

LINCOLN LORE

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THE EVOLUTION OF THE FOUNDATION'S LINCOLN LIBRARY

Fifteen years ago the editor of *Lincoln Lore*, just entering upon his duties as director of the Lincoln National Life Foundation, set up at Fort Wayne his rather insignificant collection of Lincolniana. Around this nucleus there has been gathered what is believed to be the largest number of books and pamphlets ever gathered about one man (Biblical characters excepted). From a humble compilation of Lincoln publications at the beginning, there has been assembled by the Foundation, according to the last quarterly tabulation, 6,021 Lincoln volumes of which no two are similar.

This compilation of Lincoln literature has not reached its present state without the assimilation of many private libraries, and it is the purpose of this issue of *Lincoln Lore* to trace the evolution of the Foundation's outstanding collection.

Daniel Fish, Minneapolis, Minn.
1930

The first significant library of books and pamphlets acquired by the Foundation was gathered by Daniel Fish, one of the original Big Five Lincoln collectors and the bibliographer of the group. The acquisition of this collection in 1930 immediately furnished a comprehensive list of books on which to build, as it contained a large percent of the items which Judge Fish had listed in his bibliography.

Albert H. Griffith, Fisk, Wis.
1930

Acquired for its exceedingly large number of items listed in the Oakleaf bibliography, the collection of Mr. Griffith was secured the same year to supplement the Fish purchase. The combination of these two collections immediately gave the Foundation one of the four largest Lincoln libraries ever assembled.

While the purchase of individual book wants was zealously followed for the next few years, a barrier to the further purchase of sizable collections of Lincoln books presented itself in the problem of what to do with the duplicates. Lincolniana Publishers, the sales department of the Foundation, established primarily to furnish photographic and photostatic material which the Foundation could not distribute gratuitously, came to the rescue. It became the medium through which the surplus Lincolniana was released. It was this distributing facility which encouraged the Foundation to acquire several private collections of Lincolniana and it thereby added greatly to the completeness of the Foundation collection.

Dr. Otto L. Schmidt, Chicago, Ill.
1938

It was thoughtful, indeed, of Mrs. Otto L. Schmidt to advise the Foundation about a large number of Lincoln items which were available from her deceased husband's collection and it was a pleasure, indeed, to place in the Foundation Library many volumes bearing the book mark of Dr. Otto L. Schmidt.

Mrs. B. C. Hendry, Chicago, Ill.
1940

A mother and daughter, in Chicago, who had assembled a fine private library of Lincoln books eventually, by reason of a change of residence, found it necessary to dispose of their valued treasures which found their way to Fort Wayne.

Allen H. Wright, San Diego, Calif.
1941

For twenty-eight years Mr. Wright was the city clerk of San Diego, and was known by Lincoln students from coast to coast for his keen interest in anything relating to Abraham Lincoln. After his death his collection was acquired by the Foundation from his son and daughter and many fine additions to the library were made possible.

Harry F. Lake, Concord, N. Y.
1942

From the estate of Harry F. Lake, one of New England's outstanding students of Abraham Lincoln, came a fine collection of pamphlets containing some of those items which elude the collector.

John E. Morse, Hadley, Mass.
1942

For a quarter of a century, John E. Morse was known to Lincoln students as a dealer in Lincolniana. In late years he became less active and shortly before his death disposed of the entire remainder of his Lincoln material to the Foundation.

Winifred P. Truesdell, Champaign, N. Y.
1942

Winifred Porter Truesdell was one of America's leading picture experts and editor of *The Print Connoisseur*. His ambitious undertaking to make available in four printed volumes a compilation of all known Lincoln prints was never fully realized. One volume, however, was completed and data for a second compiled before he passed away. Aside from his collection of pictures which has greatly enriched the illustrative material in the Foundation, his library of Lincoln books and pamphlets have contributed much to the reference value of the Foundation's Lincolniana.

Burns Gillam, New York, N. Y.
1943

The Foundation has never acquired a collection of books in such perfect condition as the recent acquisition from Mr. Burns Gillam. This is not only true of the rare volumes, but the more common numbers as well. Private libraries such as this one have done much to make the fine condition of the Foundation books a feature which often draws comment.

Frank I. Herriott, Des Moines, Iowa
1943

Professor Herriott of Duke University became a well recognized authority in the field of Lincoln's political philosophy and built up a working library as source material for his studies. The Herriott collection has now been assimilated by the Lincoln National Life Foundation.

H. E. Barker, Los Angeles, Calif.
1943

With the possible exception of Daniel H. Newhall, no dealer in Lincolniana was better known to the collectors than H. E. Barker of Los Angeles. For many years he was in the book business in Springfield, Illinois, and it is not strange that he would specialize in Lincoln items. He was one of the first students to emphasize the value of Lincoln association books. His entire collection of Lincolniana has been acquired by the Foundation.

There has been no attempt to list in this monograph the many large collections of collateral and association books, manuscripts, pictures, medals, magazine articles and clippings acquired by the Foundation which have also contributed materially to the growth of the Foundation enterprises.

The primary task here has been to show how the Lincoln National Life Foundation over a period of fifteen years has proceeded methodically in bringing together in its library at Fort Wayne, one of the nation's most impressive memorials to Abraham Lincoln. A collection of books, exclusively Lincoln, requiring over 300 lineal feet of book cases to display, is an impressive monument to the enduring fame of the Emancipator.