



# Lincoln Lore

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## LINCOLN PUBLICATIONS IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

The first publications about Abraham Lincoln in foreign languages appeared in the presidential election year of 1860. According to Jay Monaghan's "Lincoln Bibliography 1839-1939" published by the Illinois State Historical Library, Springfield, Illinois, 1945, all of the fifteen books and pamphlets in Dutch, French, German and Welsh were published in the United States during the presidential campaign and were of a political nature.

The first biography of Lincoln to be published in a foreign language (German), "Das Leben von Abraham Lincoln, Nebst Auszügen Aus seinen Reden . . ." by James Quay Howard, made its appearance in 1860. Only two or three copies survive.

It is apparent that the Republican party, which was responsible for these early publications, made a desperate effort to influence the foreign voter

who was said to "vote as a bloc and to vote often."

The Monaghan bibliography lists 218 titles in thirty different languages dating from 1860 to 1939. However, this figure does not include the many different editions that are to be found in some cases under one title. A breakdown of that list follows:

### MONAGHAN LIST

Arabic	1	(1925)*
Armenian	1	(1926)
Chinese	6	(1918)
Czech	1	(1921)
Danish	4	(1866)
Dutch	7	(1860)
Finnish	3	(1883)
French	40	(1860)
German	71	(1860)
Greek	3	(1865)
Hawaiian	1	(1869)
Hebrew	4	(1873)
Hungarian	1	(1925)
Icelandic	1	(1923)
Italian	14	(1862)
Japanese	13	(1890)
Korean	1	(1929)
Latin	1	(1866)
Norwegian	5	(1880)
Persian	1	(1925)
Polish	5	(1909)
Portuguese	5	(1865)
Russian	5	(1874)
Siouan	1	(1893)
Slovak	2	(1925)
Spanish	8	(1865)
Swedish	5	(1904)
Turkish	2	(1885)
Welsh	4	(1860)
Yiddish	2	(1910)

\* The dates indicate the year the first Lincoln publication appeared. The figures given for the number of titles in each language does not include different editions or variants.

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A careful study of Monaghan's 218 foreign titles reveals that many of the publications are translations of works originally written by American authors. Emmanuel Hertz alone can be credited with fourteen titles in



### FRENCH

This French portrait of Lincoln is taken from the cover page of Alphonse Jouault's book, "Abraham Lincoln So Jeunesse Et Sa Vie Politique . . .," 1875 (M.3833).

eleven languages. Perhaps fifty percent of the Monaghan titles have a bona fide foreign origin.

Today there is a need for a separate bibliography of Lincoln books in foreign languages. The sixteenth president has become more than just "the precious heirloom of the republic." He is now a world citizen—an international character. An ever increasing number of foreign Lincoln publications are coming from the press and the sesquicentennial year of Lincoln's birth which was celebrated in 1959 provided a great impetus for the dissemination of literature about Abraham Lincoln and the democratic ideal.

As of this date the shelves of the library of the Lincoln National Life Foundation has a total of 412 foreign Lincoln publications in some fifty-two different languages and dialects. The Foundation has no Lincoln publication in Latin, see M. 3812. The



### DUTCH

This Dutch portrait of Lincoln appears on the cover title of Aart Cornelis De Zwarts' book, "Hoe de Zoon von den Pionier President Weid . . .," 1883 (M3843).



GERMAN

This German portrait of Lincoln appears on the cover page of Theophil De Quervain's 78 page pamphlet (M3880), "Vom Farmknecht empor zum Staatsoberhaupt Abraham Lincoln," 1910.

above figure (412) includes in many cases different editions and variants.

The list follows:

## FOUNDATION LIST

Afrikaans	1	(1959)
Albania	1	(1961)
Arabic	11	
Armenian	1	
Burmese	6	(1959)



HEBREW

This Currier & Ives print, publication date not given, is often called the "Jewish Lincoln" although no such assertion was made by the lithographers.

