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# THE ADMIRALTY REGULATIONS: FIRST EXPERIENCE OF ACCOUNTING LEGISLATION IN RUSSIA

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## **Abstract**

«Regulations on Admiralty and Shipyards Management" (The Admiralty Regulations), published in 1722, is considered as the first Russian legal act, which contains detailed instructions for accounting. It prescribed rules of bookkeeping for main maritime authority of the Russian Empire - the Admiralty. Later the great impact of this act was turned out to the development of Russian accounting practices in different industries during the 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

It is known that the Emperor Peter the Great (ruled from 1682 till 1725) was the initiator of the publication and, obviously, to some extent its author. Several European countries legislative's designs were at his disposal. Current knowledge suggests that the Admiralty Regulations, as well as Regulations of other governmental bodies in that time, were copied from the Swedish legal texts. This investigation proves on the base of archival research, that the first Russian accounting regulation came from another source. The real origin of the Admiralty Regulations was established in order to determine the direction of Russian accounting development.

The paper provides a detailed review of accounting procedures, established by the Regulations. It shows that the new, more sophisticated methods of store, cash and payments accounting were learned from the original sources. However, analysis of this procedure revealed the fundamental principles of Russian accounting, worded and added to the foreign sample by Emperor Peter the Great. This study suggests that those principles still have an affect on the perception of foreign legislation into the Russian accounting practices.

**Key Words:** Accounting history, Russian accounting, the Admiralty Regulations, accounting legislation, accounting registers, linear recording, store accounting, cash and payments accounting, personnel accounting, principles of accounting.

## **1. The Origin of Russian Accounting Legislation**

«Regulations on Admiralty and Shipyards Management (The Admiralty Regulations), published in 1722, is considered as the first Russian legal act containing detailed accounting instructions. It prescribed regulations of bookkeeping for the Admiralty and contained its standard forms (C.S.L.<sup>1</sup>, vol. 6, p.525-607).

This document linked with military and administrative reforms by Peter the Great: constructing the Russian Navy and carrying the Central Administration into the new capital of Russian Empire. The history of «Regulations on Admiralty and Shipyards Management begins with history of St. Petersburg. In the year of its foundation (in 1703) Peter the Great has allocated a special place for the wharf and the Admiralty. In 1705 the construction had begun, and seven years later (in 1712) from the admiralty dockyard was launched the first warship - frigate "Poltava" with fifty cannons. Thereafter shipbuilding for the Russian Navy carried on almost all on the Neva's wharf. In 1712 Shipyards Management moved from Moscow to the Admiralty in St. Petersburg. Peter the Great established Navy chancellery in Northern Capital, and moved authority of Moscow department. In 1717 as a result of state

public authorities' reforms the central administrative settings were transformed to the Collegiums. The Navy and shipyards guidance turns to The Admiralty-Collegium.

Along with the collegiums its manuals called the Regulations worked out. The Regulations is a form of legislative act, implemented into legal circulation in the period of Peter the Great and getting away at the beginning of the nineteenth century. It determined structure, area of work, staff and responsibility of public institution, its office work (Belyaev, 1879, p.711; Latkin, 1911, p.27). The peculiarities of the Regulations were amplitude and minuteness, combination of "the main statutes with directive decrees".

It's believed that the Regulations of Peter's collegiums were taken over from Swedish legislative practice. This version has its own history. In eighteenth century the administrative reforms of Peter the Great weren't favourably received in Russia and Western Europe. Among reforms' critics was Frederic the Great. In one of his works Prussian King upbraided Peter for "senseless imitation of Sweden" (Berendts, 1896, p.5).

