Contents

9	Introduction
15	Chapter 1 Origins, childhood, and youth A family with a bourgeois heritage 15 – Idyllic childhood and troubled youth 22 – School years 31
39	Chapter 2 Setting the course early on The young lieutenant 39 – The tragedy of Menzendorf 48 – Separate paths for the orphans 57
63	Chapter 3 "The damned money" Initial experiments 63 – "Invention speculation" 70 – Legal guardian for three brothers 83
91	Chapter 4 "Halske's Workshop" To bet it all 91 – The first Siemens pointer telegraph 98 – The founding of the company 104
115	Chapter 5 Telegraph lines for Prussia In times of revolution and war 115 – The first long-distance lines 125 – Unsuccessful abroad 135 – The "Nottebohm crisis" 141

Chapter 6

151 "Family genius"

The band of brothers 151 – Achieving love through reason 157 – Marriage and a move 164 – Russia or France? 167 – Crimean War boom 172

Chapter 7

187 In the shadows

Mathilde's illness **187** – In search of new fields of business **191** – Difficult beginnings in London **198** – Mathilde's death **208**

Chapter 8

217 "Headed for a great time"

"For a unified and powerful Germany" 217 – A new love 226 – The dynamo machine 234 – To fade away or globalize 241

Chapter 9

257 Megaprojects

The Indo-European Telegraph Line 257 – Private business and family matters 274 – Transatlantic cables 280 – Siemens Brothers & Co. Ltd. 292

Chapter 10

299 At the zenith

The businessman and his principles 299 – Lobbyist for patent protection 312 – Family life with Antonie 319 – New times: Telephones and electric lighting 327 – The first electric railways 338

Chapter 11

351 "To sustain the position achieved"

Challenged by the Edison system 351 – Berlin versus London 371 – The transition to a major enterprise 383

Chapter 12

391 The legacy

The next generation 391 – A promoter of research 402 – Ennobled against his will 410 – The final years 417

Focused and determined in a time of change – a summary

439 Appendices

Notes **439** – Primary sources and bibliography **542** – Image credits **563** – Index of names **564** – Index of places **572**