



Lincoln Lore

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Recent Acquisitions

Editor's Note: The Foundation's staff is constantly alert to acquire additional historical material to augment the collection in the library-museum. With the passing of the years (since Lincoln's death) original Lincoln items are getting quite scarce and command exceptionally high prices; yet, in spite of these difficulties, worthwhile exhibit pieces, rare books, pamphlets and manuscript materials are occasionally placed on the market. Such items are avidly sought by a dozen institutions and perhaps as many private collectors. Fortunately, the Foundation's library-museum has been able to secure a great many of the rarities that occasionally make their appearance. This issue of *Lincoln Lore* is devoted to a discussion of some of our recent acquisitions.

Miniature Portrait of Abraham Lincoln

One of the major items of Lincolniana, acquired recently by the Foundation, is a miniature portrait of President Abraham Lincoln painted by Daniel Huntington in 1864. It is assumed that this miniature was painted from life. A statement made by J. Staal of the firm of Norman of London, 573 Madison Avenue, New York, N. Y., and dated January 29, 1943, follows: "This miniature of Abraham Lincoln was painted from life in the year 1864 by Daniel Huntington, N. A." The miniature is encased in a metal frame, and on the reverse side is the inscription "President Lincoln—painted by Daniel Huntington 1864." A study of the portrait reveals that it bears very little resemblance to any of Lincoln's photographs.

The provenance of the item is fairly well defined. The miniature was formerly the property of Lieutenant George M. Parsons, 55th Pennsylvania regiment, said to have been a personal friend of President Lincoln. Upon the death of Lieutenant Parsons the miniature portrait was inherited by his daughter, Miss Ella Parsons of Philadelphia. Prior to the death of Miss Parsons, the miniature became the property of Mr. and Mrs. A. Clarke Walling of Brookline, Massachusetts. For over fifteen years the miniature was exhibited by the John Hay library of Brown University at Providence, Rhode Island. This year the Foundation purchased the miniature from Mr. and Mrs. Walling.

The miniature measures 2 x 2½ inches. The portrait painted on ivory, depicts Lincoln turned to the sitter's left, wearing a business suit. Lincoln's hair is painted dark with some gray. The artist used subdued tints, with a greenish-gray background that is characteristic of his other work.

The history of miniature painting is interesting. The very early artists painted their small scale portraits on vellum until, in the 17th century, a method of painting on thin leaves of ivory affixed to cardboard with gum was introduced. The United States is best represented in this field by portrait painters J. S. Copley, Gilbert Stuart and C. W. Peale. E. G. Malbone (1777-1807), however, was the first great American miniaturist. *The Encyclopedia Americana* and *The Encyclopedia Britannica* mention some twenty leading miniature painters of the United States. The name of Daniel Huntington does not appear in these lists.

The name of Daniel Huntington (1816-1906) does appear in the *Dictionary of American Biography* (Hibben to Larkin) on pages 412 to 413; however, none of his Lincoln portraits are mentioned in the D A B sketch. During the Lincoln administration, Huntington was an artist of great eminence. Except for the years 1869-77,

he was President of the National Academy from 1862 to 1891. He undoubtedly was in a position to request President Lincoln to sit for a portrait.

The introduction of photography greatly lessened the demand for small portraits. However, it was not long before the superior artistic merit of the miniature began to awaken in discriminating persons a new interest in this type of painting, and in the latter part of the 19th Century an important revival of the art took place. Miniature painting still flourishes, although popular demand has relegated it to a comparatively minor place.

In Emanuel Hertz's two-volume biography, "Abraham Lincoln A New Portrait," Horace Liverwright, Inc., 1931, three of Daniel Huntington's Lincoln portraits are used as illustrations. The three original portraits are exhibited in the Prince Albert Museum of Bombay, India, The Union League Club of New York City, and the Chamber of Commerce of the State of New York.

In the files of our museum-library there is a small folder of material on Daniel Huntington. This folder contains a photograph of a Lincoln painting by Huntington. The 1932 correspondence which accompanies the photograph indicates that the portrait of Lincoln, along with one of Mrs. Lincoln, was for sale at \$8,500.