Chinese	13	
Czech	1	
Danish	3	
Dutch	9	
Finnish	1	
French	32	
German	82	
Greek	6	
Hawaiian	1	
Hebrew	4	
Hungarian	1	
Icelandic	1	
Assamese	1	(1959)
Bengali	4	(1959)
Gujerati	4	(1959)
Hindi	3	(1959)
Kannada	2	(1959)
Malaylam	3	(1959)
Maratha	4	(1959)
Ariya	2	(1959)
Sindhi	1	(1959)
Tamil	4	(1959)
Telugu	2	(1959)
Urdu	4	(1959)
Indonesian	6	(1959)
Italian	15	
Japanese	70	
Korean	5	
Malay	1	(1959)
Nepolese	1	(1959)
Norwegian	13	
Persian	1	
Polish	5	
Portuguese	11	
Russian	7	
Saxon Orthography	1	(n.d.)
Serbo Croation	3	(1959)
Singhalese	3	(1959)
Siouan	1	
Slovak	3	
Spanish	34	
Swedish	8	
Thai	1	(1959)
Turkish	5	
Vietnamese	6	(1959)
Welsh	1	
Yiddish	3	

\* The dates indicate the year the first Lincoln publication appeared. The figures given for the number of items in each language include different editions and variants.

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This list of foreign works is by no means complete. Many foreign items appear on our want list which is based on the Monaghan bibliography. However, we have no check list of foreign publications that have appeared since 1939.

The United States Information Service published many titles in 1959 for foreign distribution. Many of these publications were printed in shops abroad under the direct supervision of the U.S.I.A. In some cases, foreign publishers were encouraged to issue Lincoln books and pamphlets, with the assurance that the United States government would purchase most of the output for distribution locally. In most cases the Library of Congress was provided with copies of the foreign Lincoln publications. However, it may take several years, if ever, for every government sponsored book, brochure, pamphlet and folder to find its way to a central library, to say nothing of the foreign Lincoln literature that was issued in 1959 but was not government sponsored. It is of interest to compare the supposedly complete Monaghan list with



JAPANESE

This Japanese portrait of Lincoln appears on the cover title of Motoichi Kume's book, Volume 4, "Library of the World's Great Men for boys and girls—Lincoln," 1934, (M3937). Monaghan describes this portrait as a "Mongolian Lincoln."

the incomplete Foundation list. It is immediately apparent that the eighty-two German Lincoln publications outnumber those of any other foreign language. However, Japanese interest in Lincoln is manifested by the second largest figure. The first Japanese



SPANISH

This cut is made from an oil portrait of Abraham Lincoln painted on black velvet by an unknown Mexican artist. A study of the original painting reveals all the techniques characteristic of artists of the Spanish school.



## SWEDISH

This Swedish portrait of Lincoln is to be found on the cover title of William M. Thayer's book, "The Pioneer Boy, and How he became president." This Swedish edition (M3849a) was published in 1906.

Lincoln publication bears the date of 1890 and up through 1939 only thirteen publications had been issued in that language. As of 1962 the Foundation list numbers seventy items with others anticipated in the near future.

Due to South and Central American publishers, Spanish Lincoln books have increased from eight in 1939 to thirty-four (Foundation incomplete list) in 1962. For some reason there has been little activity in the production of French Lincoln books if the Foundation's list can be relied upon. While other gains are impressive percentage wise, the most striking increases have been made in the twenty-two languages and dialects not embraced in the Monaghan list.

Another interesting aspect of foreign Lincoln books is the illustrations. Lincoln's international character is perhaps best portrayed by the artist rather than the author. At first glance one might conclude that foreign artists in depicting Lincoln had labored to incorporate certain national or racial traits into their portraits. On second thought one might discern that foreign artists see Lincoln embodied with all the characteristics of their own particular race or nationality. The illustrations used in connection with this article best illustrate that point.

A Lincoln bibliography of foreign books might be an expensive and difficult project. The title pages would have to be translated into English and in many cases the photographic facsimile method used by Monaghan would have to be utilized. Nevertheless, the bibliographer would make a real contribution to Lincoln literature and what better way could be found to express the universality of Lincoln.

