PREFACE

Accounting is, essentially, an exercise concerned with the measurement and communication of useful financial information. It is also a highly complex and technical process requiring, in most instances, the professionalism of an experienced accountant to produce and report on the required data in a meaningful way. Many would also argue that accounting reports, because of their technical nature, require the professionalism of an experienced financial analyst in other that they may be used meaningfully.

Whatever the merits of these arguments and assumptions, it is clear that reported accounting information is an extremely important element in economic decision making, and that it requires the measuring and reporting in the best way possible. But “what is the” and “what are the” major problems to be overcome before the best way possible is achieved?

As we are not aware of any existing text which fully answers these points, the purpose of this text book is to explore, the main issues of financial reporting, delineating the major problems and offering what appear to be reasonable and
suitable answers. The text is written within the context of company financial reports because we believe these to be the major source of formal financial information about companies available to investors and other interested parties. While the context is essentially British in terms of the legal and fiscal environment, the context maintains neutrality which should enable non-British readers to follow it without difficulty. After all, the problems associated with producing and using company financial reports are not uniquely British.

Arguably, the largest single problem in writing a text is to; clearly, honestly and realistically access the potential readership. This is never an easy task but we hope we are being fair when we suggest that it should be capable of extensive use by the following groups: (a) University and Polytechnic undergraduates (Accounting and Business Studies), who are seeking a detail study of the company financial reporting system, as part of their overall study of financial accounting matters, (b) Professional Accountancy bodies' students undergoing foundation or graduate conversion courses. (c) Students in professions which are major users of published accounting information for example trainee bankers, stockbrokers, investment analyst and managers.
TABLE OF CONTENT

1. Introduction: The Origin of Accounting 16
   Historical perspective (1844 - 1979 and beyond)
   The historical development of accounting:

2. Financial reporting (I) 23
   a. The evolution of financial reporting
   b. The nineteenth century
   c. Save guard capital/investment
   d. A retrograde step
   e. The twentieth century
   f. Social and economic change
   g. The royal mail case

3. Financial reporting (II) 66
   Introduction:
   a. Definition and scope of financial reporting
   b. Financial reporting and its major objectives
   c. Today's challenges to the financial reporting on the profession
   d. Internal and external users of accounting information
   e. Objectives of financial statement/accounting
   f. Conceptual framework for financial accounting

Milestone in accounting theory: Evolution to revolution xi
4. Financial accounting (III)  
   a. Introduction  
   b. Concepts, policies and accounting reports

5. Concepts, Policies and Accounting Reports  81

6. Introduction to accounting theory  87
   a. Conceptual framework for financial accounting

7. Ownership and management  90

8. Accountancy in Europe: France  95

9. Accountancy in Europe: Germany  105

10. Accountancy in Europe: Netherlands  115

11. Accountancy in Europe: Belgium  123

12. Accountancy in Europe: Italy  130

13. Accountancy in Europe: Denmark  136

14. Accountancy in Europe: Luxembourg  143

15. Accounting in Europe- A step toward harmonization 148

16. Published Financial Reporting  164
   a. The Royal Mail Case
   b. The Wind of Change
   c. Professional Re-action
   d. Accounting Standards

Milestone in accounting theory: Evolution to revolution  xii
b. The auditors standard report
c. Internal auditors
d. Problems of financial reporting

22. Red flags in financial statements

23. Qualitative factors considered in analyzing financial statement.
   a. A typical case of fraudulent financial reporting
   b. Lesson learned from Enrons case
   c. Ethics in financial reporting: Booster to aid investors confidence.
   d. Audit committee responsibilities are “Now under Sarbanes-Oxley

24. The restoration of public confidence - An imperation of the capital market
   a. How is public confidence then achieve?
   b. Adoption of global financial reporting framework
   c. International financial reporting standards (IFRS)
   d. Benefits of global accepted international standards
   e. Perception of quality of financial reporting

25. International accounting standards
   a. Required practice and disclosure
   b. IAS (3) consolidated financial statements
      (Issued June 1976)

Milestone in accounting theory: Evolution to revolution
c. Required disclosure
d. IAS (4) depreciation accounting (Issued October 1976)
e. IASs (6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13)

26. The concept of income theory
   a. Concept of incomes
   b. Bases of valuation
      Qualitative factors considered in analyzing financial statements.

Appendix I: Obligation for certified accountants to observe accounting standards or justify departure

Appendix II Suggested discussion or essay topics.
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Now, at Covenant University, Ota, Ogun State, he teaches Financial Accounting, Business Accounting, Cost Accounting, Accounting Theory, Principles of Auditing, Auditing and Investigation, International Accounting, Business Ethics, Forensic Accounting and System Auditing. He teaches undergraduates, MBA, M.Sc, M.Phil., Ph.D. accounting. He has published many books and made contributions to learned journal and magazines. Other books written by him are listed in this book.

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"The book presents a material that fills significant need in accounting education in Nigeria ..., it can be recommended as an additional reading to students of accounting in tertiary institution in Nigeria".

- One of the professors who reviewed this book