

LINCOLN LORE

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HERNDON'S BIOGRAPHY OF LINCOLN

Every collector of Lincoln books has hoped that some time he might come into possession of an original three-volume edition of Herndon's Lincoln. The premium placed on this rare item has made its acquisition impossible by many. The publishing of a one-volume dollar edition, containing the complete printed text of the original three-volume work, should make Herndon's Lincoln available to all, and its appearance is of sufficient significance to cause the other Herndon editions to be classified as to contents and date of publication.

1. *The Prospectus*

An elaborate prospectus was prepared in 1889 by the publishers for those who were to solicit subscriptions for Herndon's forthcoming three-volume work on Lincoln. It contained all the preliminaries of a well printed book including frontispiece, title page, preface, table of contents, etc. The first fourteen pages of the first chapter of Volume One and thirty-three full page illustrations were included.

The advertisement of the contemplated volume appeared on the last printed page of the prospectus with the usual blanks for subscribers' names and addresses. It was bound in English cloth, the same material to be used in the trade edition, which edition was to be sold at "\$5.00 per set of 3 vols." Samples of three other bindings were pasted on the inside of the back cover. The prices of the bindings appeared in the advertisement: Full library sheep at \$6.50, half morocco at \$8.00, half calf at \$10.00. The box in which the cloth first edition was packed, however, bore a printed label with price \$4.50.

2. *First Edition*

There has been much discussion over which is the earliest of two certain issues of the three-volume original edition. The fact that the Fish Bibliography gives preference to the one bearing the date, 1890, on the title page has led many book dealers and collectors to conclude that this was the first edition. Evidence now available in the prospectus and other sources confirms the fact that the edition without date on the title page is the first issue of the book. It bears the date, 1889, in the copyright notice, and there is other internal evidence that it is the first issue. On the cover back strip of the first edition the publisher's name "Bedford, Clark & Co." is printed in two lines, while in the second issue "Bedford, Clark Co." is printed in one line.

3. *Second Issue of Original Edition*

The chief difference between the

first and second issues of the publication is in the size of the book. Both the page size and cover size in the second issue are reduced one-fourth of an inch in both length and width. Some slight changes are also made in the arrangement of illustrative material. The end sheets are of different design and the date, 1890, appears in the condensed publisher's inscription on the title page.

4. *Original Expurgated Edition*

A clamor of disapproval arose when the contents of the three-volume work became known especially with refer-

(Title page, first issue of original edition)

HERNDON'S LINCOLN

The True Story of a Great Life
Etiam in minimis major.

The History and Personal Recollections
of

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

by

WILLIAM H. HERNDON

For Twenty Years His Friend and Law
Partner
and
Jesse William Weik, A. M.
VOL. I

Chicago, New York, and San Francisco
Bedford, Clarke & Company
Publishers

London, Henry J. Drane, Lovell's Court,
Paternoster Row

ence to the Lincoln family history. This caused the joint authors, Herndon and Weik, to delete some of the objectional data and to publish a new edition of the work in two volumes. While the two-volume work is usually called the expurgated edition, it really contains forty-three pages more copy than the original. An introduction by Horace White and two new chapters account for this additional data, while but nine pages of the first edition are deleted.* The most serious loss in the expurgated edition is the failure to use many of the original illustrations. Mr. Herndon was dead, however, before it was off the press in 1892, and Jesse W. Weik seems to have assumed the responsibility of publishing, as the copyright notice is in his name. For some reason he changed the original copyright date to 1888. This two-volume work sold for \$5.00.

*See Lincoln Lore No. 207.

5. *Reprint of Original Edition*

A three-volume reprint of the original edition advertised as a "word for word" facsimile was published in 1921. The publishers attempted an exact reproduction of the 1889 edition but omitted the voluminous illustrations which embellished the first publication of the title. The work was called a limited edition and was priced at \$10.00. Later advertisements indicate a deluxe edition was issued at \$10.00 for the set, while another sold for \$8.00.

6. *Reprint of Expurgated Edition*

The reprinting of the original edition was followed by a reproduction of the expurgated edition claimed to be a printing from the same plates, although some pages show a change in word division. The last page in the reprint of Volume Two has four lines less copy than the original. It is the reduced size of this reprint which is most noticeable, and, although the printed lines are the same width, the page is one inch narrower and also much reduced in length. There are no illustrations. This two-volume reprint was published to sell at \$2.00 a set.

7. *One Volume Edition*

A one-volume edition of the original Herndon's Lincoln was made available in 1930. While it followed word for word the original text, many of the Herndon footnotes were moved into the argument and separated by brackets. It did not attempt to use the large number of illustrations in the original. This edition was edited by Paul M. Angle, and an editor's note and a thirty-four page editor's introduction giving a biographical sketch of Herndon was to be found in the preliminaries. The exhaustive table of contents in the original edition was dropped and replaced by an index. Copious footnotes were also used to point out errors and make more clear statements in the original text. It was published with a cloth binding at \$2.50.

8. *Reprint of One Volume Edition*

The one-volume edition first published in 1930 has just been reprinted. It is apparently an exact facsimile of the 1930 one-volume edition and printed from the same plates. The only difference noted is on the title page which bears the new date, 1936.

The book is larger than the former edition, having a page $4\frac{3}{4}'' \times 7\frac{3}{4}''$ as over against a page $4\frac{1}{2}'' \times 4\frac{3}{4}''$ in the other one-volume work. The cover captions are also changed from those in the previous edition, although the book is printed by the same publisher.