



Lincoln Lore

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Recent Library-Museum Acquisitions

At the end of every year a record is compiled of the acquisitions of our Lincoln Library-museum. Some of the 1968-1969 acquisitions are considered to be of major importance in the field of research: such as three folios of letters, documents and signatures relative to the ancestral Virginia Lincolns; a document by Benjamin Helm of Hardin County, Kentucky, dated 1809, which mentions Thomas Lincoln as a guard of prisoners; documents signed by the Sixteenth President; letters addressed to Lincoln; autographs of Presidents; legal documents in the handwriting of Stephen A. Douglas and letters and documents of Lincoln's contemporaries and associates.

One particularly fine acquisition is a Woodford County (Illinois) circuit court docket (1851-1855) kept largely by Judge David Davis. The docket contains fifty-two Abraham Lincoln entries indicating that thirty-one times he represented the plaintiff and twenty-one times he represented the defendant.

Other minor items include carte-de-visite photographs, stereoscopic slides, Magnus prints, Lincoln lithographs, Lincoln postage stamps, miscellaneous philatelic material, currency, sculpture, plaques, medals and medallions, eagle torch light (Wide Awakes, 1860) and souvenir Lincoln spoons.

While some of the material described above does not lend itself for exhibit purposes, a few of the relics and novelties that have been recently acquired (not previously mentioned) and are now on display are here illustrated and described. Some of the objects are of historical significance, while some of the novelty items appeal to the casual visitor and have become "conversation pieces."

R. G. M.

Lincoln Badges and Buttons

In recent months quite a number of Lincoln badges and buttons have been acquired for the collection. These were issued by the Republican party at their conventions, the Grand Army of the Republic at their re-unions, the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company at its sales conferences, the American Legion at its conclaves and numerous Lincoln clubs at their annual meetings.

Two small celluloid Lincoln buttons in the collection often occasion some comment. One bears the inscription: "Friend of the Abraham Lincoln Battalion" which has reference to the ill-fated American (Communist inspired) military group which fought in the Spanish Civil War. The other button bears the inscription: "Penna Klan Reunion. Gettysburg, Pa. Sept. 19th and 20th, 1925."

A recent and most significant addition to this collection is a framed celluloid button (the word button is used for the want of a better name) which measures 6 3/4" x 4 1/2". It bears the inscription: "Republican Golden Jubilee Convention June 17th 18th 19th, 1906." Ten portraits appear on the huge button. They are Fremont, Grant, Garfield, Harrison, Roosevelt, McKinley, Arthur, Hayes, Lincoln and Blaine.

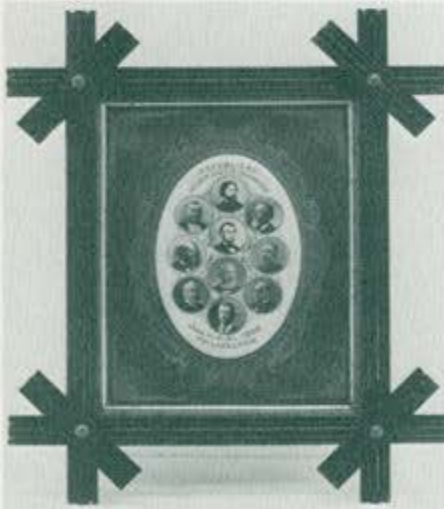
Stanton's Flag

This flag or pennant hung in Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton's office during the Civil War. It came to the Lincoln Library-museum as a gift from Mr. Henry Clark Ottiwell of Vineyard Haven, Massachusetts.

Mr. Ottiwell came into possession of the flag on the death of his aunt, Mrs. Adelaide Butler, the widow of Dr. Winthrop Butler of Vineyard Haven, a veteran of the war.

Dr. Butler served in the Navy and was on board the *Saratoga* during the blockade of the Confederate ports. After the war he practiced medicine at Vineyard Haven until the early 1900's. He died in 1907.

