



Lincoln Lore

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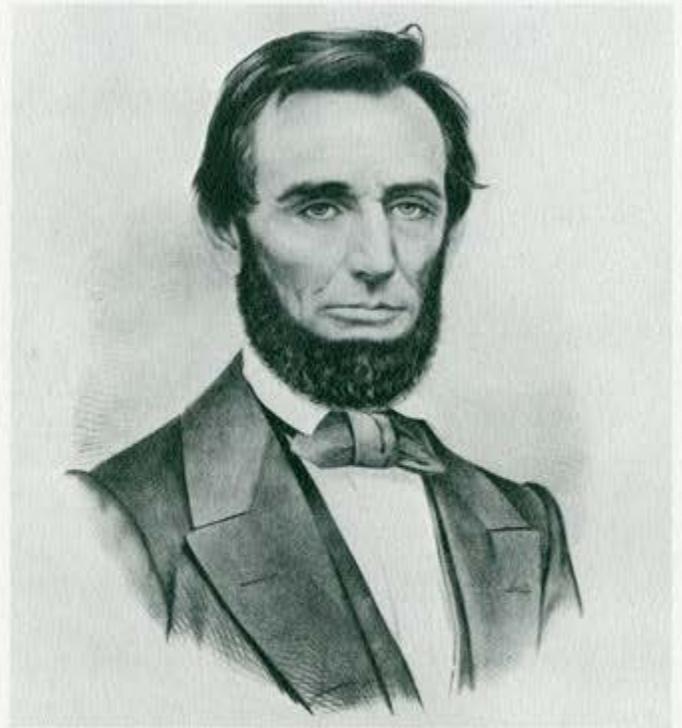
April, 1969

Some Early Lithographs of Abraham Lincoln

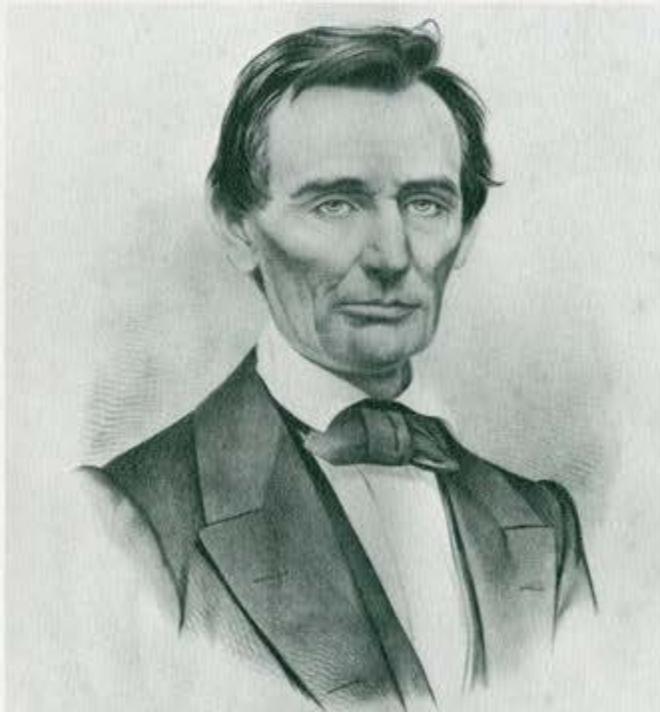
There appears to be no standard of value and no market for pictures of Abraham Lincoln. A collector or institutional director merely purchases those that appeal to him or that fit some particular need. Of course, some collectors and institutions attempt to purchase all the pictures that are offered for sale (that are not already in their files), and the price is often determined by color, lack of color, condition, imprint and date. In most cases artistic merit has little to do with value. Perhaps rarity has most to do with determining value. Yet there are few check lists, and rarity is sometimes hard to determine.

Perhaps, it has been the experience of most purchasers that beardless lithographs are the most desirable; however, shortly after Lincoln's election he started to grow a beard and those early prints depicting him with whiskers make fine companion portraits of the beardless variety.

