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Lincolniana.

LINCOLNIANA BOOK PLATES
AND
COLLECTIONS



LINCOLN.

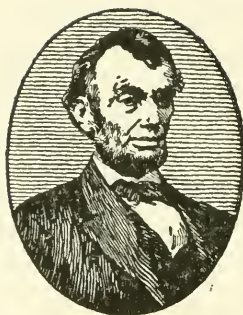
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H. Alfred Fowler.

Preface.

It was originally intended to publish this work under the title "Lincolniana Book-plates," making of it a little brochure of interest to collectors of book-plates, depicting the several book-plates bearing portraits of Lincoln or other designs appropriate for book-plates to be used in books relating to him.

But it was found impossible to adequately describe the book-plates without going into the details of the collections they were used to mark; & these details were found to be of as much if not more interest than the book-plates themselves.

And so it was decided to turn the project into a little volume on Lincolniana; which has been done, with the kind assistance of Messrs. Charles W. McLellan, Judd Stewart and J. B. Oakleaf, all veteran collectors of Lincolniana, who have each contributed a little paper on the subject.

There has been no effort to cover the field of "Lincolniana book-plates;" the few illustrations appearing having been chosen simply with a view to appropriate decoration, which will account for the apparent, but thus not real neglect of many interesting Lincolniana book-plates.

H. A. F.



Collectors and Collecting.

Since what follows is written solely to oblige a man with a hobby, I claim the privilege of simply suggesting instead of detailing my ideas and, further, the privilege of starting at the end of the story instead of at the beginning.

The book-plate for my Lincoln library is the final outcome of gratifying an inherited desire for collecting, given to me, I am sure, by my dear old mother who was always saving papers or clippings of interest. From her also I think that I inherited the desire to give pleasure to others (an inheritance that has not been cultivated beyond a reasonable measure, however) and so I comply with a brother hobbyist's request for a few words to accompany my Lincoln book-plate.

In August 1888, desiring to present to my employer, August R. Meyer of Kansas City, a book that would be unique and "different," I started to extra-illustrate Arnold's "Life of Lincoln," thinking that I would give it to him Christmas, but, becoming interested, I deferred giving it until it was as complete as my crude notions demanded.

In 1889 I endeavored to complete that task but

could find no satisfactory portrait of General Jim Lane of Kansas. Finally, in 1890, the volumes were completed and save a mistake made by the binder the work was satisfactory and the presentation made on Christmas Day of that year. My interest in Lincoln had been aroused and I started out "to get, to have, and to hold" all I could gather in the way of books and pamphlets about him.

Being transferred, in 1901, from the West to the East where second-hand book-stores "do abound more abundantly" I found myself led on & on buying books, pamphlets, medals, sheet music, photographs, autograph letters, anything and everything to gratify the one desire to have and to own all that was possible for man to possess regarding the most heroic figure of the age. When I found it necessary, in order to effect an exchange with a State Historical Society, to have a bill passed by the legislature of the state, I, with the help of good friends, proceeded to have the bill passed and added one more item to my collection.

Meeting, by chance on a train, a man who owned a pamphlet wanted I spent three years in an effort to obtain and preserve the printed copy of a sermon on Lincoln's death. To obtain a play print-

ed in West Creek, Virginia, in 1867, I located the author in Cheyenne, Wyoming, and finally got the volume. I have called into service, not once but many times, the Consular Service of the United States in securing foreign items of interest. And now that I publish the secret, my friendly competitors who see this will probably "make it hot" for U. S. Consuls.

But, after all, the pleasure of pursuit and acquisition is of no worth compared to the friendship formed through my collecting. I cannot name one without offending others but what a pleasure it is to receive, some morning when business is all askew, a letter from a "hated rival" congratulating one on a new acquisition or, as sometimes happens, finding in the mail with the compliments of some other collector ("hated rival") an item that you want and have despaired of getting!

My advice, to my sons and to all of the sons of men, is COLLECT. Be a collector! One man collected playing cards; picking cards up on the street, he was trying to collect a complete deck. He still lacked the deuce of hearts and the five of diamonds when I last heard of his collection but I hope, and am sure that all collectors join me in hope, that he

will find these two cards, face up, some morning as he starts downtown. When he does find them he will sigh to think that his collection is complete but will go on collecting something else and will be as happy as before.

