



# Lincoln Lore

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## LINCOLN IN THE ORIENT

G.S. Boritt, currently at Harvard working on a post-doctoral project to test the authenticity of disputed Lincoln texts by computerized word analysis, spent two years in Asia teaching the Civil War period. He was there under the auspices of the University of Maryland's extension program. The school had a contract with the Department of Defense to provide teachers for American soldiers in Japan and Viet Nam. The students also included some local people who were wives, workers on American bases, and other such persons as had a close connection with the United States forces. Teaching was done in English. Although these working conditions hardly

allowed a total immersion in the culture of the East, Professor Boritt did have a rare opportunity to observe Japanese interest in Abraham Lincoln.

Japan is famous for being the most Westernized country in Asia, and to the Japanese the United States represents the West more strongly than any other country. Within the United States as well as without, Abraham Lincoln symbolizes American values more than any other historical figure. In Japan, then, Lincoln is a symbol of Westernization, democracy, industrialization, and the complex of values and symbolic associations that go with them. Lincoln is an inter-



*Courtesy of G.S. Boritt, Bolton, Massachusetts*

A sober Japanese man in a Western business suit solemnly rubs the nose of Gutzon Borglum's famous Lincoln bust. This traditional good luck gesture is not confined to Americans. Most of G.S. Boritt's charming portfolio of snapshots of a Lincoln exhibit in Japan can be seen on pages two and three.

national figure, and Japan's interest in Lincoln is certainly convincing proof of it.

Professor Boritt had a particularly good opportunity to witness Japanese interest in Lincoln in 1969, when a travelling Lincoln exhibit came to Tokyo for a spectacular visit which drew about a half a million visitors in ten days. Mr. Ralph G. Newman, who has written numerous books on Lincoln and whose Abraham Lincoln Book Shop in Chicago has long been a gathering place for students, scholars, and collectors of Lincolniana, put the exhibit together. Mr. Newman explained in a recent telephone interview the way that the exhibit was an embodiment of Japanese interest in Lincoln in the peculiar historical circumstances of 1969.

The United States government was keenly interested in promoting foreign trade in the late 1960s. Many of us have seen examples of such promotions in large department stores in the United States. France or England or Germany will bring an array of products to the store and bring a "grabber" with them as well, some cultural group or object from their country which symbolizes the country's sophistication, a ballet company, an art exhibit, or an historical display. The United States Department of Commerce contacted a large Japanese department store chain to discuss a similar promotion of American products in Japan. When they discussed the grabber, one executive suggested that a display about cowboys and Indians would be ideal.

The rather curious Japanese fascination with American Westerns is legendary, of course, but the year was 1969, the United States was fighting a war in Viet Nam, and one Japanese executive present thought that the spectacle of the near extermination of the Indians by the United States was not a subject likely to make the country look good in Asian eyes at that particular time. He, in fact, was shocked at the suggestion and urged rather that the exhibit concern Abraham Lincoln. He pointed out that there were more books on Lincoln in Japanese than in any other language than English and recalled contests in Japanese schools to write essays on Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln it would be.

Ralph Newman then put a large exhibit together, made a copy of the Borglum head of Lincoln that stands in front of Lincoln's tomb, built facades of New Salem cabin fronts, made a wax model of Lincoln which delivered the Gettysburg Address alternately in Japanese and English, built numerous panels, and got the *Encyclopedia Britannica* to publish its article on Lincoln as a short biography to go with the exhibit. The whole thing cost about \$150,000, most of which the Commerce Department paid, but Mr. Newman did have to raise some of the money from private companies who did business in Japan and thought the exhibit would be good for public relations. The exhibit went to Tokyo and then to Nagoya. At the end, the Borglum head was donated to the Japanese National Library, where it still stands. Before the tour was over, executives of an Australian department store chain saw the exhibit and requested a tour of four Australian cities. Arrangements were made, another Borglum head was copied, and the exhibit made another tour.

The exhibit was a big success. It opened in Tokyo the day of enormous Japanese student anti-American riots on account of Okinawa. While students chanted anti-American slogans

in the streets, thousands of Japanese milled about inside the department store, paying homage to an American President. Professor Boritt confirms from first-hand experience that these riots were both eerily ritualistic and strangely respectful of the United States, even as they criticized the United States. He and his wife, who are Caucasians (and any Caucasian, much to the chagrin of Europeans, is assumed to be American in Japan), observed a riot at first hand and were in fact protected by Japanese rioters even as they rioted against American policies. Strangely enough, also, the Japanese showed more interest in the exhibit than some of the Americans. The American Ambassador, according to Mr. Newman, showed no enthusiasm for the exhibit, and the Secretary of Commerce, who visited Japan during the exhibit, insulted the Japanese by not attending the exhibit on his own country's patron saint.

