

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 850

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

July 23, 1945

PICTURE POST CARDS

The movement of troops throughout the whole world has invited the use of an easily and quickly prepared message of greeting and the picture post card has admirably answered this need. It promises to again approach something of the tremendous popularity it enjoyed during the early part of the century, when the automobile extended the travel limits of the American family into every state in the union. There were few homes which did not have on display a picture post card album.

The postal hobby should solve the problem most often presented by young people who desire to collect Lincolniana but are prevented from entering the book and pamphlet field because of prohibitive cost. The collecting of Lincoln picture post cards makes possible a phase of hobby riding that offers a wide variety of biographical, historical, literary and illustrative material which is interesting as well as educational. Furthermore, no book cases, shelving, cabinets, brackets or display spaces are needed. With the exception of acquiring a pasteboard box which will conveniently hold 6" x 4" cards and some homemade index cards, the collection can be started with no expenditures for equipment.

The "Post Card Collectors Club of America," with headquarters at 807 Public Service Building, Kansas City 13, Missouri, offers through its roster a fine medium of exchange and there are several dealers who make a speciality of picture post cards in small lots or in quantities.

The Lincoln National Life Foundation has accumulated a collection of about 1200 souvenir cards which relate directly to the Lincoln story, and it has become quite a valuable reference file in gathering information about the homes, shrines, markers, statues, etc., of Abraham Lincoln. Some of the subjects which serve as index captions in the Foundation collection may be suggestive for the individual who cares to follow this hobby.

Lincoln History Markers

Almost the entire biography of Abraham Lincoln, as it relates to places he visited, could be compiled by the gathering of cards bearing the likeness of tablets or inscribed markers designating historical sites. This collection might also include cards which contain some historical reference to Lincoln, appearing on monuments, buildings, etc.

Original Photographs

It is surprising what a fine collection of reproductions of Lincoln photographs can be found on post cards. What is known as the Meserve classification or original photographs number over one hundred different portraits which opens up a large field for prospective cards.

Lincoln Letters

There are many of Lincoln's famous letters which have been put on post cards, the most famous one is the message sent to the Widow Bixby. Excerpts from letters written by Lincoln might also be included here.

Statues of Lincoln

It is doubtful if any historical character in America has been so often memorialized with life-size statues as Abraham Lincoln. There are sixty-two bronze studies of Lincoln to say nothing of the many stone statues. This

collection of cards might also include Lincoln busts, heroic heads, etc.

Lincoln Buildings

The fact that members of the Lincoln family have been in America for more than three hundred years implies that many of the homes in which different generations have lived are available in picture post cards. The list of homes might be supplemented by gathering pictures of buildings in which Lincoln spoke or visited. The city of Washington alone would supply a considerable collection of these building cards.

Occupation Cards

Lincoln was a man of many vocations and avocations. Starting in as a rail splitter, he became a farmer, a flat-boat pilot and ferryman, a grocer's clerk, storekeeper, surveyor, postmaster, lawyer and politician.

Lincoln Schools

As far as is known there has never been an attempt to list the schools in America named for Abraham Lincoln. There must be several hundred all together. Pictures of most of these schools are available on post cards. The collecting of these cards would make an intensely interesting project and the collection could be supplemented by writing on the back of each card any statement about statues, tablets, pictures or other Lincoln features which are treasured by these schools named for the Emancipator.

New Salem Cards

The rebuilt town of New Salem, Illinois, offers a fine opportunity to show the progress made in rebuilding the town with its many buildings. Starting with pictures of the Lincoln store, first photographed many years ago, a series of cards could be gathered showing the town as it appears today.

Curios

Anything that has ever been associated with Lincoln has usually been preserved as a curio and many of these objects have been reproduced on cards. There are also cards which call attention to Lincoln's profile as it appears in trees, rocks and other natural sources.

Lincoln Memorial

Probably no building in America has been more often photographed in recent years than the Lincoln Memorial at Washington. There are so many cards on this subject alone that a good sized collection could be made of the variants of this one picture.

Lincoln Mottoes

The first Lincoln item the editor of *Lincoln Lore* acquired was a post card he received, while in college, from his mother. It contained a timely motto supposed to be the words of Lincoln, but apparently it was just another spurious quotation credited to Lincoln. A collection of Lincoln sayings could be arranged by subject or in the chronological order in which the statements were made.

Lincoln Birthday Cards

Among the series of cards on holidays, there is usually found one which is a Lincoln birthday greeting card. This collection might also include cards calling attention to other significant days which use a Lincoln theme to carry the desired message.