

For the People

A Newsletter of the Abraham Lincoln Association
Volume 3, Number 4 Winter 2001 Springfield, Illinois

A History of the Lincoln Group of New York

by Joseph E. Garrera

On March 6, 1978, a gathering of more than thirty students of the Lincoln theme participated in a special meeting in New York City. Their objective was the establishment of a local organization dedicated to studying the life and times of Abraham Lincoln.

New York had not always been without an organization devoted to Lincoln studies. Seven decades earlier, on February 12, 1908, an organization known as "The Lincoln Fellowship" convened its first meeting in New York City, attended by many luminaries engaged in Lincoln studies. The Lincoln Fellowship of 1908 was so enormously rich with national talent that it selected seven distinguished scholars to serve as vice presidents. Among those selected were Ida Tarbell, Alexander McClure, Alonzo Rothchild, Joseph B. Oakleaf, Judge Daniel Fish, General James Grant Wilson, and Charles W. McLellan. Sadly, nothing is permanent, and the Lincoln Fellowship of 1908 was no exception. In less than a decade it faded out of sight. For far too long residents of New York and the tri-state area had to journey to Springfield, Illinois, nearly halfway across the country to hear and participate in Lincoln symposia. Now that was all about to change.

The man that initiated the process was William Kaland (1915-1983), a prominent figure who in the period between 1950 and 1975 developed an engaging career in television and radio. As an executive producer at Westinghouse Broadcasting, Kaland had the privilege of interviewing Carl Sandburg on television and producing

the award winning television series, *The American Civil War*. Kaland, a devoted student of Lincoln and a Lincoln collector, possessed numerous historical relics including a rare edition of Frederick Hill Merserve's album of prints made from Mathew Brady's original glass plate negatives.

It was the legendary rare book and manuscript dealer Ralph G. Newman (1911-1998) of Chicago who alerted Kaland to others in the New York metropolitan area who shared an affinity for Lincoln studies. Among Kaland's earliest contacts was Richard Sloan, who, during the 1970s, published *The Lincoln Log*, a specialized newsletter that delved into the Lincoln assassination and other related topics. Almost immediately this committed group of Lincoln students began to take shape. In retrospect, several of those early pioneers have advanced to become noted figures in the Lincoln historical community. Harold Holzer, perhaps currently America's most prolific Lincoln author, offered his support. Arnold Gates (1914-1993), who for twenty years was among the nation's leading reviewers of Civil War and Lincoln books, was also among the group's pioneers. Hal Gross, a successful New York entrepreneur, and Milton Seltzer, a New York school administrator, signed on as early supporters.

Also joining was Dr. John Lattimer, a noted military physician at the Nuremberg military trial in 1945. Lattimer is today a nationally recognized collector of artifacts associated with the Lincoln assassination and the author of several important books. Offering his support was Hans L. Trefousse, a specialist of the Civil War and

Reconstruction era at the City University of New York. The author of more than a dozen books, Trefousse remains an active member of the executive committee. Rounding out the roster that would convene that first meeting was George Craig of the Civil War Round Table of New York, and Larry West, a serious collector of Lincoln photographs who would serve as the Lincoln Group of New York's first president. On March 6, 1978, thirty plus charter members gathered at the William Club in New York City to hear Dr. Mark E. Neely, Jr., deliver the organization's first lecture.

Today the roster of past speakers reads like an award-winning cast in Lincoln scholarship. Lincoln manuscript and rare book dealer Ralph Newman, R. Gerald McMurtry, past director of the Lincoln Museum in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, Gabor Boritt of Gettysburg College; Lincoln biographer Stephen B. Oates, Frank J. Williams, Professor James M. McPherson of Princeton, and the legendary David Herbert Donald, have all presented notable lectures before the Lincoln Group of New York. Lloyd Ostendorf (1921-1999) once made the case in a provocative lecture that he had discovered Lincoln's reading copy of the Gettysburg Address. Noted photographic expert Grant Romer of Rochester, New York's George Eastman House once made a presentation that attempted to validate the authenticity of the circa 1843 Hoffmann daguerreotype, an image previously promoted as the earliest photograph of Abraham Lincoln. In 1982, Joan Chocanas of the Surratt Society in Clinton, Maryland, and past president of the Lincoln

