

LINCOLN LORE

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LINCOLN LORE

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LINCOLN LORE IN RESEARCH FOUNDATION

The issue of Lincoln Lore in hand includes the annual installment of fifty-two numbers and completes three full years of the bulletin's circulation. Inasmuch as it serves as the medium of information for the Lincoln Historical Research Foundation some description of the source material from which the data in the bulletin emanates might be of general interest.

Equipment

The home of the foundation is in a well-lighted room which occupies the fourth floor of the beautiful office building of the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company in Fort Wayne, Indiana. The book cases, manuscript files, exhibit cabinets, portrait displays, and other furnishings, are of steel construction. A complete and adequate card index reference system contributes to the equipment which is modern in every respect.

Lincoln Books and Pamphlets

When the foundation was first established it acquired the outstanding Daniel Fish collection of Lincolniana around which the present remarkable compilation of Lincoln literature has been assembled. The system used by Judge Fish in his Lincoln bibliography has been continued in the cataloguing of Lincoln books and pamphlets and on April 1, 1932, the foundation had 3711 separate items properly listed in this classification. These books tell the story of Lincoln in many languages. Some are printed in Braille for the blind, others are profusely illustrative. The books vary in size all the way from the tiny miniature volumes to those of folio proportions. The subject matter includes biographical sketches, history, fiction, poetry, addresses, anecdotes, dramas, and monographs on every imaginable subject referring to Lincoln.

Collateral Books

Supplementing the titles dealing exclusively with Lincoln, the foundation has a collateral collection of books which are necessary for reference in any library attempting to cover the field of Lincoln research. This supplemental library consists at present of 890 volumes dealing with Lincoln's contemporaries, issues confronting him, histories of the communities where he lived, reminiscences of friends, biographical sketches, and hundreds of rare books referring to Lincoln himself.

Magazines

The magazine files of the foundation contain one of the most valuable sources of available information about Lincoln. Starting with the ones published during Lincoln's administration and continuing to date they present in portrait and story the events associated with Lincoln which appeal most to human interest. These magazine contributions are separately bound—except the rare early volumes—and each article is indexed with three separate cards so that they may be located by author, subject or title of magazine. The collection of magazine articles about Abraham Lincoln numbers over 3,000.

Newspapers

Of even greater scope than the magazines are the newspaper clippings which cover the period from the time of Lincoln's nomination up to date. It is impossible to enumerate except in a casual way, the unlimited amount of data included in these newspapers. From important paragraph notices they range in volume to special Lincoln editions including several pages.

Twelve uniform size filing compartments are utilized to distribute the newspaper clippings, arranged according to subject matter, and each clipping is mounted flat on paper of uniform size. There are still in the library over 2000 newspapers containing Lincoln articles which have as yet not been clipped or mounted. It is difficult to suggest a subject in Lincolniana not covered by these files.

Broadsides

Many rare broadsides such as the one offering \$100,000 reward for Lincoln's murderers, the Ford theatre bill and numerous campaign posters and ballots are in the possession of the foundation. In this compilation there are also included proclamations, government bills, and words from Lincoln's famous addresses exquisitely printed on fine paper. This department of Lincolniana has already catalogued 287 separate broadsides.

Manuscripts

The manuscripts in the library are so numerous that it would be next to impossible to arrive at a fair estimate of their number and inasmuch as many of them deal but indirectly with the Lincoln question no satisfactory classification for accurate tabulation can be attempted.

The Hanks papers include 1,200 genealogical lists of the family of Lincoln's mother and hundreds of letters written by members of the family. The Haycraft collection of Kentucky manuscripts number about 2000 and another 1,500 manuscripts are included in the Thompson collection dealing with the Indiana contemporaries of Abraham Lincoln. The collection also contains many unpublished manuscripts discussing some phase of Lincolniana.

Copies of original court records made by the director of the foundation in Washington, D. C., Pennsylvania, Virginia, Kentucky, Indiana, and Illinois, fill nine large loose leaf volumes.

Autographs

A very interesting and valuable part of the foundation is the compilation of autographs. It includes sixteen papers bearing the signature of Abraham Lincoln, letters written by all the members of Lincoln's cabinets, nearly a complete file of all the presidents, and the autographs of hundreds of Lincoln authors.

Pictures

The Arthur F. Hall collection of pictures is one of the largest compilations referring to Lincoln that has been gathered. Mr. Hall received his first picture of Abraham Lincoln as a gift from Robert T. Lincoln twenty-seven years ago, and the collection has grown until it now totals 1,669 separate items; many original pictures of Lincoln including ambrotypes, old "salt" prints, and copies from original negatives are in the collection. A large number of lithographs by Currier and Ives and other publishers are exhibited in the museum.

Paintings, etchings, engravings, wood cuts, and pictures produced by other processes have been secured. A summary of the items, most of which are catalogued, follows:

Pictures exclusively Lincoln, 757; contemporary pictures, 314; cartoons, 105; kodak negatives of the Lincoln country, 338; stereoptican slides relating to the Lincoln story, 155.

Of course this summary does not include the hundreds of pictures cut from newspapers and magazines separately mounted, nor the large number of postal cards acquired.

Metallic Lincolniana

Although no attempt has been made thus far to gather a large collection of metallic Lincolniana, the erection this summer of a heroic bronze statue of Lincoln in the plaza of the company's office building will stimulate interest in this field. Over 150 medals—medallions and plaques including the famous plaques by Pickett and Reed are in the possession of the Foundation.

Poetry and Music

Aside from the campaign songsters, there are over 100 pieces of sheet music in the library, using Lincoln as the theme or dedicated to him. It is impossible to estimate the number of poems at hand inspired by Lincoln as several volumes are available including Lincoln poems exclusively. Aside from these published compilations the foundation collection contains 423 separate pieces of Lincoln poetry.

Summary

The Lincoln items listed above total 10,230. It is safe to say that the manuscripts, clippings and other Lincolniana not catalogued would bring the total to 25,000.