In nineteenth century historians of law interpreted several archival documents on the supposition of Swedish origin of regulations. V.M. Sergeevich appealed to the work "Review of Swedish institutions" of Peter's the Great contemporary, Privy Councilor baron Luberas. The structure of the collegiums, suggested by baron Luberas, coincided with the collegiums, established by Peter the Great. "All ours collegiums were copied from Swedish", - concluded V.I. Sergeevich (Sergeevich, 1888, p.538). In fact, Luberas' project can only be the proof of similarity between Swedish and Russian structure of administration in that period of history, but it's impossible to define the origin of collegiums' regulations for sure.

Known historians of law I.D. Belyaev and P.N. Milukow relied on two documents for appraisal of Russian regulation's origin: handwriting letter of Peter the Great to Senate from 21<sup>st</sup> of January and his Ukase from 28<sup>th</sup> of April in 1718. In the letter Peter ordered to take the information for the Regulations from the General Brus, and Fick, who removed this information from Sweden. Peter's the Great edict from 28<sup>th</sup> of April in 1718 prescribed the method of working on regulations: "...for all collegiums on the basis of Swedish edict is need to write the Regulations for all affairs and orders in all points; and what points in Swedish Regulations are not convenient or unlikely with situation of this State, and these abandon to your own thought" (Quat. of: Fillipov, 1907, p.700).

Swedish supposition of the Peter's regulations origin had become a basis, until the text analysis all of them, the editions and all preparatory documents had been made. In nineteenth century no one examined the content of The Admiralty Regulations so detailed except one scientist. Historian of law E. Berendts extended the area of possible sources of Regulations origin. In the speech made in St. Petersburg State University in 1891 he quoted the handwriting instruction of Peter to the authors of the Regulations: "That need to be extracted from English, French, Danish, Swedish and Holland edicts..." (Berendts, 1891, p.8). Later, performing in the annual act of Demidov Law College (Yaroslavl', 1895) E.Berendts specified his position. He turned down the supposition about Swedish origin of The Admiralty Regulations: "...some regulations like e.g. The Sacred Collegium Regulations, The Admiralty Regulations, The Regulations to The Town Council have nothing at the same with Swedish laws" (Berendts, 1891, p.8). The authors of The Regulations, from E. Berendts' point of view, were the president of Collegium Admiral Apraksin and his colleagues.

Researcher of Peter's legislation academician N.A. Voskresensky reverted to close study of The Admiralty Regulations in the twentieth century. He turned to the draft of this document composed by Vice-admiral Kruis and, as it became clear, corrected by Admiral Apraksin. In final form called "Mr. Vice-admiral Dissertation about the Russian Admiralty, in comparison with the same in Holland" this draft was examined in the Collegiums and

brought into the Peter's office in spring, 1720. But as N.A.Voskresensky concludes, Kruis' draft hasn't become the basis of The Admiralty Regulations (Voskresensky, 1945).

Since 1720 Peter the Great composed The Admiralty-Collegium Regulations on his own. "Peter returned to the consideration of this Regulations along with drawing up the statute of Navy several times in snatches during 1720 and 1721", - writes P.N. Milukov (Milukov, 1892, p.607). The tsar's working schedule on 1721, saved in archives, shows that four days a week - from Monday till Thursday - were taken by the composition of The Admiralty Regulations (Pavlenko, 1973, p.85). In his handwriting notes to "The history of Northern War" Peter mentioned his contribution to work on The Regulations: "...through the hard work of i.m.<sup>2</sup>, in which not only by command but by his own work committed, where not only in the mornings, but also in the evenings twice a day that had being done in different times" (Pavlenko, 1973, p.87).

By the beginning of his work Peter had the interpretations of legislative acts of the strongest See Powers: England, Holland, France and Denmark. He experienced a special interest to the French maritime law. In 1715 one of the most talented and educated see officers Konon Zotov was sent to France for study the see proceedings. "He has to go to France, - wrote Peter, - to the ports, especially where their Navy is. And there, if it is not unlikely - will live as a volunteer, if it is impossible - to take on military service" (Voskresensky, 1945, p.74). Before leaving Konon Zotov translated for Peter two Maritime Codes: in 1713 - Maritime ordinance of Ludovic the 14<sup>th</sup> from 1681; in 1714 - ordinance "About Maritime forces and arsenals" from 1689. Compared these interpretations with The Admiralty Regulations' reduction academician N.A.Voskresensky concluded: "The Admiralty Regulations, as can be seen from archival material, made known by this research, was drawn predominantly under the influence of the French Maritime Codes" (Voskresensky, 1945, p.108).

