

## Lincoln Lore

Bulletin of the  
LINCOLN HISTORICAL RESEARCH  
FOUNDATION

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## CURRENCY

With the appearance of the new United States currency, scheduled to be released on July 10, there will be a revival of interest among collectors of Lincoln paper money. The new series will include eleven new bills of different denominations, three of which may be considered as Lincoln items. The five-dollar certificate will bear the same likeness of Lincoln so long used on the previous issues, and on the reverse side will appear the Lincoln memorial building at Washington, D. C. General Grant's portrait will appear on the fifty-dollar notes with the Capitol on the reverse side. It is not likely that many collectors will accumulate a surplus of the ten thousand-dollar bills on which is exhibited the picture of Lincoln's Secretary of the Treasury, Chase.

The bills now in circulation will soon be listed in that very interesting—but sometimes tragic—compilation of obsolete money. One of the earliest items among those featuring Lincoln is a one-dollar bank note issued by the Bank of Commerce, at Georgetown; the engraving having been patented April 23, 1860.

The western banks usually featured some pastoral scene with a portrait of Lincoln occupying a corner of the note. To illustrate how much was often crowded on one side, an issue in Kansas displayed, besides the picture of Lincoln, a milkmaid with two cows, in one group; a man feeding a pig, in another scene, and two horses standing beside a stream, in still another.

The eastern currency often associated some industrial scenes with Lincoln. The Merchants Bank at Trenton, New Jersey, used as its central exhibit a canal and river scene in which a train, a bridge, a depot, and a loaded wagon visualize the means of transportation of that time. This note also used, on the same side, the portraits of Lincoln and a Miss Inez Coleman. The simplicity of the new currency stands out in marked contrast to the earlier attempts to beautify the shipplaster and wildcat paper money of earlier days.

## LINCOLN'S LAST RECOMMENDATION

What may prove to be the last appointment recommended by Lincoln has come to light in an unpublished letter written to Hugh McCulloch on the day before Lincoln's assassination. This letter is probably the last formal writing addressed to a member of his cabinet. It seems timely to release it in this issue of Lincoln Lore because of the very large part which the secretary of the treasury played in stabilizing the nation's finances. It is with the kind permission of Mr. Ross McCulloch, grandson of Hugh McCulloch, that we are allowed to exhibit the contents of this valuable document.

### EXECUTIVE MANSION.

Washington, April 13, 1865.

Hon. Sec. of the Treasury.

Dear Sir:

The office of Collector of Internal Revenue for the Fifth Collection District of California is vacant by the resignation of Charles Maltby. I would like to oblige General Schenck by the appointment of his nephew, William C. S. Smith, long a resident of the District, to fill the vacancy. I am satisfied that he is competent, and of good character, and that his appointment will be satisfactory in the District and State. Unless you know some valid objection, send me an appointment for him.

Yours truly,

A. LINCOLN.

## LINCOLN'S THREE TREASURERS

All three of the secretaries of the treasury who served under Lincoln were New England Yankees. Salmon P. Chase was born at Cornish, New Hampshire, January 19, 1808, and educated at Dartmouth College. William O. Fessenden, the successor of Chase, was also born in New Hampshire, at Boscawen, but educated at Bowdoin College. His birth date was October 16, 1806. Hugh McCulloch was a Bowdoin man, but born in Kennebunk, Maine. He was just two months and two days older than President Lincoln. Mr. McCulloch, who served as secretary of the treasury under three presidents, Lincoln, Johnson and Arthur, was the last surviving member of the thirteen men who served in Lincoln's cabinet. Although the same age as Lincoln he survived the president thirty years, passing away on May 24, 1895.

## METAL MONEY

In the year 1909, the centennial of Lincoln's birth, the government began issuing Lincoln pennies. Each year a new issue has been coined; the total number minted during the year 1926 amounting to 189,573,000. The Illinois Centennial half-dollar, brought from the mint on June 1, 1918, also bears the likeness of Lincoln.

Closely associated with the metal money are the Lincoln medals, of various kinds. Mr. Robert P. King of Erie, Pennsylvania, has become one of our best authorities in this field. He has taken occasion to list and number each design that has been called to his attention until now he has definitely identified 940 different pieces. Each one of these items has been described with proper citation in "The Numismatist," the first list appearing in the February, 1924, issue and the concluding compilation in the issue for April, 1927. Copies of these Lincoln numbers are often available through Lincoln book-dealers.

## POST OFFICE PAPER

Many of those who make a specialty of collecting obsolete Lincoln currency are also interested in government postage stamps which display the likeness of Lincoln. These stamps have been issued in several different denominations, including: two, three, four, five, six, fifteen and twenty-five cents. Different series have used different colors, one as many as ten separate shades. Two postal cards, one printed in green and the other in red ink, bearing the Lincoln profile by Pickett, are available. The original bronze plaque, from which these profiles were taken, is now owned by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company. There is also a one-dollar stamp bearing the likeness of the Lincoln Memorial Building at Washington.

## LINCOLN ON METAL, SILK AND PAPER

One of the house publications of The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company for February, 1929, carried an article by the editor of Lincoln Lore which discussed the different types of collections which have been gathered by Lincoln enthusiasts. Some of the surplus copies are available for free distribution to those who will write the editor, requesting a copy.