

LINCOLN LORE

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EARLIEST PUBLISHED BIOGRAPHY EXCLUSIVELY LINCOLN

The campaign biography of Abraham Lincoln by D. W. Bartlett, was not only the first cloth bound life of the presidential nominee, but the paper covered edition which preceded the larger book was the "Earliest Published Biography Exclusively Lincoln."

While it is accepted generally that the Wigwam Edition was the first of the campaign biographies to be distributed, it was only a matter of hours, possibly not over forty-eight, before the Bartlett paper covered edition, selling for twenty-five cents, was in the hands of the people. While the Wigwam Edition carried a short biographical sketch of Hannibal Hamlin, the Republican vice-presidential candidate, the Bartlett volume confined itself wholly to the life of Lincoln, and herein lies the distinction of its primacy among works exclusively Lincoln.

Date of Publication

It appears from evidence now available, that the Wigwam Edition was published in 1860 on June 2. The Bartlett publications followed in this order, the paper covered booklet June 4, the cloth bound book on June 15 and the German version on July 16. While the hastily published booklet in wrappers contained but 150 pages, the cloth bound edition was extended to 354 pages, and still later to 357 pages, which gives it priority, respecting the distribution of a cloth bound biography.

The Publishers

The Bartlett publication becomes an exceedingly interesting item in the hands of the collector, because of the many variants. The change in text and format, and also the interesting assortment of imprints, which appear on the title pages, contributes much to the desire to tabulate all of the known variants. It would appear as if H. Dayton and Company of New York, had a controlling interest in the publication, as the copyright is taken out in their name and on the back strip of the first edition of the cloth bound publication, as well as on some of the variants with other imprints, is found the name, H. Dayton.

Derby and Jackson were closely associated with Dayton in the distribution of both paper and cloth editions, and in their first edition in wrappers, on the inside of the front cover, they placed an advertisement, which among other statements about the book, commented, "Get the best—as there are many 'Lives of Lincoln' advertised without a shadow of authority, the public will bear in mind that the *reliable* and *authentic* edition is Bartlett's 'Life of Lincoln' with Derby and Jackson's imprint." Derby and Jackson advertised that the cloth covered edition to be sold at \$1.00 would have a "gilt back," and they certainly did not exaggerate this claim about the back strip. There were eight lines of type, five rules, a symbolic axe, and a portrait bust of Lincoln, an inch and a half in length, surrounded by a wreath, sixteen separate parallel inscriptions and all printed in gilt.

Original Editions

The first or original edition of the book, in both paper and cloth covers, can be quickly identified by the presence of a preface, dated June 1, 1860 and the absence of the line (AUTHORIZED EDITION), which appears on the title page in subsequent editions. In the authorized edition there was no printed preface.

Pagination

The numbers of the pages of the book indicate that the cloth edition was first contemplated, as the first edition of the cloth bound volumes brings the first printed page of the text on (13). All the preliminary pages of the Derby, Jackson original paper covered edition, including the covers, totaled to but six pages. Later on when a revision was made in the text, the first printed page was moved up to (15). The three additional pages in the cloth bound edition, 355 to 357, contain the letters of notification and acceptance.

Title Page

The title page of the original Derby and Jackson paper covered book, indicates that this abridged edition was gotten out in great haste, as a large blank space right in the center of the title page stares out at one, as if several lines of the title page had been removed and such was the case. This very bad format was properly balanced in the second edition. In the paper covered volumes the title pages are all the same, except the publishers imprint and the line at the top of the page, (AUTHORIZED EDITION) which appears on all except the first edition in both paper and cloth. The title page of the original 150 page paper covered edition follows: *The/LIFE AND PUBLIC SERVICES/OF/HON. ABRAHAM LINCOLN,/BY D. W. BARTLETT,/* Washington correspondent of the New York Independent and Evening Post, and author of "Lives of Modern Agitators," "Life of Lady/Jane Gray," "Joan of Arc," etc.

The title page of the cloth covered volumes is somewhat more in detail with this three line addition inserted just above the author's name: *WITH A PORTRAIT OF STEEL/to* which is added a biographical sketch of/HON. HANNIBAL HAMLIN.

Contents

The most noticeable difference between the original and authorized editions is the rewriting of the entire first part of the book, the subject matter in pages 13 to 26 inclusive, upon revision, being confined to pages 15 to 26 inclusive.

Various Editions and Variants

A condensed table of the various editions of the book thus far noted by the Lincoln National Life Foundation follows. An asterisk after the publisher's name, indicates the book is in the Foundation Library. The Judge Bolinger Library also has almost a complete set of this series.

Publishers Name	Edition	Cover	Pages
1. Dayton, H.	Original	Paper	150
2. Derby & Jackson*	"	"	150
3. Dayton, H.*	"	Cloth	354
4. Derby & Jackson*	"	"	354
5. Asher & Co.*	"	"	354
6. Dayton, H.*	Authorized	Paper	150
7. Derby & Jackson*	"	"	150
8. Dayton, H.*	"	Cloth	354
9. Derby & Jackson*	"	"	354
10. Asher & Co.*	"	"	354
11. Bradley, J. W.*	"	"	354
12. Burdick, A. B.*	"	"	354
13. Broaders & Co.*	"	"	354
14. Broaders & Co.*	"	"	357
15. Dayton, H.	"	"	357
16. Gerhard, F.*	German	Paper	106