

FORGERIES MISCELLANEOUS
(1)

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FORGERIES

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Lincoln Forgeries

Miscellaneous (1)

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

One of the oldest settlers in Illinois is E. D. Taylor, or "Colonel Dick," as they call him in Ottawa, who held government office in Chicago way back in 1833, when corner lots were put in the pot at games of penny-ante. Colonel Taylor is about as old as Judge Caton, who, in the days of his activity, was the biggest man in Ottawa. Colonel Dick's friends have been expecting to hear of his death almost any day during the last month, but the old gentleman has just conquered eleven carbuncles, and says he will stay with the boys a few years yet. Colonel Dick is a great financier, and is known to fame as the "Father of the Greenback." Years ago he was the friend of Lincoln, and when Lincoln and his government got into financial trouble at the beginning of the war he happened to think of old Dick and sent for him. Colonel Taylor went down to Washington, and the story of his visit there is briefly told in Lincoln's own words in a letter to the Colonel, which the latter has framed and hung on the walls of his pleasant home:

MY DEAR COLONEL DICK:—I have long determined to make public the origin of the greenback, and tell the world that it is one of Dick Taylor's creations. You had always been friendly to me, and when troublous times fell on us, and my shoulders, though broad and willing, were weak and myself surrounded by such circumstances and such people that I knew not whom to trust, then I said in my extremity: "I will send for Colonel Taylor; he will know what to do." I think it was in January, 1862, on or about the 16th, that I did so. You came, and I said to you: "What can we do?" Said you: "Why, issue Treasury notes, bearing no interest, printed on the best banking paper, issue enough to pay off the army expenses, and declare it legal tender." Chase thought it a hazardous thing, but we finally accomplished it, and gave to the people of this republic the greatest blessing they ever had—their own paper to pay their own debts. It is due to you, the father of the present greenback, that the people should know, and I take great pleasure in making it known. How many times have I laughed at you telling me plainly that I was too lazy to be anything but a lawyer. Yours truly,
A. LINCOLN, President.

The first meeting of Colonel Dick and Abraham Lincoln has not been forgotten by Mr. Taylor. That meeting has already passed into history, and was thus described by Isaac N. Arnold in his "Life of Lincoln:"

Among the Democratic orators who canvassed Sangamon County in 1836 was Colonel Dick Taylor. He was a small but very pompous little gentleman, who rode about in his carriage, neatly dressed, with many and very conspicuous ruffles to his shirt, with patent leather boots, kid gloves, some diamonds and gold studs in his linen, an immense watch chain with many seals, charms and pendants, and altogether in most striking contrast with the simple and plainly clad people whom he addressed. The Colonel was a very amiable man, but pompous, vain and affecting to be, without, an extreme Democrat, he had much to say of "the bone and sinew" of the land, "the hard-handed yeomanry." He was very sarcastic on the Whig "aristocracy," the



Col. Dick Taylor

"rag barons," the "silk stocking gentry." Lincoln, the candidate of this so-called aristocracy, was dressed in Kentucky jeans, coarse boots, checkered shirt, buttoned round his neck without a necktie, an old slouch hat, and certainly the last thing he or his appearance could suggest would be that of anything aristocratic.

On one occasion when Lincoln was present, Taylor, in the midst of a violent harangue against the Whig aristocrats, made a gesture so forcibly that he tore the buttons off his vest, and the whole magnificence of his ruffles, gold watch chain, seals, etc., burst forth, fully exposed. Lincoln, stepping to the front and turning to Taylor, pointed to his ruffles and exclaimed: "Behold the hard-fisted Democrat! Look, gentlemen, at this specimen of the bone and sinew. And here, gentlemen," said he, laying his great, bony hand, bronzed with work, on his own heart, "here at your service [bowing]; here is your aristocrat; here is one of your silk-stocking gentry [spreading out his hands]; here is your rag baron with his hip-white hands." The contrast was irresistibly ludicrous, and the crowd burst into shouts of laughter and uproar. In this campaign the reputation of Lincoln as a speaker was established, and ever after he was recognized as one of the greatest orators of the state.

The population of Ottawa is rather less than one-half American, the remainder being composed of German, Irish and French settlers and their descendants. They are an intelligent, contented people, living in the prettiest portion of the prettiest valley in the West.

A Probable Forgery.

The following paragraph appears from time to time in a certain class of papers as an alleged quotation from President Lincoln:

I see in the near future a crisis approaching that unnerves me, and causes me to tremble for the safety of my country. As a result of the war corporations have been enthroned and an era of corruption in high places will follow and the money power of the country will endeavor to prolong its reign by working upon the prejudices of the people until all wealth is aggregated in a few hands and the republic is destroyed. I feel at this moment more anxiety for the safety of my country than ever before, even in the midst of the war.

There is no reason to believe that Mr. Lincoln ever made a statement of this kind, and ex-Senator Ingalls is doubtless right in denouncing it as "a malignant and clumsy forgery." The manner as well as the matter is inconsistent with what we know of the style of a man who was nothing if not original in his methods of expression. It is easy, as a rule, to identify a piece of Lincoln's composition by certain marks and signs that were peculiar to him under all circumstances. The above extract does not resemble any declaration that he ever made. It bears no hint of his characteristic force and precision, and is not to be found in any of his published writings. The proof of authenticity is utterly wanting, in short, and the conclusion must be that he never wrote it.

There can be no doubt, of course, that Lincoln was in hearty sympathy with the working classes and anxious to do all he could for the promotion of their welfare and happiness; but it does not follow that he favored such schemes of reform as this extract is usually employed to justify and commend. It is entirely safe to say that he did not borrow any trouble on account of the possible destruction of the republic by the aggregation of all the wealth in a few hands. There was no issue of that kind presented in his time. He had questions of a far more definite and practical nature to deal with, and he did not neglect them for the purpose of making doleful predictions with regard to the evil results of the growth of corporations. The great absorbing subject that enlisted his attention and inspired his proceedings was that of saving the Union. He was not yet through with that solemn and terrible task when his career was closed and his name invested with everlasting pathos and tenderness. We may be very sure that he had not taken time to consider interests of a remote and doubtful order. He was not the man to say that he saw another crisis approaching that unnerved him and caused him to tremble for the national safety. That was not his way of looking at the future, and it is an insult to his intelligence and his patriotism to represent him as talking in such an absurd and unworthy fashion. G. D. 12-1-1881

HE WAS A FRIEND OF LINCOLN.

Some Reminiscences of Colonel E. D. Taylor and His Relations With Illinois' Hero.

CHICAGO, Dec. 5.—Active preparations were in progress here to-day for the burial to-morrow of one of America's most notable characters, Colonel Edmond Dick Taylor, the man to whom President Lincoln gave the credit of originating the greenback currency idea. Colonel Taylor's death has brought to light many important facts heretofore unpublished or little known. He it was who induced Lincoln to leave the country store at Salem and go to Springfield and study law. The story of his relations with Lincoln is a remarkable one. Colonel Taylor was born at Fairfield Court House, Va., October 18, 1802. He was a cousin of President Zachary Taylor, and his father was a Captain in the Revolutionary War. At an early age he left his home and went to Springfield, Ill., where he opened a general store and Indian trading post. While engaged in this business he became acquainted with Lincoln, who was then a clerk at Salem, Ill., and with Stephen A. Douglas, who was teaching a country school. He was much impressed with their ability and told them they should study law. Lincoln replied that he had no money with which to buy books.

"Come to Springfield and I will see that you are supplied," was the Colonel's reply. Lincoln came and for a long time made his home with Colonel and Mrs. Taylor. Through Colonel Taylor's influence Lincoln was taken into Judge Logan's office, where he made himself useful, keeping up fires, sweeping out the office and doing clerical work for the privilege of using the Judge's law library. About this time Lincoln bought several yards of jeans for a pair of trousers. He had not enough money to get them made, and Mrs. Taylor volunteered to make them for him. In after years, when he became President, he told Mrs. Taylor that he had never had a pair of trousers that gave him as much satisfaction and as good wear as the pair she made him when he was a law student, unknown to the world. Colonel Taylor rapidly prospered in business, and was connected with many banking institutions in his day.

During the Civil War at a time when the Government's credit with Europe was exhausted and the soldiers were crying for money and the Treasury was empty, Lincoln sent for Colonel Taylor. When the scheme evolved by them became a pronounced success Lincoln wrote Colonel Taylor the following letter:

MY DEAR COLONEL DICK—I have long determined to make public the origin of the greenback and tell the world that it is one of Dick Taylor's creations. You had always been friendly to me, and when troublous times fell on us, and my shoulders, though broad and willing, were weak and myself surrounded by such circumstances and such people that I knew not whom to trust, then said I in my extremity: "I will send for Colonel Taylor; he will know what to do." I think it was in January, 1862, on or about the 16th, that I did so. You came and I said to you, "What can we do?" Said you, "Why, issue treasury notes bearing no interest, printed on the best banking paper. Issue enough to pay off the army expenses and declare it legal tender."