Professor Boritt recalls his impression that the Japanese embrace Lincoln as a symbol of the West. Like all symbols, Lincoln is meant to serve a certain purpose, and inconvenient aspects of the historical figure's real life are forgotten or, in Boritt's words, "fudged." In other words, they make Lincoln out to be a rather Oriental character. For example, ancestor worship is important in Japan. Westernization does not mean adopting the American worship of youth for them. When dealing with Lincoln, they portray him as a man who loved his family and worshipped his ancestors. His rather strained relationship with his father is ignored completely. Likewise, the Japanese have high respect for learning, a virtue symbolized for them by another famous American, Benjamin Franklin. They gloss over Lincoln's sparse education.

The Emancipation Proclamation figures prominently in the Japanese Lincoln story, but probably Lincoln's rise to fame from poverty is the part of the story with most meaning in contemporary Japan. Westernization means principally industrialization and social mobility. Professor Boritt points out that two decades ago scholars were interested in what some called the "M factor" in American history; many pointed to the great social mobility of this country as unique to America because, unlike any European or South American country, she was born with no feudal past — with no aristocracy and no static hierarchy of social custom. Increasingly, scholars are testing this hypothesis by comparing the experience of other nations, and their results seem to point to social mobility's being a function of industrialization rather than of national experience. Industrialization has come to different countries at different times, but whatever time it comes seems to prove to be a period of great social mobility. There is great social mobility in Japan right now, says Professor Boritt, and they find inspiration in Lincoln's rags-to-riches story.

After the Australian tour, there were many who wanted to see the United States continue its cultural/trade promotions. American goods that went along with the Lincoln exhibit sold well. By 1970, however, the Commerce Department was much concerned about the "dollar drain" and decided to save money by cutting the Lincoln exhibit from the budget. Thus ended Lincoln's posthumous tour of the Orient, but its brief career had proved again that Abraham Lincoln is an international figure who comprises the country's best public relations tool.



Courtesy of G.S. Boritt, Bolton, Massachusetts



## CUMULATIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY 1975-1976

Selections approved by a Bibliography Committee consisting of the following members: Dr. Kenneth A. Bernard, Belmont Arms, 51 Belmont St., Apt. C-2, South Easton, Mass.; Arnold Gates, 289 New Hyde Park Rd., Garden City, N.Y.; Carl Haverlin, 8619 Louise Avenue, Northridge, California; James T. Hickey, Illinois State Historical Library, Old State Capitol, Springfield, Illinois; E.B. (Pete) Long, 607 S. 15th St., Laramie, Wyoming; Ralph G. Newman, 18 E. Chestnut St., Chicago, Illinois; Hon. Fred Schwengel, 200 Maryland Avenue, N.E., Washington, D.C.; Dr. Wayne C. Temple, 1121 S 4th Street Court, Springfield, Illinois. New items available for consideration may be sent to the above persons, or the Lincoln National Life Foundation.

1975

**ANDERSON, LAVERE**

1975-24

(Device) A Discovery Book/Mary Todd Lincoln/President's Wife/by LaVere Anderson/illustrated by Cary/(Scene)/Garrard Publishing Company/Champaign, Illinois/ [Copyright 1975 by LaVere Anderson. All rights reserved.]

Brochure, cloth, 9" x 6 5/8", 80 pp., illus., price, \$3.40.  
Juvenile literature.

**KENNEDY, D. JAMES, DR.**

1975-25

Was Lincoln a Christian?/Sermon by/Dr. D. James Kennedy/(Picture)/Coral Ridge/Presbyterian/Church/(Cover title)/

Pamphlet, paper, 9 1/2" x 4 1/4", 10 pp., data on inside front and back cover, illus.

**KORUSIEWICZ, LEON**

1975-26

Abraham Lincoln/Leon Korusiewicz/(Portrait of Lincoln facing right)/Wiedza Powszechna/Warszawa 1975/[Entire contents of book printed in Polish language.]

Book, paperback, 7 3/4" x 5", 439 (1) pp., illus., price, \$6.25.

1976

**ANDERSON, ALAN, JR.**

1976-9

Illinois February 12, 1976 25¢/Times Downstate Illinois' Weekly Newspaper/Rethinking The Railsplitter/The Perils Of/Labeling Lincoln/P. 2/Did He/Really Hate/Slavery?/P. 7/Was He/Truly A/Logroller?/P. 14/What Do/Schoolkids/Think?/P. 16/(Portrait of Lincoln [0-27] with insert: Special/Lincoln Birthday Issue//Alexander Hesler/Volume 1, Number 22 Lincoln, June 3, 1860, posing for campaign photo/(Cover title)/ [Copyright 1976 by Illinois Times Associates. All rights reserved.]

Pamphlet, paper, 16 3/8" x 11 3/8", 27(1) pp., illus., price, \$0.25.

**BROWNING, MARY**

1976-10

What Made Lincoln Great/A Profile in Prose and Verse/Mary Browning/Cover Illustration by Suzanne Davis/Lincoln Inspirational Books/1412 Willow Avenue — Box 38/Louisville, Kentucky/40204/[Copyright 1976 by Mary Browning. All rights reserved.]

Book, cloth, 9 1/4" x 6 1/4", xv p., 95 (2) pp.