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President's Column

by Donald R. Tracy

Thanks to Molly Becker and her Committee, membership is way up. Thanks to Dr. Larry Newell, Michael Burlingame, Thomas Schwartz, and others, we had a terrific Lincoln evening in Bloomington on November 14. The David Davis Mansion is a magnificent, elegant restoration, especially at night, and has amazing technology (e.g. intercom and indoor plumbing) for an 1872 residence. The Old McLean County Courthouse is a wonderful old marble and wood palace of justice that was very conducive for reminiscing about Lincoln and his colleagues over good wine and great food. Moreover, the Second Presbyterian Church was a beautiful, convenient and comfortable setting for Michael Burlingame's witty, informative and entertaining speech on the inner world of Abraham Lincoln.

Thanks to Bob Eckley, the Endowment fund is also up. As you are contemplating year-end gifts, please consider the ALA Endowment as one of your beneficiaries. The purpose of the Endowment is to provide permanent funding for the Association so that we can insure continued support for Lincoln events, monuments, and scholarship for generations to come.

Speaking of Bob Eckley, he has been nominated to be the next ALA President. We are very fortunate that Bob has accepted this nomination, which I expect will be unanimously and enthusiastically approved by the ALA Board of Directors. In such event, please join me in extending my congratulations and appreciation to Bob Eckley.

Although the Association is at a high tide, there is a great internal debate that you should know about. The crown jewel of the Association is *The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln*. *The Collected Works*, edited by Roy Basler, Marion Pratt, and Lloyd Dun-

lap, and published by Rutgers University Press in 1953, was a monumental accomplishment that exhausted the resources of the Association for over a decade. Now, fifty years later, there is universal consensus that the *Collected Works* needs to be republished, updated, and enlarged to include incoming correspondence and newly discovered Lincoln documents. Unfortunately, there is no consensus on the best way to do this. Instead, there have emerged two approaches—one recommended by a subcommittee of the Association and the other by our friends at the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (IHPA).

Although the two different proposals are not easily summarized, generally speaking, the subcommittee has proposed a multisite approach with concurrent work on the various phases on an expedited timetable, while the IHPA favors a single site project with successive phases and a longer timetable modeled after the Lincoln Legal Papers. After months of discussion (during which the two approaches could not be compromised), I decided to put the proposals to a vote before the Executive Committee and Board. At the Executive Committee meeting, a resolution was passed that endorsed the IHPA project as to the pre-presidential papers and the subcommittee's project as to the presidential papers, and encouraged the two projects to work together and to coordinate their respective efforts. This resolution was then considered by the full Board on September 14, 2001. After a vigorous debate in which several directors were fully engaged, the resolution passed by a vote of seventeen to twelve, with two directors abstaining. Because I chaired the meeting, I did not vote.

As a result, we now have two projects, both of which have broken ground, so to speak. The subcommittee project is based in Washington,

D.C., and Galesburg, Illinois, while the IHPA project is based in Springfield, Illinois. The Association supports both as stated above and hopefully the two projects will eventually merge.

Obviously, it would be better not having to deal with such intrafamily differences in opinion. However, that is the price of having democratic institutions. Furthermore, the crucible of vigorous debate and disagreement frequently produces better results long term. That is certainly true in the law and government and will be true here as well so long as perspective is maintained and we do not forget our common purpose of actively encouraging, promoting, and aiding the collection and dissemination of authentic information regarding all phases of Abraham Lincoln's life and career.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your president the past four years. I look forward to serving the next two years as past president, if I can wrestle that most-coveted position from Dan Banister. Good luck, best wishes, cheers, and happy holidays to you and yours.

