

LINCOLN LORE

Bulletin of the Lincoln National Life Foundation - - - - - Dr. Louis A. Warren, Editor
Published each week by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Number 736

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

May 17, 1943

LINCOLN BIBLIOGRAPHY COMMITTEE

Fourteen years ago this bulletin began publishing, periodically, lists of Lincoln books and pamphlets then coming from the press. After studying the reference needs of Lincoln students and collectors for a long period, it was decided to inaugurate an accumulative bibliography of Lincolniana, which has now been published quarterly for the past ten years. A system of numbering, using the calendar year as a serial number, was introduced. A condensed pocket check list covering the 1930 decade, including an alphabetical arrangement of authors, has been made available.

A student who is making a careful study of Lincoln's life may not own a single Lincoln book himself, and likely he is primarily interested in authorities, historical content, primary sources, etc. A collector who may have made a hobby out of Lincolniana will probably place the emphasis on first editions, limited editions, variants, etc. While it would be ridiculous to classify all students as non-collectors and all collectors as non-students, yet in a general way one group stresses "contents" and the other "formats."

One of the chief and most valid criticisms which has been made about all the various Lincoln bibliographies published, has been the personal equation factor which has allowed the viewpoint of a single individual to decide what might or might not be classified as Lincolniana. Spencer, Hart Boyd, Richie, Fish, Oakleaf, Starr, and presumably Warren, have imposed their personal selections on students and collectors. It must be said, however—not as an alibi for the editor of *Lincoln Lore*, as a compliment to R. Gerald McMurtry and Maurice A. Cook who have served as librarians of the Lincoln National Life Foundation that their suggestions about the eligibility of items for the accumulative bibliography have had much to do with the ultimate selection of the titles used.

We are happy to announce at this time, however, a new method of procedure for the selection of Lincoln items for the bibliography, which we are sure will meet with the approval of every reader of the bulletin. A bibliography committee who will pass on the items to be listed has been appointed from members of the Foundation Advisory Group. This should contribute greatly to the scope and authentic tone of the bibliography. The editor of *Lincoln Lore* will have no voice in the selections other than submitting such items as may come to his attention for observation by the committee.

In selecting the personnel of this committee, an attempt has been made to choose men of recognized ability who may be able to approach sympathetically the needs of those having a vital interest in the compiling of a Lincoln bibliography. While it may not be possible to make selections that will be entirely satisfactory to both the special student on one extreme and the collector on the other, there must be found a common ground where the extremists and all of us who find ourselves occupying intermediary positions can be satisfied.

One reason why the bibliography committee was chosen from the Foundation Advisory Group was the thought that Lincoln clubs and organizations represented in the

Advisory Group might indirectly have a voice in the proceedings. Another reason why the committee of five was chosen from the larger number of nineteen was to give the projects of the Foundation more of the leadership of this outstanding group of Lincoln students. The names of the bibliography committee follow: James W. Bollinger, Stewart W. McClelland, Harry E. Pratt, F. Ray Risdon, and William E. Townsend.

James Bollinger

Judge Bollinger, as he is known to the Lincoln fraternity, has gathered one of the largest and most valuable personal collections of Lincoln books and pamphlets in America. He has recently announced that his library will some day be presented to the University of Iowa. Judge Bollinger lives at Davenport, Iowa.

Stewart W. McClelland

Pres. McClelland is the chief executive at Lincoln Memorial University, and through his enthusiastic sponsorship one of the finest collections of Lincolniana has been gathered. He is continually in contact with students of Lincoln all over America, and we might designate him as the "roving member" of the committee. He has several outstanding Lincoln students on his faculty at Harrogate, Tennessee.

Harry E. Pratt

The executive secretary of the Abraham Lincoln Association at Springfield, Illinois, is a well-known author and magazine contributor. He is not the custodian of any large library of Lincoln books, but he is fully acquainted with the needs of Lincoln students. His residence at Springfield places him in the very heart of the Lincoln country.

F. Ray Risdon

No one on the western coast is more capable of serving on the bibliography committee than F. Ray Risdon, of Los Angeles, secretary of the Southern California Lincoln Fellowship. His personal collection comprises not only a voluminous Lincoln library, but he has also gathered every phase of printed matter relating to the Martyred President.

William E. Townsend

One of the members of the committee, a Lexington, Kentucky, lawyer, occupies the dual role of both author and collector. His Lincoln books are well-known among Lincoln students and it is doubtful if there is a more comprehensive or valuable private collection of Lincolniana in the South than the one William Townsend has gathered in the State of Lincoln's birth.

It is quite certain that these persons who have expressed a willingness to serve on this committee have no desire to set themselves up as a final authority on what may be and what may not be officially classified as Lincolniana, but all will agree that the voice of these five men should speak with more assurance than any single one of the Lincoln bibliographers have done heretofore.

It should also be observed that these men located in different parts of the country should be able to discover a maximum amount of new items which are being published, and it is hoped that each recipient of *Lincoln Lore* will not hesitate to call to the attention of any member of the committee, or the director of the Foundation, any new Lincoln items which come from the press.