It is the N.A.Voskresensky's opinion that the publication of Regulations "On Admiralty and Shipyards Management" signifies Peter's deviation from Swedish legislative sources. Priorities' replacement in the lawmaking was assigned by the Ukase from 11<sup>th</sup> of May 1722 "Of making the regulations in all Public Collegiums on the basis of the Russian Admiralty Regulations". "This Ukase still isn't understood, - N.A.Voskresensky wrote, - and in one's time gave the professor Milukov with his research of "State Economy" reason for making ironical reproofs" (Voskresensky, 1945).

The N.A.Voskresensky's discovery hasn't obtained recognition yet, because his collected arguments for French origin of The Admiralty Regulations haven't been published hitherto.

## **2. The Admiralty Accounting Procedure**

The Regulations "On Admiralty and Shipyards Management" is one of the most significant and comprehensive documents of Peter's age. It consists of 52 chapters, which also contain great number of paragraphs. According to the Regulations, the Admiralty-Collegium had been given the administrative and economic duties of maritime department: building and keeping in alertness the navy and ports, financing and recruitment for the navy. By the year 1725 eleven offices had been constituted under the Admiralty-Collegium. In the special chapters of The Regulations were described in detail the duties of each office and its accounting procedures.

Admiralty accounting was founded for three groups of objects: personnel, store and cash.

Recording personnel of the navy and shipyards was under the jurisdiction of General-Krigs-Commissariat Office (Personnel Department)<sup>3</sup>. The head officer - General-Krigs-Commissar - had to keep records in four books: first two revealed position and changes of



staff ("Books about people"), in the third and fourth were noted payments under salary. At the beginnings of the year it was need to insert in first book about people all seamen in the navy according to military rank. In the book was mentioned the date of decree about assumption of the rank, also were columns for notes about rank change, furlough or decease of military man. For non-commissioned officers, skippers and sailors were added two extra columns: "number" ("but non-commissioned officers and soldiers should be numbered separately") and "run away" (C.S.L., vol. 6, p.603).

Second book about people was intended to note seamen location and failing the military service. Service place (fleet or port) was determined by General-Krigs-Commissar relying on Collegium decrees. Commander-in-Chief of the Fleet classified men by squadrons. Then newcomers were assigned to ships (companies), divisions and corporal departments. Appointments were written down in "true registers", which were sent to General-Krigs-Commissar. He was also informed about changes in ranks and leaving from military service. General-Krigs-Commissar was obliged to register all this information in the second book about people and "after completing the year to copy data about changes in ranks and leavings from this book to the first one and to sent a register about vacancies to the Admiralty Collegium" (C.S.L., vol. 6, p.603). Separate columns in the second book were left for writing the time of officer's furlough and the sailors' treatment in hospital. Accounting of the presence and the movement of military men was keeping very carefully.

General-Krigs-Commissar on the basis of second book drew up the pay-sheets. These documents with the signature of General-Krigs-Commissar were delivered to Zahlmeister (Salary Accountant), who was responsible for salary payments, and Chief-Proviantmeister (Rations Dispenser), who was responsible for provisions. The copies of pay-sheets ("message about the salaries with the deductions") General-Krigs-Commissar sent to the Collegiums. The Admiralty-Collegium had issued a decree: to the Paymaster about giving money, to Zahlmeister for pay salaries and to Chief-Proviantmeister about issue provisions.

