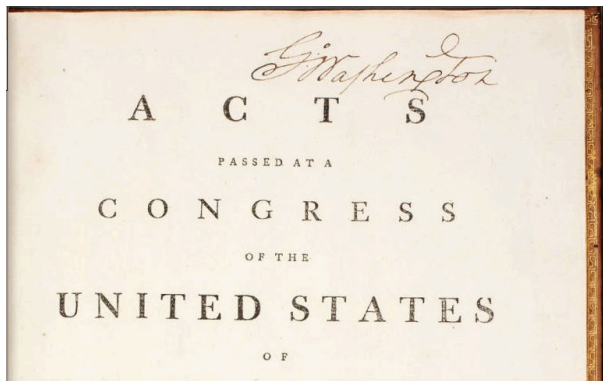


THE ACTS OF CONGRESS

George Washington's copy of the *Acts passed at a Congress of the United States of America* (New York, 1789) contains key founding documents establishing the Union: the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and a record of acts passed by the first Congress.

His copy is embossed in gilt letters reading "President of the United States." Washington's bold signature appears on the upper right corner of the title page. He also pasted his engraved bookplate to the inside, front cover. The bookplate features the Washington family coat of arms and the motto *exitus acta probat*, which translates to "the result is the test of the actions."

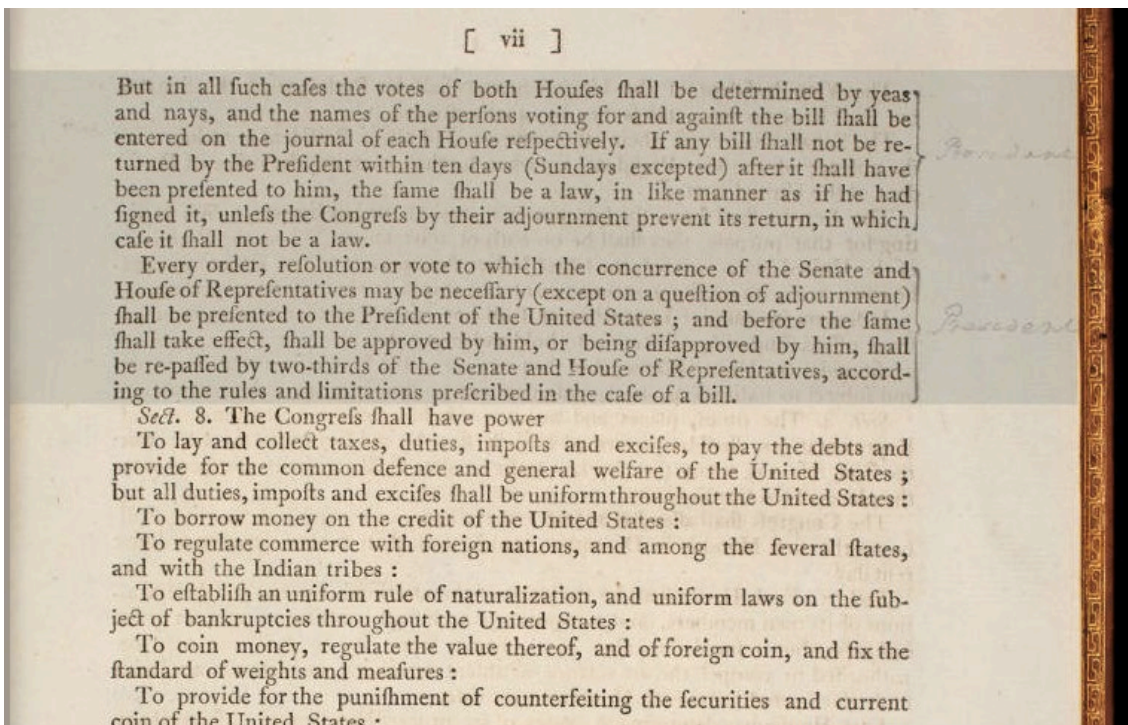
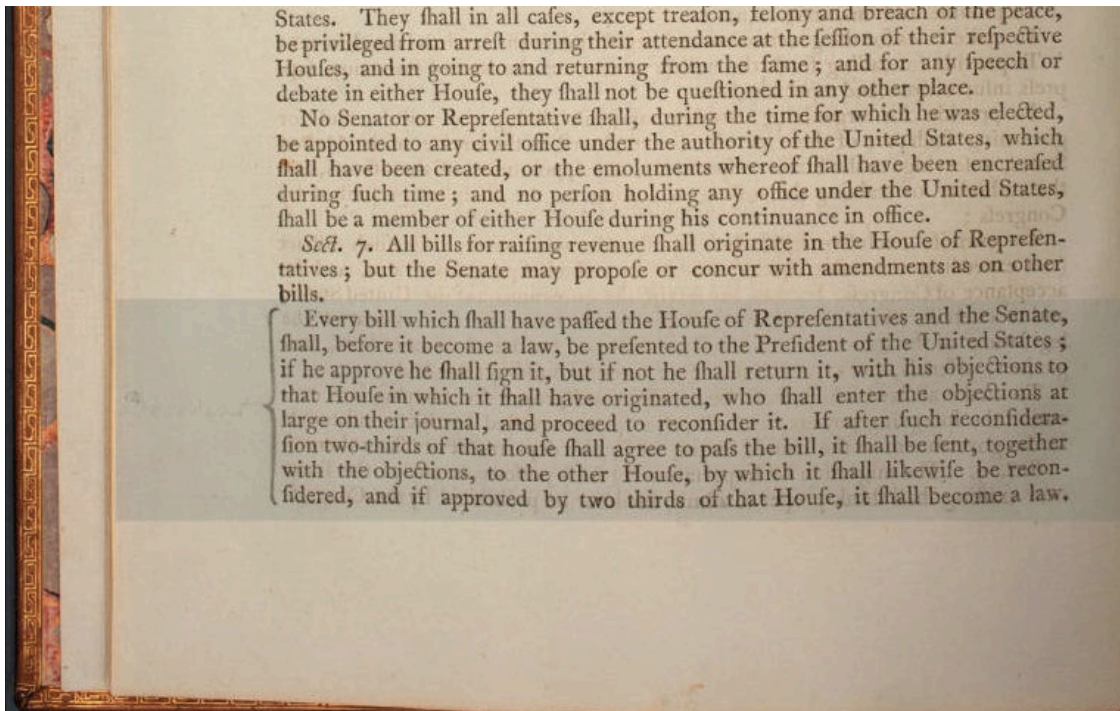


