



Lincoln Lore

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Lincoln Glassware

In the robust years of our national development the historic deeds of our heroes were recorded in type by writers, drawn on lithographic stones by artists, set to music by ballad singers, related orally by orators, and commemorated by artisans on glassware and china. The early productions of the glassworks many times portray famous Americans such as Washington, Clay, Ringgold, Jackson and Harrison. Some of the more boisterous of the Presidential campaigns brought forth the manufacture of whiskey flasks and cup-plates which were molded with the bust of a favorite candidate; and oftentimes famous ships and patriotic monuments were depicted to commemorate the daring exploits of a national hero.

This custom, which to a limited extent is still followed, was in vogue at the time of Abraham Lincoln's death. Glass-makers were quick to see great sales possibilities in commemorative productions which would memorialize the untimely death of the Sixteenth President. Within a short time after the Lincoln funeral there was placed on the market a pattern of pressed glassware which is known to glass connoisseurs as "Lincoln Drape." This pattern suggests the somberness of hearse hangings. It comes in two designs which differ in that one has a large pendant tassel attached to the simple drapery. Both patterns are considered to be of a fine, clear quality of pressed glass and possess a bell tone which bespeaks good workmanship and fine materials.

No other symbolic forms or patterns of glassware commemorating Abraham Lincoln have been discovered. For many years no clear-cut evidence was available as to what factory produced "Lincoln Drape;" however, a great many fragments of this particular pattern had been excavated at the site of the Boston & Sandwich Glass Company, which was located on Cape Cod in Massachusetts. Today, Sandwich, Massachusetts is a delightful village on the north side of Cape Cod, but glass collectors have removed every vestige of the original glassworks. So thoroughly has the area been combed for glass fragments that all evidence of the

original product has disappeared. Nevertheless, it has been definitely established that "Lincoln Drape" was manufactured by the sandwich plant.

Through the combined efforts of the Sandwich Historical Society and the Community, a Sandwich Glass Museum has been developed, and a fine collection of its products are displayed not far from the site of the original plant. Examples of "Lincoln Drape" are on display. Today, the pattern is considered uncommon, and a complete service is difficult, if not impossible, to acquire. An exhaustive survey has revealed that "Lincoln Drape" glassware is scarce in every state in the Union.

The types of products manufactured with the "Lincoln Drape" pattern are: open and covered butter dishes, various sizes of compotes (open and covered), celery vases, cordials, creamers, decanters, footed salts, sauce dishes, spoon-holders, sugar bowls, egg cups, goblets, water and syrup pitchers and kerosene lamps. Of all the various types

of glassware, the syrup pitchers in colors such as sapphire blue, and opalescent and dense milk white, are considered the most choice and rare. Goblets are also a desirable collector's item.

Glass authorities are of the opinion that the "Lincoln Drape" pattern bearing the tassel was produced in smaller quantities than the pattern with the simple drapery. Collectors find that the more elaborate pattern (with tassel) is not only extremely scarce, but is found in only a few forms, such as goblets and sugar bowls.

Other forms of commemorative glassware featuring the bust or profile of Lincoln, alone or in connection with other historical characters, have appeared on the market. One choice item is a flask on which is molded on the obverse a bust of Lincoln. A cluster of grapes is depicted on the reverse. This flask has a screw neck, holds a pint of liquid and is made of amber glass. A round, crystal glass mug showing the busts of Lincoln and Garfield with memorial dates on the side is found in some glass collections. There is also a crystal goblet with a tapering bowl and turned stem, which contains



From The Lincoln National Life Foundation
Glass platter with busts of Garfield, Washington and Lincoln. This oval glass dish has a leaf border inscribed "In Remembrance."



From The Lincoln National Life Foundation
"Lincoln Drape" goblet with tassel.

etched or transfer busts of Garfield, Lincoln and Washington in star-rimmed oval medallions. Two glass platters have likewise been manufactured commemorating Lincoln along with other historical figures. One contains the busts of Garfield, Lincoln and Washington with inscriptions in the center (sometimes frosted). This oval glass dish has a leaf border inscribed "In Remembrance." The other crystal platter contains a medallion bust of Lincoln and Garfield with an American eagle. The words, "Our Country's Martyrs," appear in a frosted center with a sawtooth band on the border. The handles of this oval dish appear to be molded after a likeness of the head of Christ.

Among the items of glassware most desired by Lincoln collectors are the exquisite pieces of cut glass which were a part of the White House service during the Lincoln administration. This glassware was made by Christian Dorflinger (he manufactured the glass service with replacements and additions for the White House from Harrison to Wilson) and contains a beautiful shield of the United States. More recently it has been the custom to provide each new administration with a glassware service. Naturally, each service has certain definite characteristics. Pieces of the Lincoln service are almost impossible to obtain, partly because this same glassware was undoubtedly used by the Johnson, Grant, Hayes, Garfield and Arthur administrations. However, it is believed that the glassworks was occasionally called upon to replace broken pieces.