Zahlmeister received the pay-sheet from General-Krigs-Commissar, the money from the Paymaster and then did a payment: "to military men by their company commanders and Secretary and to workers by their masters and clerks" (C.S.L., vol. 6, p.557). High rank officers wrote receipts of getting a salary. Low ranks wasn't demanded the receipts, "but it's obligatory for commanders to make a note under the list that payments had been given to everyone correctly" (C.S.L., vol. 6, p.557). Thus, in the Regulations was emphasized setting of receipt as a document, confirming transaction acknowledging (paid salary).

Zahlmeister entered data about money receipt and payment into the receipt and expenses book. In additional to it he might have a special salary book. On the one side of the book was written the fixed salaries of all military men in the navy and in the Admiralty, and on the other side - payments "for opportunity to see to whom these salaries were paid and to whom not" (C.S.L., vol. 6, p.557). Linear notes provided the convenience of collation, which was one of the main accounting methods according to the Regulations. Data from the first and second books about people and salary book of Zahlmeister joined together in the third book of General-Krigs-commissar about salaries payments. According to the Regulations, seamen, besides salaries, had rights to get the provisions ("bread payment"). Chief-Proviantmeister kept the book of bread payment issuing, which was the basis for notes to the fourth book of General-Krigs-Commissar. Bread payment was taken into account at physical measurement.

Accounting rules for the General-Krigs-Commissar office illustrate the part of the system, created by Peter the Great for the purpose of control over the fleet officials' activities. One of its principles can be formulated like that: "each official, who takes a part in transaction, should have his own register". And the more responsibility an official had and the higher his

rank was, the more detailed and complete his accounting books must be. Information system approached the management style, which highly rates the possession of information in detail.

Exchequer Chamber under the leadership of Paymaster was in charge of the Admiralty finances. The Regulations prescribed Paymaster to debit and to credit money definitely under the documents: "Have to take coins or banknotes under the decree...and use it in payments also under the Admiralty Collegium decree" (C.S.L., vol. 6, p.556). Thus, documentary registration of the transactions with monetary funds became compulsory. The Paymaster registered the Collegiums' decrees in special book ("Book, register or note for the Admiralty decrees"), which contained the date, the number of decree, its matter and information about its execution. From the recipients were taken the receipts. The Paymaster had to receive the statements of payments from Zahlmeister and Commissar of Purchasing.

The Paymaster registered the cash flow in the "cash receipts and payments books". They included data of decree number, the date, the matter of transaction (from who accepted and to who sent) and the sum in numeral and in words. In the Regulations were mentioned certain requirements for legalization of the receipts and expenses books: "It have to be tiered and sealed in the Collegium, and numbered with cut alphabet" (C.S.L., vol. 6, p.604). At the end of the year the receipts and expenses books were sent to the Collegium for examination. If the notes were right, the books would shelve to the Admiralty archive, and the Paymaster would be given a receipt with the signatures of all Collegiums members.

The Paymaster regularly presented to the Admiralty Collegium information about its financial position. The Regulations obliged him to report every day about the rest of the money and to make every week the statements of income and outcome in cash. He collected data for statement preparation in special book under the rule of linear note. On the left page of this book ("debit") was fixed money receipts and on the right page ("credit") - money expenditure.

The Exchequer Chamber's final accounting procedure was in generating "Book for account with States-Office", place for recording Admiralty budget estimates and revenue. Book was in use for mutual reconciliation of accounts between two Collegiums: the Admiralty-Collegium and States-Office-Collegium (Ministry of Finance). The budget of the Admiralty was regarded as accounts receivable of States-Office and was entered on the left page or "debit". The present revenue was noted on the right credit side. Every month the balance was struck. Reconciliation used to introduce clarity into mutual commitments of the one level management structures.