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Member News

Norm Hellmers informs us that the National Park Service has added the Knob Creek Farm to their Lincoln sites managed in Kentucky. Ralph V. Gray has published *Following in Lincoln's Footsteps*, a complete guide to Lincoln historic sites. John T. Trutter recently stepped down as Chancellor of the Lincoln Academy of Illinois after sixteen years of service. The Lincoln Academy recognizes the contributions of Illinois' most distinguished citizens. Governor George Ryan proclaimed May 5, 2001, as John T. Trutter Day in Illinois. Monte Quinn, a Lincoln collector in Danvers, is working on Lincoln's "Lost Speech." Ottawa, Illinois, is erecting a statue to commemorate the Lincoln-Douglas Debate, August 21, 1858. Rebecca Childers Carleel, an artist from Oak Brook, Illinois, created a working model of the Lincoln figure. Mark Plummer will give a public lecture on Richard Oglesby at the Old State Capitol on February 10, 2002. For additional information contact William Furry at 217.525.2783.

It is with great sadness to announce the passing of Jim Myers and Barry Taper. Jim Myers was a leader in the Springfield historical community. The Myers Brothers department store was legendary for its service. Jim purchased the Lincoln-Herndon Law Office and restored it for public tours. In 1985, he sold it to the State of Illinois. Jim also owned and served as senior editor of the Lincoln-Herndon Press. His interest was American humor as reflected in most of the titles published by the press. Jim served as a trustee for the Illinois State Historical Library as well as on the Board of the Abraham Lincoln Association. He was instrumental in creating the Sound and Light Show that told the history of Lincoln and the Old State Capitol. Barry Taper came to Abraham Lincoln through his wife, Louise Taper. Louise's interest in Lincoln led Barry

to acquire a vast knowledge of and appreciation for the Illinois lawyer and Sixteenth President. Barry was an invaluable advisor in the planning of the Huntington Library's Lincoln exhibition in 1993. He served on the board of Lincoln College in Lincoln, Illinois, for many years and had a special interest in the college's museum.



Oak Brook artist Rebecca Childers Carleel's working model for Ottawa's planned statue commemorating the Lincoln-Douglas Debates

Season's Greetings?

by Thomas F. Schwartz

December of 1860 was not a joyous month for Abraham Lincoln. Congress frantically worked to forge a compromise to preserve the Union. When South Carolina seceded from the Union on December 20, attention turned to whether the federal forts would continue to be run by federal or state authorities. In the midst of this crisis, Illinois Democratic Congressman John A. McClernand received a letter from H. Quigley, the self-proclaimed "Expositor of Springfield." Quigley begins the letter congratulating McClernand on his reelection to Congress and even flattering McClernand that "I verily believe you will be President yet." His letter takes on a dark tone when describing the president-elect. Quigley heard that Lincoln's health was not good and muses that should Lincoln die before assuming office, Mrs. Lincoln, "like another Boadicea, will repair to the 'White House' and assume the reins of Government." Boadicea is a reference to the Queen of the Iceni who led a rebellion against the Romans in ancient Briton. Clearly, Quigley thought Lincoln lacked the skills necessary to avert a national crisis. Little did he know how prescient his words were when he wrote, "It [the presidency] will Kill him and set his wife beside herself, I verily believe."

The most recent McClernand biographer identifies "H. Quigley" as Henry Quigley, but offers nothing further in the way of identification. In checking the city directories and newspapers of Springfield, it is likely that the writer is Reverend Dr. Hugh Quigley. He arrived in Springfield in late 1855 to take over the pastorate of the Roman Catholic Church. In 1856, he attended a convention in Buffalo to

relocate impoverished Catholic immigrants from urban areas to rural communities. The following year, Quigley became embroiled in a controversy over the appropriate expenditure of church funds. But the most bizarre twist to Quigley's life came in 1863 when he assaulted Richard Riley by hitting him on the head with a hammer. Dr. Quigley was arrested and taken to jail. During the arrangements to post his bail, Quigley fled the authorities.



