

LINCOLN LORE

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VARIANT EDITIONS OF HERNDON'S LINCOLN

Herndon's Lincoln first published in 1889 has been and still is the most controversial book in Lincolniana. This fact seems not to have prevented it from being widely used as an authoritative source book for speakers and writers for more than sixty years. Objective students of Lincoln who have long been aware of its inaccuracies have before them a tremendous task to discredit the folklore element in the Herndon story and present an historical Lincoln.

The availability of the Herndon publication throughout the years reveals how widely it has been circulated and its influence can be visualized by exhibiting a compilation of the various editions and issues into which the book has gone. Beginning with the 1889 cloth bound prospectus and concluding with the most recent one volume reprint we find it has passed through at least thirty-nine stages, thirty-two of which are in the Foundation Collection. A catalogue of these printings follow:

A. THE PROSPECTUS

- 1.* 1889 Herndon's Lincoln/The True Story of a Great Life/Etiam in minimis major/The History and Personal Recollections/or/Abraham Lincoln/by/William H. Herndon/For Twenty Years His Friend and Law Partner/and/Jesse William Weik, A. M./Vol. I/Chicago, New York and San Francisco/Belford, Clarke & Company/Publishers/London, Henry J. Drane, Lovell's Court, Paternoster Row.

Cloth, 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ x5 $\frac{1}{4}$, preface (vii to xii) p., contents (xiii-xx) p., text (1-14) p., 32 full page illustrations, advertisements, subscription blanks, 3 sample bindings on inside of back cover, gilt top.

B. FIRST EDITION, THREE VOLUMES

- 2.* 1889 Title page same as No. 1.
Cloth, 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ x5 $\frac{1}{4}$, I:xx, 199 p., II:205-418 p., III:423-638 p., Ills.
3. 1889 Same as No. 2 but imprint: Brentano's, London, 430 Strand, New York: 5 Union Square, Paris: Ave. Del 'Opera.

C. SECOND ISSUE, THREE VOLUMES

- 4.* 1890 Same as No. 2 except no advertisements and following imprint: Chicago/Belford-Clarke Co./1890 and size 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ x4 $\frac{7}{8}$.
- 5.* 1890 Same as No. 4 except bound in full library sheep, marbled edges.
6. 1890 Same as No. 4 except bound in half morocco.
- 7.* 1890 Same as No. 4 except bound in half calf.

D. EXPURGATED EDITION—TWO VOLUMES

- 8.* 1892 Abraham Lincoln/The True Story of a Great Life/by/William H. Herndon and Jesse W. Weik/with an introduction/by Horace White/Illustrated/in two volumes/Vol. I/New York/D. Appleton and Company/1892.
Cloth, 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ x5 $\frac{1}{4}$, I:xxviii, 331 p., II:vii, 438 p., Ills.
9. 1892 Same as No. 8 except imprint "London: Sampson Law & Co. 1892."
- 10.* 1893 Same as No. 8 except change in advertisement.
11. 1893 Same as No. 9 except imprint "Law, Marston & Co. Limited."
- 12.* 1895 Same as No. 10 except change in advertisement.
- 13.* 1896 Same as No. 12 except change in advertisement.
- 14.* 1900 Same as No. 13 except change in advertisement.

- 15.* 1901 Same as No. 14 except change in advertisement.
- 16.* 1902 Same as No. 15 except change in advertisement.
17. 1906 Not available for checking. See Monaghan 1051 note.
18. 1908 Not available for checking. See Monaghan 1051 note.
- 19.* 1909 Same as No. 16 except removal of cover design and no advertisement. "London" added to imprint.
- 20.* 1913 Same as No. 19.
- 21.* 1916 Same as No. 20.
- 22.* 1917 Same as No. 21.
- 23.* 1920 Same as No. 22 except cover inscription changed and no gilt top.
- 24.* 1923 Same as No. 23.
- 25.* 1924 Same as No. 24.
- 26.* 1924 Same as No. 25 but lacks gold leaf print on backstrip.
27. 1926 Not available for checking. See Monaghan 1051 note.
- 28.* 1928 Title page reset. Illustrations removed, same plates for text but smaller format 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ x4 $\frac{1}{2}$, new cover design, advertisements, imprint changed "J. Appleton and Company, New York London" also carries additional copyright line "Copyright 1888, 1920 by Jesse W. Weik."
- 29.* 1930 Same as No. 28.

E. REPRINT EDITION THREE VOLUMES

- 30.* 1921 Same title page as No. 1 except imprint "The Herndon's Lincoln Publishing Company/Publishers/Springfield, Ill." Same text but new plates. Cover design same except lacks "Belford Clarke & Co." at bottom of backstrip. Note on back of title pages. Vol. 1 & 2 states the book is a "faithful reproduction of the original *Herndon's Lincoln*." Vol. 3 does not carry this note. Gilt top.
- 31.* 1922 Same as No. 30 but lacks Lincoln profile on backstrip, an ornamental border pressed in cover. Copyright notice 1921. All three volumes contain reproduction note.
- 32.* 1923 Same as No. 31 except copyright notice and facsimile notes removed from all three volumes and a frontispiece similar to original appears in vol. 1.
- 33.* 1924 Same as No. 32 except cover contains no ornamental border. No frontispiece.
- 34.* 1924 Same as No. 33 but bound in $\frac{1}{2}$ leather, gilt tops. Title page to Volume 2 has been reprinted.

F. ONE VOLUME EDITION

- 35.* 1930 Herndon's/Life of Lincoln/The History and Personal/Recollections of/Abraham Lincoln/as originally written by/William H. Herndon/and/Jesse W. Weik/with an introduction and notes by/Paul M. Angle/Albert & Charles Boni/New York. MCMXXX.
Cloth, 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ x4 $\frac{7}{8}$.
- 36.* 1936 Same plates as No. 35 but new cover design and format 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ x5. Date in imprint changed to MCMXXXVI.
- 37.* 1942 Same as No. 36 but reset title page and new cover design "The World Publishing Company, Cleveland and New York." 8 $\frac{3}{8}$ x5 $\frac{1}{8}$.
- 38.* 1943 Same as No. 37 but smaller format 8 $\frac{3}{8}$ x5 $\frac{1}{8}$.
- 39.* 1949 Same as No. 38 but smaller format 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ x4 $\frac{7}{8}$.

*Indicates copy in Lincoln National Life Foundation collection.