

Books and Manuscripts (1714)

September 23, 2021 EST, Philadelphia

Viewing:

Exhibition is open by appointment at our [1600 West Girard Avenue](#) location September 20-22. To make an appointment, please contact Colin Foley at cfoley@freemansauction.com.

Lot 11

Estimate: \$10000 - \$15000 (plus Buyer's Premium)

[Americana] Acts Passed at a Congress of the United States of America, Begun and Held at the City of New-York, on Wednesday the Fourth of March...Being the Acts Passed at the First Session of the First Congress

Rare New Haven printing of the first acts of the first congress of the United States

New-York: Printed by Francis Childs and John Swaine, Re-printed at New-Haven, by Thomas and Samuel Green, no date (ca. 1789). First New Haven edition. Folio. 81, (1) pp. Original limp blue wrappers, stab-sewn with original thread, spine worn, creasing along fore-edge, several contemporary or near-contemporary signatures on front wrapper, including that of Renee Butler, Lucretia Cook, and Allan Von must (?), as well as the name of "Harrington Parish" (a Presbyterian meeting house in Maine), dampstaining at top of front and rear wrapper; all edges untrimmed; creasing along fore-edge of text leaves; scattered spotting and soiling to text. Completely unsophisticated. Evans 22191; Sabin 15493; ESTC W14329 (locating five copies); OCLC locates two copies.

Rare New Haven folio edition of the official acts of the first United States congress. This important volume comprises the acts establishing the Executive Department, the Treasury Department, the Post Office, the judicial courts, the War Department, and other articles establishing compensation for the President, Vice President, and members of Congress. It also contains the first 12 proposed amendments to the Constitution, drafted by James Madison. Articles 3-12 would be ratified on December 15, 1791, forming the first ten Amendments known as the Bill of Rights. Article 2 would be ratified as the 27th Amendment in 1992, while Article 1 is still pending ratification.

Harrington Parish was a Presbyterian meeting house built in 1772 in Bristol, Maine, near Fort William Henry. It operated continuously until its final service in 1915.

Folio printings of the 1789 first acts of the first Congress, published in any city, are extremely rare. We can locate only seven copies of this edition, in the following institutions: The American Antiquarian Society; The New York Public Library; Yale University, Sterling Memorial; Faulkner University; Indiana University; Connecticut Historical Society; Henry E. Huntington Library and Art Gallery.

This is the first copy of this printing to be offered at auction in over a hundred years. In 1913, Anderson Galleries referred to this edition as "very rare."