Christian Dorflinger (1828-1915) was born in Alsace, France. He learned the art of glassmaking in the city of St. Louis in the province of Lorraine. He came to the United States in 1846 with his mother and other members of his family. As a young man he met Miss Elizabeth Hagen of Brooklyn, who became his wife and the mother of his ten children. Taking charge of the Long Island Flint Glass Works in Brooklyn, which he eventually purchased, he next established in 1860 the Green Point Flint Glass Works located on Commercial Street in the same city. With two glasshouses, and particularly with the most advanced facilities in the Green Point plant,

Dorflinger was able to manufacture cut and engraved glasswares, as well as plain and colored.

The glassware which Mrs. Lincoln selected in 1861 to be used in the White House for state occasions was manufactured at the Green Point Flint Glass Works. This exquisitely cut and engraved pattern was used by subsequent Presidents until Grover Cleveland, in 1886, chose the newer Russian pattern, designed by Philip McDonald, and made by T. J. Hawkes & Company, Corning, New York.

When Mrs. Lincoln refurbished the White House, she was very lavish in the expenditure of government funds. It was the dealer, A. P. Zimandy of Washington, D.C. who sold Mary Lincoln the Dorflinger glassware. Zimandy's invoice of July 23, 1861 described the goods as "one sett of Glass ware rich cut and Engraved with the U. S. Coat of Arms." The total charge was \$1,500.00 and Mrs. Lincoln certified "This bill is correct" and signed her name on the invoice.

The Dorflinger glassware designed especially for the Lincolns is unlike most heavy cut glass, in that it is exceptionally thin, fine and delicate. Without question, Dorflinger glass was the finest produced in this country and its high quality depended on the exceptionally fine basic ingredients used in its manufacture. Dorflinger used a special sand from Fontainebleau, France, which he had brought to the United States as ballast in sailing ships. Later, he used a native product made of ground rock and produced by the Berkshire Glass and Sand Company of Cheshire, Massachusetts, and the Pennsylvania Glass and Sand Company of McVeigh, Pennsylvania. Red lead and potash were also imported, and a special fire brick from England was used in the construction of his furnaces.

The Dorflinger laboratory analyzed each new batch of sand to find the correct proportion of other ingredients to be mixed with it. For a batch of six hundred pounds of sand, usually four hundred pounds of oxide of lead were added, and two hundred pounds of pearl ash. Into this went very small amounts of salt petre, arsenic and manganese.

Dorflinger glass is today extremely valuable, and only a few pieces are to be found in large museums. Three



From The Lincoln National Life Foundation
"Lincoln Drape" goblet without tassel.



From The Lincoln National Life Foundation

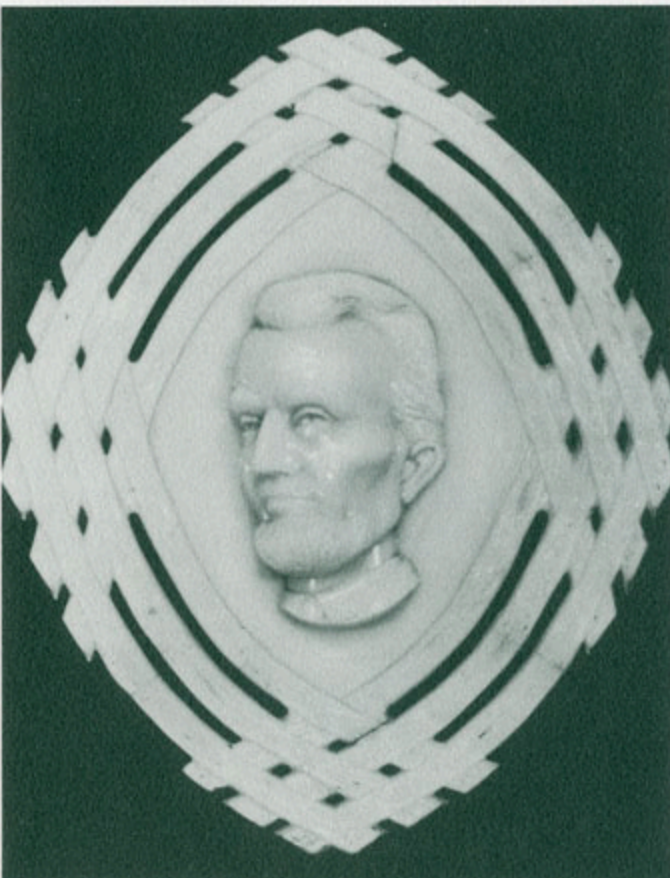
Part of a set of Dorflinger Glass designed for President Abraham Lincoln. The three pieces are (left to right) fruit cup, finger bowl and saucer, and handled punch (height 4 inches.) The glass shown here is (1947) the property of Miss Katharine Dorflinger of New York, N. Y.

pieces of the Lincoln pattern were owned in 1947 by Miss Katherine Dorflinger of New York City, a daughter of the Alsatian glassmaker.