Currier & Ives check lists reveal that lithographing company, located at 152 Nassau Street (later at 115), in New York City published some thirty-eight different prints of Abraham Lincoln (See *Lincoln Lore* No. 400, December 7, 1936) under the heading of Beardless (10), Bearded (21) and The Lincoln Family (7). Many of these are variants, and in some cases only the catalogue



Currier & Ives print of "Hon. Abraham Lincoln Sixteenth President of the United States." Large folio. After Lincoln grew a beard the lithographers, using their beardless etching on stone, added whiskers. (From a photograph taken by Mathew B. Brady in his New York studio, on February 27, 1860. 0-17) Slightly tinted in color and in black and white, 1860.



Currier & Ives print of "Hon. Abraham Lincoln Republican Candidate For Sixteenth President of The United States." Large folio. (From a photograph taken by Mathew B. Brady in his New York City studio on February 27, 1860. 0-17) Slightly tinted in color and in black and white, 1860.

number has been changed. Of course, the above classifications do not include caricatures, pictures with political associates, and group pictures associated with the assassination, death and funeral of the Sixteenth President.

Of the ten beardless Currier & Ives prints, four depict him as a candidate while six proclaim him "Our Next President" or "Sixteenth President." Of the twenty-one bearded prints, eleven depict him as "Sixteenth President" while ten describe him as "The Martyred President" or "The Nation's Martyr."

Lincoln print collectors, while cognizant of the public appeal of Currier & Ives prints, would just as soon collect those bearing the imprints of E.B. & E.C. Kellogg whose shops were located in Hartford, Connecticut and New York City, Chas. Magnus of N.Y., H.H. Lloyd & Co., N.Y., Kimmel & Foster, N.Y. and others.

American printmakers were a resourceful lot, and with a bit of skulduggery they were able to meet the demands of the gullible public for Lincoln prints. The publishers were caught unprepared when Lincoln was nominated for the Presidency, when he grew a beard and again when he was assassinated in April of 1865.



This print first appeared in *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, October 20, 1860. (Later it was published by Ensign, Bridgman & Fanning at 156 Williams Street, New York, N.Y.) The title is: "Abraham Lincoln, Sixteenth President of the United States." (From a photograph taken by Mathew B. Brady in his New York City studio on February 27, 1860. 0-17) Copies colored by hand. When this print was published in Leslie's newspaper, the reader's attention was directed to page 345 to an editorial titled "Abraham Lincoln." It is reprinted in this issue of *Lincoln Lore*.

Quite a few firms had to alter their lithographic stones after Lincoln began to grow a beard, and oftentimes the results were grotesque. Sometimes purchasers would acquire an 1860 face with an 1864 beard without the aging lines and wrinkles brought on by a fierce civil war. Printmakers were not necessarily historians, and they were in a hurry. Of course, it did not take long for the lithographer to learn the tricks of the trade, such as mechanical addition, retouching painted backgrounds, and alteration of titles.

In 1860, except for those people living in Illinois, or those citizens who followed the Lincoln-Douglas debates, little was known of the Republican nominee and few Americans could ever recall having seen his picture. Certainly, word descriptions of Lincoln's appearance were inadequate if not downright disappointing.

The candidate's career as a lawyer and politician was made public by campaign biographers who revealed Lincoln as a new political comet on the horizon, and by printmakers who came forth with their lithographs which in some cases were both colorful and appealing. At least purchasers could not compare them with photographs as they were not readily available.

Fortunately, the print makers had a few photographs made by Mathew B. Brady and country photographers to help them depict their subject. The biographers had Lincoln's autobiographical sketches and the public records to guide them. Apparently, the two mediums of publicity were successful—Lincoln won the election.

Abraham Lincoln

Editor's Note: This editorial appeared in the October 20, 1860 issue of *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper* which featured a full page picture of Lincoln on page 347. The careful student will note a few

errors; however, the biographical sketch is fairly well done. Needless to state, this newspaper was not favorable to the Lincoln-Hamlin ticket.