Judd Stewart.

Lincolniana.

Walking up Broadway one evening in the 80's with my son, we were tempted by a flaring light over a book-stand to examine the volumes offered. Among them we discovered the three volume life of Lincoln by William H. Herndon. I had known both Mr. Lincoln and Mr. Herndon in the late 50's when I lived in Springfield, Illinois; had transacted business with Mr. Lincoln over the counter of the Ridgely Bank where I was clerk; had greeted him constantly at the little social gatherings at his home and at the homes of others; and had had frequent conversations with Mr. Herndon on the two subjects then interesting to him: "Theodore Parker & his Beliefs" and "Temperance."

The purchase of these books that evening was the commencement of my interest in Lincolniana, although it was not until the year 1900 that I began collecting in earnest. For some time I confined myself to engravings and lithographs, which seemed innumerable and embraced the patriotic & caricature pictures of the Civil War.

Through Mr. A. S. Clark, then in Fulton Street, I became interested in magazine articles on

Lincoln and collected a fine lot which I had nicely bound. From Mr. Clark I also obtained Judge Fish's first Bibliography of Lincoln Literature, and with this as a guide I then began the effort to complete his list. Judge Fish had collected such a number of books and pamphlets as to make him among the first of our collectors. Later I met Major William H. Lambert and Mr. Judd Stewart, and the formation of the Lincoln Fellowship brought us closer together, and happily joined by Mr. J. B. Oakleaf, we were soon engaged in an endeavor to obtain every thing relating to Lincoln, helping one another until our accumulations reached the thousands.

During all this time the letters, documents & those tiny cards which Mr. Lincoln constantly used to convey his messages, were of great interest to me as expressing the development of the life of this great man. The earliest specimen of his writing that I obtained was a page of his copy-book written in 1826, when he was 17 years of age; and from 1838 to 1865, twenty-seven years, I have something written by him each year excepting the year 1854. Together with these I have accumulated quite an interesting collection of letters written to Mr. Lincoln or about him, and many of these show intimately the

state of the politics of the time.

Accompanying a letter from Mr. Lincoln to J. Gillespie, dated May 19th, 1849, showing his desire for the Commissionership of the General Land Office, is the following letter from E. B. Washburne to Caleb B. Smith, who was later in Lincoln's cabinet:

"Galena, Illinois, May 21, 1849.

My dear Sir: I beg leave to trouble you again for a moment. It is the plan of the Baker (Gen. E. D. Baker of Ball Bluff fame) Clique to get Lincoln into the commissionership of the General Land Office by having Young resign in his favor. I was favourable to Lincoln until he proved himself to be a mere catspaw and tool of Baker, and until the Southern part of the state had got both the Marshall and Dist., Atty. We think now if anything else is coming to this state, the North should have it. All the Whig strength is in the North and all the offices heretofore have gone down into the locofoco region.

If Baker should succeed in getting Lincoln in, it will be a great triumph for him.

We have got up papers here, Baker's own residence, signed by all our leading Whigs and the members of the bar here without distinction of party,

and our own Bar is only second to the Chicago Bar, showing how Butterfield (Juston B., who obtained the position) stands and showing Baker to be what he is, a liar and calumniator.

Truly, Your Friend,

Hon. C. B. Smith.

E. B. Washburne."

In a letter written to Dr. Benjamin C. Lundy, dated Springfield, Illinois, August 5, 1857, Mr. Lincoln writes: "You will have no trouble to carry your county of Putnam, but you are (as I remember) part of the Peoria Senatorial District, and that is close and questionable, so that you need every vote you can get in Putnam."

With this letter, showing Lincoln's dependence upon him to help organize Putnam County for the coming struggle, I have one from Dr. Lundy to Wendell Phillips, and, illustrating the ever developing history which opens to the collector, it is interesting to know that this Dr. Lundy was the son of Benjamin Lundy of Baltimore, who, years before Garrison and Lovejoy, before Seward and Lincoln, "took up the cudgel for liberty." And I can not refrain from quoting further from a pathetic tribute of the Hon. Victor Murdock, who happened last year upon the neglected grave of this elder Ben-

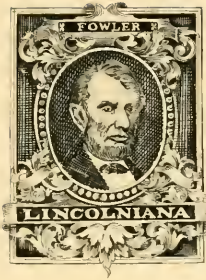
jamin Lundy in Magnolia, Putnam County, Illinois.