Staffordshire Figurine "A. Lincoln"

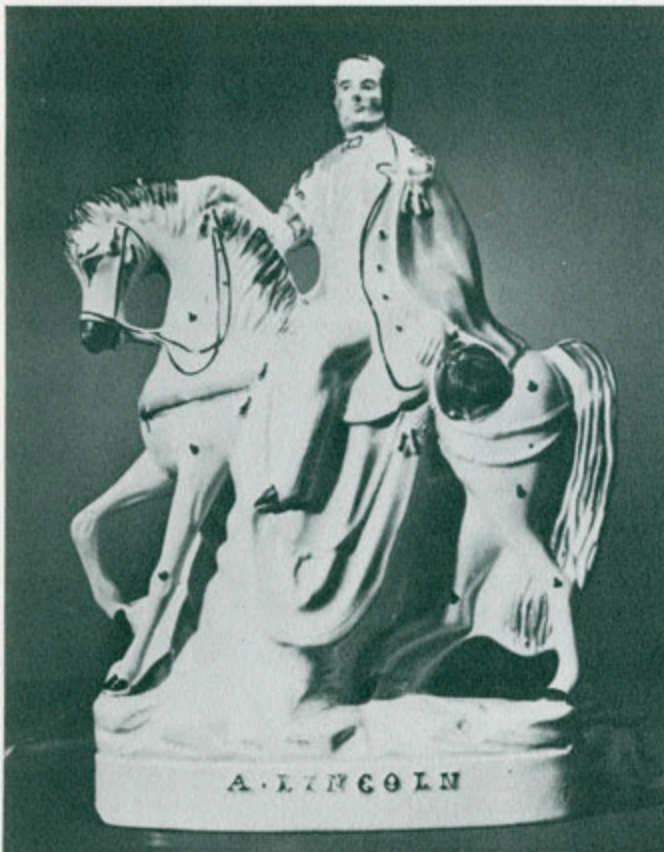
During the American Civil War there was a great deal of interest in England in the outcome of the conflict. In most cases the sentiment was pro-Union. This interest was manifested by the Staffordshire Pottery Works in the production of two figurines; John Brown and Abraham Lincoln. However, these were not the first Americans to be so depicted as Benjamin Franklin and George Washington were produced for the European as well as the American market.

The public's intense sympathy with the North was also shown by the many figures made by the Stafford-



From the Lincoln National Life Foundation

A miniature portrait of Abraham Lincoln painted by Daniel Huntington in 1864.



A Staffordshire figurine bearing the name "A. Lincoln" (15½" high x 11" wide) made in England about the period of the Civil War. The Sixteenth President is depicted, according to the notions of the British, as a reigning monarch.

shire potteries of the chief characters in Harriett Beecher Stowe's book, "Uncle Tom's Cabin," which were manufactured immediately after 1852 when that work first made its appearance.

The Lincoln figurine bearing the name "A. Lincoln" (although it bears no resemblance to the Sixteenth President) was made in England during the period of the Civil War. Lincoln is depicted astride a horse, with all the accouterments, according to the notions of the British, as a reigning monarch. This figurine is quite rare. Only two others are known to be located in the collections of Lincoln College at Lincoln, Illinois, and the Illinois State Historical Library of Springfield, Illinois. However, the figurine is not unknown to collectors of Staffordshire. The figurine "A. Lincoln" is discussed and illustrated in Thomas Balston's book, "Staffordshire Portrait Figures of The Victorian Age," published in 1960 by the Charles T. Branford Company, Newton, Massachusetts.

The figurine acquired by The Lincoln National Life Foundation was just recently purchased from a dealer who makes frequent trips to England in search of art objects, Civil War manuscripts and items of Lincolniana.

