

LINCOLN LORE

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LINCOLN FOUNDATION ADVISORY GROUP

There has been a very sincere attempt made by the Lincoln National Life Foundation, which has been operating for the past thirteen years, to serve as a clearing house on all subjects relating to Abraham Lincoln. Aside from the more than six hundred copies of *Lincoln Lore* which have been issued, much other information about the Emancipator has been distributed. Desiring to further extend its usefulness, the Foundation forwarded several weeks ago to each one of the five thousand subscribers on the *Lincoln Lore* mailing list a ballot with the following printed instructions:

"The Lincoln National Life Foundation has often felt the need of some contact with a representative group of Lincoln admirers who might serve the Foundation in an advisory capacity. Rather than have such a committee chosen by one individual it has been suggested that the subscribers to *Lincoln Lore* be invited to recommend for this committee those best qualified to speak with authority in the field of Lincolniana. If you would care to participate in the selection of this group, will you kindly make your notations on the attached stub?"

Five different classifications of Lincoln devotees were suggested on the ballots: a lawyer to represent the men of Lincoln's own profession; an educator to voice the sentiment of the large numbers of universities, colleges, and secondary schools receiving *Lincoln Lore*; a collector to note the way the wind is blowing among those who ride the Lincoln hobby; an author to go on record for those who have published Lincoln books, monographs, or magazine articles; and a student of Lincoln who may sense the reaction of those who observe the interpretations of Lincoln emanating from screen, legitimate stage, pulpit, or lecture platform.

It was felt that the advisory group chosen should be sufficiently large to give a fair cross section of the opinions of the Lincoln fraternity, so it was decided to select from the nominees submitted the two names receiving the largest number of votes in each classification. The secretaries of well-established non-political Lincoln organizations are also included in the Lincoln Foundation Advisory Group which will allow different sections of the country to have repre-

sentation in this body. They would also speak indirectly for the constituency which they represent.

The group will be loosely organized without officers unless the Director of

Lincoln Foundation Advisory Group

Authors

Carl Sandburg—Harbert, Mich.
Ida M. Tarbell—New York, N. Y.

Collectors

Oliver R. Barrett—Chicago, Ill.
Thomas I. Starr—Detroit, Mich.

Educators

George P. Hambrecht—Madison, Wis.
Stewart W. McClelland—Harrogate, Tenn.

Lawyers

James W. Bollinger—Davenport, Iowa
William H. Townsend—Lexington, Ky.

Students

F. Lauriston Bullard—Boston, Mass.
Edgar DeWitt Jones—Detroit, Mich.

Secretaries

Louis W. Bridgman
Lincoln Fellowship of Wisconsin
Earl T. Chamberlin
Detroit Lincoln Group
J. H. Cramer
The Lincoln Association of Ohio
Henry E. Luhrs
Lincoln Fellowship of Pennsylvania
Harry E. Pratt
The Abraham Lincoln Association
J. Henri Ripstra
The Lincoln Group of Chicago
F. Ray Risdon
Lincoln Fellowship of Southern California.
Bert Sheldon
The Lincoln Group of the District of Columbia
Kelsey Ballou Sweatt
The Lincoln Group of Boston

the Foundation might be called a corresponding secretary. There will be no called or stated meetings, and the activities of the group will be carried on with a minimum correspondence.

Illustrative of the contributions which this group will be able to make

to Lincolniana, three projects are submitted which it is felt will be of interest and value to the entire Lincoln fellowship: the establishment of a Lincoln Recognition Roster, choice of the Lincoln Book of the Year, and the development of neglected phases of Lincoln's life. The Lincoln clan may profit accordingly from the wisdom and experience of the group, as announcements on the findings will be made available from time to time through *Lincoln Lore*.

Establishing a Lincoln Recognition Roster

Many students of Lincoln who have visited the library of the Foundation at Fort Wayne, have commented favorably on the attempt made to memorialize by displaying their portraits, Lincoln authors, collectors, playwrights, actors, and speakers now dead who have contributed to our knowledge of the Emancipator. It is hoped that those whose names may be inscribed on a Lincoln Recognition Roster will be selected by the Lincoln Foundation Advisory Group. The pictures of those so honored might serve as a Lincoln Hall of Fame. The original list drawn up by the advisory group would be supplemented from year to year.

Choosing a Lincoln Book of the Year

Following the procedure of naming outstanding books in various fields of literature, it would be of interest to have the advisory group select the outstanding contribution to Lincoln literature during each calendar year. The opinion of such a body would be of tremendous importance in eventually compiling a list of the really worthwhile publications. Possibly two books worth honorable mention might also be named.

Developing Neglected Phases of Lincoln's Life

Guidance for future monographs of the life of Abraham Lincoln might be supplied by the group recommending certain phases of Lincoln's life which seem to need further study and interpretation. This would not only be of great assistance to the Editor of *Lincoln Lore* in choosing subjects of interest for publication, but would encourage authors to do certain pieces of research in fields not already adequately covered.