George Washington was the first person in history to serve as President of the United States. No one had the job before he did and the U.S. Constitution served as his job description.

In the margins of four separate pages, Washington wrote the words "President," "Powers," and "Required," underscoring the responsibilities of the first Chief Executive while he held that office.

More about this object and its significance at the Washington Library can be found at:
<https://www.mountvernon.org/library/digitalhistory/digital-encyclopedia/article/acts-of-congress/>

ARTICLE 1, SECTION 7 (VII) MARKED "PRESIDENT"



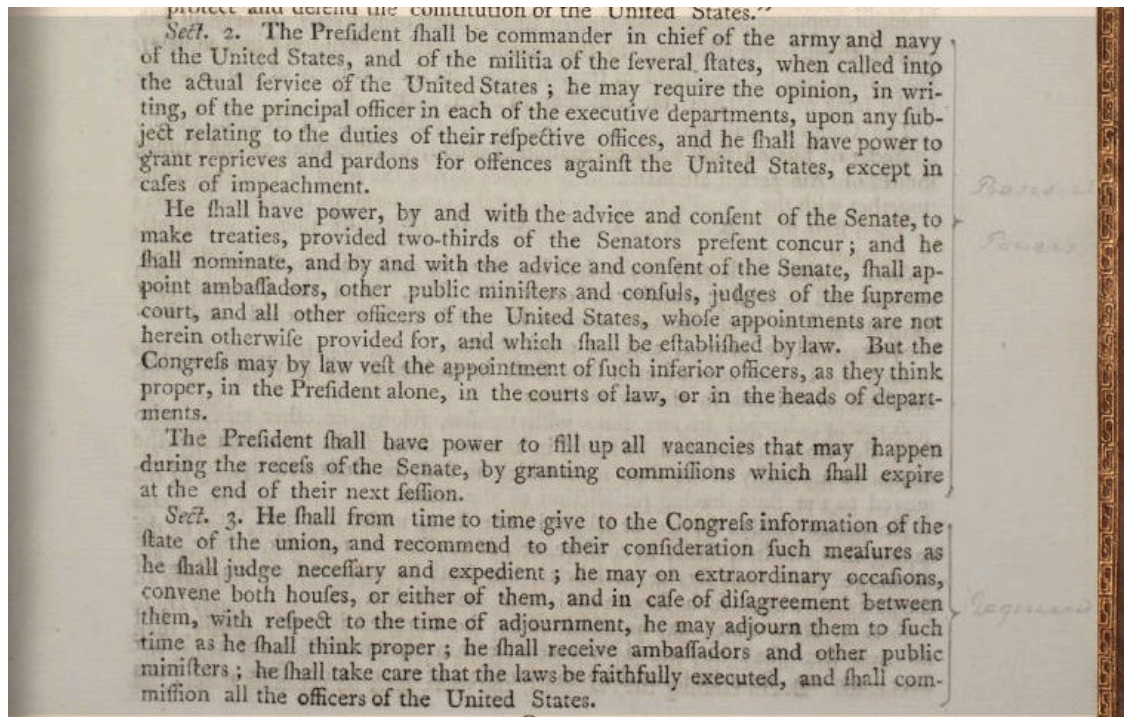
TRANSCRIPT: ARTICLE 1, SECTION 7 (VI & VII) MARKED “PRESIDENT”

