

LINCOLN LORE

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PUBLICATION OF THE LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DEBATES

The Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society for 1934 presented a discussion on "The Different Editions of the Debates of Lincoln and Douglas" by R. Gerald McMurtry.

As revealed by Mr. McMurtry, there were many different editions or printings of the book. The purpose of this review is to tabulate the editions assembled by the Lincoln National Life Foundation, and arrange them in the order of their publication. There are undoubtedly other issues which should be included in this list before accurate permanent numbers can be assigned to designate the exact chronological order of various printings. A descriptive caption for each edition has been used which will allow it to be easily identified. Information about variants will be greatly appreciated by the Foundation.

The text of the book beginning with page one (1) and continuing to page 268 is the same in all editions. This review is confined to the preliminary pages which are numbered for the sake of identification with Roman numerals. Where data on one page is copied verbatim from preceeding issue the word "same" is used.

Correspondence Edition (a)

I. Title page—same as display copy in this bulletin.

II. Three copyright lines in center of page. Four lines in business card placed in lower left hand corner. The absence of a ruled line above the name Follett, Foster & Co. is unique among all the printings, contributing to the theory that it is a first edition.

III. Correspondence—two letters directed to Hon. Abraham Lincoln.

IV. Correspondence directed to Mr. Lincoln continued. Letter by A. Lincoln to Messrs. Geo. M. Parsons and others.

V. Table of contents.

Correspondence Edition (b)

I. Title page—same.

II. Three copyright lines at top of page with rule extending under last line. Table of contents. Four lines in business card placed in lower left hand corner with ruled line just above the name Follett, Foster & Co.

III. Correspondence—same.

IV. Correspondence—same.

Note. Autograph in Lincoln National Life Foundation copy "John A. Colescott, Miami University, May 22, 1860."

No Correspondence Edition

I. Title page—same.

II. Three copyright lines in center of page. Four lines in business card in lower left hand corner with ruled line just above the name Follett, Foster & Co.

III. Table of contents with no other data on page.

Edition Noting 15,000 Copies

I. Advertisement—Howell's "Life and Public Services of Abraham Lincoln." States book will be ready June 12.

II. Advertisement—Giddings' "The Exiles of Florida."

III. Advertisement—Hosmer's "Adela, the Octoroon." At bottom of page is the following announcement:

POLITICAL DEBATES

Between

HON. ABRAHAM LINCOLN

and

HON. STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS

In the Celebrated Campaign of 1858, in Illinois; Including the preceding speeches of each, at Chicago, Springfield, etc.:

Also the Two Great Speeches of Mr. Lincoln in Ohio, in 1859.

Carefully Prepared by the Reporters of Each Party, and Published at the Times of Their Delivery

COLUMBUS:

FOLLETT, FOSTER AND COMPANY

1860

(Copy of Title Page)

"15,000 Copies Sold of Lincoln and Douglas Debates. Every Body Reads them!" Follett, Foster & Co., Publishers, Columbus.

IV. Correspondence—Letter from Mr. Lincoln to Messrs. Geo. M. Parsons, and others.

V. Title page—same.

VI. Copyright—same.

VII. Table of contents—same.

Edition Noting 16,000 Copies

I. Advertisement—Howell's "Life and Public Services of Abraham Lincoln." States book will be ready previous to June 20. Calls the book "The Authorized Edition" and concludes "Be sure to get an authorized copy." Under advertisement at the bottom of the page in one line appears the statement "16,000 copies Lincoln and Douglas Debates Sold."

II. Advertisement—same.

III. Advertisement—Coggeshall's "The Poets and Poetry of the West."

IV. Advertising & correspondence—upper half of page advertising books, lower half exhibiting "Letter from Mr. Lincoln."

V. Title page—same.

VI. Copyright page—same.

VII. Table of contents—same.

Edition Noting 24,996 Copies (a)

I. Advertisement—Howell's "Life and Public Services of Abraham Lincoln." States that 9,000 copies of

above book already sold. Calls it "The Authorized Edition" but the concluding line says, "Be sure you get the Reliable Edition." Under the advertisement at bottom of page in one line appears "24,996 copies Lincoln and Douglas' Debates Sold!"

II. Advertisement—same.

III. Advertisement—same, except first line which reads, "Will be published August 5."

IV. Advertising and Correspondence—same.

V. Title page—same with the addition of the following two lines at bottom of page "Boston: Brown & Taggard. New York: W. A. Townsend & Co. Chicago: S. C. Griggs & Co. Detroit: Putnam, Smith & Co.

VI. Copyright page—same.

VII. Table of contents—same.

Edition Noting 24,996 Copies (b)

All pages same as "Edition Noting 24,996 Copies (a)" except imprint on title page which follows—"Boston: Crosby, Nichols, Lee & Co. New York: M. Doolady. Pittsburgh: Hunt & Miner. Cincinnati: Rickey, Mallory & Co."

Corrected Douglas Edition (a)

I. Advertisement—Coggeshall's "The Poets and Poetry of the West." Top line states "Now Ready."

II. Statement and correspondence—statement by the publisher followed by a letter from Stephen A. Douglas dated June 9, 1860.

III. Correspondence & corrections—top of page numbered four. Letter of publisher to Mr. Douglas. Corrections and omissions in Mr. Douglas' speeches noted. Alterations and corrections in Mr. Lincoln's speeches.

IV. Corrections and correspondence—top of page numbered five. Mr. Lincoln's corrections continued. Statement about corrections. Letter of Mr. Lincoln to Messrs. Geo. M. Parsons and others.

V. Title page—same, including business representations.

VI. Copyright page—same.

VII. Table of contents—same.

Corrected Douglas Edition (b)

All pages same as "Corrected Douglas Edition (a)" except imprint on title page which follows—"Boston: Crosby, Nichols, Lee & Co. New York: M. Doolady. Pittsburgh: Hunt & Miner. Cincinnati: Rickey, Mallory & Co."

Note: It is with regret that the Lincoln National Life Foundation announces the resignation of its librarian, R. Gerald McMurtry, effective September 15, who has returned to his home at Elizabethtown, Kentucky, to enter business. He has rendered faithful service to the Foundation for the past three years.