An Appraisal of the Property of Lincoln's Brother-in-Law

Sarah Lincoln, the sister of Abraham Lincoln, married Aaron Grigsby on August 2, 1826, and on January 20, 1828, in her twenty-first year, she died in childbirth. On September 11, 1830, Aaron Grigsby married Margaret Miller. He died a year later and his will was probated February 10, 1833. Josiah Crawford (who lent Ramsey's "Life of Washington" to Abraham Lincoln) and James A. Brown acted as appraisers of the estate, which was valued at \$269.78 plus notes for the amount of \$16.47. The signatures of both men are affixed to the document.

This remarkable original document, dated August 27, 1833 has just recently been acquired by the Lincoln National Life Foundation. It is titled, "The Appraisal of the Property of Aaron Grigsby Deceased Spencer County, Ind. . . ." Without a doubt, many of the items

listed were once owned or used by Lincoln's sister. Some of the items (42 entries) in which she might have had a personal interest follow:

1 Lot of cupboard ware	\$ 4.36
2 Beds and bedding	18.68
1 Bundle of table cloths and pillow slips ...	1.00
1 Bed and bedding	9.97
1 Lot of bed clothing	16.37
1 Lot of thread	0.25
1 Looking glass	1.00
1 Lot of Books	1.50
1 Lot of old irons25
1 Lot of copper ware	3.18
6 chairs 1 table 1 cradle	2.00
1 wheel 1 Reel	3.00
1 tray and Sieve50

Mason Brayman Tells His Daughter A Lincoln Story

A recently acquired letter in the Foundation files by Mason Brayman (1813-1895) (who was a newspaper editor, lawyer, Union soldier, government official and friend of Lincoln) addressed to his daughter "My Darling Ditty" provides a new Lincoln anecdote. Brayman was Governor of Iowa Territory from 1876 to 1880. While in Boise City, Brayman apparently discouraged and disconsolate, wrote his daughter on April 22, 1877 that "It is only a fear, for you know it requires the stimulus of pressing occasion to bring me out, and I am afraid I shall earn Mr. Lincoln's *real* compliment to Joe Hooker, when he said to me 'There's Fremont, and some others, they are uneasy and impatient, and make me trouble, but I like Joe, for when he has *nothing to do, he does nothing.*'"

Presidential Letters and Documents

With the acquisition of a three page letter written by George Washington, the Foundation has a complete file of the Presidents including Lyndon Johnson. The Washington letter, dated November 20, 1778, is addressed "To Major Talmage of the Dragoons, Bedford." The letter, while not necessarily franked, bears the statement "On Public Service."

The letter follows:

Head Quarters Fish
Kill Novem. 29th 1778

Sir,

I am favoured with your letter of this date with one from C..... His account has the appearance of a distinct and good one, and make me desirous of a continuance of his correspondence. At the same time, I am at a loss how it can be conveniently carried on as he is so scrupulous respecting the channel of conveyance. At the station, to which your regiment is going, it would be too circuitous and dilatory to have his communications pass through you. I wish you could fix upon some officer at Danbury, in whose discretion your correspondent would be willing to confide; or perhaps the matter might be so managed, that his communications might be conveyed through that officer without his knowing from whom they came. If this can be done, you will make the proper arrangements and give me notice. But any way, you can fall upon, in which the end can be answered with expedition will be agreeable to me.

If you think you can really depend on C.....s fidelity — I should be glad to have an interview with him myself, in which I would endeavor to put the mode of corresponding upon just a footing, that even if his letters were to fall into the enemy's hands, he would have nothing to fear on that account.

I am sorry, I cannot find you the money, you request, for bearer: all the specie in my possession is with my baggage, from which, I shall be for some days separated. But, if I am not mistaken, there is a sum about equal to what is now wanted in the hands of Col. Hanly, whom I have directed in the letter accompanying this, to pay what he may have to you. You will apply to him accordingly.

Specie is so scarce an article and so difficult to be procured, that we must use great economy with it. If Continental money can be made to answer the purpose, in part, it will be a very desirable circumstance, and facilitate the necessary supplies.

I am Sir

Your most Obedt
Servant

G. WASHINGTON

P. S. — If you cannot arrange the matter at once in some other way, you may remain awhile where you are to carry on the correspondence.

