

LINCOLN LORE

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A DOZEN 1946 LINCOLN BOOKS

Year by year the steady flow of Lincoln books which come from the press is one of the most convincing proofs of the martyred President's immortality. There are two different tendencies which are observed in the attitude of authors and publishers respectively, that would seem to stem the tide of new Lincoln titles. The author is usually apologetic for adding still another book to the crowded shelves which leaves the impression on the prospective writer that he should first have to beg the reader's pardon for writing the book. On the other hand the publisher through prospectus, dust jacket and invited reviews, somehow gets over the idea that the volume is a "definitive" work. This position likewise discourages the young author to launch an investigation where all the source material has long since been garnered and the last word written on the subject.

This word "definitive" has been applied so generally that it is rapidly losing its original meaning. The Oxford Dictionary defines the word "definitive" as something "to be regarded as final, not subject to revision." Did any author ever write a book that he did not feel he could improve upon before the ink was hardly dry? Is it possible to think in terms of a revised edition of a "definitive" book? If the author himself cannot look upon his work as "absolute", what do his contemporaries in the same field think about it? It would be a rich experience to read an historical treatise on any subject that was the final word and not subject to revision.

Some of the Lincoln books appearing in 1946 represent the highest type of scholarship and in many instances the authors seem to have exerted every possible effort to unearth all known facts on the subject. One does not envy the Foundation Advisory Group which is to select the "Lincoln Book of the Year" from such a fine selection of eligible titles as are here presented:

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Angle, Paul M.—*A Shelf of Lincoln Books*. New Brunswick: Rutgers Press. 142 pp. Price \$3.00.

"A critical Selective Bibliography of Lincolniana" containing notations on eighty-one outstanding Lincoln publications representing the work of sixty-one authors.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY

Hendrick, Burton J.—*Lincoln's War Cabinet*. Little, Brown and Company. 482 pp. Price \$5.00.

A biographical history of the Lincoln executive family with special stress placed on the big three members, Seward, Stanton, and Chase.

EPISODE

Bullard, F. Lauriston—*Abraham Lincoln and the Widow Bixby*. Rutgers University Press, New Brunswick, Conn. 154 pp. \$3.00.

An exhaustive study of the letter written to the widow Bixby with further evidence relating to the Bixby family and the authorship of the letter.

ESSAYS

Sumner, G. Lynn—*Meet Abraham Lincoln*. Profiles of the Prairie President. Privately printed for Abraham Lincoln Book Shop. Price \$5.00.

A limited deluxe edition presenting five essays written for the purpose of creating a greater interest in the life of Lincoln. Books He Read, Women He Loved, His Cabinet, His Generals, and The Union are the captions.

GENEALOGY

Wayland, John W.—*The Lincolns in Virginia*. Privately printed. Harrisonburg, Va. 299 pp. \$6.50.

A compilation of genealogical records relating to the Virginia Lincolns and cognate families with some folklore current about the Lincolns in the county where they lived.

LECTURES

Randall, J. G.—*Lincoln and the South*. Louisiana State University Press, Baton Rouge. 161 pp. Price \$1.50.

A series of four addresses delivered in "The Walter Lynwood Fleming Lectures in Southern History." The titles of the lectures are: 1. When Lincoln Looked South. 2. Lincoln and the Southern Border. 3. Design for Freedom. 4. Design for Peace.

LEGENDS

Lewis, Montgomery—*Legends That Libel Lincoln*. Rinehart & Company, Inc., New York. 239 pp. \$2.75.

A discussion which brings to the attention of the reader folklore which has been gathered about three characters in the Lincoln story, Thomas Lincoln, Ann Rutledge, and Mary Todd.

MONOGRAPHS

Kuhn, Isaac—*Abraham Lincoln, a Vast Future*. Privately printed by Jos. Kuhn & Co., Champaign, Ill. 50 pp.

A collection of monographs, most of them bearing on Lincoln's legal practice in Illinois.

REMINISCENCES

Ross, Harvey Lee—*Lincoln's First Year in Illinois*. The Primavera Press, Inc., N. Y., 1946. 72 pp. Price \$5.00.

A reprint in a limited edition of some early reminiscences of Mr. Ross first presented in 1896 and now republished and annotated by Rufus Rockwell Wilson.

ROMANCE

Carruthers, Olive & McMurtry, R. Gerald—*Lincoln's Other Mary*. Ziff-Davis Publishing Company, Chicago, New York. 299 pp. Price \$2.50.

The story of Abraham Lincoln's love affair with Mary Owens and an appendix with the supporting documents.

SERMON

Jones, Edgar DeWitt—*The Greatening of Abraham Lincoln*. The Bethany Press, St. Louis. Price \$5.00.

A limited edition of the sermon by Dr. Jones which won the H. D. Long prize sermon contest in competition with some of America's outstanding clergymen.

WRITINGS AND SPEECHES

Basler, Roy—*Abraham Lincoln: His Speeches and Writings*. Edited with Critical and Analytical Notes. The World Publishing Company, Cleveland and New York. 843 pp. Price \$3.75.

A collection of Lincoln's most important works carefully copied from primary sources and edited with critical and analytical notes.