Chase thought it a hazardous thing, but we finally accomplished it and gave to the people of this Republic the greatest blessing they ever had—their own paper to pay their own debts. It is due to you, the father of the present greenback, that the people should know it and I take great pleasure in making it known. How many times have I laughed at you telling me plainly that I was too lazy to be anything but a lawyer. Yours truly,

A. LINCOLN.

Taylor was a warm friend of General Grant, as well as of Lincoln, and carried many dispatches between the two. The funeral takes place to-morrow afternoon from the residence of Colonel Taylor's son-in-law. The remains will be buried at Rose Hill.

A Story of Lincoln.

[From the Rochester Post-Express.]

Col. Edmond Dick Taylor, whose funeral was held in Chicago on Sunday, was one of America's noted characters. He it was who induced Abraham Lincoln to leave the country store and study law, and he was the man to whom Lincoln gave the credit of originating the greenback currency idea. Col. Taylor was born at Fairfax Court House, Va., October 18, 1802. He was a cousin to President Zachary Taylor, and his father was a Captain in the revolutionary war. At an early age he left his home and went to Springfield, Ill., where he opened a general store and Indian trading post. While engaged in this business he became acquainted with Lincoln, who was then a clerk at Salem, Ill., and with Stephen A. Douglas, who was teaching a country school. He was much impressed with their ability and told them they should study law. Lincoln replied that he had no money with which to buy books. "Come to Springfield and I will see that you are supplied," was the Colonel's reply. Lincoln accepted the offer and for a long time made his home with Col. and Mrs. Taylor, and he received much kindness at their hands. Long years afterward, when Lincoln was President, when our credit in Europe was very low, when the soldiers were demanding their money and the National Treasury was nearly

empty, Lincoln sent for Taylor. Some time after the scheme evolved by them had become a pronounced success Lincoln wrote Col. Taylor the following letter:

MY DEAR COL. DICK—I have long determined to make public the origin of the greenback and tell the world that it is of Dick Taylor's creation. You had always been friendly to me, and when troublous times fell on us, and my shoulders, though broad and willing, were weak and myself surrounded by such circumstances and such people that I knew not whom to trust, then said I in my extremity: "I will send for Col. Taylor; he will know what to do." I think it was in January, 1862, on or about the 16th, that I did so. You came and I said to you:

"What can we do?"

Said you: "Why, issue Treasury notes bearing no interest, printed on the best banking paper. Issue enough to pay off the army expenses and declare it legal tender."

Chase thought it a hazardous thing, but we finally accomplished it and gave to the people of this republic the greatest blessing they ever had—their own paper to pay their own debts.

It is due to you, the father of the present greenback, that the people should know it, and I take great pleasure in making it known. How many times have I laughed at your telling me plainly that I was too lazy to be anything but a lawyer. Yours, truly,

A. LINCOLN.

Col. Taylor was a warm friend of Gen. Grant, as well as of Lincoln, and carried many dispatches between the two during the war.

THE CHRISTIAN COMMISSION

THE NAME and fame of Abraham Lincoln grow with the years. Everything that relates to his personal life in the way of letters or speech or incident has a cordial welcome. One of the most remarkable organizations connected with the civil war was the United States Christian commission. It did a great work in ministering to the material wants of the soldiers and a distinctive work in its spiritual ministry.

In the hall of the house of representatives on January 20, 1865, the public anniversary of the commission was held. It was attended by a great throng of people who listened to reports of the work and addresses. William H. Seward, secretary of state, presided. President and Mrs. Lincoln,

Vice-President Hamlin, several members of the cabinet, Chief Justice Chase of the supreme court, many senators and representatives, and officials of the army and navy were in attendance. Philip Phillips, a noted singer of the day, sang "Your Mission," and it was observed that Mr. Lincoln was deeply moved by the song. He sent up the following request to Mr. Seward: "Near the close let us have "Your Mission" repeated by Mr. Phillips. Don't say I called for it. A. Lincoln."

This was written on the back of a program and preserved by Mr. Phillips as a precious souvenir. The song was written by Mrs. Ellen H. Gates.

The melancholy poem, "Why Should the Spirit of Mortal Be Proud?" is said to have been a favorite of Mr. Lincoln, but "Your Mission," with its note of faith and service, is quite in harmony with his loving character.

D. C. MILNER.

*Near the close let us have
"Your Mission" repeated by Mr Phillips,
Don't say I called for it. A. Lincoln*

Request Made by Mr. Lincoln for a Song That Had Touched Him

THE CONTINENT

February 8, 1912

A Notable Judgment of Lincoln's

By Charles T. White

N.Y. Tribune
2-12-18

Lincoln Weighed His Words

When he wrote this letter Lincoln was, as I said before, mature in his thinking and precise in the use of his words. He knew perfectly well what, commonly accepted, were the great single events in the history of the new world. Eliminating, as doubtless should be done, those events of a composite historical prominence, we still have the killing of Hamilton by Burr, which in the judgment of many marked the beginning of the end of duelling in this country. Turning to the field of material accomplishment, we have in the historical panorama the invention of the Whitney cotton gin, which indirectly complicated the slavery question; Morse's telegraph and Robert Fulton's steamboat. The development and utility of these three inventions were recurring things, of which thinkers like Lincoln were constantly being reminded. Yet none of these, as "single events," weighed heavily in his mind compared with the memory of the pale-faced Congregational preacher, dying for an ideal—the freedom of the press and the freedom of the slave—at the hands of the pro-slavery, drunken mob in the little city of Alton in November, 1837. That to Lincoln was "the most important single event that ever happened in the New World."

Charles A. Dana, Assistant Secretary of War in Lincoln's Administration, in his admirable address on Lincoln before the New Haven Colony Historical Society in 1896, said that Lincoln's predominating trait was his wisdom.

"He never took an unimportant point and went off upon that," said the great journalist, "but he always laid hold of the real thing, of the real question, and attended to that, without attending to the others any more than was indispensably necessary . . . he seemed to have no illusions. He had no freakish notions that things were so, or might be so, when they were not so. All his thinking and all his reasoning, all his mind, in short, was based continually upon actual facts and upon facts of which, as I said, he saw the essence. I never heard him foretell things; he told what they were, but I never heard him intimate that such and such consequences were likely to happen without the consequence following."

As a nation we are taking part in a struggle for the freedom of the press and the freedom of the Teutonic peoples. Whether those people realize it or not, they do not enjoy freedom, and whether we as a people fully realize it or not, the abridgement of the freedom of the press and the freedom of the peoples of the Central Powers affects adversely the freedom of the people of the United States. We are more and more a brotherhood. If the striking down of Lovejoy, standing as he did for the freedom of the press and the freedom of the slave, was to the wise and clear-sighted Lincoln the most important single event that had ever happened up to 1857 in the history of the New World, should we not be steadied and heartened for the mighty task in hand across the sea?

Lovejoy a Co-worker With Lemen

"Rev. James Lemen. Friend Lemen: Thanking you for your warm appreciation of my view in a former letter as to the importance in many features of your collection of old family notes and papers, I will add a few words more as to Elijah P. Lovejoy's case. His letters among your old family notes were of more interest to me than even those of Thomas Jefferson, written to your father. Of course, they (the latter) were exceedingly important as a part of the history of the Jefferson-Lemen anti-slavery pact, under which your father, the Rev. James Lemen, sr., as Jefferson's anti-slavery agent in Illinois, founded his anti-slavery churches, among which was the present Bethel Church, which set in motion the forces which finally made Illinois a free state, all of which was splendid; but Lovejoy's tragic death for freedom in every sense marked his sad ending as the most important single event that happened in the New World.

