

LINCOLN LORE

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LINCOLN ANECDOTES BY PAUL SELBY

Paul Selby is a very familiar name to Lincoln students and especially to the Illinois constituency. Selby left Illinois College at Jacksonville in his junior year to take over the management of the *Morgan Journal*. He was largely responsible for calling the Anti-Nebraska Editorial Convention at Decatur on February 22, 1856. As chairman of the assembly he was instrumental in formulating the Republican State Central Committee which designated May 29 as the date for the Bloomington convention.

Absent from newspaper work for a time he was employed as editor of the Illinois State Register. Later he became associated with Chicago newspapers. In 1868 he became the editor and later the owner of the Quincy Whig. In 1874 he returned to Springfield, Illinois, and purchased an interest in the Illinois State Journal. He served as Postmaster of Springfield for six years and later became editor of the "Journal." He remained in Springfield until 1889 when he moved to Chicago and it was a year later that he brought out the first edition of his book on Lincoln stories.

There is probably no general subject in the field of Lincolniana where there has been a more consistent distribution of publications than books containing compilations of anecdotes by and about Abraham Lincoln.

Although Selby's book went into many editions with but slight changes in the title, apparently the same plates continued to be used with the exception of the illustrations, many of which became so worn that new ones had to be substituted. The Foundation has discovered eighteen different issues of the book, and it is likely that others may be brought to light.

The Anecdotal Series (O1258-M1304)

Anecdotal Lincoln/Speeches, Stories and Yarns/of the "Immortal Abe"/including/Stories of Lincoln's early life, stories of Lincoln/as a lawyer, presidential incidents, stories/of the war Lincoln's letters and great speeches chronologically/arranged with/Biographical Sketch/by/Paul Selby/. . . /Fully Illustrated/Chicago/Thompson & Thomas/267 Wabash Ave./1900

1. Title page above. Light brown cover highly decorated with full length portrait of Lincoln surrounded by wreath. Backstrip "Anecdotal/Lincoln/Paul Selby/(torch)/Illustrated/" 8 x 6, 469pp., illustrated.
2. Title page same as above, except imprint in different type and date lacking. Plates same as above. Cover same as above except backstrip reset. 8 x 6, 2 in. thick, on cheap paper.
3. Title page reset but same wording as above except address line omitted in imprint. Plates same as above except preface appears on verso page. Cover same as above except backstrip again reset. Three line copyright notice on back of title page instead of two lines as heretofore. 8 x 6, better quality paper.
4. Title page same as number 4 except imprint reset. Plates same as above except return to two line copyright notice and preface appears on recto page. Bound in red cover with ornaments similar to above except backstrip reset as follows: "Anecdotal/Lincoln/(torch)/Paul Selby." 8 x 5½, pages untrimmed.
5. Title page and contents same as above. Reddish brown cloth cover. Backstrip same as number one but reset, 7¾ x 5½, gilt top, thin.

The Hill-Madison Series (F568-M1305)

The Life, Stories/and Speeches of/Abraham Lincoln/A Compilation of/Lincoln's Most Remarkable Utterances/with a Sketch of His Life/By Paul Selby/Chicago New York/George M. Hill Company/MDCCC

6. Title page above. Same plates as number one. Reddish brown cover but no pictorial design. Backstrip. "The Life/Stories and/Speeches of/Abraham/Lincoln/Illustrated/George M. Hill Co." 7¾ x 5½, gilt top, illustrated.
7. Same as above except date MDCCCXI.
8. Same as above except imprint: Chicago Madison Book Co., 1902.

Stories and Speeches Series (O1259-M1306)

Stories and Speeches/of/Abraham Lincoln/Including/Stories of Lincoln's early life, stories/Lincoln as a Lawyer, Presidential/incidents, Stories of the/war, etc., etc./Lincoln's Letters and Great Speeches/Chronologically Arranged;/With/Biographical Sketch/By Paul Selby,/. . . /Fully Illustrated/Thompson & Thomas/Chicago

9. Title page above. Same plates as number one except two line copyright and preface on verso page. New cloth cover design showing bust portrait of Lincoln cabin, Capitol, eagle and flag. Backstrip. "Stories/and/Speeches /of/Abraham Lincoln"/((torch in wreath) 7½ x 5, 469pp, illustrated.
10. Title page same as above. Same plates as above except three line copyright. Glazed paper cover with Lincoln and four other characters in store room. Backstrip (vertical line) "Stories and speeches of Abraham Lincoln Selby" 7½ x 5, 469pp, illustrated.
11. Title page same as above. Same plates as above. Same cover as number six. 7¾ x 4¾.
12. Same as above in every particular except slight change in backstrip makeup.
13. Same as above except in green cover and preface appears on recto instead of verso page.

The 1902 Series (O1261-M1307)

Lincoln's Life/Stories and Speeches/By/Paul Selby / . . . /Letters and Speeches Chronologically/Arranged/ Illustrated/Thompson & Thomas/Chicago/Copyright 1902 Thompson & Thomas

14. Title page above. Same plates as number one except new set of illustrations and a frontispiece. Ornamental title page in two colors. Cloth with red leather backstrip. 8 x 5½, 469pp, illustrated.
15. Title page same as above but type reset and different imprint "Chicago/Stanton and Van Vliet Co/Publishers/ Copyright MCMII Thompson & Thomas." Contents same as above. Same cover design as number nine. Light grey cloth with backstrip "Stories/and/Speeches/of/Abraham Lincoln/(torch in wreath)/Stanton/and/Van Vliet."
16. Identical with above but bound in blue cloth and slight variation on backstrip.
17. Same as above except imprint "Chicago/John R. Stanton Co./Publishers/Copyright MCMII Thompson & Thomas/Made in U.S.A." Also change in backstrip with imprint "Santon/Company/Chicago."
18. Identical with above except lacks frontispiece and illustrations.