

LINCOLN LORE

No. 147

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

February 1, 1932

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BULLETIN OF
THE LINCOLN
HISTORICAL
RESEARCH
FOUNDATION



ENDOWED BY
THE LINCOLN
NATIONAL LIFE
INSURANCE
COMPANY

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THE BRONZE LINCOLNS OF EUROPE

"It is a thrilling experience for an American to come out of Westminster Abbey, rich with its marbles and memorials; silent with its hallowed history; musty with great age; and run directly into something familiar and sacred to every American heart—the face and form of Lincoln. One enters the Abbey by the west doorways and comes out directly in the path of this Lincoln Memorial. At evening, when this gaunt, but beautiful bronze silhouettes itself against the sunset, the impression is deepened. There in the west, whither the sun hastens, is the land where Lincoln lived and wrought."

The above appreciation which found its way into an English newspaper offers an appropriate introduction to this first of a series of monographs on Lincoln statues.

One would not expect to find so many memorials of Abraham Lincoln abroad as have already been erected to this comparatively young American immortal who now associates with the sainted venerables of ancient lands.

It is especially noteworthy that one of so humble origin should find an honored place at Westminster where we greet our famous bronze Lincoln of Europe.

London, England

Settled purpose is evidenced in every detail of the Lincoln statue which stands opposite Westminster Abbey, the high altar of the British empire, where England's kings are crowned and where they and other famous sons of Britannia lie buried.

This bronze statue, over 11 feet in height, is a replica of the figure by Augustus St. Gaudens in Lincoln Park, Chicago. An offer of this statue to the British people was made in 1914 by the American National Committee for the celebration of the centenary of the Treaty of Ghent, and the completion of 100 years of peace between English speaking peoples.

The figure of Lincoln is standing, with shoulders stooped slightly and head inclined forward—back of the form, on the same base, is a huge chair also in bronze, suggesting the dignity of the presidential chair with its emblazoned flags and emblems.

Edinburgh, Scotland

The first monument erected to Lincoln on foreign shores was Thomas Bissel's statue, which has been placed in the old Carlton Burial Ground at Edinburgh, Scotland. The spot on which the monument is erected is rich in history—memorials to Mackay, the actor, Philosopher David Hume, Willie Nichol, companion and fellow-lodger of Burns, and several political martyrs, are to be found there.

"Lincoln Emancipating the Slave" the statue has been called, portraying as it does, the Emancipator standing on a high pedestal in stately attitude—one hand behind his back. On a stone bank at the base of the statue, kneels a slave on a trophy of battle-flags, with arms raised in gratitude toward the figure of Lincoln.

The work is 15 feet high, and the entire statue was presented to Edinburgh by American citizens in honor of the Scottish-American soldiers who fought in the Civil War. Mr. Wallace Bruce, the United States Consul in Edinburgh, was mainly instrumental in raising the money. The monument was unveiled on August 21, 1893—the first Lincoln statue on foreign soil.

The base of the statue has been worked out in red granite, the whole being polished excepting the lower base; and being designed to occupy an isolated position, it shows the same high finish on all sides.

Oslo, Norway

A heroic bronze bust of Lincoln was made by Paul Fjelde and located in Frogner Park, Oslo, Norway, at the direction of the people of North Dakota. The statement on the deed of gift follows:

"The people of the state of North Dakota, desiring to express their admiration for the Norwegian nation which in the year 1914 celebrated the one hundredth anniversary of the adoption of a Constitution, and in grateful recognition of the important part taken by the sons and daughters of Norway in the development of the Commonwealth of North Dakota, do hereby present to the people of Norway this memorial to Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States of America, the Republic's foremost exponent of government of the people, by the people and for the people."

A replica of this bust stands on a

marble base on the lawn before the Exchange Building in Chicago.

Manchester, England

Abraham Lincoln, still and composed, sad but sure, a Lincoln that belongs to eternity, stands in Platt Field, Manchester Park, England. He watches with kindly gaze the busy hurrying throng that surges before him, as the waters of a troubled empire once surged by his feet.

This statue, by George Gray Barnard, aroused much controversy at first because critics said it was an "untidy" Lincoln—a "calamity in bronze." They did not want the ill-groomed honest individual of genius who loved God and man. It did not please them that on the clean-shaved face, furrowed as if by rivers of tears, every line and mark are shown as they were, and not smoothed over.

The creator of the statue replies:

"There can be beauty in toil, in sorrow, and in the well-worn clothes and bumpy shoes of the hard worked. It was that kind of beauty that I endeavored to put into my statue of Lincoln, the beauty of work, of suffering and of hardship. There is as much beauty in the gnarled hand that has grasped the plow or the axe as there is in the tender, flowing lines of a young child. It is beauty of a different type."

The bronze figure, 14 feet in height, portrays Lincoln standing with hands clasped naturally over his waist. It was the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Charles P. Taft, of Cincinnati, Ohio. The attitude is one of submissive waiting—"the submission of dauntless courage."

Florence, Italy

There are two Lincoln statues in the city of Florence. Perhaps the best known is that created by Thomas Ball known as the "Emancipation group," representing Lincoln, standing, with the Emancipation Proclamation in his right hand, and with his left extended over the head of a kneeling slave.

The original of this statue is located in Lincoln Park, Washington, D. C. The monument in Florence, Italy, is a replica—ten feet high.

The work of Henry Kirk Brown, unveiled in Prospect Park, Brooklyn, has a replica in Florence, also.

The figure stands with its left knee slightly bent—Lincoln holds in his left hand a manuscript at which he is pointing with his right. On each side of the pedestal are small projections supporting bronze eagles, while the front and rear are ornamented with wreaths, within which are the inscriptions, U. S. N. and U. S. A.