



"They Cooked The Books": A Humorous Look at the World of White-Collar Crime

By Patrick Michael Edwards

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Have you ever wondered about expressions such as “The cat’s out of the bag,” “Fast-buck artist,” and “On the Q.T.?” Patrick Edwards explores these sayings and their fascinating origins, original meanings and present day usage having to do with Wall Street crime and Ponzi schemes. For instance, “Cooking the books” originated in England when the Earl of Strafford said: “The proof was once clear; however, they have cooked it ever since.” The year was 1636, and the Earl was referring to altering ingredients in a recipe—not the “creative accounting” all too common in today’s business world. The expressions in this book deal with “white-collar crime,” first defined in 1939 by Professor Edwin Sutherland, who said, “There is a vast difference between white collar-crime and blue-collar crime, and high social status has a lot to do with the distinction. White-collar crime is often committed by a person of respectability in the course of his or her occupation.” Edwards uses familiar phrases, idioms and proverbs to take the reader through high profile events of the 2000s, such as the demise of Enron, Adelphia, WorldCom, and more recently AIG and Ponzi schemes. He also includes thought-provoking and humorous quotes, such as this one from comedian Jay Leno: “It looks like more than 13,000 people were caught up in that Madoff Ponzi scheme. You know what a Ponzi scheme is? That’s when you throw good money after bad; or as the government calls it, a stimulus package.” Come along on a fascinating historical tour of some of today’s most familiar financial expressions. Patrick M. Edwards 2011

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"They Cooked The Books": A Humorous Look at the World of White-Collar Crime By Patrick Michael Edwards Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #6889711 in Books
- Published on: 2011-08-12
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.00" h x .52" w x 6.00" l, .68 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 206 pages



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Editorial Review

Review

Edwards presents a novel approach to the financial debacle....So many books analyzing America's financial meltdown have flooded the marketplace that they almost become indistinguishable, but Edwards' contribution stands out from the crowd. - Kirkus

About the Author

Patrick Edwards was born in Burbank, Ca. and spent his formative years in Southern California. After graduating from University High School in West Los Angeles, he joined the United States Coast Guard and served in a search and rescue capacity during the Vietnam War. In 1975, he graduated with a B.S. degree in Biological Sciences from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo and went on to a distinguished 30-year career as a consultant in the pharmaceutical industry. Edwards is an accomplished speaker, having been a former member of Toastmasters International and enjoyed lecturing in the field of medicine on numerous occasions. He is founder and CEO of Big Island Publishers, LLC. His writing credits include columns, editorials, and a photo essay of Haleakala, the world's largest dormant volcano, which is located on the island of Maui.

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