The flag was given to Dr. Butler by Mrs. Habersham, the daughter of Secretary Stanton. She lived at Martha's Vineyard for many years and was a friend and patient of Dr. Butler.



From the Lincoln National Life Foundation
This political button bears the inscription "Republican Jubilee Convention June 17th 18th 19th, 1906." The ten portraits have been identified as Fremont, Grant, Garfield, Harrison, Roosevelt, McKinley, Arthur, Hayes, Lincoln and Blaine.



From the Lincoln National Life Foundation
Flag which hung in Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton's office during the Civil War.



From the Lincoln National Life Foundation
A white plaster head of Lincoln sculptured by Avard Fairbanks when he was a member of the staff of the University of Michigan Institute of Fine Art.

Lincoln Head By Avard Fairbanks

Avard Fairbanks is a well known American sculptor whose work in the Lincoln field has led to the erection of heroic bronze statues in New Salem, Chicago, Berwyn and at the Ewa Plantation School near Honolulu. All of his statues depict a beardless Lincoln; however, he has produced some notable bearded as well as beardless busts of the Sixteenth President.

The Foundation has recently acquired a very handsome beardless bust in white plaster bearing the sculptor's name and the date 1942. This bust was made by Fairbanks while he was a member of the staff of the University of Michigan Institute of Fine Arts.

Coins Of The Lincoln Administration

In the January, 1969 issue of *Lincoln Lore*, page 3, a list of the "Coins Minted During the Administration of Abraham Lincoln" was published. Since that date, fifteen of the sixteen coins have been acquired. As yet, we have not secured the most expensive coin of the lot, which is the three dollar gold piece. However, it is hoped that it will eventually be obtained to complete the collection. The most common dates of this coin are 1861, 1862 and 1863.



From the Lincoln National Life Foundation
Wood carving bearing the initials A. L. which is believed symbolic of Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation.

Wood Carving

This wood carving, measuring 8 inches wide, 6 inches deep and 8 inches high bears in Old English letters the initials A. L. on the shield next to the figure of Liberty. Made of burl maple, the exquisite carving has inscribed on the back the following information: "Lorenz Waldhauser 1863 Fort Lyon."

On June 10, 1863 President Abraham Lincoln visited Fort Lyon in Virginia, accompanied by Secretary Stanton, General Heintzelman and staff. It is believed that on that occasion the artist presented the wood carving, perhaps symbolic of the Emancipation Proclamation, to the President. At least, that is the tradition that has been handed down in the Fort Wayne family that has long owned the relic.

This unique work of art is at present on loan to the Lincoln Library-Museum; however, it is our firm belief that it will eventually become a permanent acquisition for our museum collection.

