

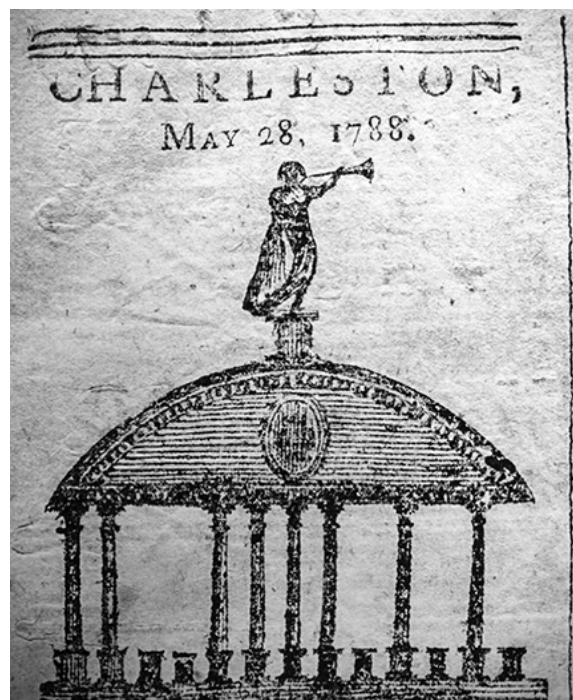


CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE AMERICAN CONSTITUTION

csac.history.wisc.edu > Document Collections > Popular Culture and Ratification > Illustrations Appearing in Newspapers During the Ratification Debates > Domes

Charleston *City Gazette*, 28 May 1788

The *Charleston City Gazette* published for the first time on 28 May its unique dome and pillars illustration showing the states that ratified the Constitution. Benjamin Russell, the printer of the *Massachusetts Centinel*, originated “the federal pillars” on 16 January. The cartoon showed five state pillars erected with a sixth pillar labeled “Mass.” in the process of being raised. Russell updated his cartoon as additional states ratified the Constitution. The *City Gazette* modified the image with its dome woodcut following South Carolina’s ratification. The state columns run south to north, starting with Georgia on the left and ending with New Hampshire on the right. The missing states are (from left to right) North Carolina, Virginia, New York, Rhode Island, and New Hampshire. The *City Gazette* published the image with additional pillars as more states ratified. The image appeared three more times in 1788—16 July for Virginia, 22 July for New Hampshire, and 11 August for New York—and once on 16 December 1789 for North Carolina.



CITE AS: John P. Kaminski et al., eds., *The Documentary History of the Ratification of the Constitution*, Vol. XXVII: South Carolina (Madison, Wis.: Wisconsin Historical Society Press, 2016), 442.