

JEFFERSON'S COPY OF THE FEDERALIST RETURNS HOME

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In June 2016, Thomas Jefferson's copy of the *Federalist Papers* returned home to Monticello for the first time after almost 190 years. We are grateful to Edward M. (Ted) Parsons of Springfield, Massachusetts, for his generous gift.

The volume, published in 1818 by Jacob Gideon and presented to Jefferson shortly after its publication, was part of Jefferson's library at the time of his death on July 4, 1826. It was sold at the 1829 auction of Jefferson's library in Washington, D.C. At the sale, it was acquired by Henry Holmes of Connecticut, who then presented it to his friend, Gurdon Wadsworth Russell, in 1844. Both were prominent doctors and active members of the Connecticut Medical Society. The volume came into the possession of James S. North in 1921. North was president of the New Britain General Hospital in Connecticut. He gave the book to his son, Daniel, who later presented it to North's great-grandson, Ted Parsons. "My great-uncle Dan and I share a passion for American history and agreed that this book rightfully belongs to the people of the

United States, and we would like to see it preserved at Monticello for current and future generations," declared Parsons.



The *Federalist Papers* consist of 85 essays addressed to the citizens of New York urging them to ratify the new United States Constitution.

The essays, penned by Alexander Hamilton, James Madison and John Jay, first appeared in various New York newspapers between 1787 and 1788 under the pseudonym, Publius.

They were subsequently gathered together in a two-volume edition published in 1788 under the title *The Federalist: a Collection of Essays, Written in Favor of the New Constitution, as Agreed Upon by the Federal Convention, September 17, 1787*. It was not until this later 1818 edition that the individual essays were attributed to their respective authors. For this new edition, Gideon utilized Madison's own copy of the 1799 edition, in which the latter had identified the authors and made corrections to his own essays.

Jefferson held the *Federalist* in high regard. He described it in 1788 as "the best commentary on the principles of government which was ever written," and wrote in 1790, "descending from theory to practice: there is no better book than *The Federalist*."

The 1818 edition was one of at least four copies of the work recorded in Thomas Jefferson's library. Two of these were of the earlier 1788 edition. Jefferson received them while in Paris as U.S. Minister to France. Interestingly, one of these once belonged to Elizabeth Schuyler, the wife of Alexander Hamilton, who subsequently presented it to her sister, Angelica Schuyler Church. This copy was part of the library Jefferson sold to Congress in 1815, and it survives today in the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. The second copy was retained at Monticello and very likely sent to Jefferson by Edward Carrington or by Madison in 1788. This copy was acquired at the 1829 auction of Jefferson's library by the Boston Unitarian minister, Andrew Bigelow, and is today extant at the Newberry Library in Chicago, Illinois.

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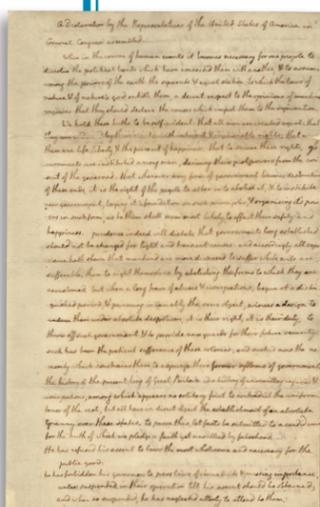
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Monticello Welcomes Joseph Erdman to the Board of Trustees



In May 2016, the Thomas Jefferson Foundation at Monticello elected Joseph Erdman to the board of trustees. Erdman is involved in personal and financial planning, and is the president of Albemarle Asset Management, Ltd. Previously, Erdman was both the partner and chair of the Personal Planning Department for Proskauer Rose LLP, where he was an estate-planning lawyer for 40 years. He serves on the governing board of the Miller Center, as a member of the University of Virginia's President's Advisory Group, and as a co-trustee of the UVA Arts Endowment. He is also a trustee of The Joseph and Robert Cornell Memorial Foundation, which has been a long-time supporter of Monticello and other cultural institutions.

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We Hold These Truths: The Campaign for Monticello is a landmark effort to safeguard and share both the mountain and the mind of Thomas Jefferson – for all people, for all time. Please visit monticello.org/campaign to learn more about our campaign priorities and their impact.