Document Relative To Lincoln's Assassination

The Foundation's manuscripts relative to Lincoln's assassination have been enhanced with the addition of a War Department document signed by G. C. Thomas, Notary. This order dated April 28, 1865, is for the payment of a fee of \$1.80 to G. C. Thomas for notarial service in

relation to the identification of the body of John Wilkes Booth. The order also contains the information that on May 1, 1865 a deposition of Sergeant Boston Corbett was taken. The entries on the War Department form follow: "April 28, (1865) Notarial Service in Administering oath in the depositions of Seaton Monroe, Chas. M. Collins, Wm. W. Crowningshield, Charles Dawson and Dr. John Fred May, relative to the identity of the body of J. Wilkes Booth. \$1.25. Five internal revenue stamps \$.25. May 1, Deposition of Serg. Boston Corbett 25 revenue stamp 5 — \$1.80."

1860 Presidential Campaign Songster

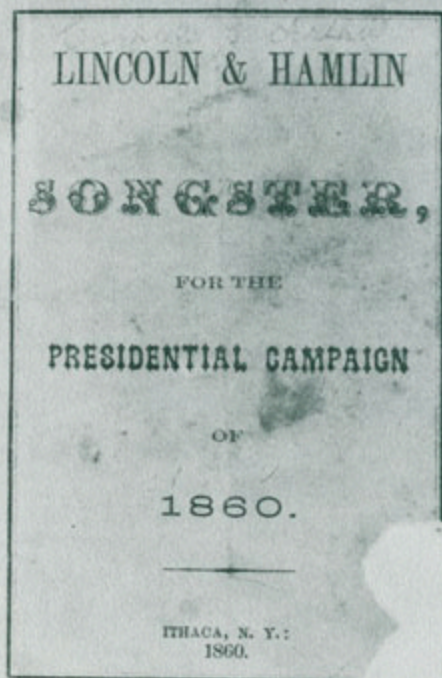
A rare "Lincoln & Hamlin Songster" has recently been acquired for the Foundation collection. Published in Ithaca, New York, in 1860, it has eluded collectors and bibliographers for over one hundred years. The songster measures 6¼ by 4 inches and contains 24 pages. Some of the song titles are: "Republican Campaign Songster," "Rallying Song," "The Presidential Race," "That 'Old Man 'bout Fifty-two," "A wide-awake Song," "Republican Rally," and "The Prairie's Pride."

In addition to the songs, the pamphlet contains some humorous Lincoln stories and political ammunition for the party worker. An example follows: "It's a sartin' sure thing that Abe Lincoln is a cussed hard nut to crack, and unless the Demmycrats march shoulder to shoulder in one solid felanks and as one unit, carrying the sledge hammer of Jackson Democracy, they never can crack him any how."

The compiler of the songster had this to say about the two Republican candidates; "The entire harmony of the Republican nominations is curiously illustrated in the names of the candidates, which are anagrammatically convertible, thus:

ABRA-HAM LIN-COLN;

the Vice-Presidential name being a Union link on that of 'Honest Old Abe.' The letters also contain Mr. Hamlin's first name — Hannibal."



From the Lincoln National Life Foundation

The only copy of the "Lincoln & Hamlin Songster" known to be extant.

Shakespeare Applied To Our National Bereavement

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

BORN, JULY 12, 1809 - DIED, APRIL 15, 1865.

"After life's fitful fever, he sleeps well;
Treason has done his worst; nor steel, nor poison,
Malice domestic, foreign levy, nothing
Can touch him further."

OUR HONORED PRESIDENT, ALL ACREE,

"Hath borne his faculties so meek, hath been
So clear in his great office, that his virtues
Will plead like angels, trumpet-tongued, against
The deep damnation of his taking off."

DUTY OF THE HOUR.

"Let's briefly put on manly readiness,
And question this most bloody piece of woe
To know it further - Ill deeds are seldom slow,
Nor single - Dread horrors still abound -
Our country - it weeps, it bleeds; and each new day
A gash is added to her wounds."

Shakespeare applied to our National Bereavement.