Springfield
Hon. J. A. M. Clernand Illinois
Dec. 8th 1860

Dear Sir

On my arrival in this place a few days since, though, somewhat disappointed in not having it in my power to offer you my personal congratulations on your triumphant return to the Halls of Congress, yet, I rejoiced to learn that in the general defeat and disaster of the Democratic forces you still maintained your ground. I have predicted and I verily believe you will be President yet, and your recent victories during such times as the present greatly increases my presentiments on this subject. Mr. Lincoln, I understand, is at present indisposed, if not

seriously unwell, but it is said here, that, if he should chance to die before the fourth of March next, his wife, like another Boadicea, will repair to the "White House" and assume the reins of Government! I would not wonder if some Republican Members of Congress should propose an amendment of this Constitution to meet such a case as this, viz., that, if the President elect should die before entering on his office, his Lady should be installed in his place to preside at least over the receptions at the Executive Mansion. Seriously, I think, Mr. Lincoln may well pray often "Save me from my friends," for I certainly believe, they could not have acted more cruelly towards him, than to have him made President. It will Kill him and set his wife beside herself, I verily believe.

To trouble you with my private affairs I beg to acquaint you, that I have purchased conditionally at least Mr. Doyle's late Mr. Ridgely's farm out near your cottage. It contains 65 acres and a very tasty cottage. I regret ere the contract is concluded, that I could not have consulted you on the subject. The price is about seven thousand dollars; more than it is worth, I fear, but, the improvements are such as to be to my taste entirely.

Speaking of Books, am I imprudent in reminding you, that, as I intended getting up a good library, perhaps you could send me a few of those very interesting publications which Members of Congress receive by way of appropriation from the House. Glad to perceive the prominent part you take in trying to save the glorious Union from the invades of fanatics on the one hand and treason on the other, and with Sincere respect and kind remembrances to your family I remain

Yours Sincerely,

H. Quigley

Expositor of Springfield

Lincoln Never Said That

by Thomas F. Schwartz

The Internet can be a wonderful tool for obtaining information if you know that the Web Site containing the information has a peer review process before the material is posted. All too often, materials are haphazardly added to Web Sites creating a growing body of “cyber junk.” These same materials are rapidly spread around the globe, compounding the problem of error. Recently, I have been alerted to an alleged letter written by Abraham Lincoln to his son’s headmaster. It appears on the web site for the National Council for Teacher Education based in New Delhi, India, and other school Web pages. While there are minor differences in the content of the letter from Web Site to Web Site, the sentiments expressed are identical. One Web page has a short preface claiming that the letter was “written by Abraham Lincoln to the Headmaster of a school in which his son was studying. It contains an advice, which is still relevant today for executives, workers, teachers, parents and students.” The letter is reproduced with bracketed sections indicating content that appears on some Web Sites but not others.

“My son will have to learn, I know, that all men are not just, all men are not true. But teach him also that for every scoundrel there is a hero; that for every selfish politician, there is a dedicated leader. Teach him that for every enemy there is a friend.

It will take time, I know; but teach him if you can, that a dollar earned is of far more value than five found.

Teach him to learn to lose and also to enjoy winning, steer him away from envy, if you can.

Teach him the secret of quiet laughter. Let him learn early that bullies are the easiest to lick.

Teach him, if you can, the wonder of books...but also give him quiet time to ponder the eternal mystery of birds in the sky, bees in the sun and flowers on a green hillside.

In school, teach him it is far more honorable to fail than to cheat...

[Teach him to have faith in his own ideas, even if everyone tells him they are wrong.]

Teach him to be gentle with [gentle] people and tough with the tough.

Try to give my son the strength not to follow the crowd when everyone is getting on the bandwagon.

Teach him to listen to all men; but teach him also to filter all he hears on a screen of truth and take only the good that comes through.

Teach him, if you can, how to laugh when he is sad.

Teach him there is no shame in tears. Teach him to scoff at cynics and to be beware of too much sweetness.

Teach him to sell his brawn and brain to the highest bidders, but never to put a price on his heart and soul.