"Both your father and Lovejoy were pioneer leaders in the cause of freedom, and it has always been difficult for me to see why your father, who was a resolute, uncompromising and aggressive leader, who boldly proclaimed his purpose to make both the territory and the state free, never aroused nor encountered any of the mob

violence which both in St. Louis and Alton confronted or pursued Lovejoy and finally doomed him to a felon's death and a martyr's crown. Perhaps the two cases are a little parallel with those of John and Peter. John was bold and fearless at the scene of the crucifixion, standing near the cross and receiving the Saviour's request to care for his mother, but was not annoyed, while Peter, whose disposition was to shrink from public view, seemed to catch the attention of members of the mob on every hand, until finally, to throw public attention off, he denied his Master with an oath, though later the grand old apostle redeemed himself grandly, and, like Lovejoy, died a martyr to his faith. Of course, there was no similarity between Peter's treachery at the temple and Lovejoy's splendid courage when the pitiless mob was closing around him. But in the cases of the two apostles at the scene mentioned, John was more prominent or loyal in his presence and attention to the great Master than Peter was, but the latter seemed to catch the attention of the mob; and, as Lovejoy, one of the most inoffensive of men, for merely printing a small paper devoted to the freedom of the body and mind of man, was pursued to his death; while his older comrade in the cause of freedom, the Rev. James Lemen, sr., who boldly and aggressively proclaimed his purpose to make both the territory and the state free, was never molested a moment by the minions of violence. The madness and pitiless determination with which the mob steadily pursued Lovejoy to his doom mark it as one of the most unreasoning and unreasonable in all time, except that which doomed the Saviour to the cross.

"If ever you should come to Springfield again, do not fail to call. The memory of our many 'evening sittings' here and elsewhere, as we called them, suggests many a pleasant hour, both pleasant and helpful. Truly yours, A. LINCOLN."

Abraham Lincoln's adherence to moral ideals always has been an inspiration to students of American history.

One of his associates said that with Lincoln a moral question was the mightiest thing beneath the throne of God.

How tenaciously he clung to some of these ideals is wellnigh forgotten save by those who take the time to take Lincoln's faith in ideals and run back the various strands to their sure anchorages.

What student of American history to-day, without reference to some printed record, could name even the year of the murder of Elijah P. Lovejoy? The Britannica does not mention him at all. The Century gives him six lines; Lippincott's, eight.

Yet Lincoln, writing in 1857, at a period in his life when he gave thought to the use of his written words, wrote of Lovejoy's death as the most important single event in the history of the New World.

The murder of Lovejoy, the humble Congregational clergyman and editor of an anti-slavery paper, by a pro-slavery mob, while Lovejoy was defending his printing office in Alton, Ill., was a moral earthquake shock that was felt all over the United States.

J. Q. Adams On Lovejoy

John Quincy Adams, "the old man eloquent," writing the introduction of a memoir to Lovejoy, used these words:

"That an American citizen, in a state whose constitution repudiates all slavery, should die a martyr in defence of the freedom of the press is a phenomenon in the history of the Union. It forms an era in the progress of mankind toward universal emancipation. . . . The incidents which preceded and accompanied and followed the catastrophe of Mr. Lovejoy's death point it out as an epoch in the annals of human liberty. . . . He was the first American martyr to the freedom of the press and the freedom of the slave."

This tragic circumstance must have been burned indelibly into Lincoln's mind. It made Owen Lovejoy, brother of the murdered man, his lifelong friend and counsellor. Lincoln did not always agree with Owen Lovejoy in matters of policy, as Owen Lovejoy was an uncompromising abolitionist immediately following his brother's death. But Lincoln never forgot that Elijah Lovejoy, as John Quincy Adams said, was the first American martyr to the freedom of the press and the freedom of the slave.

The transcendent importance attached by Lincoln to the death of Lovejoy might have escaped attention but for the publication by W. C. MacNaul in 1915 of the volume "The Jefferson-Lemen Compact," and Lincoln's views on this subject have received wider circulation recently through the publication of Gilbert A. Tracy's "Uncollected Letters of Abraham Lincoln." A letter written by Lincoln, dated Springfield, Ill., March 2, 1857, to the Rev. James Lemen, is in many respects the most remarkable letter he ever penned. Recently while in Washington I called the attention of Robert T. Lincoln to it. He owned the new book containing the letter, but he had not read it. After carefully reading it he said, "Well, that certainly proves that my father was not an irreligious man."

Because this letter illustrates how tenaciously Lincoln clung to an ideal, or moral question, involving the freedom of the press and the freedom of the slave, I am confident that the readers of The Tribune on this the anniversary of the many-sided great man's birth, will be glad to read it, and I give the letter in full:

March 2

Mar. 14, 1922.

Prof. Albert Bushnell Hart,
19 Cragie Street,
Cambridge, Mass.

My dear Sir:

Although I try to procure all books and pamphlets relating to Abraham Lincoln as published, I somehow failed to see the "Selected Writings," edited by you (in the Living Literature Series) until Saturday last. It contains one piece which I am sure neither you nor Dr. Burton, the general editor, ever personally selected for insertion in a book intended for student use. No doubt it is too late to do anything in the way of correction, but should another printing be called for a serious error may be omitted.

I refer to the preposterous "letter" found on pages 323-4 to one Taylor on the "Origin of the Greenback." Kindly read that composition and consider how impossible it is that Lincoln could have written anything so utterly foolish. The thing was "faked up" by some reckless newspaper reporter to whom the irresponsible Col. Dick had talked, pretending, no doubt, to have received and lost a letter of similar import. It has appeared in three or four of the Lincoln anthologies (in the light only it is "living" literature), but it is not found in either edition of the "Complete Works" edited by Nicolay and Hay.

In my Bibliography I took pains to mark it as spurious. (See Nos. 335 and 367). When Mr. Lapsley included it in Putnam's "Federal Edition," I asked Mr. Robert Lincoln for his opinion as to its genuineness and have his answer pronouncing it a sheer manufacture. He adds, in effect, that no one who knew "Colonel" Dick Taylor, as he did, would require further proof that such a letter never was written.

I trust that you will pardon this intrusion from one who, like yourself, reveres the memory of Lincoln and would guard his good fame from error no less than from intended misrepresentation.

Very sincerely yours,

3301 1st. Ave. South.

original letter filed in Daniel Fish (Collectors) Correspondence

RICHARD BURTON
THE PLAYERS
GRAMERCY PARK
NEW YORK, N. Y.

March 19th

My dear Judge Fish:

Thank you for the interesting correction of the Lincoln item. No doubt Professor Hart will be glad to get it, and make such acknowledgment of it as is called for. Probably by this time you have heard from him. I imagine Hart put the letter in his edition in the belief that it was genuine. However, he will tell you as to that.

With personal respects,

Yours truly,

Richard Burton

ALBERT BUSHNELL HART
PROFESSOR OF GOVERNMENT IN HARVARD UNIVERSITY
775 WIDENER LIBRARY, CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

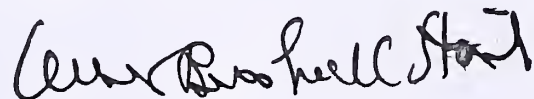
April 26, 1922.

My dear Sir:-

In answer to your letter of March fifteenth with regard to the extrace in my collection of Lincoln's Works, that particular letter was sent me by someone who had the manuscript. I did not ask ^{to see} for the manuscript, ~~but~~ it does not seem to me at all an impossible letter for Lincoln to have written. As to the account of the way legal tenders came about and of Chase's relation, it is not very different from the facts as I found them when I was writing my life of Chase.

Frankly it is more expansive and broad in its statements than most of Lincoln's private letters, but as nothing occurred to suggest that it was less than it pretended to be, I put it in.

Sincerely yours,



Mr. Daniel Fish.

May 4, 1922.

Prof. Albert Bushnell Hart,
775 Widener Library,
Cambridge, Mass.

My dear Sir:

Your favor of April 26th in reply to mine touching the alleged Lincoln letter on the "origin of the greenback" interests me very much. I would be more than pleased to have the name and address of the man who "had the manuscript." It may well be that a purported original of such a letter is or was in existence. The Lincoln handwriting is easily simulated and several counterfeits are afloat. At least two "originals" of the Pixby letter, wholly unlike, have been shown to me. Should this greenback letter ever turn up in manuscript form the handwriting in order to escape detection, will have to be much more skilfully imitated, than are the style and character of the reputed author.

Reading between the lines of your letter I suspect that you are more than half convinced that the document is spurious. It certainly is. I never met the man Taylor, but from what Robert Lincoln says of him the type is readily discernable. He was simply one of many cheeky

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blatherskites who pretended to be especially intimate with the President and sought notoriety by the cheap method of bragging about it. The form of the pretended letter is just what a thoughtless and irresponsible reporter would be likely to produce after talking with a creature of that kind.

Lapsley, in the "Federal" edition (Vol.7, p. 270) cites as his authority the New York Tribune of December 6, 1891, but I have not been able to trace it any further. Nicolay and Hay, the authorized editors, make no mention of it; and "My dear Col. Dick" nowhere else appears in contemporary annals.

