paradigms. but under Peter I, the word "accountant" with Swedish roots and the first book on accounting, published on April 5, 1722, "regulations for the management of the admiralty and shipyard" appeared in Russia. It was here that the words "accountant", "debit" and "credit" first appeared.

In 1783, a book appeared and directly on accounting "the key of commerce", which already outlined the basics of double-entry bookkeeping. And in 1837, famous for the woeful event in the history of Russian literature, when "the sun of our poetry has set!" In the days of Pushkin, Italian double-entry bookkeeping



was reputed to be new-fangled, precisely in such a phrase, when they wanted to emphasize the Westernism of this or that landowner, entrepreneur. Pushkin's close friend Sergei Sobolevsky, a brilliantly educated salon witty, the most famous bibliophile was also a gifted financier by vocation. He founded the best paper-spinning factory in Russia, equipped not only with European technology, but also with double-entry bookkeeping. Among the close acquaintances of Sobolevsky are K.I. Arnold, and. Akhmatov, E. A. Mudrov - the best representatives of the Russian accounting school. Sobolevsky, together with Pushkin, was engaged in, as is now customary to say, "the analysis of economic activity" of the Bolshoye Boldino estate with 2,000 souls, where the father gave Pushkin 200 souls, the village of Kistenevo. Sobolevsky took energetic measures to save Boldino from ruin, and as a result, Pushkin, on his advice, undertook to manage the economy himself. For more than a year from April 1834 to July 1835, he kept an income and expense book in order to compare income with expenses as accurately as possible. I myself leafed through this notebook (copy) in the estate office of the village of Bolshoy Boldino, where Pushkin spent his third Boldino autumn in 1834. By this time, the manor house was dilapidated and collapsed, and Pushkin spent two weeks in the office closet, where he wrote business papers and wrote the only work, but what: the tale of the golden cockerel! and a year later the estate was saved from ruin and Pushkin handed over the affairs to the manager. And the Russian accounting school continued to gain strength and soon became prominent in Europe. The first Russian accounting journal "bookkeeping" since 1888 was known in Europe as well, and the new authors of this journal successfully represented Russia even at world congresses. Then the St. Petersburg and Moscow accounting schools were clearly divided, this difference is noticeable to this day. The brightest representative of the St. Petersburg school was the Russian self-taught accountant Fyodor Venediktovich Ezersky (1836–1916). Having extensive practical experience in forensic accounting, knowing foreign languages, knowing well the European and American works on accounting, he

developed the Russian "triple" accounting system. The author called it triple because the registration was carried out in three groups: income, expense, balance; registers - journal, main and reporting; only three accounts are used: cash, values, capital. He argued that the proposed form was supposed to ensure the calculation of profit after each business transaction. And the accounting congress in Charleroi (Belgium) in 1912 recommended the study of Russian triple accounting throughout the world. There were other prominent figures in Russian accounting, such as E.E. Sivers, who divided bookkeeping - practice and bookkeeping - theory, or N.A. d. to formulate the category "true and faire view" - a true and impartial view that determined the content of the professional judgment of an accountant. After the revolution, at the end of the NEP, the Russian accounting department turned off the global track and went its own way. Directly according to V. Rozanov: "The iron curtain falls over Russian history with a crash, clang and crash. The action is over, it's time to put on fur coats and go home. A few spectators looked around. But, there were no fur coats, no houses.

4. Conclusions

In conclusion, I consider it necessary to note that, of course, accounting, its most perfect digital paradigm, was not born by chance. According to many authors, double-entry bookkeeping was created in the 12 - 13th century in Italy, through the efforts of enterprising Italian merchants. However, I am closer to the hypothesis about the Roman origin of accounting, about the purposeful study of information about accounting objects, about solving the problems of a reliable assessment of the state of any economy. And this could only be afforded by a powerful state, which was exactly what ancient Rome was. K. Yu. Tsygankov compares the inventor of accounting with the Great Euclid, whose book "the beginnings of geometry" survived not only centuries, millennia. The unknown author - the creator of accounting was a thinker of the same scale, and his creation also survived the centuries.



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