Teach him to close his ears to a howling mob...and to stand and fight if he thinks he’s right.

Treat him gently; but do not cuddle him, because only the test of fire makes fine steel.

Let him have the courage to be impatient, let him have the patience to be brave. Teach him always to have sublime faith in himself, because then he will have faith in humankind.

This is a big order, but see what you can do. He is such a fine little fellow my son!”

Unfortunately, the letter is not dated, there is no clue to the headmaster’s identity or the identity of Lincoln’s son. Of the four boys, only Robert attended Illinois University and Phillips Exeter Academy. But there is no evidence that Lincoln ever wrote to school officials about

Robert’s behavior. The style and content of the letter are uncharacteristic of Lincoln. Anyone familiar with Lincoln’s prose will immediately know that this is not Lincoln’s voice. Rather than a letter, it is a series of aphorisms reminiscent of the “Ten Cannots” attributed to Lincoln but written in 1916 by Reverend William J. H. Boetcker. One has only to compare this letter to the letter Lincoln wrote to George C. Latham:

My dear George

Springfield, Ills. July 22. 1860.

I have scarcely felt greater pain in my life than on learning yesterday from Bob’s letter, that you had failed to enter Harvard University. And yet there is very little in it, if you will allow no feeling of *discouragement* to seize, and prey upon you. It is *certain* truth, that you can enter, and graduate in, Harvard University; and having made the attempt, you *must* succeed in it. “*Must*” is the word.

I know not how to aid you, save in the assurance of one of mature age, and much severe experience, that you *can* not fail, if you resolutely determine, that you *will* not.

The President of the institution, can scarcely be other than a kind man; and doubtless he would grant you an interview, and point out the readiest way to remove, or overcome, the obstacles which have thwarted you.

In your temporary failure there is no evidence that you may not yet be a better scholar, and a more successful man in the great struggle of life, than many others, who have entered college more easily.

Again I say let no feeling of discouragement prey upon you, and in the end you are sure to succeed.

With more than a common interest I subscribe myself Very truly your friend,

A. Lincoln.

A History of the Lincoln Group of New York

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Group of Washington, D.C., presented a lecture that detailed the destructive storage conditions surrounding the Osborn Oldroyd Lincoln Collection owned by the National Park Service. Eventually Chocanas's efforts marshaled support to correct the sub-standard storage conditions.

In 1988, the group instituted an annual "Award of Achievement." The award committee consists of three dedicated members with one rotating off each year. The award committee is responsible for reviewing every new Lincoln publication, documentary, and project in the country, ultimately selecting the contribution that has done the most to encourage the study and appreciation of Abraham Lincoln. Those selected to serve on the award committee are informed in advance of the enormous commitment of time and responsibility that is necessary. Recent award recipients have included Professor Barry Schwartz for his book *Abraham Lincoln and the Forge of National Memory*, and Douglas L. Wilson for *Honor's Voice: The Transformation of Abraham Lincoln*. In 1995, David Herbert Donald received the "Award of Achievement" for *Lincoln*, his landmark biography of the Sixteenth President. The previous year, Louise Taper, John Rhodehamel, and Thomas F. Schwartz received the award for the exhibition at the Henry Huntington Library, "*The Last Best Hope of Earth*": *Abraham Lincoln and the Promise of America*.

The membership rolls and meetings attract a diverse group of participants from those interested in an occasional Lincoln lecture to others fully engaged in researching and writing their own books. One trait that every member has in common is an interest in hearing the latest thoughts and research presented by leading authorities in the Lincoln field. Membership is available at a variety of levels starting with five dollars per year to any full

time student. Regular membership costs twenty dollars annually and is reduced to fifteen dollars for those residing outside of New York. A special category for sustaining membership is available at fifty dollars per year.

been presented by Michael Malone, historian at Ford's Theatre, and Dr. Edward Steers, author of *Blood on the Moon: The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln*. The final meeting of the Lincoln season occurs in June and is re-



Lincoln Group of New York Executive Committee member Hal Gross congratulates New York Governor Mario Cuomo for Lincoln on Democracy, winner of the Lincoln Group of New York's Award of Achievement for 1990.