The Regulations requirements for the stock accountancy were the most complicated. Five Admiralty-Collegiums' offices were responsible for stock: the Admiralty, the Provisions, the Uniform (from 1724), Zahlmeister and Chief-Sarvaery (Shipbuilding). Every office had its own depots and the Admiralty and Chief-Sarvaery also had workshops. The Director of the Admiralty office managed "all the shops and shipyards and its workers with any ranks and positions both in Petersburg and other ports, where the Warships are building" (C.S.L., vol. 6, p.556). Only the officer with the rank not lower than captain-commander was appointed to this position. The Director had four assistants - Councilors in the Admiralty office. To the position of Councilors were chosen: three captains from the ship fleet and one captain from the galley fleet. In case of Director's absence they carried out his functions.

Receiving and issuing the stock were in charge of Store Officer - manager of all depots. The fleet lieutenant was appointed to this position. Store-Watchmen (stock keepers) were subordinated to the Store Officer. One Store-Watchman was responsible for two storehouses. Four of them were in charge of one midshipman. So the scheme of Admiralty stock management included four levels at the minimum, which were in the strict collateral subordination to each other.



Accounting system of so vast economy could not be simple. The Regulations provided huge number of registers for property accountancy and stringent rules for documents circulation.

The main source of materials receipts were contracts of Russian and foreign merchants. Contractor delivered and stocked goods and received a receipt of acceptance with the Store Officer's and Store-Watchmen signatures. Then he went from the store to the Admiralty office, where the receipt was registered in the book and used "to count with contractors".

The principal duties of material accountancy were entrusted to the Store Officer. He received from the Admiralty office the decree of reception or issuing the stock, added to the decree the name of receiving or issuing goods and name of the Store-Watchman. The Store Officer assisted at the receiving and issuing, saw to the documents preparation and kept a record of these transactions in his register. In the evenings Officer wrote out the draft information collected during the day from the register to the receipts and expenses books by materials sort and name. Besides, it was need to add the information about goods' quality, quantity, weight and measure and the number of decree, "each according you received from someone and sent to someone" (C.S.L., vol. 6, p.574). The materials follow-up was kept only in physical measurement, because pecuniary valuation of stock hasn't been obtained yet. On the basis of the receipts and expenses books the Store Officer formed the big ledger (the register of linear notes). Every week he reported to the Admiralty office about all issues that happened during the week.

Thus, the Store Officer was responsible for all circle of the stock accountancy: registering transactions, summarizing and brought into system accounting information, closing an accounts. He kept all the administrative documents (decrees), recorded in the register with marks of it carrying out, (in the same form with the Paymaster)<sup>4</sup>.

The stock accounting more than other parts of accountancy was turned to realize control function. The mechanism or control over transactions was carefully thought over. According to the Regulations the receiving and issuing the stock might been transferred in the presence of several officials: the Store-Watchman, the Midshipman, the Store Officer, the Director of Admiralty office and his assistant, the Inspector or his assistant and the Weigher (in case that goods were weight). The Store-Watchman during the receiving or issuing kept his own book (its distinction from the Store Officer register was only in the level of data summarizing). All the attending men noted the receiving and issuing in their registers. Thus, stock transactions were simultaneously recorded in four or five books, which data was easily to compare.

Receiving and issuing the stock with numerous witnesses should eliminate the opportunity of collusion and misappropriation, and the collation of registers in this case became the total shadowing over the official's activities.

The strict measures became stronger during the issue provisions to the ships. The Store Officer had to take not only the signature of recipient on the document, but also get the receipts from the Ship Commissar, attested by the Ship Masters. Original receipt remained the Officer, but the first copy with his signature he sent to the Collegium, the second one - to the Commander-in-Chief of the fleet or of the squadron and the third one was sent to the commissary of the fleet or of the squadron.

In attempts to take all into account and than to control it Emperor Peter some times invented funny things. One of the Regulations' chapter established clerk for dye and painting. Among his duties were following: "When the painter receive from the shop the dyes, brushes, oil and the dishes, so it is need someone always be near to watch and write for what project will be used ground dyes and since dry and also ground dues won't be used for another deal" (C.S.L., vol. 6, p.589). Among the registers of Admiralty office was mentioned

"the register of ships sailed near Admiralty fortress". This register had to be kept by the clerk in the Admiralty bridge (C.S.L., vol. 6, p.566).