"The Republican candidate for the Presidency is one of a class which belongs especially to our Republic. No other nation on the face of the globe can boast of men who, by the mere force of individual hardihood and merit, rise through all the gradations of toil to the highest offices in the State. Common labor, which brutalises and degrades man in other lands, in our own country strengthens him mentally as well as physically, and the cabinet-maker and the rail-splitter, after having earned a competency by the honest labor of their hands, finally meet face to face as contestants for the highest office in the gift of the people.

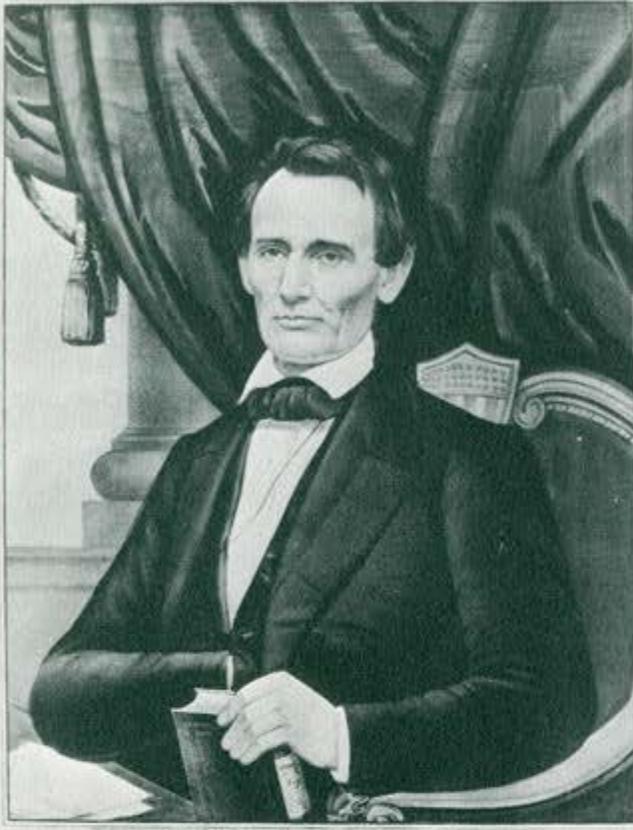
"Abraham Lincoln was born February 12, 1809, in Hardin county, Kentucky, of poor but honest and industrious parents. After receiving a limited education, he became a laborer, and worked hard for some years.

"In 1830 we find him a boatman on the Illinois and Michigan Canal, and fulfilling his humble duties with exemplary fidelity and perseverance. Lincoln's first trip to New Orleans was made in his nineteenth year from the Ohio River in a flat boat belonging to Denton Offut. During his trip he had a narrow escape of being murdered by some negroes, who had formed a plot for robbing the vessel. The courage of young Abe and his companion defeated the nefarious attempt, for driving the black robbers off, they got their boat under way, and were soon out of reach.

"Early in 1832 the Black Hawk war broke out, and young Lincoln enlisted under Governor Reynolds, who formed four regiments for the defence of the State. To his great surprise, Lincoln was chosen captain of one of them, and conducted himself with great coolness, courage and enterprise during the entire campaign.



Currier & Ives print of "Hon. Abraham Lincoln Republican Candidate For Sixteenth President of the United States." (From a photograph taken by Mathew B. Brady in his New York City studio on February 27, 1860. 0-17) Brightly colored. 1860. This print has been declared as one of the best fifty of the medium folio of Currier & Ives lithographs.



Currier & Ives print of "Abraham Lincoln Sixteenth President of the United States." (From a photograph taken by Mathew B. Brady in his New York City studio on February 27, 1860. 0-17) See: Engraved and Lithographed Portraits of Abraham Lincoln by Winfred Porter Truesdell, Vol. II, page 48. Brightly colored. 1860.

"Lincoln had no sooner returned than he was urged by his friends to become a candidate for the Legislature, but he was defeated. He was soon afterwards made Postmaster of New Salem, which he retained for a short period.

