Pennsylvania Gazette

The Pennsylvania Gazette was published in Philadelphia on Wednesdays by David and William Hall and William Sellers. Owned, in part or in whole, by Benjamin Franklin from 1729 to 1766, the Gazette was one of the oldest newspapers in America and among the best known. Before and during the early meetings of the Constitutional Convention, the Gazette printed original articles supporting a strengthened central government, but it was not until early August that it began publishing such articles in large numbers. On 8 August-two days after the Convention received the first draft of a new constitution-the Gazette began the systematic publication of brief, original articles that advocated a powerful central government, and praised the work of the Convention. After the Convention adjourned, the Gazette continued to print Federalist essays to the virtual exclusion of Antifederalist material. It also printed a multitude of squibs praising the Constitution and its supporters. The popularity and prominence of the Gazette, in combination with the large quantity of Federalist essays and squibs that it printed, made it the most widely reprinted newspaper in the United States.

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