This history is based on German-language sources, with a few exceptions explained in the notes. English quotations from German-language letters, diaries, and other unpublished manuscript sources are my own translations unless otherwise noted, and, thus, responsibility for their accuracy lies with me. As a method of promoting cross-cultural engagement with non-English primary sources in an English-language publication, I have generally chosen to quote text from the published literature using existing historical and modern English-language translations produced for this purpose. However, I have relied upon the original German-language sources in constructing my narrative and argument, so the German-language sources will appear in the citations unless noted otherwise.

The chapters that utilize published literature employ a citational scheme that notes page numbers from both the relevant German- and English-language translations for ease of comparison. However, because publications containing English translations do not always conform to the format or design of the German originals, the citations to this literature contain the following abbreviations: "G" and "E" stand for "German original" and "English translation," followed by (if applicable) either a "v1" or "v2" indicating the volume number of that particular translation. This will be followed by the page number or page range within that translation and volume. For example, "Cranz, Historie von Grönland, G479; Evi-377." In the case of Christian LaTrobe's English translation of George Henry Loskiel's History of the Mission of the United Brethren Among the Indians of North America (1794), the single volume is divided into three parts, with pagination resetting to page I at the beginning of each part. Therefore, in citations to this particular text, the number directly adjacent to the "E" indicates the part of the volume, not a separate volume. I have commented upon instances where the translated text differs substantially in content or meaning from the German-language original and other versions thereof.