

# LINCOLN LORE

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## THE BOOK OF THE YEAR, 1947

The fact that Benjamin Thomas' new Lincoln book entitled, *Portrait for Posterity* had a special appeal to students of Abraham Lincoln, almost assured it a preeminent place in the minds of the Advisory Group, who are themselves deeply interested in all that has been written about the Emancipator. The complimentary reviews which it received by critics, outside the Lincoln fraternity, indicates that it also had a good reception elsewhere.

Lincoln students also anticipated that Paul Angle's *Lincoln Reader* would be named for one of the two first choices. It is noteworthy indeed that this anthology, which received honorable mention, should also be the work of a former secretary of the Abraham Lincoln Association.

Comments on *Portrait for Posterity*, the Book of the Year for 1947, selected by the Foundation Advisory Group, call for a somewhat different treatment than has been customary on other occasions, when the Book of the Year has been featured. The fact that both of the books receiving first and second honors have already been given attention at the time of their publication, has made it seem superfluous to write further comments on these titles. The fact that both of the authors recognized have served as secretaries of the Abraham Lincoln Association, has suggested that this issue of Lincoln Lore might place the emphasis on the contributing authors, instead of commenting on their books.

Aside from Thomas and Angle, some recognition should also be given to other authors who have served, or are now serving, as the secretary of the Abraham Lincoln Association at Springfield, Illinois. All of these authors have had one or more books falling within the first two selections of the Book of the Year contests.

As an additional caption, associated with the name of the author, there is a descriptive term used which from the viewpoint of the editor of Lincoln Lore, best characterizes the author's contribution, thus far, to Lincoln literature:

### PAUL M. ANGLE — EDITOR

The first secretary of the Abraham Lincoln Association, then known as the Lincoln Centennial Association, has become one of the most successful editors of Lincolniana. With the possible exception of one title, "*Here I Have Lived*," all of his books are compilations, anthologies, or reprints. Students of Lincoln will always be under obligation to him for making available in new formats out-of-print books, compiling episodes in Lincoln's life, arranging chronologically unpublished writings, and specifically, and more recently, preparing a voluminous anthology, arranged chronologically of Lincoln monographs by various authors.

#### Books by Mr. Angle

- 1930 — *New Letters and Papers of Lincoln*
- 1933 — *Lincoln, 1854-1861, Being the Day-by-Day Activities from January 1, 1854 to March 4, 1861*
- 1935 — "*Here I Have Lived*"; *A History of Lincoln's Springfield, 1821-1865*
- 1946 — *A Shelf of Lincoln Books. A Critical Selective Bibliography of Lincolniana*
- 1947 — *The Lincoln Reader*
- 1947 — *Abraham Lincoln. His Autobiographical Writings Now Brought Together For the First Time*

### HARRY E. PRATT — RESEARCH HISTORIAN

Soon after Harry E. Pratt became secretary of the association his ability as a research historian became evident. Many extremely important discoveries in the field of Lincolniana were made during his incumbency and the early records in Illinois courthouses had a thorough scanning while he was at the State Capitol. The publications which bear his name give evidence of his wide search for documentary sources.

#### Books by Mr. Pratt

- 1939 — *Lincoln, 1840-1846. Being the Day-by-Day Activities of Abraham Lincoln from January 1, 1840 to December 31, 1846.*
- 1941 — *Lincoln, 1809-1839. Being the Day-by-Day Activities of Abraham Lincoln from February 12, 1809 to December 31, 1839.*
- 1943 — *The Personal Finances of Abraham Lincoln*
- 1944 — *Concerning Mr. Lincoln. In which Abraham Lincoln is Pictured as He Appeared to Letter Writers of His Time.*

### BENJAMIN P. THOMAS — BIOGRAPHER

The introduction to the first Lincoln book edited by Benjamin P. Thomas, one of the Day-by-Day series, gave evidence that the author had a flare for writing. The excellent sketch of a rather unimportant part of Lincoln's life, as far as the Illinois years are concerned, gave promise of a work such as his book on the New Salem years. We are hoping that Mr. Thomas's *Portrait for Posterity*, the book of the year for 1947, will not be his last contribution.

#### Books by Mr. Thomas

- 1934 — *Lincoln's New Salem*
- 1936 — *Lincoln, 1847-1853. Being the Day-by-Day activities of Abraham Lincoln from January 1, 1847 to December 31, 1853*
- 1947 — *Portrait for Posterity*

### WILLIAM BARINGER — OBJECTIVE HISTORIAN

The ability of William Baringer as an objective historian has been recognized by the rapidly growing University of Florida which has called him to a chair of History at their institution. He was very fortunate in securing the services of The Lakeside Press for the binding of his most recent book, which was recognized by the American Institute of Graphic Arts as one of "The Fifty Books of the Year."

#### Books by Mr. Baringer

- 1937 — *Lincoln's Rise to Power*
- 1945 — *A House Dividing. Lincoln as President Elect.*

### ROY P. BASLER — COMPILER

The appointment of the present secretary of the Abraham Lincoln Association, Mr. Roy P. Basler, was a happy selection indeed. The work cut out for him for the next few years, the preparing of a complete edition of the speeches and writings of Abraham Lincoln, could not have found a more efficient compiler. His last excellent compilation presenting the outstanding Lincoln writings and speeches, is a fine example of his thoroughness.

#### Books by Mr. Basler

- 1935 — *The Lincoln Legend. A study of Changing Conceptions.*
- 1946 — *Abraham Lincoln: His Speeches and Writings. Edited with Critical and Analytical Notes.*