As to the historical possibilities of the case, saying nothing of the "expansive and broad" character of the statements of the letter so unlike anything to be found elsewhere in the whole range of Lincoln's correspondence, it is unthinkable that the necessity of resorting at last to a paper currency had not by January 1862, ("on or about the 16th, I think it was") occurred to Chase or the President or any member of the cabinet! Of course the administration put it off until the measure became imperative, but it could never have required the prescience of any "Col. Dick" to discover the impending necessity. And the temptation, as

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well as the need, must have pressed upon those lesser minds whereof the President is made to say: "I knew not whom to trust." If this letter were genuine, Lincoln as an honest man and a patriot would have dismissed Chase and all other stupid and mystified advisors and made Col. Dick his financial minister.

If any authentic document could be found in all of Lincoln's utterances, public or private, exhibiting such utter lack of common sense, such incredible folly indeed, I might hesitate, but there is no parallel. Therefore, contrary to your expressed opinion, I must hold this to be "an impossible letter for Lincoln to have written."

Very truly yours,

C O P Y

BRENTANO'S
Inc.

318-224 South Wabash Avenue

Chicago,

April 14, 1936.

Mr. George P. Hambrecht,
State Board of Vocational Education,
Madison, Wisconsin.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed we hand you a copy of the letter
from Mr. James I. Kniss referring to the Lincoln
autographed books, and trust same will be of some
value to you in the brochure you are preparing about
Lincoln's early school books.

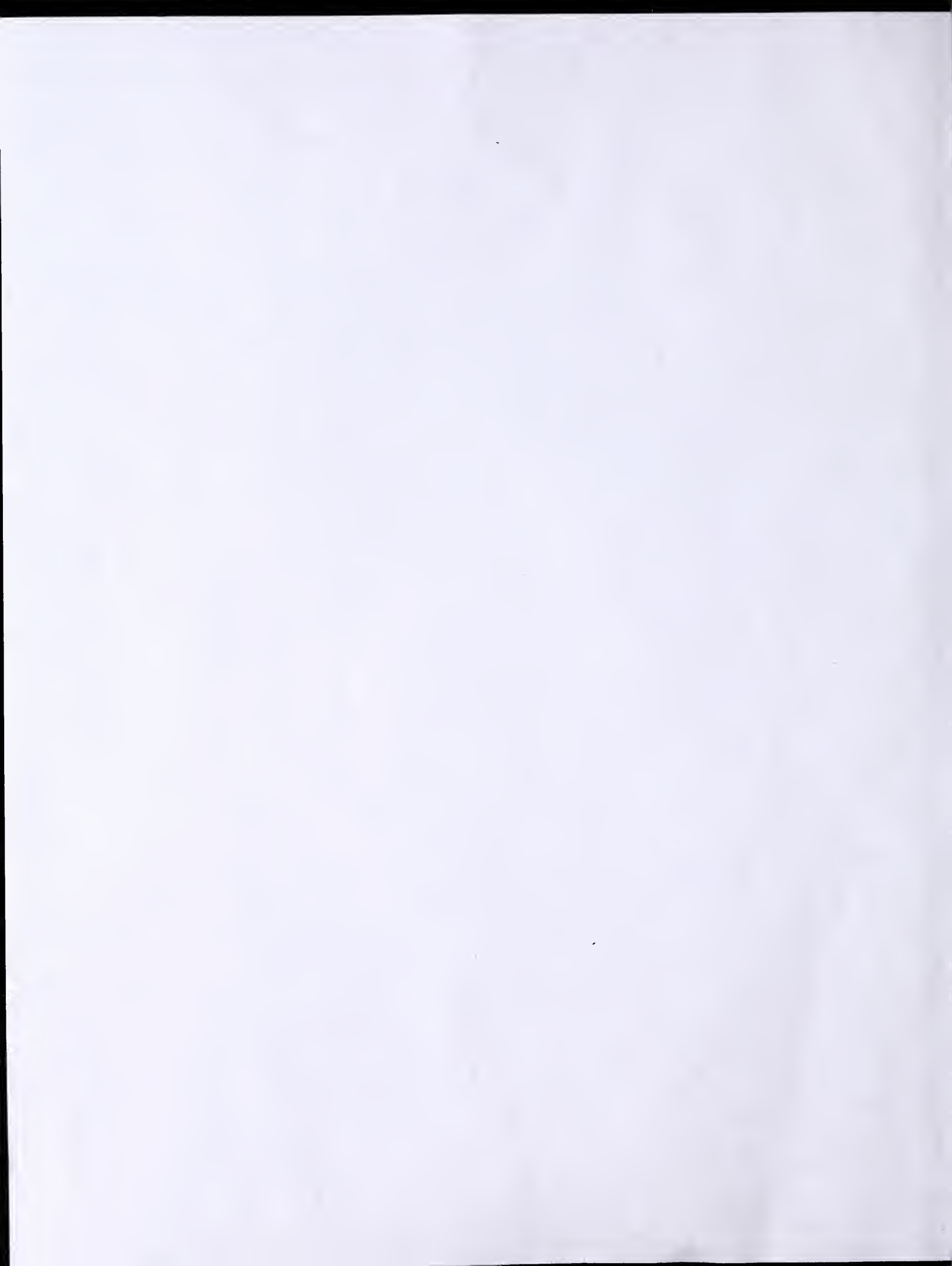
We are glad to be of service to you in this
matter.

Yours very truly,

BRENTANO'S INC.

(Signed) Graegen

AHG/LP



James I. Ennis, Expert Examiner of Disputed Hand Writings, Forgeries, Alterations and Disguised Hand Writings. Suite 1334-1340 Stock Exchange Building, 30 N. LaSalle Street, Chicago, Illinois.

"At the same time I made examination of certain books in which were what purported to be genuine handwriting of Abraham Lincoln, said to be part of the English collection. Among these books were the following:"

1. Grand Chapter, Lincoln & Herndon, copy - which is genuine.
2. Business Man's Assistant, on which is inscribed in pencil, A. Lincoln, which I think is genuine.
3. Inscription to N. J. Field, Proceedings 1776, which I think is not genuine.
4. Bound copies of Blackwood's Magazine, each month, bearing the name "A. Lincoln" which I think are genuine.
5. Olmstead's Astronomy, which I think is good.
6. Kent's Commentaries, which I am unable to say is genuine or spurious.
7. Letters and sentiments to Miss Fannie E. Marsh, the writing in which I do not think is the genuine writing of Mr. Lincoln.
8. A book purporting to be Gen. Grant's Bible, which does not purport to be in Lincoln's handwriting and written in a hand strange to me.
9. Commentaries on American Law. Not genuine.
10. Julius Caesar. Not genuine.
11. The Speaker. Handwriting in a school boy's hand, possibly good, but I cannot say with certainty.
12. Loomis Algebra. Not genuine.
13. Utica Christian. The inscription on this is the genuine writing of Lincoln's.
14. Baileys Theology. Probably genuine.
15. Poems of Eliza Cook. Probably genuine,
16. Wealth and Worth. In my opinion genuine.
17. Night Thoughts. Probably genuine.



18. Greek Exercises. Probably genuine.

19. The Constitution. Probably genuine.

And there were in addition some portraits mounted bearing autograph of A. Lincoln, which were in my opinion genuine.

The Specimens from No. 13 to No. 20 were very fair specimens of which is commonly accepted to be Abraham Lincoln's writing, and it is very hard for me to determine whether or not they were the genuine writings - probably the fact that they came in the collection of several bad and spurious writings made it more difficult for me to come to a conclusion.

Very respectfully submitted

(Signed) James I. Ennis.

JIE/1

Brentano's Inc.,
copy. LF.

DISPUTING THE GENUINENESS OF ALLEGED LINCOLN LETTERS

Peculiarly Formed Capital J Appearing in Several Facsimiles Held to Indicate Spuriousness of Documents

To the Editor of The New York Times:

Many years of active practice in law and the consequent constant examination of evidence have taught me that in all spurious documents some particular is always overlooked. The forging of a signature is comparatively easy compared with the forging of a document or series of documents. It is in the latter that the slips occur.

The supposed letters of Lincoln now running through The Atlantic Monthly are not an exception. In the December number is a facsimile of a letter supposed to have been written by Lincoln to Calhoun on July 22, 1848. In the date line and in the 10th, 18th and 23d lines and in "John Calhoun," will be found a peculiarly formed capital letter J. The formation of this letter is so different from any that I have ever seen that it denotes a set way of writing that letter. If one then turns to the facsimile of Sally Calhoun's "Memoranda" there will be found a date line reading "St. Joe, Mo., June 2d, 1848," and it will also be noted that the two J's in that date line are exactly like those in the facsimile of Lincoln's supposed letter to Calhoun. In the facsimile of another letter supposed to have been written by Lincoln to Calhoun, the same peculiar J appears in lines 22 and 25. So it comes to this: either Lincoln wrote Sally Calhoun's "Memoranda" or Sally Calhoun wrote Lincoln's letters!