From the Lincoln National Life Foundation

This original broadside (10" x 14") published in 1865 bears the title "Shakespeare Applied to our National Bereavement."

This year, when all English speaking people observe the four hundredth anniversary of William Shakespeare's birth, it was most appropriate for the Foundation to acquire a Lincoln broadside published in 1865 bearing the inconspicuous title, "Shakespeare Applied to our National Bereavement." It is interesting to note, however, that this broadside bears the incorrect date of Lincoln's birth. The broadside was copyrighted in 1865 by John Lancy and was sold to dealers by B. B. Russell & Co., 55 Cornhill; Loring, 319 Washington St.; and B. J. Remick, 515 Washington St.

Arnold Defends His Paper Read Before The Royal Historical Society

On June 16, 1881, Isaac N. Arnold, the author of a voluminous work entitled "The History of Abraham Lincoln And the Overthrow of Slavery" read a paper before The Royal Historical Society in London, England. The paper was entitled "Abraham Lincoln." The meeting was held at the Society's Rooms at Number 22 Albemarle Street. The Society's membership and a large number of invited guests including ladies, were present. The chairman, Mr. Alderman Hurst, the Ex-Mayor of Bedford, introduced Mr. Arnold to his distinguished audience. The 36 page address was later printed and was widely distributed.

A copy of the paper came to the attention of Mr. H. B. Dawson, Esq., of New York City, N. Y., who was a friend of Arnold. On August 25, 1881 Dawson wrote the author-orator and injected into his letter some criticisms

and suggestions concerning The Royal Historical Society speech. On September 2, from Chicago, Arnold replied. This letter recently acquired by the Foundation follows:

"Dear Mr. Dawson Chicago Sept. 2, 1881

Thanks for your letter of Aug. 25th to which I should have replied before but I have been very busy. I always like the criticism & suggestions of a friend & I am sure I shall always value & respect any coming from you.

"I too helped 'slavery' in the defeat of Cass. I was a delegate to the Buffalo convention & helped to nominate Van Buren & Adams & am not conscious of giving the "old Whig party" any credit as such for the overthrow of slavery. I do not know to what you allude in saying there are some things in my London paper which "clash with history." I do not find anything which conflicts with the statement you make of the events in which you participated. I think if you look the paper over (as I have just done to try & find to what you allude) you will not find any thing conflicting with your statement. You may perhaps think I give Mr. Lincoln too much credit — as a leader in the anti-slavery cause? I know he voted for Whig candidates & acted as a Whig Leader — after — the Buffalo Convention — but he was an anti-slavery Whig — introducing into Congress before Taylor's election a bill to abolish slavery at Washington. He acted with the Whig party, longer than I with the Democratic, but when he helped organize the Free-Soil party he brought his party (much of it) with him. But these are details into which I did not go in my London paper & therefore I do not know to what you take exception, unless perhaps by inference I may have left an impression that Lincoln became an anti-slavery leader contemporaneously with Sumner, Chase & others? I do not say this, & I know of course it was otherwise. In my life of Lincoln you will see I give the details in full.

I had a delightful visit to England. Nothing could exceed the kindness & cordiality with which I was received. I hope sometime to see you & give you 'details' of my visit.

"I am sorry you do not speak of your wife's being better. Remember me kindly to her & believe me

Ever — Faithfully Yours,
Isaac N. Arnold"

H. B. Dawson Esq., N. Y.

A Letter Addressed To the President

The Lincoln National Life Foundation now has 204 letters addressed to Abraham Lincoln. Several years ago when 186 of the letters were compiled for readers of *Lincoln Lore* (See 1429, 1432 & 1433), the statement was made that "these letters all have one thing in common; namely, the writers wanted certain favors which they believed the President could grant."

Now, with the acquisition of the two hundred and fourth letter, the statement still holds true. However, this latest acquisition presents the most unique approach to the President "for help" that has ever come to our attention. The letter is addressed: "To the President of the United States:" and reads as follows:

"Honorable Sir:

I observe you are a patron of Shakespeare. I submit a pertinent passage:

King Lear.—'How now, what art thou?'