In the Admiralty Regulations the control over the economic activity and officials accompanied to the accountancy and beyond this carried independently. Peter the Great appointed double control of the Admiralty's activity: the internal and external one. The internal (operational) control was under the authority of special office of Admiralty-Collegium under the Inspector's command<sup>5</sup>. His activities easily combined in four directions.

1. Quality Control of buying goods and materials. Inspector was supposed to be a witness of striking a bargain with the contractor, to register all agreements and see to their execution. On the every reception of the stocks he had to check their compliance with standards.

2. Control of property's consumption. Inspector had to sign all decrees about delivery, to assist during the issuing suppliers and paying the salary and keep the special books "like calendars" for daily registration of all decrees and their execution.

3. Audit the receipts and expenses books. At the end of year Inspector had to attend the presentation of receipts and expenses books in the Collegium and to attest them on account of his notes.

4. Inspector had been imposed to inform the Collegium about all revealed breaches of order.

External control of Admiralty's activity was carried out by Prosecutor<sup>6</sup>, "the eye of General-Prosecutor in this Collegium". Prosecutor oversaw for Collegium activities, he had to "sit in Collegium Council and look strictly for Collegium kept it's post, and all proceedings, send by Regulations, fairly, truly and zealously, lossless of time" (C.S.L., vol. 6, p.544). About all noticed breaches ("he will see they act against instructions") he informed the General-Prosecutor. All sneaks of Admiralty Collegium were subordinate to Prosecutor.

Generated under Peter the Great immediate participation the "Regulations on Admiralty and Shipyards Management" was a perfect pattern of the naturalistic accounting and all-over control of economical activity. They operated during ten years without changes. Considerable amendments were made in the document only during the reign of Empress Anna Ioanovna (1730-1740). The structure of Admiralty-Collegiums was changed by the Ukase from the 21<sup>st</sup> of August 1732, and the Ukase from the 9<sup>h</sup> of December 1735 brought the new forms of accounting books. In the last Ukase was being noted that Regulations' requirements concerning bookkeeping weren't fulfilled in the Admiralty: "...according to that forms lot of books haven't been corresponded, and others have been kept with difficulties and not in true forms..." (C.S.L., vol. 9, p. 610).

The researchers of the Admiralty-Collegium history saw the reason of the accountancy decline by the beginning of 1730<sup>th</sup> in its superfluous bulkiness in consequence of the difficult management structure. Earl D.Tolstoy noted: "...Essential disorder of this management was in big number of offices depended on the Collegium, so appeared the slowness in process of dealing and even important confusions" (Tolstoy, 1855, p.9). This disadvantage should be clearly appeared after Peter's the Great death, when the Navy was left without proper control. A.I. Lebedev wrote about how things were getting on that times: "Collegiums meetings became simulating the ugly crowd, where abuse almost got to loggerheads, but the affair was still stayed: during the first two year after the Peter's death no one of the six ships, began at the time of Peter, were finished " (Lebedev, 1912, p.7).

Anna Ioanovna simplified the Admiralty-Collegiums' system of management and accountancy.

1. The number of offices was decreased and accounting function was redistributed anew. Instead of eleven offices remained only six. Accounting for salaries, money and provisions

was consolidated under the Commissars office with the head of General-Krigs-Commissar. The positions of Zahlmeister and Chief-Proviantmeister were abolished. Property was taken into account by three offices instead of five as it was earlier.

2. The procedure of stock accounting was improved. According to the new rules various people became responsible for the receiving and issuing. One manager of depot carried on duty to receive and to keep receipts book, another one, who carried on duty to expenditure, kept expenses book. They draw up, under the control of Store-Commander, the "Enumeration book or account" for all receipts and issues in depot. The accounting procedure in depot was finished by the making a report, signed by the Store-Commander after comparing with records and sending it to the office. The office accountant had to pick the reports of all depots and enter them into the General ledger. Thus the level of information summarizing was increased and duplicated registers were eliminated.

