

# LINCOLN LORE

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## FOCUSING ATTENTION ON LINCOLN SCULPTURE

There seems to have been an unusual amount of attention paid during the last Lincoln birthday season to works of sculptural art depicting Abraham Lincoln. Colossal and heroic statues especially were given much publicity and many of them have served as a mecca for annual pilgrimages arranged for the anniversary day of the Emancipator's birth. Possibly the most significant visitation this year was the presidential pilgrimage at Washington where President Eisenhower stood at attention on February 12 at noon before the heroic statue in the Lincoln Memorial. Here attendants had placed the President's wreath before the sculptured likeness of the Emancipator while the Marine Band played the National Anthem. The program was sponsored by the Military Order of the Loyal Legion and as many as twenty-one other patriotic organizations brought floral offerings to be displayed with the red and white gladioli wreath of the President.

Also a wreath presented by President Eisenhower was placed at the tomb of Lincoln in Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield, Ill. by Mayor Clifford M. Head, led by a group of twenty-one men from all branches of the armed forces. The heroic statue of Lincoln by Larkin G. Mead stands over the burial site of the President and just before the entrance the famous Borglum head of Lincoln.

### BOY SCOUT PILGRIMAGES

For many years one of the features of the February 12th celebrations has been the pilgrimages of Boy Scouts to some Lincoln statue of which there are nearly a hundred. The Lincoln National Life Foundation has encouraged these pilgrimages since 1932 by presenting attendance awards to each Scout making such a pilgrimage. Nearly 10,000 Scouts participated this past February.

### PILGRIMAGES OF PATRIOTIC ORDERS

Some of the pilgrimages to statues of Lincoln by patriotic groups have been faithfully made for more than half a century and with the erection of each new Lincoln statue the invitation to participate in such a pilgrimage is encouraged.

#### Barnard's Lincoln at Cincinnati

The annual Lincoln birthday memorial service was held at the Barnard's Lincoln Statue in Lytle Park, Cincinnati under the auspices of Lower Cincinnati Business Men's Association with former Judge Chester R. Shook as speaker.

#### Brown's Lincoln at Brooklyn

The Union League of Brooklyn for many years has conducted Lincoln Birthday ceremonies at the Henry Kirke Brown Statue of the Emancipator in Prospect Park. Members of the Flatbush Republican Club also joined in the services.

#### Brown's Lincoln at New York

Three patriotic delegations visited the Brown statue of Abraham Lincoln in Union Square, New York on February 12. The largest assembly consisting of about 30 different societies was arranged by the National Republican Club. At an earlier hour in the day a group from the New York State Grand Lodge of Pythias laid a wreath at the base of the monument. One visitor, 95 years old, told of viewing Lincoln's body in New York when enroute from Washington to Springfield. A wreath was also brought to the statue by members of the American Defense Society. Cleveland G. Allen, their negro president, was the principal speaker at this period.

#### Baker's Lincoln at Buffalo

Three organizations combined at Buffalo, N. Y. in a ceremony at Bryant Baker's Statue portraying the youthful Lincoln located in Delaware Park, Buffalo, N. Y. The Jewish War Veterans, Erie County American Legion, and the Oscar De Priest Republican League were the groups associating for the program.

#### Roger's Lincoln at Philadelphia

An annual ceremony at the Randolph Roger's Lincoln Statue in Fairmount Park, Philadelphia was conducted by the Legion of Honor. A wreath in memory of the Emancipator was placed at the base of the statue.

### SCULPTURE NOTES

Several items relating to works of art depicting Lincoln appeared in the press during February which are of current interest and the information is worth emphasizing in this column.

#### New Salem Statue

Dr. Avarad Fairbanks, dean of the college of fine arts, University of Utah and formerly with the fine arts department at the University of Michigan, has just finished his clay model of "Lincoln the Frontiersman." It is to be cast in bronze and presented by the sons of Utah Pioneers to the State of Illinois to be placed at the entrance of New Salem State Park. Wayne Townley, former president of the Illinois Historical Society, and Mrs. Ernest L. Ivis, sister of former governor Adlai Stevenson assisted in the preliminary arrangements. The dedication of the statue will take place in September, according to Nicolas G. Morgan, Sr., committee chairman of the Sons of Utah Pioneers.

#### London St. Gaudens

The rebuilding of Parliament Square at London caused the statue of Abraham Lincoln by Augustus St. Gaudens which originally stood in the center of the square to be removed to the grass verge on the square's north side. It is located between the roadway and the Middlesex Guildhall in the heart of the city of Westminster.

#### Daniel Chester French Model

The three foot original plaster working model created by Daniel Chester French in his preliminary studies for the heroic statue of Abraham Lincoln in the Lincoln Memorial at Washington can now be viewed in the Albany Institute of History and Art. The model has never been on exhibition before. It has been loaned by Margaret French Cresson, daughter of the sculptor.

#### Mills Life Mask

A life mask of Abraham Lincoln made by Clark Mills about two months before the assassination of the President and later cast in bronze has been placed on exhibition for the first time at the American Museum of Natural History in New York. The study once in possession of John Hay was loaned to the museum by Clarence Hay, a son of Lincoln's secretary.

#### St. Gaudens Statuette

The Detroit Institute of Arts has received as a gift from Mrs. Walter O. Briggs a statuette replica of the standing St. Gaudens' Lincoln. It was originally in possession of Henry Leland of Detroit.

#### Blue Sapphire Head

The head of Lincoln but two and a half inches high and carved from an eight and a half ounce blue sapphire, was on exhibition at the Lincoln Club's annual banquet in Los Angeles. The image was cut by Norman Manness, assisted by Merrill Gage, and is owned by James and Harry Kazanjian and valued at \$200,000.

See Lincoln Lore's 1112, 1140, 1172, 1223.