The Calhoun Letter.

The editor of The Atlantic asks that judgment be suspended until the originals have been seen, which cannot be done now owing to copyright requirements, and says that experts in handwriting often differ. The latter is only too true, but I hazard the prediction that no inspection of the originals, no disagreement of handwriting experts will change the formation of those capital J's.

In the supposed letter of July 22, 1848, Lincoln is made to refer to Calhoun's having been to "Gentryville and your closing the boundaries, titles, etc.; Dear John at this time I want to extend my deepest gratitude for the service rendered my Mother; God bless my Mother; the part that is best in me and the ability to give it to the world is my inheritance from her."

From this Miss Minor concludes that it is now settled that the frequent tributes to his Mother were meant for his stepmother, "as John Calhoun never knew Nancy Hanks and could not have rendered her any service."

But the statement is, that Calhoun had been at Gentryville, the place in Indiana near which Lincoln's mother was buried on the farm owned by her husband when she died, while the stepmother was then

living in Cole County, Illinois. Moreover, the word "inheritance" is used, and as Lincoln was not only a lawyer but a man exact in his expressions, we could hardly expect him to say that he had inherited personal traits from his stepmother. Evidently, Miss Minor's conclusion was a hasty one and contrary to the text, but that part of the letter affords another reason for believing the supposed letters of Lincoln to be spurious.

If anything was done by John Calhoun to settle boundaries and titles, it would be of no future avail unless placed on record and I at once had a search of the record instituted in the county seat of Spencer County, Indiana, but so far nothing has been disclosed in that regard.

The J's Recur.

Since writing the above, the January, 1929, number of The Atlantic Monthly has come to hand. Opposite page 12 appears a facsimile of a supposed diary kept by Matilda Cameron. The date line, and lines 18, 20, 21, 22, 23 and 26 each have capital J's of the same formation. Moreover, the third and twelfth line contains capital I's, the upper half of which are identical in formation to the J's.

Here we have "Abe" and "Mat" and "Sally" all using the same capital J. It is rather disconcerting. Of course there is always the chance of there having been an epidemic in regard to that letter about that time.

On page 17 there is a purported letter from Lincoln to John Calhoun under date of May 9, 1834, in which he informs Calhoun that the Bixbys are leaving for some place in Kansas and that he thinks it a mistake, &c. The Bixbys must have been very forward people to move to Kansas twenty years before its creation.

CHAS. A. SEIDERS.

Toledo, Ohio, Dec. 24, 1928.

NY Times
Dec 30, 1928

FORGERY

WASHINGTON DAYBOOK

By HERBERT C. PLUMMER

Washington—If you are fortunate enough to catch Charlie Kohen when he is not busy appraising some historical document or trying to determine the authenticity of a famous man's signature, he will tell you some highly interesting stories about collecting valuable relics of the past.

Kohen runs a tiny little shop off Connecticut avenue on M street in Washington. For a number of years he has been collecting autographs of presidents, letters from the most famous figures in the national life of this country, and old documents that shed light on our history.

He has had many unusual experiences and come in contact with some interesting people.

Ford "Jewed" Him

His favorite story is how Henry Ford made him come down \$5 on a sale.

A man dropped into Kohen's shop one day by chance and asked to see any old American money that he might have. A large collection was placed before him, and the prospective buyer spent considerable time looking them over. He selected some and asked how much they cost.

"The bill comes to \$81, sir," Kohen said, "but we'll make it an even \$80."

"Make it \$75 and I'll take them," the man replied.

Kohen demurred at first, but finally agreed to sell at that figure.

"Now, Mr. Kohen," the buyer said, after the sale had been completed, "I am Henry Ford, of Detroit. I am greatly interested in old American money. We shall do a lot of business together. Will you not be kind enough to let me know when you run across more coins like these?"

The flabbergasted Kohen said yes. And the two have had "a lot of business together" since that day. Ford has been back several times.

"And, oh yes," he reminds, "I have more than made up that \$5 he made me come down on the first transaction."

A Lincoln Forgery

The collector has a framed piece of handwriting, purported to be that of Abraham Lincoln, but which he says ruefully is not worth the paper it is written on.

"One of the cleverest pieces of forgery I ever have seen, and it cost me plenty," he said. "I was certainly taken in on that one."

"It is the one thing we collectors must watch with the greatest care—these forged documents. Stamps and coins also are faked frequently. Even now I have a suit in the courts to recover a large sum of money that I lost by buying a collection of bogus stamps."

But Kohen was in high spirits the morning of our visit to his shop. He had just bought a collection of original transcripts of songs by a famous composer that were popular in the eighties.

LINCOLN NATIONAL
MAIL DEPARTMENT
Referred to
REC'D APR 9 1934 AM
INSURANCE CO

April 7, 1934.

Lincoln National Life Foundation,
Fort Wayne, Ind.
Attention Ellen Herendeen.

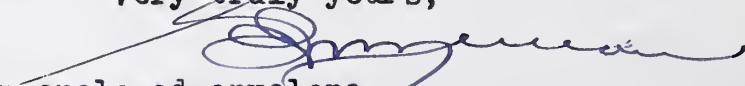
Gentlemen:

In answer to your communication of the 4th. instant desire to state that I will take \$75 for that Lincoln note. Is this price satisfactory? If it is will be pleased to forward same on consignment. Do you know anything concerning the note? But that I mean does the name of the one signing recall any events? Was it given for legal services? How long had Herndon been a partner of Lincoln at that time?

What were all of Lincoln's partnerships and dates thereof? ~~I am~~ trespassing in asking all these questions. Am intensely interested in Lincoln and that is the reason I acquired the note in question. My financial circumstances make it necessary I dispose of my autographs. Are you interested in any a other than Lincoln?

I am holding off submitting the Lincoln item till I hear from you, as a party has just inquired about it. I repeat I would like very much to have an institution perpetuating the memory of the Great Emancipator possess this note.

Very truly yours,



Please reply in enclosed envelope.

April 10, 1934

Mr. Samuel Moyerman
505 Chestnut Street
Room 450
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Moyerman:

We regret very much that we can give you no information concerning the note, but we are enclosing a bulletin which will give you information concerning Lincoln's Political partnerships. We do not feel that we can acquire the Lincoln note.

Lincoln Lore, the official publication of this foundation, is sent gratis to about three thousand Lincoln students, collectors, and libraries throughout the country and as you say you are interested in Lincoln you might like to receive it. We will be very glad to place your name on the mailing list if you care to have us do so.

Very sincerely,

Ellen Herendeen
Subscription Manager
Lincoln Lore

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

1201-S

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This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable sign above or preceding the address.

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R. B. WHITE
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

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- NM = Night Message
- NL = Night Letter
- LC = Deferred Cable
- NLT = Cable Night Letter
- Ship Radiogram

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.
Received at 115 W. Washington Blvd., Phone A4321, Fort Wayne, Ind. Always Open 1934 APR 12 PM 10 39

CB582 33 NL 6 EXTRA=TDW CHEVYCHASE MD 12

MINUTES IN TRANSIT	
FULL-RATE	DAY LETTER

LEWIS A WARREN=

LINCOLN FOUNDATION FTWAYNE IND=

HAVE EXCEPTIONAL LINCOLN LETTER FOR IMMEDIATE SACRIFICE PRICE

SEVEN HUNDRED DOLLARS STOP SUBJECT OF LETTER PARDON AND

REENLISTMENT OF DESERTER STOP IF INTERESTED WIRE SO CAN HOLD=

C H CLARK BRAEMAR LODGE ROSSDHU DRIVE CHEVYCHASE MD

WESTERN UNION GIFT ORDERS SOLVE THE PERPLEXING QUESTION OF WHAT TO GIVE

document
April 16, 1934

Mr. C.E. Clark
Bracmar Lodge
Roselin Drive
Chevy Chase, Md.

Dear Mr. Clark:

Your telegram addressed to Dr. Warren has been received concerning the Lincoln letter which is being offered for sale.

We want to thank you for letting us know of this item, however, at this time we do not feel as if we wish to add this item to our collection because of a depreciated budget as a result of several recent purchases.

Yours Very Truly

R. Gerald Motturtry Librarian
Lincoln National Life Foundation

Apr. 16, 1934

Dr. Louis A. Warren
Fort Wayne, Ind.

Dear Dr. Warren:

We have received two copies of your compilation of "Little known Lincoln Episodes" through the Lincolniana publishers. As there is no bill and it says "Presented with the compliments of the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company" I wish to express our thanks for this fine little booklet to add to our collection.

