

# 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 891

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

May 6, 1946

## BEST MAGAZINE ARTICLE, FIRST QUARTER, 1946

The best Abraham Lincoln article for the first quarter of 1946 according to the judgment of the Lincoln Foundation Advisory Group is a publication with a joint authorship, William E. Baringer and Marion Dolores Bonzi. The subject of the monograph is "*The Writings of Lincoln*." It appears in the Abraham Lincoln Quarterly for March 1946.

The Baringer-Bonzi monograph is in reality a preliminary announcement of an ambitious publishing program to be undertaken by the Abraham Lincoln Association. It is described as "An edition of the complete writings of Abraham Lincoln, fully annotated and prepared in accordance with modern scholastic standards". Special emphasis is placed on the fact that it is to be a "definitive" work.

An interesting analysis of former contributions in this field is presented with attention called to the numerous errors which crept into the volumes because of inefficient editing. Several exhibits are displayed to support the contention that a new painstaking work is needed. The fact that the much discussed Lincoln Papers in the Library of Congress may be accessible to the public in July 1947 seems to have been another incentive for the bringing out of the new compilation in the near future.

Much stress has been placed upon the careless inaccuracies and omissions which have occurred in transcribing the writings and speeches of Lincoln in the publications now available. Yet it is admitted that the editors did take pains to standardize and modernize "capitalizations, abbreviations, punctuation and word-forms."

There are some features promised in the new compilation which will be welcomed by Lincoln students especially. Lincoln's habit of underlining words for emphasis will not be overlooked. The compilers will also adhere to Lincoln's paragraphing, sentence structure, capitalization, spelling and punctuation.

Possibly the most important information about the ground work for the publication is a statement which indicates the type of the measuring rod to be used in selecting data for this significant publication. The co-authors state that "the standard proposed is to include Lincoln writings which contribute to an understanding of the man." They become even more specific by stating that "many hundreds of documents in Lincoln's hand, while valuable as autographs, and as historical material of a specialized type, have a severely limited value as 'writings.' In this category are law-cases, routine presidential telegrams and executive authorizations," while the authors imply that most of this class of manuscript material will not be used, some of the above mentioned items however, which contain personal literary expressions will be retained.

Although the opening paragraph of this preliminary article implies that the Association project anticipates the publishing of the "complete" writings of Lincoln, the concluding paragraphs would suggest that instead, a comprehensive collection of "selected" writings of Lincoln is anticipated. While we are assured that trained

transcribers will be able to greatly improve the accuracy of the writings with no words deleted we are somewhat disturbed that the personal element is to enter so largely in determining just what items shall go into the complete works.

Awarded second place in this annual contest is an article entitled "*A. Lincoln as a Practical Politician*," by M. L. Houser, published in the *National Republic* for February and March, 1946, respectively. Mr. Houser is well-known to the Lincoln fraternity for his many monographs on Lincoln's early years and the influence exerted over Lincoln by the books that came into his hands.

The author does not confine himself to any one period in which Lincoln may have displayed his genius as a politician but starting with his political forebears carries on the story of his succeeding attainments even up to the time of his assassination. It is a sort of a flash picture of Lincoln in the field of practical politics which can be read in a few moments and which would draw forth favorable comments from the readers of the *National Republic*.

While both of these articles were comparable to the first choices of other years there was a very much smaller number of available monographs in 1946 than in 1945. Last year there were eligible for consideration thirty-four contributions by such well-known Lincoln students as Bailey, Bullard, Eisenschiml, Lewis, Lorant, McClelland, McCorison, McMurtry, Monaghan, Packard, Pond, Pratt, East, Starr, Townsend, and Van Hoesen. This year less than one-third, or eleven articles were available.

The magazine monographs for the first quarter of 1946 which were given consideration by the Advisory Group follow:

1. Baringer, Wm. & Bonzi, Marion: *The Writings of Lincoln*, Abraham Lincoln Quarterly, Mar. 1946, 3-16pp.
2. Bullard, F. L.: *A Group of Lincoln Items*, Lincoln Herald, Feb. 1946, 20-24pp.
3. Bullard, F. L.: *The Lincoln Collector*, Abraham Lincoln Quarterly, March, 1946, 30-35pp.
4. Houser, M. L.: *A. Lincoln as a Practical Politician*, Pt. 1, National Republic, Feb. 1946, 19-21pp.: Pt. 2, Mar. 1946, 13-14pp.
5. Kincaid, Robert: *Lincoln Lives in the Cumberlands*, Lincoln Herald, Feb. 1946, 30-38pp.
6. Luthin, Reinhard: *Lincoln the Politician*, Lincoln Herald, Feb. 1946, 2-11pp.
7. McClelland, Stewart: *Lincoln and Common Sense*, Vital Speeches, Mar. 1, 1946, 307-310pp.
8. McMurtry, Gerald: *Rediscovering the Supposed Grave of Lincoln's Brother*, Lincoln Herald, Feb. 1946, 12-18pp.
9. Roberts, Octavia: *We All Knew Abr'ham*, Abraham Lincoln Quarterly, Mar. 1946, 17-29pp.
10. Simmonds, Claude: *Covering the Booth Escape Trail*, Lincoln Herald, Feb. 1946, 25-29pp.
11. Wheeler, Bruce: *Lincolniana of Tomorrow*, Hobbies, Feb. 1946, 16-17pp.