

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 893

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

May 20, 1946

RICE'S REMINISCENCES

A book entitled "Reminiscences of Abraham Lincoln" containing memories of the President's contemporaries compiled and edited by Charles Allen Thorndike Rice, is very familiar to the used book dealer who usually has one or more copies in stock. It is not known generally, however, that this publication went into many editions and seldom is any differentiation made of copies advertised in book catalogues. While it is true that all the issues apparently were printed from the same original plates, changes in title page imprints and bindings allows one to determine the chronological history of the book.

On January 17, 1886, the Boston Herald commented that "Mr. Allen Thorndike Rice had a happy thought when he conceived the idea of a volume of 'Reminiscences of Abraham Lincoln' by distinguished men of his time." The New York Tribune ten days later announced Rice's book "will be brought out in June by the North American Publishing Company. . . . The book will be sold by subscription only."

In the North American Review for September, 1886, there was inserted a four page pamphlet called the North American Review Advertiser, with the caption "Just Published." It presented brief reviews of Rice's volume by forty-two newspapers and magazines, the earliest dated June 11, 1886, and the latest one dated August 1, 1886.

The North American Publishing Company also distributed a pamphlet 9½ x 12 presenting specimen pages of the book and also a list of the styles of bindings as follows:

"In Fine Cloth Binding, Plain Edges	\$4.00
"In Fine Sheep Binding, Library Style, Marbled Edges	\$5.00
"In Half Morocco Binding, Marbled Edges	\$6.00
"In Full Turkey Morocco, Beveled Boards Antique Back and Gilt Edges	\$9.00

These four differently bound books of the first printing give us a start on attempting to identify the different issues of the publication which have come to the attention of the Foundation.

The title page arrangement is almost identical in all of the printings with the exception of the imprint and appears as follows:

Reminiscences/of/Abraham Lincoln/By/Distinguished Men of His Time/Collected and Edited By/Allen Thorndike Rice/Editor of the North American Review/New York/North American Publishing Company/30 Lafayette Place/1886.

1. First Cloth Edition

Title page same as above. Green cloth cover embellished on both front and back with gilt reproduction of the obverse and reverse side, respectively, of the gold medal presented by citizens of France to Mrs. Lincoln after her husband's assassination. Backstrip: Reminiscences/of/Abraham Lincoln/by/Distinguished men/of his time/Illustrated/North American Pub. Co." Illustrated, 5¼ x 9, I-LXIX, (13), 655pp. (Press of J. J. Little & Co. Nos. 10 to 20 Astor Place, New York).

2. Sheep binding

Same as above except a sheep cover and marbled-edged pages. Backstrip: red label; "Reminiscences/of/Abraham Lincoln"/Black label, "by/Distinguished Men/of this time."

3. Half Morocco

Same as number one except half morocco and plum colored cloth cover with the French medallions and gilt

backstrip inscribed: "Reminiscences/of/Abraham Lincoln/by/Distinguished Men/of His Time/Illustrated." Pages marbled-edged.

4. Full Morocco

Same as above except full morocco antique back and gilt edges.

5. English Edition

Title page same inscription as number one except type reset and the following imprint substituted, "William Blackwood and sons/Edinburg and London/North American Publishing Company, New York/MDCCLXXXVI/All Rights Reserved". Brown cloth cover with two rectangular line borders and backstrip: "Reminiscences/of/Abraham Lincoln/Edited By/Allen Thorndike Rice/William Blackwood & Sons/Edinburg & London". Black end-sheets, 6 x 9¼, Illustrated. (No press imprint lines).

6. Non-illustrated Edition

Same title page and contents as number one except illustrations lacking. Cover design, without medallions, patterned after number five. Backstrip copy also follows number five except imprint: "North American/Publishing Company". Red cover, 6 x 9¾, gilt top pages, frontispiece.

7. English Reprint

Same in every respect as number five except changed line impressions on cover and reset backstrip.

8. Non-illustrated Reprint

Same as number six except return to medallion covers similar to number one.

9. Edition of 1888

Same title page and contents, including illustrations, as number one except edition note and imprint as follows: "Sixth Edition/New York/Published by the North American Review/3 East Fourteenth Street/1888." Cover same as number eight except changed backstrip: "Reminiscences / of/Abraham Lincoln / Illustrated/by/ Distinguished Men/of his time/Edited by/Allen Thorndike Rice/Published by/The North American Review." Cover lighter green than number one, 5¼ x 9, illustrations. (Burr Printing House, Frankfort and Jacob Sts., N. Y.)

10. Federal Edition

A two volume set with title page of volume one identical with number nine. No title page in volume two but begins with Chapter XV, page 293. Same plates used as in number one. Appears like a newly rebound set but on the backstrip of the volume the inscription: "(Star)/Lincoln's Reminiscences/(Shield)/Part. I/(Star) / (Shield)/Federal Edition." Beautifully bound in half red morocco, 5¼ x 8¾, top of pages gilt.

11. Edition of 1889

Same contents and title page as number nine except "Eighth Edition" instead of "Sixth Edition" and changed date "1889" instead of "1888." Cover identical with number nine except red cloth. Same printer's note as number nine.

12. Expurgated Edition

Format entirely changed, several chapters of number one discarded, new chapter heads used and sequence rearranged. Retained chapters however use same plates as number one. Title page follows:

"Reminiscences of/Abraham Lincoln/by Distinguished Men of His Time/Collected and edited by/Allen Thorndike Rice/New and Revised edition/(Seal)/Harper & Brothers Publishers/New York and London/MCMIX". Blue cloth 5¼ x 8¾, new frontispiece but no further illus., gilt top, 488pp.