Earl of Kent.—(Disguised)—'A man sir.'

L.—'What dost thou profess? What would'st thou with us?'

K.—'I do profess to be no less than I seem; to serve him truly, that will put me in trust, to love him that is honest; to converse with him that is wise and says little; — to fight when I can not choose; and to eat no fish.'

[especially salmon]

L.—'What art thou?'

K.—'A very honest-hearted fellow, and as poor as the King.'

L.—'What would'st thou?'

K.—'Service.'

L.—'Who would'st thou serve?'

K.—'You.'

L.—'Dost thou know me, fellow?'

K.—'No, sir; but you have in your countenance authority.'

L.—'What services can'st thou do?'

K.—'I can keep honest counsel (etc.) and deliver a plain message bluntly: (as you discover). That which ordinary men at least are fit for, I am qualified in; and the best of me is diligence.'

"Now I prythee read the first nine verses S. John V Ch.

With respectful deference,

(over) W. Harrison Grigsby.

1. 'After this there was a feast of the Jews: and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.'
 2. 'Now there is at Jerusalem, by the sheep market, a pool which is called in the Hebrew tongue, Bethesda, having five porches.'
 3. 'In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water.'
 4. 'For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water; whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had.'
 5. 'And a certain man was there which had an infirmity thirty and eight years.'
 6. 'When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, he said unto him, Wilt thou be made whole?'
 7. 'The impotent man answered him, sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool; but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me!'
 8. 'Jesus said unto him, Rise take up thy bed and walk.'
 9. 'And immediately the man was made whole and took up his bed and walked: and on the same day was the Sabbath.'
- S. John V:(1-9)

"Mr. President:

Such is my predicament — minus the 'thirty and eight years.' I have the honor to refer to General Oglesby for particulars. I know it is a bold move to apply to you for help: — Churches teach that 'man is a poor worm of the dust,' and yet they enjoin that he should pray even to the Great Jehovah!

Your Humble Friend,
Grigsby."

The original envelope in which this letter was delivered was addressed to the "Honorable Abraham Lincoln — President United States, Present." The letter was franked by S. (Sempronius) H. Boyd, a member of Congress (38th) from Missouri.

W. H. Grigsby was likely related to the family Lincoln had known in Spencer County, Indiana. In fact, Lincoln's sister, Sarah, married Aaron Grigsby on August 2, 1826.

On August 3, 1858 Lincoln wrote a letter to William H. Grigsby, then nineteen years of age and a native of Missouri, who was employed by G. L. Thomas, Bookseller and Stationer at Pekin, Illinois. This letter was in reply to one Lincoln had received on July 14, 1858:

"Yours of the 14th. of July, desiring a situation in my law office, was received several days ago. My partner, Mr. Herndon, controls our office in this respect, and I have known of his declining at least a dozen applications like yours within the last three months.

"If you wish to be a lawyer, attach no consequence to the place you are in, or the person you are with; but get books, sit down anywhere, and go to reading for yourself. That will make a lawyer of you quicker than any other way. Yours respectively, A. Lincoln."

Such information as we have at present leaves us in doubt as to whether Grigsby ever became a lawyer or received an appointment from President Lincoln. We can, however, safely conclude that Grigsby was a student of Shakespeare and the Bible.

Reverdy Johnson's Letter

A letter written by Reverdy Johnson, dated April 16, 1865, has also been added to the Foundation's collection of assassination manuscript's. Written to "My Dear C" (Hon. J. A. J. Creswell) the three page letter follows: "The funeral of the President is to be on Wednesday. Please come if you possibly can. Many Senators are in the city sincerely grieving at the national calamity caused by his death. I am truly yours, Reverdy Johnson. Honorable J. A. J. Creswell. P.S. There is reason to think that 6 (six) persons were in the conspiracy & I am pained to say that most of them if not all Marylanders — but this is not confirmed."

From the Lincoln National Life Foundation

First page of Reverdy Johnson's letter dated April 16, 1865, and addressed to Hon. J. A. J. Creswell. Johnson's handwriting is most difficult to decipher.