

LINCOLN LORE

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RECENT LINCOLN BOOKS

The week of November 16, is set apart each year as Book Week, which invites a summary of the new Lincoln publications recently from the press. The unusual large number of cloth bound volumes appearing this Fall would indicate no shortage in book paper. Before the close of the calendar year, it now appears as if there would be at least one full, three-foot case of Lincoln books and pamphlets for 1942.

If one has not enjoyed the privilege of visiting one of the larger collections of Lincolniana, he would have some difficulty in visualizing the vast number of volumes which have now been written about Abraham Lincoln. Even the original "Big Five" collectors would marvel at the extent of a modern compilation of Lincoln publications.

The Lincoln National Life Foundation, at Fort Wayne, has housed its Lincoln library in standard size steel, dust-proof, sectional bookcases, thirty-three inches wide. There are 5,781 separate volumes in the library which are eligible for entry in Lincoln bibliographies. Standing on end and packed closely together it takes 84 cases to display these books, or one mammoth bookshelf 231 feet long.

Thus far there have appeared this year eighty-eight new items and among the more important cloth bound books are to be found these titles.

***A Recruit for Abe Lincoln* by Maribelle Cormack. (D. Appleton-Century Co., New York, 1942, pp. 296, \$2.00)**

Historical novels which do not allow facts to be obscured by fiction contribute something of value to our general appreciation of our great Americans. When Lincoln has a few words to say in this story he usually speaks like Lincoln.

***Herndon's Life of Lincoln* by William H. Herndon and Jesse W. Weik. (The World Publishing Co., Cleveland and New York, 1942, pp. 511, \$0.89)**

Fifty dollars at one time was a fair price for the first edition of Herndon's Lincoln. There is now a more serviceable edition available at eighty-nine cents. Besides the advantages of having the original three volume work bound in one volume, an added feature is an exhaustive index.

***The Wit and Wisdom of Abraham Lincoln* by H. Jack Lang. (The World Publishing Co., Cleveland and New York, 1942, pp. 265, \$0.49)**

Most of the compilations of Lincoln's writings have been in the medium and higher price brackets. The gems of Lincoln's letters and speeches are assembled in this book which sells for less than half a dollar.

***Abraham Lincoln* by Enid LaMonte Meadowcroft. (Thomas Y. Crowell Co., New York, 1942, pp. 189, \$2.00)**

Biographies of Lincoln in dialogue form, especially written for children, have a real place in our literature. This book is one of a series of historical biographies and episodes prepared by the author.

***Abraham Lincoln and the Fifth Column* by George Fort Milton. (The Vanguard Press, New York, 1942, pp. 364, \$3.50)**

Atmosphere has very much to do with stimulating an interest in a book of this type. Certainly it was written for this day of turmoil, and one concludes upon reading it, that the preservation of the Union in the sixties called for superior, executive leadership.

***The Little Giant* by Jeanette Covert Nolan. (Julian Messner, Inc., New York, 1942, pp. 272, \$2.50)**

There can be no story of Douglas which goes very much into detail about the closing years of his career that does not bring Abraham Lincoln into the picture. If it had not been for his brief senatorial campaign against Lincoln in 1858, not even his presidential aspirations would have caused him to be long remembered. There is much about Lincoln in this book.

***Lincoln and His Party in the Secession Crisis* by David M. Potter. (Yale University Press, New Haven, 1942, pp. 408, \$3.00)**

A scholarly study of the events leading up to the Civil War from the viewpoint of a southern man, who fails to appreciate Lincoln's genius and who has little sympathy for the political party with which Lincoln was associated.

***Storm Over the Land* by Carl Sandburg. (Harcourt, Brace and Co., New York, 1942, pp. 440, \$3.50)**

This is a condensation of Sandburg's four volume work on *The War Years*. It is primarily a story of the Civil War as the events are grouped about the Commander in Chief, Abraham Lincoln.

***The Man Who Killed Lincoln* by Philip Van Doren Stern. (The World Publishing Co., Cleveland and New York, 1942, pp. 376, \$0.89)**

There is no phase of the Lincoln story which has been given more attention than his assassination. This book presents the great tragedy with events chronologically arranged, following a day-by-day account of the activities of the conspirators, especially Booth.

***The Literary Works of Abraham Lincoln* by Carl Van Doren. (Collegiate Press, Menasha, Wis., 1942, pp. 294, \$15.00)**

There are comparatively few Lincoln books which have been attractively bound, and it can be said that the contents of this work are worthy of the fine binding in which it is presented.

***Lincoln Among His Friends* by Rufus Rockwell Wilson. (The Caxton Printers, Ltd., Caldwell, Idaho, 1942, pp. 506, \$5.00)**

Compilations of reminiscences are of much interest if the subject matter is new and true. While the casual reader may not have come across many of these human interest stories, to the student of Lincoln many of them are very familiar and some of them unreliable.