

LINCOLN LORE

Bulletin of the Lincoln National Life Foundation - - - - - Dr. Louis A. Warren, Editor
Published each week by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Number 1194

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

February 25, 1952

THE LINCOLN BOOK OF THE YEAR—1951

The year 1951 seems to have been an exceptional year for what might be termed Lincoln collateral books and because of this fact some mention of the outstanding ones might be made. Chronologically considered as far as book contents are observed Holman Hamilton's *Zachary Taylor Soldier of the White House* should be mentioned first and his chapter on patronage brings Lincoln into the story with some new slants on the land office and Oregon questions.

Possibly *Ten Brave Men* by Sonia Daugherty should be mentioned next as it begins with William Bradford and concludes with Lincoln. The other eight nominees are Roger Williams, Patrick Henry, Samuel Adams, Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, John Paul Jones and Andrew Jackson. Roy Meredith's *Mr. Lincoln Contemporaries* makes an interesting collateral work for students of Lincoln and is issued in a format much like his *Mr. Lincoln's Camera Man*. A novel by Clarence E. Benadum begins with a scene at the *Bates House*, which by the way is the title of the book, when Lincoln was a guest there in 1861 and the story continues on through the war years. *Raymond of the Times* by Francis Brown stresses the political aspects of Lincoln's second campaign under a chapter caption "Lincoln and Johnson." A posthumous publication by the late W. E. Woodward has been brought from the press under the direction of the author's widow and it presents a story of the Civil War which is entitled *Years of Madness*. A novel called *The Spur* by Ardyth Kennelly centered around John Wilkes Booth will be of interest to the assassination specialists.

Of course none of the above books are eligible for consideration as the Lincoln book of the year and it is to be regretted that the books available for this honor are very few compared with those which might be submitted in the collateral field. Another factor has entered into the best book selection in the form of Lincoln reprints of which there are many but they too are unavailable for consideration.

However, the fact that the number of Lincoln books submitted to the committee having the contest in charge was greatly limited in number this year, the contest did not lack interest.

The Lincoln Book of the Year for 1951 is *Lincoln and the Press* by Robert S. Harper.

The publications eligible for consideration by the Lincoln Foundation Advisory Group follow.

Catton, Bruce

Mr. Lincoln's Army

Mr. Catton, a lifetime newspaper man, takes a look at the Army of the Potomac which he calls *Mr. Lincoln's Army*, through the eyes of a Civil War hobbyist. Likewise through a keen observation of McClellan's relationship with his counsel in chief at Washington and the private soldiers in his ranks, the author puts in a few strokes in the changing portrait of the general.

Durman, Donald Charles

He Belongs To The Ages

A compilation of the statues of Abraham Lincoln with biographical sketches of the sculptors who created them, supplemented with studies of busts, plaques, etc., of Lincoln by the same artists.

Garrison, Anet

Abe Lincoln at Loafer Station

The title page carries the subtitle "A Novel Based on Hoosier Legends" and the jacket of the book makes this statement by the author, "I haven't gone by dates or history books—only what my ancestors have told me down through the years."

Gorham, Michael

The Real Book About Abraham Lincoln

A juvenile book with special stress placed on Abraham Lincoln's early years and episodes in which his own children are featured. The subtitle states, "Behind the scenes incidents and lively anecdotes in the story of a great American."

Harper, Robert S.

Lincoln and the Press

Mr. Harper might have announced at the beginning of his argument, "All I know is what I read in the papers" as he confines himself to this source of information exclusively. He does not use as source material those papers alone which supported Lincoln but also gives generous space in dealing with those sheets which opposed the President.

Williams, Wayne C.

A Rail Splitter For President

The supreme objective of this book on Lincoln is well stated in the foreword as follows: "How did the voters of America, in that fateful presidential year, regard him when he became the leader and nominee of the Republican party for the presidency? How did each individual Republican personally feel about this strange figure from the prairies of Illinois? How did he strike the mind of the average voter in New York, in Pennsylvania, or in Minnesota?" These are some of the questions answered in this study of Lincoln's first race for the presidency.