"In 1834 he again became a candidate for the Legislature, and was triumphantly elected. He was re-elected in 1836, again in 1838, and again in 1840. During these last six years, Lincoln had, by the advice of the Hon. J.T. Stuart, studied law, and in the autumn of 1836 was admitted to the bar. On 15th of April, 1837, he formed a partnership with Mr. Stuart, and removed to Springfield, to enter upon his professional career.

"On retiring from the Legislature he devoted himself exclusively to the labors of Themis, and became one of the ablest jurists in Illinois.

"In November, 1842, Lincoln married Miss Mary Todd, daughter of the Hon. Robert S. Todd, of Lexington, Kentucky. The fruits of this union are three sons living and one dead. The eldest, now a fine boy of seventeen, is a student at Exeter Academy. In 1844 Abe Lincoln was chosen Elector at Large, and entered upon the canvass with his usual vigor and address.

"In 1846 he received the unanimous nomination for Congress, by the Whig Convention for the Springfield district. He was elected, and took his seat in the National House of Representatives on the 7th December, 1847.

"In 1852 he was again placed by his Whig friends on the Scott Electoral Ticket, but his legal duties prevented him from taking his usual active part in the canvass.

"The Kansas-Nebraska Bill of 1856, however, again roused all the politician in him, and he resumed his labors against the new order of things.

"In 1858 he was elected by the people as a candidate for Congress, but the Legislature chose Mr. Trumbull as their Senator. Our space will not allow us to give any details of the exciting stump campaign between Douglas and Lincoln in Illinois. It might truly be said they both held their own, finding in each other foemen worthy of their steel.

"The events of the Chicago Convention, which resulted in the nomination of Abraham Lincoln as the Republican Candidate for the Presidency, are too fresh in the recollection of our readers to need any recapitulation."



E.B. & E.C. Kellogg print of "Abraham Lincoln Republican Candidate for Sixteenth President of the United States." From a photograph taken by Mathew B. Brady in his New York City studio on February 27, 1860. 0-17) See Truesdell Vol. II, page 51. Brightly colored. 1860. For sale by Kellogg at 245 Main St., Hartford, Conn. and George Whiting, 87 Fulton St., New York.



E.B. & E.C. Kellogg print of "Abraham Lincoln Republican Candidate For Sixteenth President of the United States." Different face and expression from other seated Kellogg lithographs. Brightly colored. 1860.



E.B. & E.C. Kellogg print of "Abraham Lincoln Sixteenth President of the United States." Different face (bearded) and expression from other seated Kellogg lithographs.

A Bibliographical Problem The Works of Adin Baber of Kansas, Illinois

The editors of *Lincoln Lore* and the bibliographical committee of ten, have in years past, and even at the present time, tried to follow the bibliographical yardstick set forth in the Jay Monaghan *Lincoln Bibliography 1839-1939*. Undoubtedly, there have been exceptions to these hard fast rules; notably, the inclusion of reprints where the title page, type and pagination are not different from the original printing.

Monaghan on page XXXII of his introduction to the bibliography states emphatically that "books and pamphlets planographed, mimeographed or typed have been excluded." This brings us around to the problem of the books by Adin Baber which follow:

Nancy Hanks of Undistinguished Families - Second Families. 367 pages plus index. 1959.

Nancy Hanks of Undistinguished Families A Genealogical, Biographical and Historical Study of the Ancestry of The Mother of Abraham Lincoln. 367 pages. 1960.

The Hanks Family Legacy 1643-1889. Biographical and Historical Sketches Traditions of Early Professional Industrial and Commercial Pursuits With Some Account of Civil War Participation and Abraham Lincoln Policies. 429 pages. 1962.

Nancy Hanks - The Destined Mother of a President. The factual Story of a Pioneer Family as Revealed in an Exhaustive Study of Ancestral History. 174 pages. 1963.