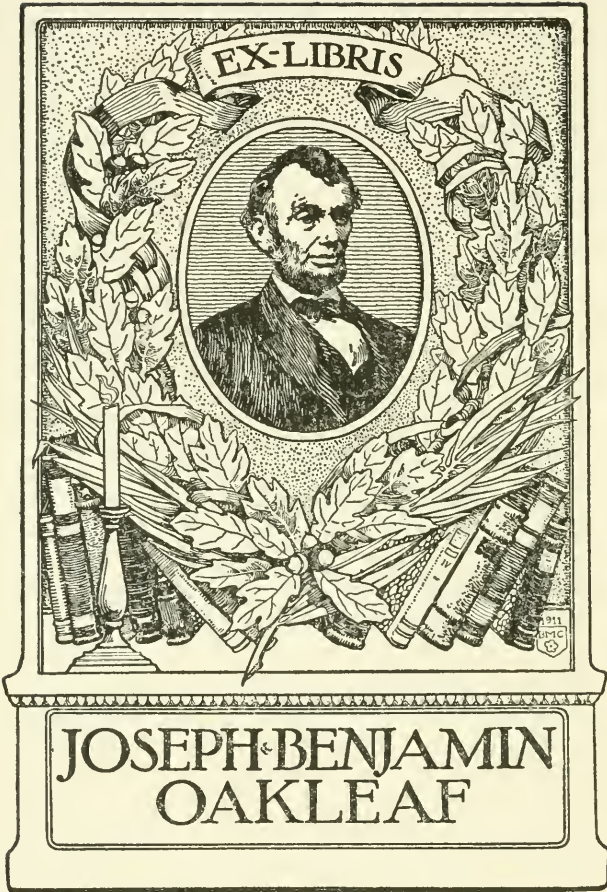
Mr. Murdock writes, "Benjamin Lundy did not seek to identify himself with a principle through a political candidacy; he did not risk his cause to the cankering compromises that come with organization. He fought alone. In the wilderness he was a voice in the slow, patient process of making paths straight. Against the accusation of agitation, demagogue and madman; threatened; brutally assaulted once by a slave-trader in Baltimore; always in peril, Lundy fought on, travelling from place to place usually afoot, seeking no fame, asking no favor, aspiring to no eloquence save the rude speech by which he might burn into the hearts of men a consciousness of the curse of slavery.

He was persuasive. And leaving a trail of abolition newspapers behind him and a little groupe of awakened citizens, he passed on, from town to town, aflame with the essential conviction of a true democrat — the gentle, indomitable belief in the majority — of God and one — and at last he came here, to the little graveyard, obscure as his grave itself. He had no ambition as we know the word. There was no white promise on his horizon, only the beckoning obscurity he set out from. That engulf-

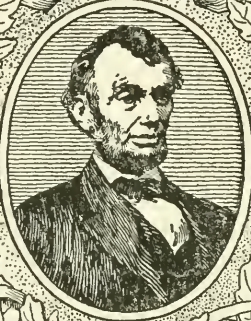
ed him finally even to the memory of a nation that once knew him well. And twenty years after the world drove away from his mound and began to forget, Lincoln, with generations of sorrow shadowed in his eyes, was writing an emancipation proclamation for a race."

Charles Woodberry McLellan.





EX-LIBRIS



JOSEPH & BENJAMIN
OAKLEAF

Collecting Lincolniana.

In common with many thousands of the people of the United States, I am a true lover of Lincoln. I can well remember, as a boy of a few years of age, the picture which hung in the sitting room of my home; it was a picture of Washington & Lincoln bearing the inscription, "Washington made, & Lincoln saved our Country." My home town being one of the stations on the "underground railroad" and one of the strongest abolition towns in the country, I heard much about Lincoln and always admired the kind face and pleasing personality of the martyred president, and as I grew to manhood the boyish admiration grew into adoration.

Up to the time that Nicolay and Hay wrote their biography of Abraham Lincoln I had read a few biographies of Lincoln and, of course, different incidents in the magazines and newspapers, but the publication by Nicolay and Hay was hailed with great delight for much that was hidden was brought out by them. It is certainly true that we cannot study the life of a great man unless we study, at the same time, the events of the times in which that man lived and with which he was connected, and I consider

that the ten volumes that were published by the Century Company, the result of the minds of Lincoln's private secretaries, is a monument to him that is greater than any amount of money could form by being placed in marble or precious stones.

