

SBC Editorial Services—Case History

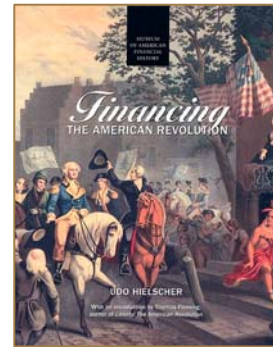


Client: Museum of American Financial History, New York City.

Challenge: This client wanted to publish a richly illustrated book, intended for general, non-specialist readers, on the financial underpinnings of the American Revolution and the many ways these were intertwined with the origins of Wall Street. The author, a professor at the University of Leipzig, structured the narrative around his own extensive collection of rare contemporaneous financial instruments and other documents. However, the existing text was a poorly organized, ungrammatical and—more important—virtually unreadable translation from the author’s German original. There also were significant errors of fact, due to the author’s unfamiliarity with details and nuances of American history.

Solution: After consulting with the Museum’s Chairman, SBC undertook a virtual rewrite of the text, retaining all the details of the original manuscript, while adding essential references, explanations and documentation based on additional research.

Outcome: Since its publication in 2003 *Financing the American Revolution* by Prof. Dr. Udo Hielscher (New York: Museum of American Financial history, 95 pp., \$45) has been described as “the standard work for people interested in American financial history for the period between the War of Independence up to the early days of the Wall Street Stock Exchange.”



Some representative reviewer comments:

The author “accomplishes something that has eluded almost every other author who writes about American economic history; he somehow finds a way to make the subject interesting, accessible, and visible.”

“Though written with academic precision, the author tells in a very vivid way the story of the financial difficulties the young U.S. Government encountered and the great men like Robert Morris, Alexander Hamilton, John Jacob Astor and many others that—all in their own way—solved those problems. A must-have for anyone interested in the history of Wall Street!”—*Scripophily*

“Both the text and captions are well organized, and they are written in an informative and entertaining style.”

“Meticulously researched, beautifully designed, clearly and persuasively written, *Financing the American Revolution* is that rare book that can be read and enjoyed by academicians, collectors, and the general public as well. Don’t miss it!”—*Reinhild Tschöpe*