The Hanks Family of Virginia and Westward. A genealogical record from early 1600s, including charts of families in Arkansas, the Carolinas, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Missouri, Oklahoma, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Texas. 409 pages. 1965.

A. Lincoln With Compass and Chain. Surveying career as seen in his notes and maps, and with an account of the Hanks family cousins, makers of fine surveying and mathematical instruments. 180 pages. 1968.

While these attractive books are beautifully bound, with excellent illustrations and in some instances with printed title pages, the pages of the text in all six volumes have been set up originally by the use of a typewriter. This fact eliminates the books from consideration for listing in the *Lincoln Lore* bibliography, as they do not conform to the Monaghan yardstick.

All of Mr. Baber's books have been privately printed and distributed by him or through The Arthur H. Clark Company, Box 230, Glendale, California.



E.B. & E.C. Kellogg print of Abraham Lincoln with quotation and endorsements. (From a photograph taken by Mathew B. Brady in his New York studio on February 27, 1860.) This print also appears beardless. Brightly colored. 1860.



E.B. & E.C. Kellogg print of Abraham Lincoln with quotation. Photographic source questionable. This same print appears beardless and with at least two variations that are bearded.

Another Comment on the Lithograph Taken From Blythe's Painting

"The Blythe print is a joyous discovery and, without question, is entirely favorable to Mr. Lincoln.

"I have never seen a copy of it in some 50 years of collecting and browsing in odd corners. I might have missed it, of course, but since Ralph Newman and you have not seen it I'd risk terming it (even if provisionally) to be unique.

"I have a suspicion that the print was never actually issued. The reason is that Ehrigott and Forbriger seemed to have a history of printing and not selling... or at least not selling enough to prevent disappearance. Nevertheless, the sum total of my impressions adds up to a very good lithograph outfit that didn't have distribution... and that was guided by someone who popped with enthusiasm and got things on to the stone before he thought it through, then found that those he showed it to were repelled by what they presumed to be an undignified treatment of the President, or failed to see that Blythe within his obvious limitations was attempting a *coup d'oeil*. He was a damned good primitive. At any rate, if a few leading lights in the Cincinnati area questioned its motive (or Ehrigott and Forbriger's patriotism), my guess is the print would have been withdrawn very quickly.

"All of the symbolism in the print is of Union coloration... note the flag displayed in the window, the scales, the key, Washington's sword, the Masonic square, compass and the open eye of Truth, the links of Union and the Bible as a source of the mercy the artist felt in the Emancipation Proclamation. It is interesting to note Andrew Jackson in the place of honor on the mantel while Jefferson Davis is hung in the background. One or two I showed the print to suggested the hung bust *could* be Buchanan... but I think that too oblique. The artist is too direct otherwise to credit that he would single out old Buck for censure on his closing months of kicking and waiting for March 4th. Note that the Presidential Oath is associated with the Warden's Key and the Scales of Justice, and that every element in the picture speaks of some influence that played benignly upon the making of the President's character... including the globe that represents the world opinion that was so present in the mind of Lincoln. His foot rests upon the Peace Democrats, and at his right hand are examples of the many problems that beset him—John Morgan, Nassau, Lord Lyons, Libby Prison, the Indian Troubles and the like. Webster on the Constitution and the life of Clay are near at hand. Finally, scattered over the floor are letters from the public. A pamphlet of Kelly is tossed into the fire-place and the denunciatory Wendell Phillips (prior to the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation—and we see Lincoln drafting it) has been tossed into the grate."

Carl Haverlin
Northridge, California

Lincoln Lore Anniversary

Forty years ago on April 15, 1929 *Lincoln Lore* made its initial appearance. Beginning as a single broadside of a half dozen different topics, it has become the most voluminous collection of printed Lincolniana under one title. Intended originally as a clip sheet for newspaper editors, the publication very soon emerged as a medium of information in the field of Lincoln historical research and became a collector's item. From its inception the bulletin has been distributed gratuitously and present plans are to continue the publication of *Lincoln Lore* indefinitely.