



10 TOTALLY RANDOM BUT INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT ACCOUNTING

The Ancient Accountants

Before a standard numbering system was developed, ancient accountants used clay tokens to keep track of animals and grain.



Luca Pacioli

Luca Pacioli wrote the first book on double entry accounting in 1494. He is referred to as the father of accounting. In this book, he warned that one “should not go to sleep at night until the debits equaled the credits.”



First CPA Exam

The state of New York gave its first Certified Public Accountant (CPA) examination in 1896.



Christine Ross

Christine Ross was the first female CPA in the U.S., in 1899. Among Ross’ clients included wealthy women and persons working in the business and fashion industries.



John Wesley Cromwell, Jr.

The first African American CPA was John Wesley Cromwell, Jr., licensed in 1921. Cromwell went on to lead a very successful career after he became the controller of Howard University in 1930.



Walter Diemer

Bubble gum was invented in 1928 by accountant Walter Diemer.



Al Capone

Chicago crime boss Al Capone was finally brought down in 1931 by FBI accountants. Capone was ultimately arrested and convicted for income tax evasion.



The Academy Awards

Accountants have controlled the ballots for the Academy Awards every year since 1935. A team of nine CPAs spend up to 1,700 hours prior to Oscar night counting the ballots cast in each category by hand.



Accounting Hall of Fame

Located at the Ohio State University, the Accounting Hall of Fame was founded in 1950 for honoring accountants who have made or are making significant contributions to the advancement of accounting.



FBI

The FBI employs more than 2,000 accounting special agents.

