

LINCOLN LORE

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PRE-CONVENTION COOPER UNION PAMPHLETS

Every year with the occurrence of the Cooper Union Speech anniversary, there is an urgent invitation to stress again the significance of this extremely important occasion in the political advancement of Abraham Lincoln. The delivery of the address itself was of primary value, and subsequent speeches made in New England contributed mightily to the consummation of Lincoln's nomination at Chicago. However, the wide circulation of the speech through the press, and separately printed pamphlets, was the most important by-product of the Cooper Union engagement. The pre-convention pamphlets follow.

Tribune Tracts No. 4 (Monaghan 50)

The Lincoln Bibliography by Monaghan lists but one issue of *Tribune Tract No. 4* but the Foundation library has six copies which give evidence of having been printed at different times. The many issues indicate that there was a great demand for the publication. While carrying the same contents, the sequence of the different issues is easily determined by type injuries and type resets. Apparently the pamphlet was never issued in stereotyped form but printed from movable type as revealed by variations in the condition of the type.

Paul M. Angle prepared a monograph entitled, "Four Lincoln Firsts" which was read before the Chicago 1941 meeting of the Bibliographical Society of America. He selected *Tribune Tracts No. 4*, published by the New York Tribune, as one of these "firsts." He established the fact that it was brought from the press on March 6, 1860, on the eighth day after the delivery of the speech.

Variants

- First Printing — Type impression sharp and clean. Paper thin and good quality. Double stitched.
- Thick Paper Printing — Type impression gives evidence of former run. Paper much heavier but much poorer quality than (a). Single stitch similar to following printings.
- Dropped Hyphen Printing — Hyphen dropped at end of second line, second column, first page, does not reappear in subsequent editions. Type injury evident in first ten lines of second column page 8 which continues through all printings.
- Injured Type Printing — Serious injury to type in caption and first column on first page.
- Replacement Printing — Many of the injured type on first page replaced, including a lower case "r" instead of upper case "r" in first word "Mr."
- Dropped Page Number Printing — The page number "15" is dropped over the caption "Medary's Veto." The damaged rule under the caption becomes more mutilated with each printing.

The Republican Party Vindicated (Monaghan 56)

Mr. Angle after selecting the Tribune pamphlet as the earliest production submits *The Republican Party Vindicated* printed in Washington, "as a possible contestant of *Tribune Tract No. 4*'s claim to primacy." He submits that "the best reason for assigning priority to *Tribune Tract No. 4* lies in the fact that in 1860, New York and Washington were at least a day apart as far as mail was concerned. Presumably the New York Tribune got out, *Tribune Tract No. 4*, as soon as possible after the delivery of the speech. If *The Republican Party Vindicated* was also issued as soon as possible it would have been at least a day later."

The expression "as soon as possible," at best, presents a purely relative situation. When it is used to measure the time element required to complete tasks undertaken by two different publishing houses, located in different cities, with different promotional objectives motivating their efforts, the term seems quite inadequate. The "one day later" transportation suggestion, which Mr. Angle submits as "the best reason" for the primacy of the New

York over the Washington pamphlet, also seems inadequate in the light of the following facts about the contents and format of the Washington pamphlet.

The Republican Party Vindicated contains no material extraneous to the Cooper Union meeting, while the New York imprint embraces four separate contributions with an excess of three pages of printed matter. The New York pamphlet was stitched and trimmed, causing two extra operations, while the Washington publication was neither stitched nor trimmed. With an eight-day interval, the one-day New York margin due to transportation, in the light of these other time saving elements, seems to fade out.

Variants

- First Printing — Single column, 16 pages, 9½ x 6, uncut, title occupies full page.
- Two Column Issue — Double column, 8 pages, 9½ x 6, uncut, contains announcement, "Presidential Campaign of 1860", (Monaghan 55).
- Two column variant — Same as above except a different printing.

Press and Tribune Documents for 1860,

No. 1 (Monaghan 51)

Mr Angle admits that there may have been but a day separating the New York and Washington pamphlets. Yet he brings into the contest a Chicago printing, which he states was probably "closest in time" to the New York publication, although admitting that it was later by several days than the New York issue.

The bibliography by Mr. Monaghan mentions a copy of the Chicago pamphlet as the first edition, which omits the word "great" from the title, but this copy in the Foundation library is clearly a stereotyped printing. The Foundation does have a copy set in movable type which appears to be an earlier printing. The stereotyped copy is from a different format which corrects some errors in the movable type copy. There must also have been an original type format for the stereotyped copy. But whether impressions were struck from it before the stereotype plate was made, has not been ascertained.

Variants

- First Printing — Contains the word "great" in subtitle and also price line. Type impression sharp and clean from movable type. Size of paper 9½ x 6¼ uncut.
- Stereotyped Printing — Word "great" absent in title. Apparently printed from stereotype plate bears no relation to the (a) format. Column wider and entire copy reset. A few corrections made of text in (a). Size of paper as noted by Monaghan but 8¾ x 5½, trimmed.

Speech of Hon. Abraham Lincoln in

New York (Monaghan 52)

The *Daily Illinois State Journal* announced that it would print a revised copy of the Cooper Institute speech, which it brought out in a 12-page pamphlet. Later than June 7, 1860, it published another edition in which it advertized a printed speech by Governor Yates delivered on the above date.

Variants

- First Printing — Contains 12 pages.
- Second Printing—Contains 14 (2) pages. Brought out during the campaign.

Evening Journal Tracts No. 5 (Monaghan 53)

Possibly this was the latest first edition of the Cooper Union speech, coming from the press before the Chicago Convention. It was printed by the *Albany Evening Journal*, under the caption "National Politics." No other edition has thus far been discovered:

First Edition

- Double column, 16 pages, with Senator Doolittle's speech and Medary Veto article.