
by John William Tebbel
Franklin used his printing presses to produce newspapers, books, pamphlets, and almanacs of a more secular hue. He also printed many extremely popular religious works, including sermon collections originally preached by George Whitefield, the most famous traveling evangelist of the eighteenth century. To be sure, certain publishers did make a name for themselves by printing religious materials. Prior to the American Revolution, Christopher Sower produced a German Bible in 1743, and his son produced later editions in 1773 and 1776. Tebbel, John. A History of Book Publishing in the United States. Vol. 1: The Creation of an Industry, 1630–1865. New York: R.R. Bowker, 1972.