

LINCOLN LORE

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SYSTEMATIZING A LINCOLN COLLECTION

The orderly arrangement of items which may be gathered in pursuing a hobby is a vital factor in keeping up interest in the enterprise as well as thoroughly enjoying the rarities already discovered. In collecting items about Abraham Lincoln the many ramifications of the subject lead one into confusion unless there is kept clearly in mind various classifications into which Lincolniana may be divided. It is the purpose of this monograph to suggest a system of filing which has been found helpful in the Lincoln National Life Foundation and which can be well adapted to any large or small collection.

I. Book and Pamphlet Division.

- A. Exclusively Lincoln. First in importance from the viewpoint of the collector are books which deal exclusively with Abraham Lincoln. There are four definite sources where these books are listed and they may be duly catalogued under the numbers appearing against each item.
 1. Fish Bibliography 1080 items.
 2. Oakleaf Bibliography 1576 items.
 3. Starr Bibliography 380 items.
 4. *Lincoln Lore* 493 items.
- B. Association. Books similar to those which Lincoln himself is known to have read, revealing how he was influenced by the literature of his time. Lists of these books may be found in Houser's *The Books that Lincoln Read*, Wilson's *What Lincoln Read*, and *Lincoln Lore* numbers 129 and 167.
 1. Books used as a young man.
 2. General Library.
 3. Legal Library.
 4. Borrowed from Library of Congress.
- C. Collateral. One will want to gather some books about Lincoln's contemporaries, and historical data which cannot be properly classified as strictly Lincoln items. These are more conveniently catalogued separately and placed on the collateral shelves.
 1. Biographies of associates.
 2. Histories of communities where Lincoln lived.
 3. Civil War books.
 4. Books with important references to Lincoln.

II. Periodical Division.

- A. Magazine Articles. All Lincoln magazine articles of 1000 words or over with the author's name

given, indexed according to subject, author, and title of magazine. These can be more conveniently filed by excerpting the Lincoln item, original covers and table of contents, and then binding them in a special cover.

- B. Complete Newspapers. Files of papers contemporary with Lincoln's times which should be kept intact.
- C. Clippings. All magazine articles under 1000 words, newspaper clippings, and other excerpts from periodicals are pasted flat on 8½ by 11 sheets for loose leaf books. Here are some subjects under which the material may be assembled.
 1. Characteristics of Lincoln.
 - a. Intellectual.
 - b. Philanthropic.
 - c. Social.
 - d. Religious.
 - e. Moral.
 - f. Physical.
 2. Public Relations.
 - a. Administrative—President.
 - b. Military—Commander-in-chief.
 - c. Professional—Lawyer.
 - d. Political—Office holder
 - e. Economic—Laborer.
 3. Personal.
 - a. Ancestors.
 - b. Family.
 - c. Associates.
 4. Assassination.
 - a. Death
 - b. Funeral.
 - c. Burial.
 - d. Conspirators.
 5. Writings.
 - a. Personal correspondence.
 - b. State papers.
 - c. Legal documents.
 6. Sayings.
 - a. Addresses.
 - b. Anecdotes.
 - c. Axioms.
 7. Tributes.
 - a. Addresses.
 - b. Editorials.
 - c. Poetry.
 - d. Music.
 8. Pictures.
 - a. Original photographs.
 - b. Cartoons.
 - c. Lincoln's contemporaries.
 9. Memorials.
 - a. Homes.
 - b. Statues.
 - c. Markers.
 - d. Curios.

III. Pictures.

- A. Portraits. There are 116 original portraits of Abraham Lin-

coln which have been listed by Frederick Meserve but which are now difficult to acquire, however, copies of them are available and they may be listed chronologically as arranged by Meserve. See *Lincoln Lore* numbers 452 and 459.

1. Smooth face Lincoln.
 2. Bearded Lincoln.
 3. Family groups.
 4. Contemporaries.
- B. Snapshots. Homes where Lincoln lived, places he visited, buildings in which he spoke, as well as pictures of memorials and statues. See *Lincoln Lore* number 454.
 - C. Reproductions. Items in this classification run into the thousands and the task of cataloguing them has been undertaken by Winfred P. Truesdell, who has published his first volume which may be used for checking purposes.
 - D. Postage stamp bearing the likeness of Lincoln.
- ### IV. Manuscripts.
- Autograph writings are usually classified as A. L. S. (autograph letter signed), L. S. (letter signed), M. S. (manuscript signed), and N. S. (note signed). There are also just the signatures available. It is not likely that many original writings of Lincoln will be acquired at this late day but the writings of Lincoln's contemporaries are often acquired.
- V. Broad sides. It is a difficult task to properly arrange the vast number of broad sides which are available but a classification is attempted although it is very inadequate.
 - A. Political announcements.
 - B. Government orders.
 - C. Lincoln's writings.
 - D. Advertisements.
 - E. Political cartoons.
 - VI. Printed Folders. There is always a sort of a "catch all" department in any compilation and under the heading, Printed Folders, some of these are gathered.
 - A. Souvenir programs.
 - B. Catalogues.
 - C. Sheet music.
 - VI. Curios. Lincoln curios make an interesting field for the collector to enter if he is not particular about the authenticity of much of the material alleged to have been in the possession of the Lincoln family.
 - A. Medals.
 - B. Campaign buttons.
 - C. Funeral badges.
 - D. Personal effects.