Your are of course interested in forged Lincoln letters, several of which have been offered lately. One was offered to us not long ago by a woman in Kansas City which she said had been in the family for a long time. We had a photostat of the original that is in the Chicago Historical Society collection, so I wrote to Miss Daly about it. The last happening in regard to it is a photostat of the Kansas City letter sent to me for comparison. I felt sure the Kansas City letter was not genuine, and a handwriting expert here confirmed my opinion. When he first looked at it he said that both the part supposed to have been written by Lincoln and that by Grant were written by the same hand. The letter is the one written by Lincoln to Grant April 7, 1865 from City Point, and with a note by Grant added in 1871. The letter in Chicago has all appearance of being a genuine Lincoln letter.

Yours very truly,

Esther C. Cushman

Custodian, Lincoln collection.

Forged Letters

April 20, 1934

Miss Esther C. Cushman, Custodian
Lincoln Collection
Brown University Library
Providence, R. I.

My dear Miss Cushman:

Thank you very much for calling to our attention forged Lincoln letters which are now appearing. We have had one or two submitted to us that looked rather questionable and inasmuch as our budget will not allow us to acquire any valuable documents, we are not very liable to pick up any of these items which seem to be available.

We did buy a little note endorsement this past week in which Lincoln had granted a pardon. I looked at it very carefully and feel quite sure that it is genuine.

Thank you very much for calling to our attention the Daly item offered in Kansas City.

Very sincerely yours,

LAW:EB

Director
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation

LINCOLN FORGERIES

(The Autograph Album)

Several legal documents purporting to have been written by Abraham Lincoln have recently made their appearance. That they are the work of an exceptionally clever counterfeiter is evidenced by the fact that they were accepted as genuine and purchased by an unusually large number of persons. Nevertheless there were many points in these spurious documents that did not ring true and that would have disclosed their falsity to anyone who had a thorough familiarity with autographs and particularly with Lincoln's handwriting. Although the documents were dated from the early fifties there was not the slightest evidence of oxidization of the ink in the paper such as is generally evident in documents of that age. Although the counterfeiter had very cleverly extracted sheets from old ledgers, the paper was heavier than that usually employed by Lincoln for briefs and other legal documents. On comparing one of the spurious documents with more than a score of authentic specimens it was apparent that none of them was written on paper nearly so heavy. Finally, and most important of all, the writing as a whole was not a good imitation of Lincoln's. There were occasional words and even an entire line here and there that bore a very close resemblance to Lincoln's authentic autograph, but most of the writing was faulty, and subsequent high magnification left no doubt whatever that the documents were forgeries.

Despite all this, it is not difficult to understand why these documents were so frequently accepted as genuine. Considered as a whole and not analyzed too closely they are impressively deceptive in appearance and, if any doubt arose in the mind of the prospective purchaser, it was probably allayed by their *length*. Differing from most forgers who confined their efforts to brief pieces, such as inscriptions in books, receipts or mere signatures, this ambitious rascal turned out documents of *three and four folio pages*.

From the whole affair one may conclude that greater care should be exercised in scrutinizing autographs offered from unknown sources. It is a well-known fact that the success of an imposter depends largely on the receptive disposition of his victims. Yet we should not be too much disturbed by the problem because the amount of forgeries in circulation is very small compared with the great number of authentic autographs.

Reprinted from September, 1934 Issue of HOBBIES, The Magazine for Collectors
2810 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois

FRANK ROSENGREN'S
OLD BOOK SHOP
1741 Sherman Ave.
EVANSTON, ILL.

A Sensational Expose of Literary Forgeries

By FRANK ROSENGREN

"An Inquiry into the Nature of Certain Nineteenth Century Pamphlets." By John Carter and Graham Pollard. London, Constable and New York, Charles Scribner's Sons. \$6.

THIS seemingly innocuous title introduces a book that unfolds the most successful literary forgeries ever perpetrated in book publishing. The sensational disclosures now made public show how from about the year 1888 to the present time, some fifty pamphlets, including one cloth bound volume, and aggregating roughly about one thousand separate items, have gradually been worked off on a gullible book collecting public as genuine first editions. Thirty of the fifty suspected pamphlets are quite definitely proven to be rank forgeries, and the remaining twenty are highly suspected. It is now known that they were all printed in the late eighties and the nineties, although some were pre-dated clear back to the forties.

The formula for producing the pamphlets was both simple and effective, consisting (to quote the authors) in "taking some suitable piece from a published volume, printing it in pamphlet form with an earlier date, and thus creating a first edition." In almost all cases this plan was followed with occasional minor variations of method.

It may seem strange that such wholesale swindle could work smoothly over so long a period, but it must be remembered that bibliography was not the science in the nineties that it is gradually becoming. The present volume measures a great stride forward towards making it highly improbable that such a scheme can ever be worked again. In exposing the fake, the authors "researches

now again is recognized as the real first appearance of the "Sonnets." In 1886, Thomas J. Wise unearthed a cache of "Sonnets" by E. B. B., Reading 1847, which not so long thereafter was welcomed by collectors as the genuine first edition. As recently as 1930 \$1,250 was paid for a copy of this pamphlet that is now proven to be a forgery.

The evidence produced by the present authors proving the "Sonnets" as well as most of the other suspected pamphlets, bearing title-page dates ranging from 1842 to 1899, as forgeries seems entirely conclusive. It is presented in methodical and incontrovertible fashion. Beginning with the piling up of circumstantial evidence that proves the questionable pamphlets almost had to be fakes, we are carried along as excitingly as in any mystery story, to a denouement where scientific facts are produced that leave no possible room for further doubt.

In the circumstantial evidence produced we learn that no trace of any of the questionable pamphlets can be found in auction records, booksellers catalogs, or other possible sources as existing before the year 1888. We learn that among the numerous copies found since that year, not one contains an author's presentation inscription or contemporary inscription of any kind. Bibliographies do not mention them and the British Museum acquired no copies before 1888. None of them were ever mentioned in any known correspondence of their authors or by anyone else before that year.

After presenting this preliminary circumstantial evidence the authors introduce new and entirely devastating evidence. They attempt to prove

the man who originally owned all of the known copies; the man who sold or arranged for their sale; the man who included and gave the pamphlets their high ratings in his masterly bibliographies; the only man in fact whom it appears can say what Messrs. Carter and Pollard have left unsaid in the present book. And after all, when Thomas J. Wise, who owns the Ashley Library, said to be the finest collection in the world of English literature from the death of Shakespeare to the present day, and who further is the official bibliographer of the Brownings, Coleridge, Landor, Ruskin, Swinburne, Tennyson and others, gave his approval of the various pamphlets, there were few who thought or dared to question. Mr. Wise holds a place on a bibliographical pedestal that few mortals have ever attained. His eminence is so great in this direction that perhaps it is for the best that something has occurred to prove him capable of error if nothing worse. One lesson stands clearly and that is that in bibliography nothing should be accepted without proof on one man's statement alone.

Here then is a book that no dealer or collector can afford to miss. Its revelations may temporarily hurt the rare book market but in the long run cannot possibly do other than benefit it. With the new methods of detection presented bibliography has taken another step forward towards becoming a more exact science, and no longer the casual thing it has been in the past, when only too often a first edition was identified as such if the date of the copyright and the date on the title page coincided.

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30 June

The Collector's Journal
June 1934

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It may seem strange that such wholesale swindle could work smoothly over so long a period, but it must be remembered that bibliography was not the science in the nineties that it is gradually becoming. The present volume measures a great stride forward towards making it highly improbable that such a scheme can ever be worked again. In exposing the fakes, the authors "researches into the history of paper manufacture and the development of type design" will greatly aid in detecting any new efforts in such direction and will possibly aid in exposing others as yet not found out.

One of the most interesting chapters in the book (departing for the moment from the business of forgery) is devoted to book collecting trends and the great changes that have taken place therein during the past seventy-five years. The standard manual for the collector of the sixties was Burton's "The Book Hunter" published in 1862. In those days it seems that the collector was far more interested in typographical excellence, magnificent bindings, illustrations and physical splendour in general. "A really tall Elzevir of the 'right' date commanded ten times the price of the first edition of Gray's Elegy." During the seventies a changing trend is found and first editions of Tennyson and Blake began to be sought after. Later, Dickens and Thackeray gained prominent place in collectors' esteem. The book that marked the greatness of the change that had taken place, and that also marked the real beginnings of our present day interests in collecting was Slater's "Early Editions, A Bibliographical Survey of the Works of some Popular Modern Authors" London, 1894. Among the 33 authors listed in Slater's book were, Matthew Arnold, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Robert Browning, Charles Dickens, George Eliot, William Morris, Dante Gabriel Rossetti, John Ruskin, Robert Louis Stevenson, Algernon Charles Swinburne, Alfred Tennyson, William Makepeace Thackeray and others. All of the foregoing named authors and also Rudyard Kipling, William Wordsworth and Edmund Yates, received the attention of the anonymous forger into whose activities Messrs. Carter and Pollard have now so deeply delved.

