

LINCOLN LORE

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LINCOLN AND THE GROLIER CLUB SELECTIONS

One of the most significant book lists which has appeared during the last forty years has just been released by the Grolier Club. Back in 1902 the same club submitted a list of "One Hundred Books Famous in English Literature." The present contribution presents "One Hundred Influential American Books." The editors, Frank B. Adams, Jr., Thomas W. Streeter, and Carroll A. Wilson, comment that the books are those "which influenced the life and culture of the American people."

The editors' classifications seems to include as books, manuscripts or monographs, such items as the "Declaration of Independence" and the "Constitution." Upon this basis two documents of Abraham Lincoln appear: "The Emancipation Proclamation" and the "Gettysburg Address."

Our primary interest in observing this list of writers, however, is not to recognize Lincoln as the author of two of the one hundred selected titles, but to point out those numbers which influenced Lincoln himself. Exclusive of Lincoln's own two contributions there are seventy titles published previous to Lincoln's death in 1865.

It is almost certain that Lincoln read half of the seventy titles which came from the press before 1860. While he may not have had in hand the original editions mentioned in the list it would make little difference as far as the influence of the text upon Lincoln is concerned. The first compilation from the list consists of those titles which are usually mentioned in the Lincoln field as Association Books generally accepted by Lincoln students as books similar to those Lincoln read. These books with Grolier numbers arranged chronologically follow:

14. Paine, Thomas. *Common Sense*. Philadelphia, 1776.
15. Declaration of Independence. Dunlap broadside. Philadelphia, 1776.
17. Northwest Territory Ordinance. New York, 1787.
18. Constitution, The. Philadelphia, 1787.
20. Bill of Rights, The. New York, 1789.
21. Franklin, Benjamin. *Autobiography*. Paris, 1791.
24. Washington, George. *Farewell Address*. Philadelphia, 1796.
27. Weems, Mason. *Washington, 5th ("cherry tree") ed.* Augusta, Ga., 1806.
32. Bryant, William Cullen. *Poems*. Cambridge, 1821.
33. Monroe, James. *Annual Message Dec. 2, 1823 (The Monroe Doctrine)*. Washington, 1823.
34. Cooper, James F. *The Last of the Mohicans*. Philadelphia, 1826.
36. Webster, Noah. *An American Dictionary*. New York, 1828.
37. Smith, Joseph. *The Book of Morman*. Palmyra, (N.Y.), 1830.
43. Hawthorne, Nathaniel. *Twice-Told Tales*. Boston, 1837.
44. Emerson, Ralph Waldo. *American Scholar*. Boston, 1837.
47. Emerson, Ralph Waldo. *Essays*. Boston, 1841-44.
48. Longfellow, Henry W. *Ballads*. Cambridge, 1842.
51. Holmes, Oliver, W. *The Contagiousness of Puerperal Fever*. Boston, 1843.
54. Poe, Edgar Allan. *Tales*, New York, 1845.
55. Poe, Edgar Allan. *The Raven, and Other Poems*. New York, 1845.
57. Lowell, James Russell. *The Bigelow Papers*, Cambridge, 1848.
59. Hawthorne, Nathaniel. *The Scarlet Letter*. Boston, 1850.
61. Stowe, Harriet Beecher. *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Boston, 1852.
64. Longfellow, Henry W. *The Song of Hiawatha*. Boston, 1855.
65. Whitman, Walt. *Leaves of Grass*. Brooklyn, 1855.

68. Taney, Roger (and others). *Dred Scott v. Sanford*. Washington, 1857.

69. Holmes, Oliver W. *The Autocrat of the Breakfast Table*. Boston, 1858.

The second compilation of titles in the Grolier list contains books we are almost certain Lincoln read in whole or in part because of his special interest in these fields. Although we do not have affirmations which will allow their inclusion in the Lincoln Association Book List. We are submitting them here:

9. Zenger, John Peter. *Brief Narrative of Case and Trial*. New York, 1736.
19. Hamilton, Madison and Jay. *The Federalist*. New York, 1788.
22. Thomas, Robert. *Farmers' Almanac for 1793*. Boston, 1792.
26. Marshall, John. *Marbury v. Madison*. Washington, 1804.
30. Lewis, Meriwether and Clark, William. *History of the Expedition to the Pacific Ocean*. Philadelphia, 1814.
35. Goodrich, Samuel. *Peter Parley's Tales About America*. Boston, 1827.
39. Crockett, David. *Crockett Almanack for 1835*. Nashville (Tenn.), 1934.
49. Prescott, William. *History of the Conquest of Mexico*. New York, 1843.
50. Fremont, J. C. *Report on Exploration of Country Lying Between the Missouri River and the Rocky Mountains*. Washington, 1843.
58. Parkman, Francis, Jr. *The California and Oregon Trail*. New York, 1849.

The third compilation contains a few notations about some of the remaining authors appearing in the Grolier list. These men wrote about the time or shortly after Lincoln's death and have in some way contributed to the Lincoln story.

65. Whitman, Walt.

Two of Whiman's Lincoln poems, both inspired by the President's death and funeral vie with each other for popularity: one, "O Captain, My Captain" and the other "When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloomed." Both appeared in a book of poems by Whitman called *Memories of Lincoln*, published in 1906.

73. Whittier, John Greenleaf.

When the Emancipation Group was dedicated at Boston in 1879, Whittier contributed a poem of seven stanzas entitled *Lincoln*.

74. Alger, Horatio, Jr.

The boyhood series by Alger contains a biography entitled *Abraham Lincoln, the Backwoods Boy or How a Young Railsplitter became President*. It was published in 1883.

83. Harris, Joel Chandler.

Nine years after writing *Uncle Remus*, Mr. Harris brought out a book entitled *On the Wing of Occasions* which contains five "Certain Curious Episodes of the Civil War, including the Hitherto Suppressed Narrative of the Kidnapping of President Lincoln." The book was reprinted in 1909 with the title *The Kidnapping of Lincoln*.

87. Howells, William Dean.

Mr. Howells, while an editorial writer on the Ohio State Journal at Columbus, when but 23 years of age wrote a campaign biography entitled *The Lives of Lincoln and Hamlin*.

100. Markham, Edwin.

The last mentioned title in the Grolier list is *The Man With the Hoe* published by Markham in 1897. There are critics who feel that the poet's "Lincoln, The Man of the People" occupies an equally prominent place in verse.