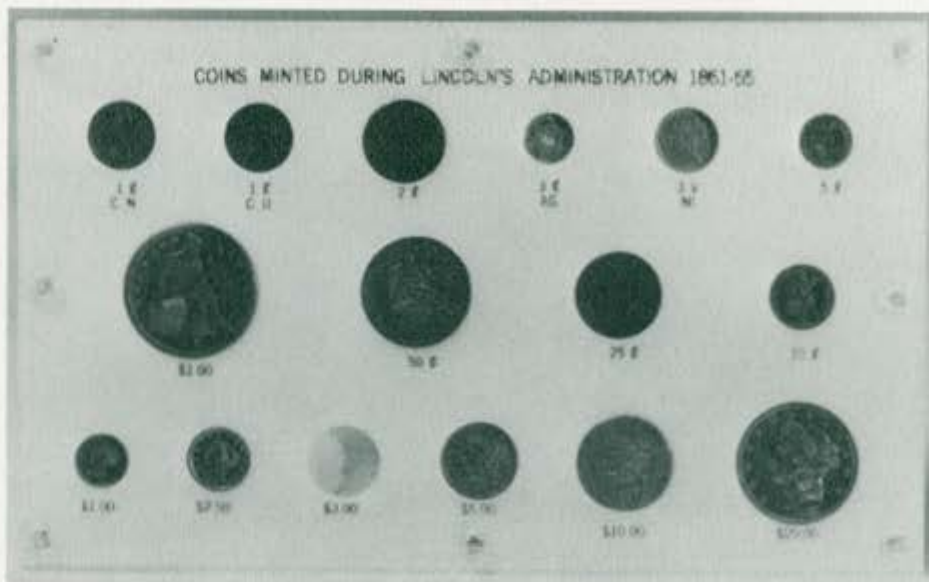


From the Lincoln National Life Foundation
This silver profile of Abraham Lincoln was originally the property of Harper J. Wentz, Shippensburg, Pennsylvania. It was sold to the museum by the widow, Mrs. Katharine F. Wentz.

Silver Profile

Recently purchased by the Foundation is a small silver head of Lincoln, done in profile. It measures two inches by one and one-half inches, and rests on black velvet in a black oval case such as was used for early daguerreotypes. The frame is lined with ivory silk.

This item formerly belonged to Harper J. Wentz, Shippensburg, Pennsylvania, whose widow, Mrs. Katharine F. Wentz, sold it to our museum. Mrs. Wentz knows nothing of the history of the piece other than that it had been in her husband's possession for many years. We are delighted to add this attractive portrait to our collection of Lincoln miniatures.



From the Lincoln National Life Foundation
United States coins minted during the Lincoln Administration. The most expensive one of the lot is the \$3.00 gold piece which the Foundation has not yet acquired.



From the Lincoln National Life Foundation
Front view of the bald-headed Lincoln believed to have been sculptured by a Canadian artist.



From the Lincoln National Life Foundation
Rear view of the bald-headed Lincoln which was acquired in a gift shop in Port Arthur, Ontario.

The Bald Headed Lincoln

One of the novelty items among the Foundation's recent acquisitions is a plaster head of Lincoln revealing a bald spot. This interesting item was presented to the Foundation by Michael Grubnick, West Bearskin Lake, Gun Flint Trail, Grand Marais, Minnesota who found it in a gift shop in Port Arthur, Ontario. So far, all efforts to discover the name of the Canadian sculptor have proved futile. Needless to state, this item of Lincoln sculpture has become a "conversation piece" as Lincoln had a fine head of hair without the slightest sign of a bald spot.

Gutta Percha Vase

Gutta-percha is defined as a whitish-to-brown substance resembling rubber but containing more resin and changing less on vulcanization than the latex of several Malaysian trees of the sapodilla family. Despite its complicated description it became an important substance for the manufacture of daguerreotype cases, which are seen so often today in antique shops. Undoubtedly, gutta-percha was used during the middle years of the 19th century in the production of other objects, one of which is a Lincoln vase recently acquired for the Foundation's collection.

The vase measures 5½" tall by 3½" in diameter. On opposite sides it bears a molded bust of Lincoln with an eagle and wreath along with other decorative features. Undoubtedly, gutta-percha vases are a rare commodity today, but to find one with a Lincoln bas-relief on two sides is an antiquarian's dream come true.

Middleton's Chromo-Lithograph of Abraham Lincoln

While the Lincoln Library-museum has owned for a very long time a copy of the famous Middleton chromo-lithograph of Lincoln, we were most fortunate to secure another copy of the framed portrait that was once the property of Lincoln's third and last law partner, William H. Herndon.

This portrait, copyrighted in 1864, was produced in considerable quantities in 1865, by E. C. Middleton of Cincinnati, Ohio. Upon receiving a proof copy of the portrait, Lincoln wrote Middleton on December 30, 1864: "Your picture presented by Mr. Lutz is, in the main, very good. From a line across immediately above the eye-brows, downward it appears to me perfect. Above such line I think it is not so good, — that is, while it gives perhaps a better fore-head, it is not quite true to the original. If you were present I could tell you wherein, but I can not well do so on paper. The next best thing, I suppose, would be to carefully study a photograph." It is believed that Lincoln's suggested changes were incorporated in the final production.