## RARE CAMPAIGN BIOGRAPHY

The Lincoln National Life Foundation has recently acquired a Lincoln rarity (Monaghan 3739) *Das Leben von Abraham Lincoln, nebst einer kurzen Skizze des Lebens von Hannibal Hamlin, etc; etc; Chicago, Ill., 1860* (collation: title page, verso blank, 4-108, text.) The translation is, "The life of Abraham Lincoln, with a short sketch of the life of Hannibal Hamlin, Republican candidates for president and vice-president of the United States, The Constitution of the United States, The Declaration of Independence, and the platforms of the various political parties."

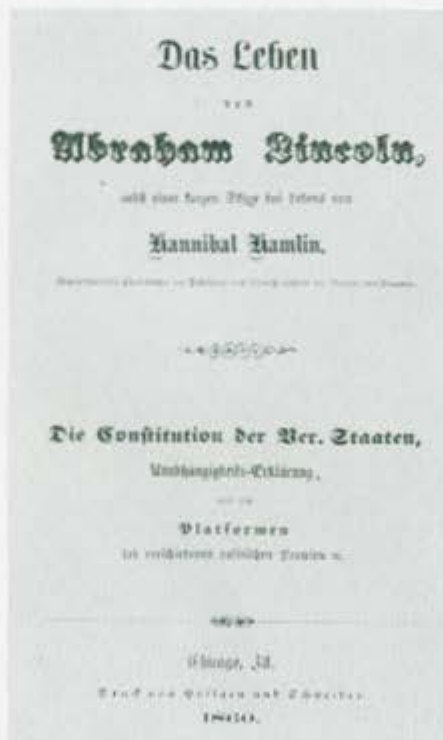
According to the Monaghan bibliography a copy of the campaign biography in German is located in the Illinois State Historical Library and The University of Chicago Library. A recent survey of thirty Lincoln libraries and collectors confirmed the fact that until the recent discovery of the third copy only two copies were known to be extant.

The only difficulty with the Foundation's copy is that the front wrapper is missing along with the first ten pages. Fortunately the title page is intact. Photographs have been made of the missing ten pages from the copy in the Illinois State Historical Library. The page size is 6 5/8 by 4 1/4 inches.

A letter from Frank G. Burke, Assistant Curator of Manuscripts and Archives of The University of Chicago Library provided a description of their copy: "Our William E. Barton Collection contains *Das Leben von Abraham Lincoln, nebst einer kurzen Skizze des Lebens von Hannibal Ham-*



From the Illinois State Historical Library Cover title of the rare German 1860 campaign biography. This is the only copy known to exist with the original front wrapper.



From the Illinois State Historical Library

Title page of the rare German 1860 campaign biography. This title page is identical to the Foundation's copy except that a portion of the lower right hand corner is missing.

lin . . . Chicago: von Hoffman und Schneider, 1860. This copy is complete except that it lacks wrappers. Our copy is in fair condition. The first ten pages are slightly foxed and the leaves are dog-eared. There is also a rubber stamp on the first page of the text, but it does not obscure any of the text."

A letter from James T. Hickey, Curator of the Lincoln Collection of the Illinois State Historical Library reveals that their copy of *Das Leben von Abraham Lincoln, etc., etc.*, is in excellent condition. It is bound in mottled boards, with cloth backstrip and corners. The front wrapper has been preserved, which would lead one to presume that all copies appeared in paper wrappers.

Ernest James Wessen in his article, "Campaign Lives of Abraham Lincoln, 1860" which appeared in *Papers In Illinois History and Transactions For the Year 1937* published by the Illinois State Historical Society in 1938 made the statement that "As a group, these (Campaign Lives In Welsh And German) are the rarest of all Lincolniana. So widely distributed are the few surviving copies it has been impossible to make firsthand examination of most of these rarities."

Editor's note: Those interested in 1860 campaign biographies might wish to consult the following issues of *Lincoln Lore*: Number 57, 419, 590, 668, 844, 853, 1429, 1434 and 1490.

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