The "high spot" of the forger's activities is represented in Mrs. Browning's "Sonnets from the Portuguese." Until the forgery of this book appeared, the edition of Mrs. Browning's Collected Poems (2 volumes, Chapman & Hall, 1850) was, and

now again is recognized as the real first appearance of the "Sonnets." In 1886, Thomas J. Wise unearthed a cache of "Sonnets" by E. B. B., Reading 1847, which not so long thereafter was welcomed by collectors as the genuine first edition. As recently as 1930 \$1,250 was paid for a copy of this pamphlet that is now proven to be a forgery.

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After presenting this preliminary circumstantial evidence the authors introduce new and entirely devastating evidence. They attempt to prove that nothing but rags were used in the manufacture of paper until about the year 1860. Then they claim straw was used and a year or so later, more successfully, esparto. Their statements regarding esparto have already been questioned and it will probably be proven that experiments in the use of this grass in the manufacture of paper date back to before 1840. As yet we have heard no claims that their statement regarding the first use of wood pulp in 1874 in the manufacture of paper is wrong.

It is possible by placing paper under a microscope to determine of what raw material it is composed. The paper of the suspected pamphlets was thus examined and found wanting. That is, the pre-dated pamphlets were printed on paper that was not in existence at the time they were supposedly printed.

From paper, the authors next turned their attention to type and he proved that a number of the pamphlets were printed from type not yet cast. The ramifications of their researches are too involved to be discussed here. We suggest that anyone with the slightest interest in the matter should buy the book.

Who was the forger? This all-important question the authors seem unable to answer. They present evidence with ruthless consistency that involves a number of names. The name of Thomas J. Wise occurs most frequently, and although he is not offered as the victim—one wonders? They spare few words in making it clear that they blame him most heartily. In this connection we offer a passage from the book: "Mr. Wise's acceptance and sponsoring of these forgeries has done such incalculable harm to the bibliography of the authors represented in the present book. His original negligence in authenticating his finds: his purchase of them in bulk and subsequent gradual dispersal of them through commercial channels: his disingenuousness in emphasizing the rarity of the books which he knew well were not rare in the strict sense at all, etc." It develops that Mr. Wise was always the man behind the scenes;

the man who originally owned all of the known copies; the man who sold or arranged for their sale; the man who included and gave the pamphlets their high ratings in his masterly bibliographies; the only man in fact whom it appears can say what Messrs. Carter and Pollard have left unsaid in the present book. And after all, when Thomas J. Wise, who owns the Ashley Library, said to be the finest collection in the world of English literature from the death of Shakespeare to the present day, and who further is the official bibliographer of the Brownings, Coleridge, Landor, Ruskin, Swinburne, Tennyson and others, gave his approval of the various pamphlets, there were few who thought or dared to question. Mr. Wise holds a place on a bibliographical pedestal that few mortals have ever attained. His eminence is so great in this direction that perhaps it is for the best that something has occurred to prove him capable of error if nothing worse. One lesson stands clearly and that is that in bibliography nothing should be accepted without proof on one man's statement alone.

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Some dealers and collectors view this book as a potential creator of havoc in the book collecting world. In our opinion matters will work out in directly the opposite fashion. It will create greater confidence than ever, among the initiated. After all what does the revelation really amount to in the vast field of rare books. A few existing bibliographies will have to be corrected to agree with the newly established facts; a few libraries and collectors will have to list as forgeries a few books that were heretofore cataloged as first editions. For each displaced first edition a new first edition comes into being. The spurious character of the pamphlets will not cause them to lose all value in the eyes of the collector. The contrary in fact in the case of the somewhat less popular ones which will now take on a bit of glamour instead of wending their way onward to the oblivion to which they seemed destined. The "high spot" of the lot, the "Sonnets" of E. B. B. will probably be bringing a good deal less than its record price of \$1,250 but will not the newly reinstated "Collected Poems" (1850) advance in value? I see no great cause for worry or excitement. The opposite in fact, for new stimulus and zest has been injected into this grand old book-collecting game by the advent of this book. A few disgruntled collectors may quit (I doubt even one) their hobby while singing the blues but new names and faces will quickly take their places. The newcomers in the game will be able to feel more secure than ever when spending their money. In the wide field of rare books but a small fraction of 1 per cent can possibly hold any room for the questioning of their authenticity. Need for books of the Carter and Pollard type will grow less and less for want of something to reveal. The eternal verities of book collecting will grow ever more secure and sound. With the clearing of the air and the identity of the long suspected (yes, dealers and collectors have been whispering about the revelations of this book for some time) pamphlets now definitely known, we can peer more clearly and assuredly through certain previous fog of doubt. For my part I feel that we owe a great debt of gratitude to Messrs. Carter and Pollard.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
HENRY HORNER, GOVERNOR
ILLINOIS STATE HISTORICAL LIBRARY
SPRINGFIELD

PAUL M. ANGLE
LIBRARIAN

DIRECTORS
OTTO L. SCHMIDT, CHICAGO
LAURENCE M. LARSON, URBANA
ALBERT BRITT, GALESBURG

September 11, 1935

Dr. Louis A. Warren,
Director,
Lincoln National Life Foundation,
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Dear Warren:

I have received your letter of September 9th. I realize that it is most difficult to prevent slips in any publication. However, I'm sure you will not mind if I call your attention to the very strong case against the genuineness of the letter to Alexander Stephens of January 19, 1860, which appears in Tracy's "Uncollected Letters." That case is set forth in summary fashion in Bulletin #21 (December 1930) of the Abraham Lincoln Association and is to be found in more detail in an article by Worthington C. Ford which appeared in the Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society for May-June 1928. I myself am entirely convinced that the letter is a forgery.

Sincerely yours,

Paul M. Angle.

LIBRARY FINDS WHOLE LETTER SERIES FORGED

ONE IS IMMORTAL—ONE FALSE; CAN YOU PICK IT?

Spurious Lincoln Documents in Mass of Genuine Papers, Cu- rator Reveals at Club Dinner

Forgery of an entire series of correspondence centering about Abraham Lincoln and Alexander H. Stephens' leading Georgia statesman of Civil War times, was revealed last night to members of the Lincoln Club, holding their annual banquet at the California Club, by Captain R. B. Haselden, curator of documents at the Huntington Library.

A man named Cleveland, Captain Haselden declared, constructed the series of letters, not merely for purposes of sale but for reasons of his own and a probable desire to manufacture a bit of history.

Two of the four principal documents are positively established as forgeries or spurious, said Captain Haselden, by physical evidence that brands them beyond doubt.

One is a letter purporting to have been written by Stephens to Whitney on February 22, 1879—but written on paper which bears a watermark dated 1898.

The other is a letter purporting to have been written by Lincoln to Stephens on November 30, 1860—and the Huntington Library owns the original letter which, compared with the forged document, clearly shows the faults of the latter.

OTHER DOCUMENTS

The other documents include a long letter, supposed to have been dictated by Lincoln to Stephens and Senator J. J. Crittenden, and a letter purporting to have been written by Ulysses S. Grant to James Longstreet on June 14, 1863.

Accompanying the dictated letter is a certificate from Stephens to Cleveland, testifying to the correctness of the letter and a series of correspondence between the three men.

"This certificate and the entire correspondence were forged or entirely spurious," declared Captain Haselden.

The forged letters were discovered by Captain Haselden and his assistant, Mrs. L. H. Wright, among the mass of documents in the Judd Stewart collection of Lincolniana, bought some time ago by the library. This vast majority of the Stewart documents are genuine, but these forgeries apparently crept in.

Three other forged documents, also relating to Lincoln but not associated with the so-called Stephens correspondence, also were discussed by Captain Haselden.

SPURIOUS CERTIFICATES

Two of these, both purporting to be marriage certificates of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks, parents of Abraham Lincoln, "bear the hallmark of Cleveland," Captain Haselden declared.

The third is a printed document, the Proclamation of the Blockade of the Southern Ports, dated April 27, 1861, and declared by the speaker to bear the forged signatures of both Abraham Lincoln and William H. Seward.

Alexander Stephens, who was apparently selected by the forger to figure in the affair, was one of the leaders in organizing the Whig party in Georgia in the 1830's. Elected to Congress in 1843 on a general ticket, he opposed the "Southern Rights" movement, which threatened to bring about secession in 1850, and drafted the famous "Georgia platform," in which the constitutional convention of that state declared that although Georgia was anxious to remain in the Union, further encroachment on her rights would result in secession.

