

LINCOLN LORE

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THE LINCOLN BOOK OF THE YEAR — 1952

Nineteen book reviewers for the *Chicago Tribune* recently made their selections of the ten best books appearing in 1952. Five of the Lincoln titles mentioned in this copy of *Lincoln Lore* were among those nominated for recognition. The number of votes each title received are associated with the authors named: de Chambrun, 1; Lorant, 1; Randall, 1; Thomas, 6; and Kenneth Williams, 1. It is significant indeed, that as many as five different Lincoln books found a place in the great number of books eligible for consideration. It is more important for our purpose at least, to observe that the book by Thomas was on the list of six of the reviewers, for the Lincoln advisory group has selected *Abraham Lincoln* by Benjamin Thomas as the Lincoln Book of the year. In a normal year many of the following books mentioned would have been worthy to receive this recognition but with the ability of Thomas to produce a publication which satisfied a popular demand it almost assured him first place among Lincoln books published in 1952.

Lincoln in Marble and Bronze by F. Lauriston Bullard

The last of Dr. Bullard's works which came from the press but four months before his demise promises to be his most important effort. The book entitled *Lincoln in Marble and Bronze* presents illustrations of 68 heroic statues and mention of 19 replicas which brings the grand total in Lincoln sculptural art to 87 heroic studies. Most of the sites where the statues are located have been visited by Dr. Bullard.

Impressions of Lincoln and the Civil War by Marquis Adolphe de Chambrun

First hand contemporary impressions are always appreciated when they deal with a personality that has inspired so many books as Abraham Lincoln. The Marquis de Chambrun was an official envoy from France to Washington during the waning months of the Civil War. He wrote down his observations with special attention given to Abraham Lincoln and his letters translated into English make interesting copy.

Anna Ella Carroll and Abraham Lincoln by Sydney Greenbie and Marjorie Barstow Greenbie

This volume contributes to that wide field of literature in Lincolniana that might be termed controversial. Some rather well informed students feel that the authors of *Anna Ella Carroll and Abraham Lincoln* have made out a case for Miss Carroll as a military strategist and presidential adviser. There are others who do not accept the findings of the Greenbie's as objective history.

They Knew Abe Lincoln by Frances Cavanah

There is no phase of the Lincoln story which has been so neglected as the Indiana period and Frances Cavanah has done a real service in bringing together many of the traditions relating to Lincoln's formative years and told them in a fascinating way. The book is an interesting portrait of the Hoosier youth that boys and girls can appreciate.

Lincoln and His Generals by T. Harry Williams

To those who have not read *The Military Genius of Abraham Lincoln* by Colin R. Ballard, the book by T. Harry Williams must have come as a great revelation and its acceptance by the Book of the Month Club indicates how well it has been received. It is a strange coincidence that a reprint of the Ballard book first published in 1926 appeared at approximately the same time as Williams' discussion of *Lincoln and His Generals*.

The Influence of Henry Clay Upon Abraham Lincoln by Edgar DeWitt Jones

Here is an inspirational essay of unusual literary merit which brings before the reader the vivid word portraits of Henry Clay and Abraham Lincoln. The personalities of the two statesmen are accentuated by a series of contrasts and comparisons which reveal how much they differed in environmental surroundings, yet saw eye to eye from their philosophical viewpoints.

Lincoln A Picture Story of His Life by Stefan Lorant

The title named above is the most profusely illustrated life of Abraham Lincoln thus far published. It attempts to bring together all the original photographs of Lincoln, many of the human interest pictures of Lincoln's life and the Civil War, and facsimile reproductions of the most important manuscripts and pieces of correspondence written by and relating to Lincoln.

Lincoln's Little Correspondent by Hertha Pauli

For the first time an interesting episode in Lincoln's life associated with a child, other than his own children, has been given proper attention. The story of the little girl, Grace Bedell, who informed Mr. Lincoln he would look better if he grew a beard has been told with keen appreciation of the human interest involved in the story. *Lincoln's Little Correspondent* will occupy an important place among the juvenile books about Abraham Lincoln.

Lincoln the President—Midstream by James G. Randall

The exhaustive biography of Abraham Lincoln as the chief executive by James G. Randall, now having reached its third installment of the four volume edition, we are more than ever impressed with the intimate glimpses of Mr. Lincoln which portray him in the many activities which challenged his attention in the executive mansion. We are beginning to appreciate the exceedingly valuable overall picture Prof. Randall is preparing for those who wish to have a personal acquaintance with the Washington years that ended in martyrdom.

Abraham Lincoln by Benjamin Thomas

The tremendous increase in the amount of source material available about the life and times of Abraham Lincoln has almost eliminated one volume works attempting to cover his complete life. To write a book that may not appear fragmentary to the well informed student and not excessively long to the casual reader is an undertaking indeed. Benjamin Thomas in his *Abraham Lincoln* has performed such a task.

Lincoln Finds a General by Kenneth Williams

The third volume of Kenneth Williams' remarkable history *Lincoln Finds a General* is primarily interested in presenting "Grant's First Year in the West." The chronological back tracking made necessary to start Grant on his military career and bring him along so that eventually he would fit into the picture drawn in the first two volumes is a skillful handling of available sources. The fourth volume will be looked forward to with even greater anticipation because of this new surge of historical information.

Lincoln and the Russians by Albert A. Woldman

Current events are responsible for bringing to the front many phases of the Lincoln story that otherwise would be overlooked. The diplomatic correspondence of Edouard de Stoeckl, the Russian minister during the Civil War, has recently been translated and made the chief source for Albert Woldman's interesting volume on *Lincoln and the Russians*.