



DANIEL LUCIUS "DOC" ADAMS, M.D.  
1814 - 1909  
www.DocAdamsBaseBall.org

For Immediate Release:  
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Doc Adams' "Laws of Baseball" Sells for \$3.26 Million at Auction  
Connecticut Legislator and Bank President's  
Document Gets Record Price

A rare piece of baseball history sold on Sunday, April 24th for a price far exceeding what experts predicted. "The Laws of Baseball", an 1857 document, was handwritten by Daniel Lucius "Doc" Adams.

The "Laws of Baseball" was purchased for \$3.26 million, making the item the highest-priced baseball document ever sold. SCP Auctions, which managed the sale, reported that the new owner wishes to remain anonymous.

The manuscript details many of the fundamental aspects of baseball as written by Adams and illustrates the influence and contributions he made to the game. At the time the document was written, Adams was President of the Knickerbocker Base Ball Club of New York City and chairman of the rules committee of the convention of New York and Brooklyn base ball clubs.

In "The Laws of Baseball" Adams set the bases at 90 feet, established 9 players per side and 9 innings of play – all innovations at the time.

This sale places the "Laws" as the third most expensive piece of sports history, behind a 1920 Yankees Babe Ruth jersey at \$4.4 million and the James Naismith Rules of Basketball at \$4.3 million.

The Adams legacy has been garnering significant attention recently. SABR (Society for American Baseball Research) named Adams the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Overlooked Legend for 2014. His name was on the Pre-Integration Era Ballot for the Baseball Hall of Fame last year. The December 2015 vote put Adams two votes short of achieving enshrinement in Cooperstown. However, that voting occurred prior to the announcement of the existence of the "Laws" document.

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“I am pleased that this historical find and record-setting auction has educated even more people about the contributions that Doc made to baseball,” said Marjorie Adams, a great-granddaughter of Doc Adams.

A resident of southeastern Connecticut, Marjorie Adams has been on a mission to educate the public on the contributions made by her great-grandfather, both on and off the field.

Daniel Lucius “Doc” Adams was born in 1814 in Mont Vernon, NH. He graduated from Yale in 1835 and Harvard Medical School in 1838 then moved to Manhattan to establish his medical practice. He joined the Knickerbocker Base Ball Club, playing in what is considered the first modern-day game at Elysian Fields in Hoboken, NJ on June 19, 1846.

Adams was the first shortstop – a position he is credited with creating in 1849. In his 17 year tenure with the Knickerbockers, Adams was a player, vice president, president and director of the club. He chaired the rules committee which led to the “Laws” document.

After his retirement from baseball and his medical practice in 1862, Adams moved to Ridgefield Connecticut. He would become the first president of Ridgefield Savings Bank, now Fairfield County Bank, where his photograph still hangs in the main office; the first treasurer of the Ridgefield Library and served in the Connecticut legislature.

Adams died on January 3, 1899 and is buried in New Haven, CT.

For more information, visit [www.docadamsbaseball.org](http://www.docadamsbaseball.org).

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