

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Sotheby's waves its flag, auctioning Virginia's ratification of U.S. Constitution

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Sotheby's is holding a special auction ahead of Fourth of July. Image credit: Raul Najera

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

Auction house Sotheby's is channeling patriotism ahead of the Fourth of July holiday.

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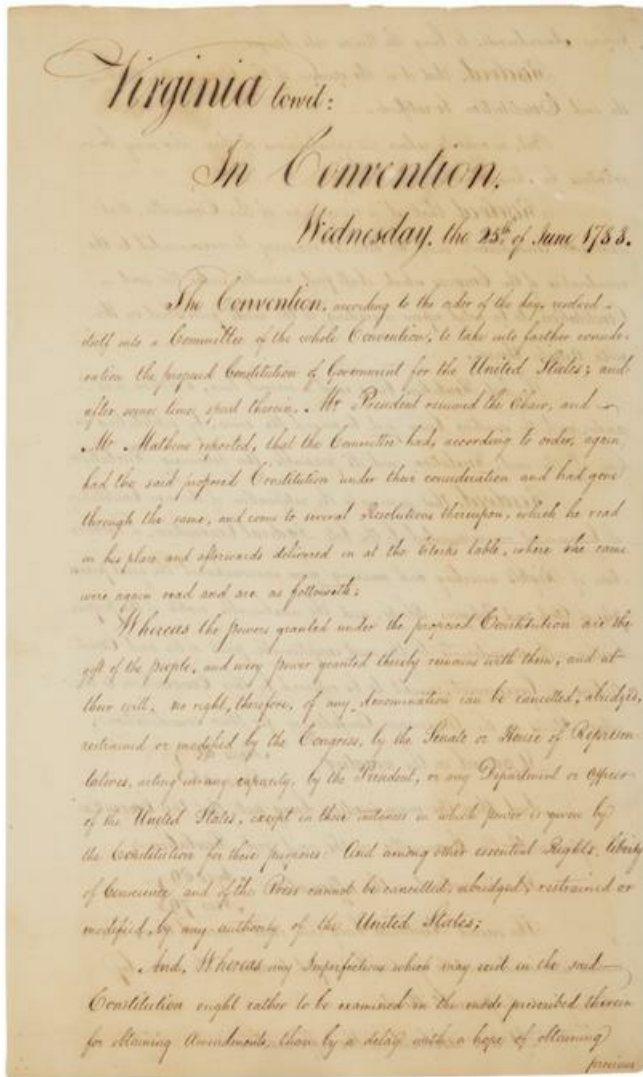
In celebrating the independence of the United States, Sotheby's is auctioning a copy of Virginia's Ratification of the U.S. Constitution on July 21. The document, estimated to be sold for \$3 - 5 million, is especially valuable as it reflects the foundation of what would later become the U.S. Bill of Rights.

"Just in time for the Fourth of July holiday, we're pleased to bring this exceptional piece of American history to auction," said Selby Kiffer, senior specialist for books and manuscripts at [Sotheby's](#), in a statement. "Following the record-breaking auction of a first printing of the United States Constitution, this document also showcases a critical turning point in early American history."

Honoring American history

The document up for auction is the official attested copy of Virginia's original ratification of the Constitution, signed by the president and secretary of the convention. It also comes complete with two sets of amendments to the Constitution proposed by the convention.

The document will be on display at Sotheby's York Avenue galleries from July 12-20, ahead of its live auction on July 21 in New York.



The document is estimated to be sold for \$3-5 million. Image courtesy of Sotheby's

Last year, Sotheby's held an auction for the only remaining first printing of the U.S. Constitution.

The only one of 11 copies known to exist not in a leading institution was offered in an evening auction during Sotheby's November marquee sales. To commemorate Constitution Day on Sept. 17, the exhibition was open at Sotheby's until Sept. 19 ([see story](#)).

That copy of the Constitution was sold for \$43.2 million in November 2021, marking the most valuable historical document ever sold at auction and the highest price ever achieved at auction for any book, manuscript or printed text.