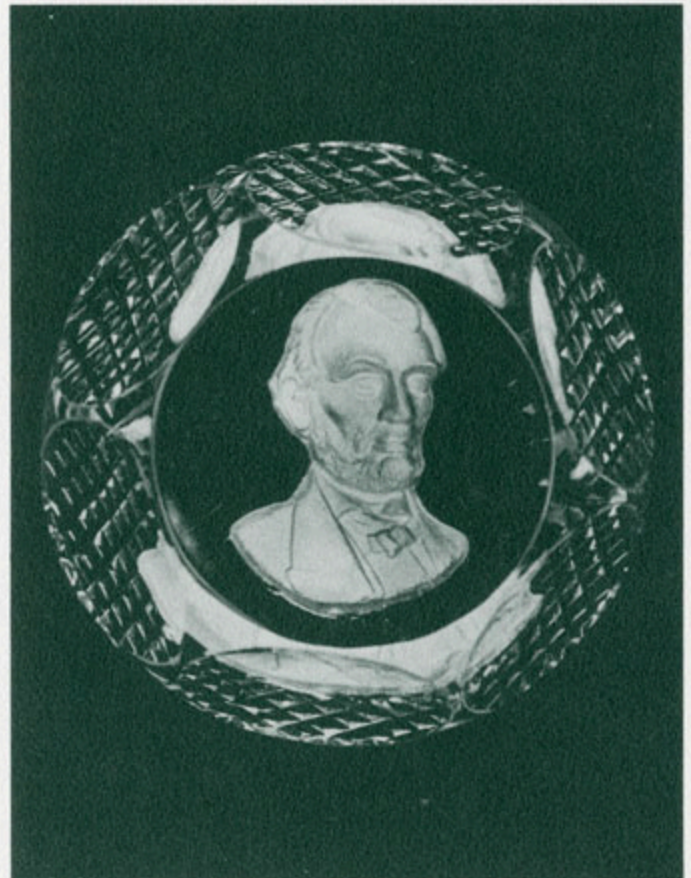
The Dorflinger product achieved international prestige at the Centennial Exhibition held in Philadelphia in 1876. His engraved Centennial set—"a decanter and 38 glasses, symbolic of the national government and the 38 states then in the Union," won the highest award. Original pieces from this set are exhibited at the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

The Dorflinger plant became the largest of its kind in the nation and employed the best craftsmen in this country and Europe. Even though capably managed by the Dorflinger sons and grandsons, the glassworks closed its doors (the Wayne County Glass Works of White Mills, Pennsylvania) in 1921. World War I made it difficult if not impossible to import some of the basic ingredients of glassmaking which at times necessitated the changing of formulas, and higher taxes affected the buying habits of the carriage trade. Then along came

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From The Lincoln National Life Foundation
Milk glass dish with President Lincoln's head in high relief.



From The Lincoln National Life Foundation
The finest Lincoln paperweight on the market today was manufactured by Baccarat in 1953.

Dr. Warren Receives Lincoln Diploma for 1965

The current book, *Lincoln's Gettysburg Declaration*, by Louis A. Warren, contributed much to the author being chosen to receive the Lincoln Diploma of Honor, awarded at the commencement exercises of Lincoln Memorial University at Harrogate, Tennessee, on June 7, 1965. The memorial is presented each year "in recognition of distinguished service in the field of Lincolniana." The remarks preliminary to the presentation, which were made by the editor of this bulletin, follow:

"Today it is my privilege to introduce to this audience the Dean of Lincoln students as a candidate for the award of the Lincoln Diploma of Honor.

"This gentleman has undoubtedly excelled all other students and biographers in research, collecting and writing. His contributions in the field of Lincoln genealogy are unsurpassed. He has, with adequate proof, given Abraham Lincoln an honorable parentage; he has presented the father of the Sixteenth President as a sensible, hardworking, honest and typical pioneer.

"His editorship of the bulletin *Lincoln Lore*, and his scores of pamphlets on various phases of Lincoln's life and career, give him the distinction of having written more on the subject than any other man, living or dead.

"His books on Lincoln's 'Parentage and Childhood,' and the 'Indiana Years,' are definitive works that will long remain as foundation stones of the Lincoln biographical edifice.

"His latest work, 'Lincoln's Gettysburg Declaration,' undoubtedly will be considered as basic Lincolniana — the best account available of Lincoln's democratic concept of constitutional government."

