

# LINCOLN LORE

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## THE LINCOLN BOOK OF THE YEAR — 1954

A *Chicago Tribune Book Review Magazine* has an annual project which it calls "Attention-Worthy Books." This year twenty-six reviewers and columnists, authorities in the field of literature, were each invited to make selections of the best ten publications appearing in 1954. Both fiction and nonfiction were included. Carl Sandburg's *Abraham Lincoln. The Prairie Years and the War Years* was most often chosen as one of the ten having been named in twelve of the thirty-six lists.

The *New York Times Book Review Magazine* also introduced a feature for their Dec. 5 issue entitled "To Speak Up Abroad" in which a dozen well known authors were invited to nominate books "To speak for America overseas." Three of the writers named Sandburg's one volume *Abraham Lincoln* as the best ambassador among the books. The only picture used to illustrate the article was a copy of the jacket of the Sandburg volume.

It does not seem strange that the Foundation Advisory Group would select Sandburg's recent one volume work as the outstanding Lincoln book of the year. Inasmuch as *Lincoln Lore* number 1334 presented a review of the volume, but a brief comment appears in the following notes referring to cloth bound Lincoln books published in 1954.

**BARONDESS, BENJAMIN.** *Three Lincoln Masterpieces.*

Press of Charleston Printing Company, Charleston, West Va., Cloth, 156 pp., Price \$3.00.

This is a discussion of The Cooper Institute Speech, The Gettysburg Address and The Second Inaugural.

**BLEGEN, THEODORE C.** *Lincoln's Imagery. A Study of Word Power.*

Sumac Press. Brochure, 32 pp., Price \$2.00.

A brochure which groups unique sayings of Lincoln having a common flavor and giving emphasis to the influence of pioneer lore in Lincoln's speech.

**DONALD, DAVID.** *Inside Lincoln's Cabinet. The Civil War Diaries of Salmon P. Chase.*

Longmans Green and Co., Cloth, 342 pp., Price \$6.50.

Edited by David Donald, Chase's Diaries become one of the basic Lincoln source books and is an important supplement to the Gideon Welles volumes of the same type, covering the war days.

**KELLY, REGINA Z.** *Lincoln and Douglas. The Years of Decision.*

Random House. Cloth, 184 pp., Price \$1.50.

This story of the climax of slavery agitation in America begins with the repeal of the Missouri Compromise engineered by Douglas and concludes with the arrival of President Lincoln in Washington. It is especially prepared for youth of high school age.

**LAIR, JOHN.** *Songs Lincoln Loved.*

Little, Brown and Company. Cloth, 85 pp., Price \$3.75.

A compilation of songs and ballads contemporary with Lincoln's day, profusely illustrated with facsimiles of words and music of many old favorites of the pioneers.

**LE SUEUR, MERIDEL.** *The River Road. A Story of Abraham Lincoln.*

Alfred A. Knopf. Cloth, 175 pp., Price \$2.50.

A story of the young Lincoln with major emphasis on his first trip on a flatboat to New Orleans with Allen Gentry.

**LORANT, STEFAN.** *The Life of Abraham Lincoln.*

McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., Cloth, 256 pp., Price \$3.50.

The publisher states, "There has long been a need of a short illustrated biography of Lincoln," with which all Lincoln students are in agreement. Mr. Lorant's

book is profusely illustrated and is a full length biography of Lincoln in 256 pages.

**MILLER, FRANCESCA.** *Marked Corners.*

Americana House. Cloth, 148 pp., Price \$3.00.

A production centered about Lincoln's Indiana years which won the \$1000 prize for the "best three act play, comedy or drama written around the boyhood and youth of Abe Lincoln."

**MOORE, GUY W.** *The Case of Mrs. Surratt.*

University of Oklahoma Press. Cloth, 421 pp., Price \$7.50.

The caption of the book might be confused with a 1943 publication by Helen Jones Campbell under the same title, with the exception of using the word "for" where Moore uses "of." The work is an attempt to clear the controversy about Mrs. Surratt's participation in the assassination plot.

**SANDBURG, CARL.** *Abraham Lincoln, the Prairie Years and the War Years.*

Harcourt, Brace and Company. Cloth, 762 pp., \$7.50.

A condensation of the famous six volume work which has been recognized as the most exhaustive study of Lincoln. The value of this abridged work has lost nothing in its literary excellency and is much improved in its objective approach.

**STERN, PHILIP VAN DOREN.** *The Assassination of President Lincoln and the Trial of the Conspirators.*

Funk and Wagnalls. Cloth, 421 pp., Price \$7.50.

A reprint of Benn Pitman's work first published in 1865, and now reproduced photographically. A twenty-four page introduction by Philip Van Doren Stern prepares the reader for a better appreciation of the testimony at the trial.

**STEVENSON, AUGUSTA.** *Nancy Hanks, Kentucky Girl.*

Bobbs-Merrill Co., Inc., Cloth, 192 pp., Price \$1.75.

A children's story of the girlhood days of Lincoln's mother in Kentucky spent in the home of her uncle and aunt Richard and Rachel Berry in Washington County.

**STONE, IRVING.** *Love is Eternal.*

Doubleday & Company, Inc. Cloth, 468 pp., Price \$3.95.

Historical novels seldom stick so closely to the facts as this fascinating and sympathetic story of the romance and domestic life of Abraham Lincoln and Mary Todd, which continues into the White House days.

**THOMAS, BENJAMIN P.** *Lincoln's New Salem.*

Alfred A. Knopf. Stiff boards, 166 pp., Price \$2.50.

Although the publisher states that this reprint is extensively revised, one would not expect a book written objectively in the first place to have many corrections. A more accurate interpretation of the Ann Rutledge story and a new concluding paragraph are the most important changes.

**WILKIE, KATHARINE E.** *Mary Todd Lincoln, Girl of the Bluegrass.*

Bobbs-Merrill Co., Inc., Cloth, 192 pp., Price \$1.75.

A book for children written in a pleasing style and confined to the Lexington, Kentucky atmosphere where Mary grew up.

**ZORNOW, WILLIAM FRANK.** *Lincoln and the Party Divided.*

University of Oklahoma Press. Cloth, 264 pp., Price \$4.00.

The political campaign of 1864 and Lincoln's reelection to the Presidency is presented objectively by Dr. Zornow of the Department of History, Kansas State College.