Every Bill which shall have passed the House of Representatives and the Senate, shall, before it become a Law, be presented to the President of the United States; If he approve he shall sign it, but if not he shall return it, with his Objections to that House in which it shall have originated, who shall enter the Objections at large on their Journal, and proceed to reconsider it. If after such Reconsideration two thirds of that House shall agree to pass the Bill, it shall be sent, together with the Objections, to the other House, by which it shall likewise be reconsidered, and if approved by two thirds of that House, it shall become a Law.

But in all such Cases the Votes of both Houses shall be determined by yeas and Nays, and the Names of the Persons voting for and against the Bill shall be entered on the Journal of each House respectively. If any Bill shall not be returned by the President within ten Days (Sundays excepted) after it shall have been presented to him, the Same shall be a Law, in like Manner as if he had signed it, unless the Congress by their Adjournment prevent its Return, in which Case it shall not be a Law.

Every Order, Resolution, or Vote to which the Concurrence of the Senate and House of Representatives may be necessary (except on a question of Adjournment) shall be presented to the President of the United States; and before the Same shall take Effect, shall be approved by him, or being disapproved by him, shall be repassed by two thirds of the Senate and House of Representatives, according to the Rules and Limitations prescribed in the Case of a Bill.

ARTICLE 2, SECTIONS 2 & 3 (IX) MARKED “PRESIDENTIAL POWERS” AND “REQUIRED”



TRANSCRIPT: ARTICLE 2, SECTIONS 2 (IX) MARKED “PRESIDENTIAL POWERS”

The President shall be Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, and of the Militia of the several States, when called into the actual Service of the United States; he may require the Opinion, in writing, of the principal Officer in each of the executive Departments, upon any Subject relating to the Duties of their respective Offices, and he shall have Power to grant Reprieves and Pardons for Offenses against the United States, except in Cases of Impeachment.

He shall have Power, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, to make Treaties, provided two thirds of the Senators present concur; and he shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall appoint Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, Judges of the supreme Court, and all other Officers of the United States, whose Appointments are not herein otherwise provided for, and which shall be established by Law: but the Congress may by Law vest the Appointment of such inferior Officers, as they think proper, in the President alone, in the Courts of Law, or in the Heads of Departments.

The President shall have Power to fill up all Vacancies that may happen during the Recess of the Senate, by granting Commissions which shall expire at the End of their next Session.

TRANSCRIPT: ARTICLE II, SECTION 3 (IX) MARKED “REQUIRED”

He shall from time to time give to the Congress Information of the State of the Union, and recommend to their Consideration such Measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient; he may, on extraordinary Occasions, convene both Houses, or either of them, and in Case of Disagreement between them, with Respect to the Time of Adjournment, he may adjourn them to such Time as he shall think proper; he shall receive Ambassadors and other public Ministers; he shall take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed, and shall Commission all the Officers of the United States.