(Photo courtesy of the Lincoln Group of New York)

The Lincoln Group of New York convenes four times each year in New York City. Most meetings are scheduled to coincide with a special date in Lincoln's life. The November meeting opens the Lincoln season and is scheduled as close to the anniversary of the Gettysburg Address as is reasonably possible. The February meeting convenes between the first week and never later than the third week of the month. The April meeting convenes as close to April 14 as possible—its theme is always structured around the Lincoln assassination. Speakers have included James O. Hall, a legendary scholar who has invested nearly fifty years sleuthing major repositories for obscure clues to the assassination. Other notable assassination programs have

ferred to as the member's meeting. It features a series of back-to-back talks presented by any member of the organization that wishes to make a Lincoln-related presentation. Members often discuss new additions to their Lincoln collection or research in which they are personally engaged.

All meetings convene in New York City at the Seventh Regiment Armory located at Park Avenue and Sixty-seventh Street. After a cocktail hour from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., everyone is seated for a banquet meal. At 7:30 p.m. up to thirty books related to Lincoln and Civil War topics are raffled. After several brief announcements, the speaker takes the lectern presenting a scholarly, academic-style lecture lasting an average of forty-five minutes. At

the conclusion questions are taken. The question and answer period can be the most fascinating aspect of the program, ultimately revealing the depth and true extent of the speaker's knowledge.

For those interested in an opportunity to network with distinguished scholars unusually willing to provide assistance and advice, or for others that simply enjoy listening to renowned experts lecture, the Lincoln Group of New York provides an outstanding opportunity. Of the four meetings that convene each year most attendees originate from New York. Amazingly, a fair percentage from

New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Connecticut attend. Occasionally members from as far away as Delaware, Vermont, Maryland, and Washington, D.C., attend. Meeting sizes average from fifty to eighty participants, depending upon weather conditions and the notoriety of the speaker.

One great strength of the organization exists with the governing executive committee, which after nearly a quarter of a century is composed almost exclusively of charter members. Remarkably their primary objectives have remained consistent, including keeping matters simple, not allowing the organization to be strangled by

unnecessary regulations and by-laws. And most importantly, a paramount desire to make every meeting a memorable occasion for all that attend. One senior member of the executive committee makes a habit of sitting with those attending their first meeting, insuring that new guests feel involved and part of the organization. As the Lincoln Group of New York prepares to celebrate its twenty-fifth anniversary in 2003, it remains committed to its primary objective—studying the life and times of Abraham Lincoln.

Further information or membership material can be obtained by calling 973.383.9304.

2002 Abraham Lincoln Symposium and Banquet

Make your reservations now for the 2002 Abraham Lincoln Symposium and Banquet, which will be held next February 12 in Springfield. Books will be sold and signed by authors beginning at 11:30 a.m. in the rotunda of the Old State Capitol. Ronald White will be available to sign copies of his book, *Lincoln's Greatest Speech: The Second Inaugural*. This book has received rave advanced reviews by scholars such as James M. McPherson and David Herbert Donald. Book signings will be followed by the announcement of the Hay-Nicolay Prize for the best dissertation written within the last three

years on Lincoln and his times. The Symposium will begin at 1:30 p.m. in the Hall of Representatives. This year's focus is on the theme, "Lincoln, Slavery, and Emancipation." Brooks Simpson of the University of Arizona, Allen C. Guelzo of Eastern College, and Lerone Bennett, Jr., executive editor of *Ebony*, will give presentations. Professor Vibert White, chair of African American Studies at the University of Illinois at Springfield, will comment on all three presentations. The Symposium is free of charge and open to the public.

