

Alexander Hamilton: Lineage and Legacy

On view through December 2011

Alexander Hamilton's general's portrait. Collection of The New-York Historical Society.

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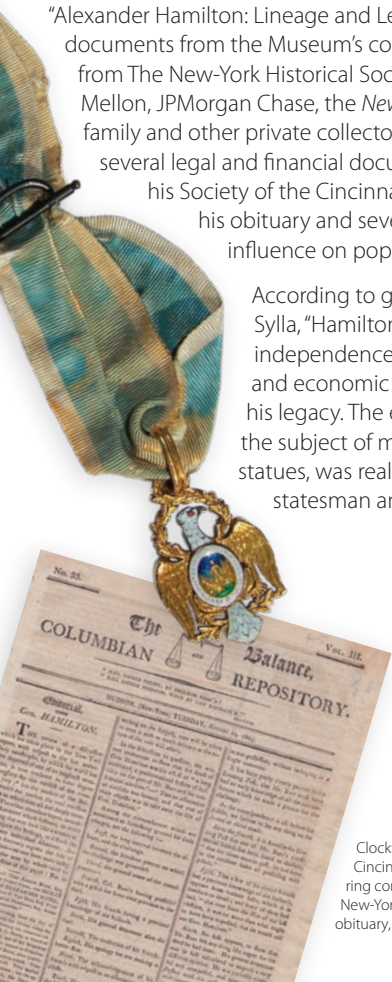
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Alexander Hamilton dedicated his life to the achievement of three principal goals. The first was gaining America's independence from Great Britain. The second was changing the form of America's national government from the weak and ineffective one under the Articles of Confederation to a potentially stronger and more effective federal government as authorized by the Constitution. The third goal was that of establishing the new nation's credit to give it the revenues and borrowing capacity to become strong and effective, while at the same time putting in place a modern, articulated financial system that would underwrite the growth of the American economy. He achieved all three of his goals, which is why he is widely regarded as one of the great statesmen of modern history.

"Alexander Hamilton: Lineage and Legacy" features objects and documents from the Museum's collection, as well as artifacts from The New-York Historical Society, Bank of New York Mellon, JPMorgan Chase, the *New York Post*, the Hamilton family and other private collectors. Exhibit highlights include several legal and financial documents signed by Hamilton, his Society of the Cincinnati badge, an original copy of his obituary and several examples of Hamilton's influence on popular culture.

According to guest curator Dr. Richard Sylla, "Hamilton's principal goals — US independence, a stronger government and economic modernization — are also his legacy. The exhibit shows that Hamilton, the subject of many stiff portraits and cold statues, was really quite a passionate soldier, statesman and financier."



Clockwise from top left: Hamilton's Society of the Cincinnati badge (Douglas Hamilton). Mourning ring containing a lock of Hamilton's hair (The New-York Historical Society). Alexander Hamilton's obituary, 1804 (Museum of American Finance).