

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 848

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

July 9, 1945

RAYMOND'S LINCOLN BOOKS

The published Lincoln works of Henry J. Raymond, editor of the *New York Times* during the Civil War, offer an interesting study in publishing sequence. Following the usual evolutionary process of book making one would conclude that his small paper-covered 1864 Lincoln campaign biography would be the earliest prepared copy, later the more extensive cloth-bound study of Lincoln's first administration would be produced and finally the exhaustive life of Lincoln would be completed. Apparently, however, just the reverse occurred in the preparation of most of the manuscript content.

It is evident that Raymond early in 1864 set about writing a complete biography of the President which was to conclude with the close of the administration the following March. It is apparent that much of the manuscript had been put in type before the Baltimore Convention announced the nomination of Lincoln for a second term. Raymond, the chairman of the National Executive Committee of the Union Party, began to adapt the Lincoln biography, already set in type, to the immediate needs of the campaign.

I. The Lincoln Administration Volume (F 790, M 347)

Apparently Raymond's first move was to publish at the earliest possible moment that part of the Lincoln story already in type, which would be timely as a campaign document. Although Lincoln was not nominated until June 8, less than a month later, this cloth-bound book of nearly 500 pages was brought from the press. A notice in *Harper's Weekly* for July 9, 1864, states:

"*President Lincoln's Administration* by Henry J. Raymond published by (Derby & Miller) is an admirable summary of the official career of Mr. Lincoln. It contains his most important letters and minor speeches and is a most convenient political handbook of the times. . . ."

There are four printings of this issue in the Foundation library all with the same title page and including the same imprint, "New York: J. C. Derby & N. C. Miller, No. 5 Spruce Street 1864." All four copies have 492 pages in the text but the complete table of contents for the more ambitious work were omitted, which apparently caused pages 7 to 12 inclusive to be skipped in the page numbering. The variations in these four volumes are found in binding and advertising, all differing in the latter respect. There is also a London imprint of 1865 listed in the Lambert catalogue but it is not cited in any of the bibliographies. With the sequence of dates in the advertisements as the chief guide these variants are listed in the probable order of their issue as follows:

1. Brown cloth, 7 $\frac{3}{8}$ " x 4 $\frac{3}{8}$ ". 8 pages of advertisements.
2. Black leather, 7 $\frac{3}{8}$ " x 4 $\frac{3}{8}$ ". 2 pages of advertisements.
3. Brown cloth, 7 $\frac{3}{8}$ " x 4 $\frac{3}{8}$ ". 1 page of advertisements.
4. Brown cloth, 7 $\frac{3}{8}$ " x 4 $\frac{3}{8}$ ". No advertisements.
5. London imprint of 1865.

II. The Lincoln Campaign Life (F 788, F 799, M 348)

An inexpensive paper-covered campaign life bearing the caption, *The Life of Abraham Lincoln*, also was brought out to answer the urgent need for a cheap volume for wide distribution. Plates were made of the first 46 pages of the "Administration" volume, and the biography was further expanded by revisions and added material to 136 pages, including a *Life of Johnson*. There are two copies of this publication in the Foundation library, slightly different, and although the pagination plan would favor the one with preliminary pages (F 788), including testimonials, probably the more simple form (F 789) was the first to be distributed. It bears the imprint of the National Union Executive Committee of which Raymond was the chairman. The other volume bears the Derby & Miller imprint.

1. Paper cover, New York: National Union Executive Committee, Astor House, (n.d.), 7" x 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ ". 1 page of ads.

2. Paper cover, New York: Derby & Miller, No. 5 Spruce St. 1864. 7 $\frac{3}{8}$ " x 5". 12 pages of ads and also on back covers.

III. The Life and Works of Lincoln (F 791, M 691)

The best known of the Raymond publications is the thick volume work entitled, *The Life and Public Services of Abraham Lincoln*. This is the book originally contemplated then brought up to date, and incorporating most of the "Administration" book. It was the discovery of a first edition of this volume, with but 802 pages, apparently unknown to all Lincoln bibliographers and collectors, which suggested this number of *Lincoln Lore*.

The six variants in the Foundation collection are of similar contents with but one exception. The differences appear in name of printers and advertisements. The imprint on all copies is New York: Derby & Miller, Publishers, 5 Spruce Street 1865.

1. Black cloth, 802 pages. "Alford, Stereotyper and Printer." 5 pages of ads.
2. Black cloth, 808 pages. "Press of Van Benthuyzen, Albany." 6 pages of ads, Backstrip "Derby & Miller Publishing Co."
3. Blue cloth, 808 pages. "Alford, Stereotyper and Printer."
4. Grey cloth, 808 pages. "Press of Van Benthuyzen, Albany."
5. Full leather, 808 pages. "Alford, Stereotyper and Printer."
6. Full leather, 808 pages. "Press of Van Benthuyzen, Albany."

IV. Lincoln, His Life and Times (S 230, M 692)

The two-volume publication of Raymond's work is nothing more than a reprint from the same plates used in the preceding large volume, although the books are given a new title, *Lincoln, His Life and Times*. The two volumes have appeared in many different forms, the Foundation having acquired as many as ten variants. It can be positively sustained that the Hurst Company imprint, carrying the street address of the firm, is the first edition. On close observation one may recognize that in both volumes omitting the address after the word "Company" a comma instead of a period appears, indicating that formerly another line—the address line—followed. There are other factors which indicate the issue with street address was the first edition. Various other imprints struck from the same plates are listed in their proper sequence. The type was eventually reset and a new system of pagination arranged. The Foundation editions follow:

1. New York: Hurst and Company, 122 Nassau St., 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 5", brown cloth.
2. New York: Hurst and Company, 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 5", green cloth.
3. New York: Hurst and Company, 7 $\frac{3}{8}$ " x 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ ", red cloth.
4. Chicago: Thompson & Thomas, Publishers, 7 $\frac{3}{8}$ " x 5", red cloth, no one-half title page or frontispiece.
5. Chicago: Thompson & Thomas, Publishers, 7 $\frac{3}{8}$ " x 4 $\frac{3}{8}$ ", red cloth, "Library Edition" on backstrip.
6. Chicago: National Library Association, Publishers, 7 $\frac{3}{8}$ " x 4 $\frac{3}{8}$ ", red one-half leather, "School Library" on backstrip.
7. New York: Hurst & Company, Publishers, 7 $\frac{3}{8}$ " x 4 $\frac{3}{8}$ ", blue cloth, title page in different type.
8. New York: Hurst & Company, Publishers, 7 $\frac{3}{8}$ " x 4 $\frac{3}{8}$ ", green cloth, same title page as above.
9. Chicago: The Henneberry Company, 554 Wabash Avenue, 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ " x 4 $\frac{3}{8}$ ", red cloth, type for entire book reset, no index, 742 pages.
10. Chicago: The Henneberry Company, 554 Wabash Avenue, same as above except cover design.