3. The position of Inspector was canceled, and the matter was put into accountants hands. According to the Ukase from 1735, accountants should attest the decrees and orders for receiving and issuing stock check books and accounts. However accountant had no rights to keep or to sign the receipts and expenses books: "Accountants ... should keep their hands far from money or other properties, they only had to contain the books with true evidence as it was aforesaid: they were appointed as agents to the accounts instead of keeping the receipts and issues" (C.S.L., vol. 9, p. 632).

The Empress Elisabeth Petrovna (1741-1761) began her reign with abolition all of amendments, carried by her predecessors in the Peter's legislation, commanded "to keep all of the Peter's decrees and regulations and to act only under it" (Lebedev, 1912, p. 17). Consequently, The Admiralty Regulations was reinstalled and continued being used till the end of the eighteenth century.

Alexander the First (1801-1825) carried out the state management reform. By the Manifesto from 8<sup>th</sup> of September 1802 Peter's Collegiums were cancelled and instead of them were organized the Ministries. The «Regulations on Admiralty and Shipyards Management nominally lost its force.

## **Conclusion**

The purpose of this paper was in the determination of the early Russian accounting regulations origin and in the examination the first results of foreign legislation introduction into the Russian legal tradition.

According to the archival material, The Admiralty Regulations were made predominantly under the influence of the French Maritime Codes. The Regulations upgraded the Russian accounting and put it in line with European one. It had been enriched, from the French source, by new unknown in Russia accounting methods: the terms of «Debit» and «Credit», registers of linear recording and others, new objects to account and other innovations.

Emperor Peter the Great, author of the first Russian accounting rules, considered that the main purpose of the accountancy was to exercise control over stock safety. He supplemented French primary source with rules directed, as he thought, to the prevention of stealing. His ideas, established legislatively, defined Russian accountancy principles.

1. Every transaction or the object should be registered independent on its materiality to the owner or user of accounting data. Besides this, the higher level of management mean more detailed and full of information accounting registers.

2. The accounting is appealed to provide the maximum control of official's activity. Hence the requirements of documentary proof all transactions even insignificant, strict and

detailed rules for accounting documents preparation gained recognition. The procedure of documents official registration is more important than its contents. The accounting registers had to be constructed so as every transaction be registered repeatedly and thus it would be vertical and horizontal collation of accounting data.

3. The accounting has to be regulated legislatively in detail and the accountant ought to fulfill the requirements. Self-will in accountancy impossible and is out of require.

Thus, during the reign of Peter the Great the first official rules for accounting appeared and the features of Russian accounting legislation clarified itself. The traditional principles of Russian accountancy were formed. It's impossible to ignore, creating the new accounting under the foreign standards. What was the rule at the beginning of 18<sup>th</sup> became the mentality of Russian accountant in the next century.

## Notes

<sup>1</sup> CSL - Complete Set of Russian Empire Laws.

<sup>2</sup> i.m. - Imperial Majesty.

<sup>3</sup> Peter the Great named Admiralty departments in Dutch Tradition.

<sup>4</sup> According to the Regulations the text in decree of expenses wasn't taken more than half of page. On the clear half the Store Officer wrote the permission for distribution and the name of Store-Watchman. After issuing stock, the Store-Watchman and the recipient signed on the white space. As a result every decree had the marks of its execution. At the end of year all decrees about expenses bounded in the book.

<sup>5</sup> The first Instructor under the Admiralty-Collegium was Captain Konon Zotov, "for showing, - as Peter said, - the force of his position for the future receivers".

The first Prosecutor under the Admiralty-Collegiums was Guards-Captain lieutenant Kozlov.

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