Having read in "The Century" from month to month the life of Lincoln and of the men with whom he was connected, when the last number came I re-read all of them and, having taken up the law as my profession and acquainted myself with the annotations in the text books, it occurred to me that I would like to be the possessor of all of the books that Nicolay and Hay referred to in their foot-notes, for it seemed to me that if they could weave such a splendid history by the use of their references it would be a pleasure to own such books.

I thought that I would like to have all of the biographies of Lincoln, at least, and I then concluded that a hundred volumes would probably be the extent of my library. I began the collection in a modest way and did not correspond with anyone who was collecting. While I was endeavoring to procure the books that I had noted others became known to me and my hundred volumes grew to four, five and even six hundred and so on, but my gala day

came at the close of the year 1900. It was while visiting with the genial Frank M. Morris, of Chicago, in his famous book shop, that he informed me that a man by the name of Fish, of Minneapolis, had compiled a bibliography of Lincoln books. Upon my return home I wrote to the Hon. Daniel Fish inquiring concerning his book and out of the goodness of his heart he sent a copy to me and then, for the first time, did I learn of the extent of Lincolniana. If I had known how extensive a complete collection of Lincolniana would be when I first began collecting I am satisfied that I would not have had the heart to begin the work. But thus it is that where we are not allowed to peer into the future we frequently undertake work and carry it to completion where we should have been overwhelmed at the start had we realized the proportions of our undertaking.

My collection of Lincolniana was known locally and at one time I gave an address on Lincoln before one of our schools in which I tendered the use of my library to anyone who desired to carry on research in that direction. A young man by the name of Philip Joseph availed himself of the opportunity and delivered an oration entitled "The Fame

of Abraham Lincoln." As the paper was well written I had it published and sent a copy to Mr. Fish who asked me to send a copy to his good friend Judd Stewart; this I did and in that way reached the heart and hand of that genial enthusiast.

The prince of Lincoln collectors passed away last summer with the death of Major Lambert. His collection cannot be duplicated, and now Stewart stands at the head of the collectors of Lincolniana, a place that he well deserves for he has always been willing to lend a helping hand to his brother collectors. Not only has the collection of Lincolniana been a pleasure to me but the acquaintance I have formed through my hobby is really worth to me many fold more than the collection.

Living in Rock Island County where Lincoln was sworn into the service of the United States as a volunteer in the Blackhawk War, & within sight of the village made famous by Blackhawk, we feel that Rock Island County has had much to do with the bringing of fame to Abraham Lincoln. It was in this county that the first bridge spanned the Mississippi and the company building the bridge retained Lincoln to help them in their efforts to retain the bridge in the suit brought by the river-men. It was

at Fort Armstrong, in Rock Island County, where Dred Scott, as body-servant of Dr. Emerson, was stationed for a number of years, and on account of Dred Scott's residence here his test of citizenship came before the Supreme Court of the United States.

There are many now who are interested in the collection of Lincolniana and new ones coming to the front continually and to such I extend the hand of Lincoln fellowship, with my heart in it, knowing that what they do will not only be of service to themselves but to the community in which they live, & of benefit to their friends.

In closing I should like to mention all of those who have been very kind to me with my hobby but I cannot do so for the list would be too long: however, I must not close without mentioning a few. A better man never lived than Major W. H. Lambert, who has now gone to his reward. Judd Stewart, I have already mentioned. Hon. Charles W. McLellan, of Champlain, New York, was a resident of Springfield at the time of the breaking out of the war and on account of his leaning toward the Confederacy left there and moved south, but is now one of the strongest admirers of Lincoln. Hon. Daniel Fish, of Minneapolis, I have had the pleas-

ure of entertaining at my home and have made a trip in his company through the Lincoln country. And in J. W. Burton's home in Lake Geneva I have been entertained and have had the pleasure of seeing his wonderful collection of Lincolniana.

These were my early friends in the beginning of my hobby and I can now count many others who are near to me and who have reciprocated the favors which they say I have extended to them.

J. B. Oakleaf.

Moline, Illinois,
12, February 1913.

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