

# LINCOLN LORE

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## PUBLISHED WORKS OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN

The first volume of *Uncollected Works of Abraham Lincoln* by Rufus Rockwell Wilson is now off the press and it covers the period from 1824 to 1840. At least four volumes are anticipated, and the set limited to 2050 numbered and signed copies. Mr. Wilson proposes "to assemble and annotate letters, speeches and other papers of Abraham Lincoln that have come to light . . . since 1905 when Nicolay and Hay published an enlarged final edition of their complete works of Abraham Lincoln." Discoveries including unpublished items such as may appear in the Lincoln papers soon to be opened in the Library of Congress will be included in subsequent volumes. The appearance of the first installment of the Wilson work has invited a condensed summary of previous attempts to compile and print the writings and speeches of the Emancipator.

### Campaign Collections

Possibly Abraham Lincoln himself should be recognized as the first compiler of any considerable number of his speeches as he prepared copy for the text of his debates with Douglas.

1860—Lincoln, Abraham—*Political Debates between Hon. Abraham Lincoln and Hon. Stephen A. Douglas*. 268 p.

1860—Bartlett, D. W.—*The Life and Public Services of Hon. Abraham Lincoln*. 153-348 p.

1860—Howells—*Lives and Speeches of Abraham Lincoln and Hannibal Hamlin*. 115-304 p.

1864—Raymond, H. J.—*History of the Administration of President Lincoln including his Speeches, Letters, Addresses, Proclamations, and Messages*. 518 p.

### Post-mortem Compilations

Francis Lieber wrote in a letter to a New York publisher in 1865 that by bringing out a book of Lincoln's works, "You would make the Martyr rear his own monument which no years, no centuries could level and cause to again mingle with the dust."

1865—(Lieber, Francis)—*The Martyr's Monument*. 297 p.

1865—Hale, Edward Everett—*The President's Words*. 186 p.

1865—Crosby, Frank—*The Life of Abraham Lincoln*. 476 p.

### Compilations in the Twenties

J. B. McClure of Chicago wrote on July 4, 1891, in the preface of his book entitled *Abraham Lincoln's Speeches*, this interesting observation.

"For the first time—strange to say—and in this volume are presented to the public the speeches of Abraham Lincoln as full and complete as is possible for any one to collate them."

1890—Van Buren, G. M.—*Abraham Lincoln's Pen and Voice*. 435 p.

1891—McClure, J. B.—*Abraham Lincoln's Speeches Complete*. 478 p.

1895—Oldroyd, Osborn, H.—*Words of Lincoln*. 221 p.

1895—Chittenden L. E.—*Abraham Lincoln's Speeches*. 371 p.

1897—Richardson, J. D.—*Messages and Papers of the Presidents*. 297 p.

1898—Thomas, Isaac—*The Words of Abraham Lincoln*. 270 p.

1898—Perry, Bliss—*The Best of Lincoln*. 156 p.

### The Nicolay and Hay Series

It may have been the appearance of McClure's book of speeches which caused Robert Lincoln to write on May 30, 1893, to John Nicolay urging a compilation of Abraham Lincoln's complete works. (For check list of various editions see Lincoln Lore No. 631).

1894—Nicolay and Hay—*Abraham Lincoln Complete Works*. Two vols. I, 695 p., II, 770 p.

1905—Nicolay and Hay (Tandy)—*Complete Works of Abraham Lincoln*. 12 volumes.

### Pre-Centennial Books

The years preceding the centennial of Abraham Lincoln's birth saw a revival of interest in the publication of Lincoln books, especially those containing Lincoln's own works.

1900—Taylor, H. S. and Fulwiler, P. M.—*Lincoln's Words on Living Questions*. 175 p.

1900—Tarbell, Ida—*The Life of Abraham Lincoln*. Vol. II, 265-459 p.

1902—Selby, Paul—*Lincoln; Life, Stories and Speeches*. 254-469 p.

1903—Bell, Howard Wilford—*Abraham Lincoln, Letters and Addresses*. 325 pages of documents and 47 pages of annotations.

1906—Adam, Mercer—*Speeches of Abraham Lincoln*. 417 p.

1907—Rhys, Ernest—*Speeches and Letters of Abraham Lincoln 1832-1865*. 237 p.

1908—Lincoln Centenary Association (N. Y.)—*The Speeches of Abraham Lincoln*. 417 p.

### School Text Selections

One of the results of the centennial celebration was to make the schools more conscious of the value of Lincoln's writings. Some of the more important cloth bound selections of this period are noted.

1911—Tarbell, Ida M.—*Selections from the Letters, Speeches and State Papers of Abraham Lincoln*. 124 p.

1914—Moore, Charles W.—*Addresses and Letters, Lincoln*. 223 p.

1920—Hart, Albert Bushnell—*Selected Writings of Abraham Lincoln*. 322 p.

1922—Hamilton, J. G. De Rouillac—*Selections from the Writings of Abraham Lincoln*. 424 p.

1927—Stephensen, Nathaniel Wright—*Selections from Lincoln*. 404 p.

1927—Wright, Alfred A.—*Readings from Lincoln*. 287 p.

### Unpublished Letters

In 1917 Gilbert A. Tracy inaugurated a new approach in his book by ignoring works already appearing in other printed volumes and using only unpublished items.

1917—Tracy, Gilbert A.—*Uncollected Letters of Abraham Lincoln*. 264 p.

1927—Brown University—*Lincoln Letters Hitherto Unpublished in the Library of Brown University*. 66 p.

1930—Angle, Paul M.—*New Letters and Papers of Lincoln*. 387 p.

1931—Hertz, Emanuel—*A New Portrait*. II vol., 1006 p.

### Selected Writings

The last few years the trend in compilations of Lincoln's works has been towards selections rather than unpublished documents, culminating in Basler's admirable volume.

1940—Stern, Philip Van Doren—*Life and Writings of Abraham Lincoln*. 863 p.

1941—Lang, H. Jack—*The Wit and Wisdom of Abraham Lincoln*. 265 p.

1943—Williams, T. H.—*Selected Writings and Speeches of Abraham Lincoln*. 269 p.

1944—Foner, Philip S.—*Abraham Lincoln, Selections from his Writings*. 96 p.

1946—Basler, Roy P.—*Abraham Lincoln: His Speeches and Writings*. 483 p.