On view November 2011 – November 2012

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48 Wall Street • New York City

Andrew Jackson
1829 – 1837

George Washington
1789 – 1797

Woodrow Wilson
1913 – 1921

Abraham Lincoln
1861 – 1865

Andrew Jackson
1829 – 1837

The Museum of American Finance's core mission is to preserve, exhibit and teach about American finance and financial history. The Museum is a unique resource that showcases the power and practice of finance. Founded after the Crash of 1987, the Museum became an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution in 2001 and moved to historic 48 Wall Street in 2008.

The Museum is open Tuesday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Closed on national and stock market holidays.

By subway
Trains 2, 3, 4, 5 to Wall Street; A, C to Broad Street; A, C, E to Rector Street

By bus
M1, M6, M9, M15

By car
Limited parking available nearby on Exchange Place (between Broad and William) and on Pearl Street (between Chambers and Hanover).

Tickets to the Museum cost $8 for adults and $5 for students and senior citizens. Children 6 and under and members of the Museum are admitted free.

www.MoAF.org

Follow the Museum on Twitter (@FinanceMuseum) and Facebook.

the museum wishes to express its sincere appreciation to Con Edison, sole sponsor of this exhibit, for its generous support.
Checks & Balances

One of President George Washington's most pressing challenges was to set the national debt on a firm footing after the Revolutionary War. The First Secretary of the Treasury, Alexander Hamilton, created new financial systems that helped America repay that debt. When Washington took office, the federal government was essentially bankrupt. Faced with the challenge, Hamilton proposed a plan that included establishing a national bank, issuing federal bonds, and establishing a system of excise taxes. This plan was eventually enacted, and the nation's financial system began to take shape.

In his inaugural address, President George Washington said, "I am the more amenable to the wishes of the people. I am the more disposed to sacrifice personal inclination for public good. I am the more prepared to do all that is necessary to support the Constitution of the government and the laws of the Union."

During his first term, Washington focused on establishing the government's financial foundations. He appointed Alexander Hamilton as Secretary of the Treasury and worked closely with him to create a stable financial system. Washington believed that a strong government was necessary to protect the country from internal and external threats. He also believed that the government should be able to borrow money to finance its operations and pay its debts.

Washington's administration faced several financial challenges, including the high cost of the Revolution and the difficulty of repaying the national debt. However, Washington and his Secretary of the Treasury, Hamilton, were able to implement policies that helped stabilize the nation's financial system. These policies included establishing a national bank, issuing federal bonds, and establishing a system of excise taxes. These policies helped the government finance its operations and pay its debts.

Looking back at Washington's administration, it is clear that he was a visionary leader who understood the importance of a strong financial system. His leadership helped to establish the financial foundations of the United States, and his policies continue to shape the nation's financial system today.