

# LINCOLN LORE

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## LINCOLN BOOKS FOR CASUAL READERS AND SMALL LIBRARIES

Under the caption "Fifty Important Lincoln Books," Lincoln Lore published on April 29, 1935, a compilation of fifty titles as a foundation list for the building of a comprehensive Lincoln Library. A book has just been published under the title, *A Shelf of Lincoln Books*, although the eighty-five titles named comprising 115 volumes require six standard size book shelves to properly care for them. Both of these compilations have been prepared for students, collectors or librarians who may have a special interest in Lincolniana.

There is a pressing need for a list of Lincoln books, few in number, recommended especially for the casual reader. The same list also might serve as a reference shelf for a private or small public library. A single sectional bookcase would serve as the maximum space anticipated for the proposed list, which includes as few as fifteen titles.

A very important factor in the arrangement of such a collection of books is the gradation of selected titles. Each item in the compilation is named in a progressive order according to its importance for the casual reader. If but one book is acquired it should be number one, if two are desired numbers one and two should be secured, etc. This plan does not imply that Stern (number one) is superior to Sandburg's (number ten) but it does imply that limited to one volume Stern is the most satisfactory publication for either a casual reader or a small library.

The duplication of subject matter has been avoided as much as possible which has necessitated the leaving out of some very worthwhile publications that cover the same ground discussed in the volumes already selected. This plan is followed on the theory that it would be more beneficial and interesting to read a dozen volumes containing a diversity of subject matter than to read a dozen well known biographies of Lincoln which might lead to bewilderment rather than enlightenment.

Some of the selections noted may not measure up to the standard set by profound historians but it must be remembered that the list is prepared primarily for casual readers whose efforts may be largely stimulated by the human interest approach.

Availability is another factor which has been considered in selecting these titles for the casual reader. Little good would come from recommending a book if its scarcity and high value makes it very difficult to acquire. The price at which the cheaper editions of the new books in the list were sold is noted and it will be observed that the maximum cost of the entire Lincoln shelf amounts to \$58.59.

1. STERN, PHILIP VAN DOREN—LIFE AND WORKS  
*The Life and Writings of Abraham Lincoln*. Random House Inc., 1940, 863 p., \$1.45. The Foundation's selection for the outstanding one volume work on Abraham Lincoln. Contains a 25 page chronology, a most excellent 200 page biography and 625 pages of Lincoln's writings.
2. COLVER, ANNE.....WIFE  
*Mr. Lincoln's Wife*. Farrar & Rinehart, 1943, 406 p., \$2.50. Not always fair to Mrs. Lincoln but the most interesting picture of the social and domestic atmosphere in which Lincoln moved.
3. TARBELL, IDA M.....HOMES  
*In the Footsteps of Abraham Lincoln*. Harper & Bros., 1924, 418 p., \$4.00. A volume of orientation which will allow the reader to picture the seven generations of Lincolns in the American scene as they participate in a typical American migration.
4. LORANT, STEFAN.....APPEARANCE  
*Lincoln: His Life in Photographs*. Duell, Sloan & Pearce, 1941, 196 p., \$3.00. Reveals how Lincoln looked

and serves as a volume of identification of many people and places associated with Lincoln.

5. HERTZ, EMANUEL.....ANECDOTES  
*Lincoln Talks, a Biography in Anecdote*. Halcyon House, 1941, 685 p., \$1.39. The most complete compilation of stories Lincoln told and those told about him. Not all authentic but as a reference book in this field it is unexcelled.
6. BARTON, WILLIAM E.....RELIGION  
*The Soul of Abraham Lincoln*. George H. Doran Co., 1920, 407 p., \$4.00. An approach to the study of Lincoln's religious experience beginning with parental influence and observing him react to the higher law through the trying ordeal of civil war.
7. WOLDMAN, ALBERT A.....PROFESSION  
*Lawyer Lincoln*. Houghton Mifflin Co., 1936, 347 p., \$3.50. The legal profession was Lincoln's vocation and the book on this subject by Woldman is to be preferred over other publications discussing this phase of Lincoln's life.
8. PRATT, HARRY E.....FINANCES  
*The Personal Finances of Abraham Lincoln*. Rutgers Univ. Press, 1943, 198 p., \$3.50. Here is set forth the financial standing of Lincoln showing how he gradually established himself as a substantial citizen of Springfield. The report of the executor of his estate is also presented.
9. SHAW, ALBERT.....POLITICS  
I. *Abraham Lincoln: His Path to the Presidency*.  
II. *Abraham Lincoln: The Year of His Election*. (Two volumes in one.) Grossett & Dunlap, 1929, 266 and 299 pp., \$2.00. An excellent account of Lincoln's political advancement. A profusion of cartoons presenting Lincoln and his contemporaries in caricatures creates an intensely interesting atmosphere for the text.
10. SANDBURG, CARL.....ADMINISTRATION  
*The War Years*. Harcourt Brace & Co., 4 vols., 660, 655, 673, 515 pp., \$20.00. By far the most comprehensive story of Lincoln's part in the great struggle and besides its absorbing literary style, its exhaustive index makes it virtually an encyclopedia for the war years.
11. BRYAN, GEORGE S.....ASSASSINATION  
*The Great American Myth*. Carrick & Evans, 1940, 438 p., \$3.75. A clear and convincing narrative of Lincoln's assassination without any attempt to introduce theories and conclusions which are not warranted by factual evidence.
12. WILLIAMS, A. DALLAS.....ANTHOLOGY  
*The Praise of Lincoln*. The Bobbs-Merrill Co., 1911, 243 p., \$2.00. A compilation of 127 of the better known poems with author, title and first line indexed.
13. LEWIS, LLOYD.....FOLKLORE  
*Myths After Lincoln*. The Press of the Reader's Club, 1941, 367 p., \$1.50. A folklore presentation of the mythical Lincoln revealing the growth of the Lincoln legend.
14. DAUGHERTY, JAMES.....JUVENILE  
*Abraham Lincoln*. Viking Press, 1943, 216 p., \$3.50. A biography with many illustrations in graphic style which a parent might read to a child or place on the bookshelf as a Lincoln biography for the whole family.
15. MORROW, HONORE.....FICTION  
*Great Captain. The Lincoln Trilogy of: Forever Free, With Malice Towards None, The Last Full Measure*. William Morrow & Co., 1935, 402, 339, 343 pp., \$2.50. This book contains three of the best known Lincoln novels by the writer of the most popular Lincoln fiction.