**COLLINS, DAVID R.**

1976-11

Abraham Lincoln/By/David R. Collins/Illustrated By Myron Quinton/Edited By Norma Cournow Camp/mott media/P.O. Box 236 Milford, Michigan 48042/[Copyright 1976 by Mott Media. All rights reserved.]

Book, cloth, 8 3/4" x 5 3/4", fr., fd., 150 (6) pp., illus., price, \$5.95.  
Juvenile literature.

**COOLIDGE, OLIVIA**

1976-12

The Statesmanship of / Abraham / Lincoln / by Olivia Coolidge/Charles Scribner's Sons/New York/[Copyright 1976 by Olivia Coolidge. All rights reserved. This book published simultaneously in the United States of America and in Canada — Copyright under the Berne Convention.]

Book, cloth, 9 1/4" x 6 1/4", fr., fd., 237 (7) pp., illus., two maps precede the introduction, price, \$7.95.

Juvenile literature.

**LINCOLN MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY**

1976-13

Lincoln Memorial University Press/(Device)/Summer, 1976/Vol. 78, No. 2/Lincoln Herald/A Magazine devoted to

historical/research in the field of Lincolniana and/the Civil War, and to the promotion/of Lincoln Ideals in American/Education./[Harrogate, Tenn.]

Pamphlet, flexible boards, 10 1/8" x 7 1/8", 41-92 pp., illus., price per single issue, \$2.50.

**LINCOLN MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY**

1976-14

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Pamphlet, flexible boards, 10 1/8" x 7 1/8", 93-136 pp., illus., price per single issue, \$2.50.

**MOCHIZUKI, MASAHARU**

1976-15

(Device)/(Portrait of Lincoln facing right)/(1809-1865)/16th President of U.S.A./(Japanese printing)/Lincoln Report/No. 18/July 4, 1976/No. 18/(Two lines of Japanese printing)/Tokyo Lincoln Center/Masaharu Mochizuki, Director/2-1, Sarugaku-cho 1-chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Japan/Phone 291 — 1860/Mail address: P.O. Box 5001 Tokyo International, Tokyo, Japan/(Cover title)/ [Printed in Tokyo, Japan in both Japanese and English languages.]

Pamphlet, paper, 10 1/8" x 7 1/4", 8 pp., illus. (Contains catalogues of books on Abraham Lincoln; how to study Lincoln by books; only Japanese to meet Lincoln; impression of Tokyo Lincoln Center; Tokyo Lincoln Center and its Director; and a contents listing of a new book by Mabel Kunkel entitled *Abraham Lincoln: Unforgettable American.*)

**MONJO, F.N.**

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Gettysburg/Tad Lincoln's Story/F.N. Monjo/illustrations by Douglas Gorsline/(Device)/Windmill Books Inc./and E.P. Dutton & Co. Inc./New York/[Text copyright 1976 by F.N. Monjo. Illustrations copyright 1976 by Douglas Gorsline. All rights reserved. First edition.]

Brochure, cloth, 10 1/4" x 7 3/4", fr., 48 pp., illus., price, \$7.95.

Juvenile literature.

**SEMONES, HATTIE**

1976-17

Duel/With Destiny/By/Hattie Semones/(Device)/Commonwealth Press, Inc./First & Berkley/Radford, Virginia 24141/iii/[Copyright 1976 by Helen Trigg. All rights reserved.]

Book, cloth, 8 3/4" x 5 3/4", viii p., 131 pp., price, \$6.95.

**STARKEY, LARRY**

1976-18

Wilkes Booth/Came/to Washington/Larry Starkey/Random House New York/[Copyright 1976 by Larry K. Starkey. All rights reserved under International and Pan-American Copyright Conventions.]

Book, cloth, 8 1/2" x 5 3/4", xiii p., 209 pp., illus., price, \$7.95.

**TAYLOR, BLAINE**

1976-19

(Scene)/Dr. Samuel A. Mudd's Saga:/Was The Maryland Physician/A Victim Or Part Of/The Lincoln Assassination Conspiracy?... story begins on page 35/And/Med-Chi's/178th Annual Meeting/is coming! (see program inside.)/ (Device) Maryland State Medical Journal/April 1976/(Cover title)/ [Reprinted from *Maryland State Medical Journal*, April, 1976. Copyright 1976 by the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of the State of Maryland.]

Pamphlet, paper, 11" x 8 1/4", (14) pp., illus. Autographed copy by Dr. Richard D. Mudd, M.D.

**VIOLA, HERMAN**

1976-20

Lincoln And The Indians/By Herman Viola/Washington, D.C./(Portrait of Lincoln)/Address At Annual Meeting/Lincoln Fellowship of Wisconsin/Madison/1975/Historical Bulletin No. 31/1976/(Cover title)/

Pamphlet, flexible boards, 10" x 7 1/2", 20 pp., printing on inside front and back covers, illus., price, \$1.25. Send to Mrs. Carl Wilhelm, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 816 State Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53706.