Sources for Dr. Warren's Gettysburg studies had been accumulating ever since he prepared a lecture on that subject, which became the most popular of the more than one hundred different Lincoln addresses he used before different types of audiences. Reports of his itineraries for a period of over forty years reveal that his 3,521 speeches drew a total attendance of 1,051,808 persons. The Gettysburg subject was most often presented to luncheon groups, including 171 Rotary, 162 Kiwanis, and 110 Lions Clubs, located in the country's largest cities.

The contacts most helpful to the speaker during these itineraries were the engagements to address Lincoln fellowship and educational organizations, where the open forum gave Warren an opportunity to receive criticisms and suggestions on the Lincoln theme. These were carefully noted and preserved. A by product of these nation wide speaking appointments was the gathering of an enormous source of printed information about Lincoln's famous oration. Every book or pamphlet bearing on the Gettysburg subject, Dr. Warren acquired and catalogued for the Foundation library.

Possibly the most valuable source used by the author in compiling information for his Gettysburg volume, was the Foundation's exhaustive collection of magazines referring to the oration, and the newspaper clipping files. These items cut from contemporary issues of 1863, as well as later press editions, comprise over a thousand excerpts mounted and organized in six large loose leaf volumes.

The composition of Warren's "Lincoln's Gettysburg Declaration," is an excellent example of what can be done by historians and biographers, in using the facilities of but one library, which attempts to collect all the information which may be available about one person. The Foundation collection of Lincolniana, besides the periodical and newspaper divisions already noted, contains over 10,000 books, exclusively Lincoln in content. Microfilm copies of the Robert Todd Lincoln Papers in the Library of Congress, a large collection of manuscripts and literally thousands of pictures for illustrating purposes provide about all an author needs in the way of source material on Lincoln.

The Lincoln National Life Foundation at Fort Wayne, Indiana, invites anyone who contemplates a monograph or a book on any phase of the Lincoln story to make use of the resources where ideal working conditions may be found in air conditioned offices.

Both of Warren's books on the Kentucky childhood and the Indiana years are out of print. The foundation is still able to supply the volume "Lincoln's Gettysburg Declaration," autographed deluxe edition \$7.50, trade edition \$5.95.

Lincoln Glassware

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Prohibition slowing down the sale of drinking glasses and tableware. All these things marked the end of the Dorflinger era. Christian Dorflinger died on August 11, 1915, in his 87th year. He was buried beside his wife in the Glenwood Cemetery in Brooklyn.

Other types of glass products made by manufacturers include paperweights, plaques and portrait busts of the Sixteenth President.

One of the finest glass paperweights in the Foundation's collection is the size of a baseball with a portrait of Lincoln in brown on a white background. Underneath the portrait is a spattered, mottled color effect made up of many hundreds of different colored glass fragments. The paperweight bears no manufacturer's mark or date. Undoubtedly, the finest Lincoln paperweight on the market today was manufactured by Baccarat in 1953. The production of this item was limited to a few hundred, and no more are to be manufactured. All Baccarat items are considered collector's items.

While many different pieces of milk glass (some of which are reproductions) have found their way into antique shops, only one depicts the head of Abraham Lincoln. Although it has the appearance of a dish (8½" x 6¾") with its open lattice or basket work, the central figure of the President's head in high relief makes it impractical for any utilitarian purpose. It is in reality a plaque, and perhaps those who purchased it originally used it as a wall decoration.

A great many collectors, at one time or another, have had the opportunity to acquire what is generally called a camphor glass bust of Lincoln. These miniature busts measuring about 6¼ inches tall were likely first made in 1876 for the Centennial Exposition. On one of the two busts in the Foundation's collection, the name of the manufacturer is Gillinder & Sons. These busts are quite attractive and make good collector's items.

Perhaps there are many other Lincoln glassware items produced in limited quantities that are today so scarce that they have escaped attention or classification. Despite the rarity of Lincoln glassware, it can be the subject of an interesting study which could lead to a rather expensive hobby.

DIPLOMA OF HONOR

conferred upon

Louis A. Warren

In recognition of distinguished service in the field of Lincolniana in the interpretation of the life, deeds and immortality of

Abraham Lincoln

by Lincoln Memorial University at Cumberland Gap Harrogate, Tennessee. In witness whereof we have caused this diploma to be signed and our corporate seal to be hereto affixed at the University on the seventh day of June in the Year of our Lord 1965.

H. La Marr Rice
President

R. Gerald McMurtry
Committeeman

Notice to Lincoln Lore Subscribers

With the issuance of the April 1965 issue of *Lincoln Lore* a return card was inserted requesting the Zip Code numbers of all subscribers. Up to date, only about fifty percent of our mailing list has responded. Failure to return this card immediately, with Zip Code, will require us to drop your name from our mailing list. Foreign subscribers are excepted.

R. G. M.