The Banquet will be held in the ballroom of the Renaissance Spring-

field Hotel. Noted Lincoln scholar Allen C. Guelzo is the Banquet speaker. Tickets are fifty dollars and may be obtained by calling Cathy LeConte at 217.747.5502 or by filling out and returning the announcement flyer. Banquet reservations must be received by February 7, 2002. Banquet tickets are not mailed but may be picked up beginning at 5:30 p.m. on February 12, 2002, outside of the ballroom. To reserve a room at the Renaissance at a special rate, call 217.544.8800, and indicate that you are with the Abraham Lincoln Association. Special rates remain in effect until January 21, 2002.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Please enroll me as a member of the Abraham Lincoln Association in the category indicated:

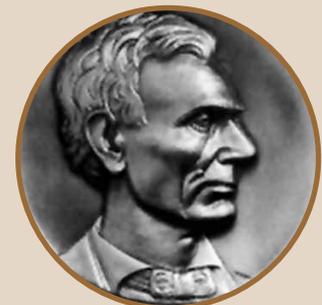
- Railsplitter \$ 35
- Postmaster \$ 75
- Lawyer \$ 200
- Congressman \$ 500
- Presidential \$ 1,000

Members residing outside the U.S add \$3.00

Mail this application (or a photocopy) and a check to:

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Springfield, Illinois
62701

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Web site: www.alincolnassoc.com

The Presidential Papers of Abraham Lincoln

by Richard Behn, Charles Strozier,
and Douglas Wilson

At its meeting in September, the Board of Directors of the Abraham Lincoln Association endorsed a cooperative project for an on-line edition of the presidential papers of Abraham Lincoln. The project, fostered by \$300,000 in funding from the Lehrman Institute, will encompass all the papers relating to Lincoln's presidency. It will also broaden the scope of the *Collected Works* by including the incoming correspondence as well as Lincoln's own writings. While not designed for letterpress publication, "The Presidential Papers of Abraham Lincoln," will be available free on the World Wide Web and will be one of the first major documentary editing projects to take full advantage of the Internet.

"I see the *Collected Works* project as the ALA's gift to the nation on the bicentennial of Lincoln's birth and we want it to be ready for 2009," said Charles B. Strozier, who has chaired the ALA's *Collected Works* Committee for several years. "It may well be the most exciting ALA program since the publication in 1953 of the *Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln*, which was

the culmination of work by many executive secretaries of the Abraham Lincoln Association—including Paul M. Angle, Benjamin P. Thomas, Harry E. Pratt, William E. Baringer, and Roy P. Basler."

The team developing the presidential papers project represents the coming together of the ALA with several Lincoln-related institutions and organizations. Led by Strozier, a professor of history at John Jay College and the Graduate Center, CUNY, who will serve as the project's director, it also includes Michael Burlingame, Sadowski Professor of History Emeritus, Connecticut College, another Lincoln scholar on the ALA Board, who will be associate director. John Sellers, who oversees the Lincoln materials at the Library of Congress, will be in charge of the exhaustive search planned for new materials. Douglas L. Wilson, George A. Lawrence Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus of English, Knox College, will guide the editorial team that will be responsible for the transcription and editing. The Lehrman Institute, whose funding initiative made the project possible, will be represented by Richard Behn, its research director. ALA president Don Tracy has filled the two seats on the

project's executive board reserved for representatives of the ALA with Molly Becker and Richard Hart.

Other authorities in the Lincoln field, who will play an active role in decision-making, will counsel the project team and operations. An editorial committee of scholars and scholarly editors is being formed to establish and oversee the project's editorial policies and procedures. Chaired by Douglas L. Wilson, it thus far includes Lincoln scholars Gabor S. Boritt of Gettysburg College, William E. Gienapp of Harvard, Gerald Prokopowicz of the Lincoln Museum, and documentary editor Daun Van Ee, formerly of the Eisenhower papers, now of the Library of Congress. The project will soon be announcing a larger advisory board of leading figures in Lincoln scholarship to assist in more general ways.

"ALA members can be assured they will be hearing much about the project in the years to come—and hearing requests for assistance in the comprehensive search for manuscripts. We want to make this truly a cooperative venture that reflects President Lincoln's spirit and goals," said Strozier. "It will make us touched by our better angles."

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