From the Lincoln National Life Foundation
A gutta-percha vase which bears on opposite sides the molded bust of Abraham Lincoln.

Wax Portrait

Benjamin Franklin, and sometimes George Washington, became favorite subjects for portrayal in wax. As this type of art was developed in Europe in the Eighteenth Century, it would be expected that the great artists in this field would not treat many American subjects. Some of the better known wax modelers were Bernhard Caspar Hardy, Samuel Percy, Christopher Curtius (uncle of Madame Tussaud) and Madame Tussaud.

One could never hope to find a great wax portrait of Abraham Lincoln. Then, too, this type of portrayal in its finer aspects is today practically a lost art. However, a wax portrait of Lincoln has been acquired by the Foundation. A careful study of the physical features of the portrait leads one to believe that it was produced from a crude mold as it seems to lack the finer details of sculptural art.



From the Lincoln National Life Foundation
Middleton's Chromo-Lithograph of Abraham Lincoln which once was the property of William H. Herndon, the President's third law partner and biographer.



From the Lincoln National Life Foundation

A wax portrait of Abraham Lincoln which was likely produced from a crude mold. The artist is unknown and the work seems to lack the finer details of sculptured art.

Lincoln Miniature

In *Lincoln Lore* No. 1521, dated November, 1964, a miniature portrait of Abraham Lincoln painted by Daniel Huntington was pictured and described. A second one has now been acquired but it is not nearly so valuable as it is not contemporaneous with Lincoln's time, and the artist (so far as our sources are concerned) is unidentified. The artist's name is Benoit.

This portrait, painted on ivory and nicely framed, resembles in many details the large engraving by William E. Marshall.



From the Lincoln National Life Foundation

A Lincoln miniature painted on ivory by Benoit. This miniature is not contemporaneous with Lincoln's time and resembles in many details the engraving by William Marshall.



From the Lincoln National Life Foundation

Lithographic stone, purchased at auction, bears the portrait of Lincoln as he appeared in 1864.

Lithographic Stone

At a recent auction conducted by the Fort Wayne Civil War Round Table, the Foundation purchased a lithographic stone bearing on one side a fine portrait of Abraham Lincoln. Oval in shape, the portrait measures 2¾ by 3½ inches. It centers a 6 by 8 by 2½ inch block of limestone that weighs 12¼ pounds.

On the reverse side of the stone is what appears to be a stock certificate for \$25.00 for the Battle Creek Steam Pump Company in Michigan. Judging from the illustration, which depicts several horse drawn vehicles and a trolley car on tracks, one might assume that the lithographs were drawn sometime between 1864 and 1890. The stone appears quite old. There would appear to be no connection between the portrait of the bearded Lincoln and the illustration on the opposite side of the stone.



From the Lincoln National Life Foundation

These pall bearer gloves were found among the effects of Sullivan D. Green, along with a handwritten note reading: "Pr. Gloves worn at Lincoln Obsequies. Springfield, Ill. S. D. Green."

Lincoln Pall Bearer Gloves

These white cotton gloves were found among the effects of Sullivan D. Green, a Civil War correspondent and newspaper reporter for the *Detroit Free Press*. Someone once called him "one of the most accomplished newspaper writers the West has had." Accompanying the gloves was a note written in ink and signed by Green: "Pr. Gloves worn at Lincoln Obsequies. Springfield, Ill. S. D. Green." It is possible, of course, that these gloves were not actually used in bearing Lincoln's coffin to its resting place, but were merely ceremonial gloves. It is equally possible that these gloves were worn by one of the pall bearers.

NOTICE

Copies of the Lincoln Lore Index covering the first fifteen hundred issues of the bulletin are still available at a cost of two dollars each. Checks or money orders should accompany the orders, and should be mailed to the Lincoln National Life Foundation, 1301 South Harrison Street, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46801.