In 1860, after he had retired from Congress over the slavery question, and about the time the shorter purported Lincoln letter was written to him, he was leading the op-

Springfield, Ill. Nov. 30, 1860
Dear A. H. Stephens
My dear Sir,
I have seen in the
newspapers your speech recently delivered
(I think) before the Georgia Legislature
and its assembled members—
If you have received it, as is proba-
ble, I shall be much obliged if
you will send me a copy—
Yours very truly
A. Lincoln

Springfield, Ill. Nov. 30, 1860
Hon. A. H. Stephens
My dear Sir,
I have seen in the
newspapers your speech recently delivered
(I think) before the Georgia Legisla-
ture and its assembled members—
If you have received it, as is proba-
ble, I shall be much obliged if
you will send me a copy—
Yours very truly
A. Lincoln

The above "Lincoln" letter has been discovered to be one of a series of forged correspondence, it was revealed last night.

position to secession in Georgia and declaring that although a state had the right to secede, conditions at that time did not justify such a move

LATER VICE PRESIDENT

Eventually acquiescing in secession, he became vice president of the Confederate States, but because of his variance with Jefferson Davis on questions of war policy, he had little influence. His later political career included service in the House of Representatives, as Governor of Georgia, college professor and editor.

"I do not wish you to go away with the impression that all the Lincoln letters in the Huntington Library are forgeries, or even that many forged documents are to be found there," said Captain Haselden.

"The library possesses some five thousand or a million documents and autograph letters, and, as far as I have been able to discover, about twelve forgeries. Of these, the only serious one is the Lincoln letter."

"Men forge for various reasons—pecuniary reward, for self-aggrandizement, such as falsifying pedigrees, and for the unholy joy of deceiving the learned. These last are the sportsmen of the fraternity and are generally the most difficult to deal with."

"Anyone dealing with vast quantities of documents, such as the collection in the Huntington Library, must always be on guard against forgeries. The forging of an authentic letter—one already in existence and known to be genuine—is of no great consequence in that it only means that someone loses good money in purchasing a spurious article."

FORGING OLD ART

"But when not only the writing but the text of the letter is fraudulent it is a serious matter, the more so in the case of such a man as Abraham Lincoln."

"Forging is an art that has been practiced from the earliest times. The Babylonians, 4000 years ago, wrote their contracts and sales of land on clay tablets, which were enclosed in a clay envelope and sealed before an official. In case of dispute the tablet was opened by the presiding official and judgment given accordingly."

"The church in medieval times was expert at forgery; monks would forge early charters and deeds to prove their claims to lands held by



Captain R. B. Haselden, curator of documents at the Huntington Library, who discovered the forgery of purported Lincoln correspondence.

This letter, also owned by the Huntington Library, is genuine. Note variations in penmanship.

—Reproduced by courtesy of Huntington Library and Art Gallery

rival establishments. Isidor Mercator forged ninety-five flimsy documents on the church which Pope Nicholas I, in the year 865, recognized as genuine. Five hundred years later they were proved to be forgeries.

"Vrain Lucas, the Frenchman, who flourished in 1870, forged 27,000 autographs, for which he received 140,000 francs. Forged letters of Julius Caesar, Socrates, Shakespeare and one from Pontius Pilate to Tiberius were among his efforts, but his masterpiece was a letter from Lazarus, said to have been written after Lazarus had been raised from the dead."

Other speakers at the Lincoln Club meeting included Dr. F. C. S. Schiller of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, a distinguished Lincoln scholar, and Harry Atwood of Illinois, president of the National Constitutional Education Association.

The Los Angeles Examiner, Feb. 13, 1929

Lincoln Fellowship (Southern California)

✓ COPY FOR H. E. BARKER

December 11, 1935

The Editor
The Los Angeles Daily Journal
121 North Broadway
Los Angeles, California

Dear Sir:

In your issue of Saturday, December 7th, under the heading "Abraham Lincoln Had Unique Attorney's Business Card", there was printed what, according to Charles A. Sunderlin, was a professional card which Mr. Lincoln caused to be printed. This conclusion is incorrect. In 1864, toward the end of President Lincoln's first term, his political enemies predicted his defeat and caused to be printed and circulated the card set out in your article, as the card which President Lincoln would use after his return to the Bar of Illinois on completion of his first term in office as President. The authority for this statement is "Abraham Lincoln: A New Portrait" by Dr. Emanuel Hertz, Volume 1, page 66.

The same card was presented to the Los Angeles County Museum and Art Gallery with the statement that it was a professional card used by Lincoln, but, as indicated, this is not correct.

The undersigned are both members of the Los Angeles Bar and know that both you and Mr. Sunderlin join in the desire of the Lincoln Fellowship of Southern California to determinate accurate and correct information about the great Lincoln.

Sincerely yours,

Ralph C. Lindstrom, President

F. Ray Risdon, Secretary

LINCOLN FELLOWSHIP OF
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA.

RGL:A

Abraham Lincoln's Brain Trust

From Nautilus Magazine

WHEN Lincoln wanted to borrow money from the bankers, with which to prosecute the Civil war, the money lenders of Wall St. said, "Well, war is a hazardous business, but we can let you have money at from 24 per cent to 36 per cent." (See Appleton Cyclopedia, 1861, page 296.)

History records that President Lincoln and his secretary of the treasury, Stanton, heatedly refused, stating that the terms were outrageous, scandalous, unpatriotic, etc. The money lenders are said to have replied that, "if the government does not want the money at that figure, why, we can loan it to the Southern Confederacy." And that is probably what they did do. History says Northern bankers and London financed the war of the Confederacy.

And that is where Abraham Lincoln called in his "brain trust," and they found the way out. Lincoln's "brain truster" was Col. Dick Taylor of Chicago, in whom he had great confidence. He sent for Col. Taylor and put the problem of finance up to him to solve.

Taylor said, "That is easy; just get congress to pass a bill authorizing the printing of full legal tender treasury notes or greenbacks, and pay your soldiers with them and go ahead and win your war with them also."

"Do you suppose the people will take them?" Lincoln is said to have asked.

To this Taylor replied:

"The people or anyone else will not have any choice in the matter, if you make them full legal tender. They will have the full sanction of the government and be just as good as any money; as congress is given that express right by the constitution, and the stamp of full legal tender by the government is the thing that makes money good any time; and this will always be as good as any other money inside the borders of our country."

And so it was done, and the soldiers were paid

and some 60 million dollars full legal tender greenbacks were issued. All were taken at par and never appreciably fell below par at any time. I have heard that many of them are still circulating. They were full legal tender for all debts both public and private and the resources of the whole nation guaranteed their value. (Our total wealth now is more than 300 billions of dollars.)

President Lincoln was greatly appreciative of this help of Col. Taylor's and wrote him a letter to that effect. This letter appeared later in the New York Tribune of Dec. 6, 1891. This is what Abraham Lincoln wrote and signed:

"My dear Col. Dick: I have long determined to make public the origin of the greenback and tell the world that it is Dick Taylor's creation. You had always been friendly to me, and when troublous times fell on us, and my shoulders, though broad and willing, were weak, and myself surrounded by such circumstances and such people that I knew not whom to trust, then I said in my extremity: 'I will send for Col. Taylor; he will know what to do.' I think it was Jan., 1862, on or about the 16th, that I did so; you came, and I said to you: 'What can we do?' Said you, 'Why, issue treasury notes bearing no interest, printed on the best banking paper. Issue enough to pay off the army expenses and declare it legal tender.'

"Chase thought it a hazardous thing, but we finally accomplished it and gave the people of this republic the greatest blessing they ever had—their own paper money to pay their own debts.

"It is due you, the father of the present greenback, that the people should know it, and take great pleasure in making it known. How many times I have laughed at you telling me plainly that I was too lazy to be anything but a lawyer.

Yours truly,

A. Lincoln."

Copyrighted by the author 2-11-36



home in Pelham, N. Y., on April 19. Mr. Madigan was forty-five years of age. He started as a clerk for his father, who was in the book business, and after a few years he went on his own account. When his father died, he took over the autograph part of the business and was quite successful in it. He leaves a wife and a son, Thomas F. Madigan.

AUTOGRAPH TALK

When is a signature not a signature? Autographically speaking when it is a facsimile or a forgery. With the exception of the banking world, nowhere, perhaps, is greater importance attached to the authenticity of a signature than in the autograph business. Dealer and collector alike are vitally concerned, for the reputation of the former depends on his ability to guarantee all letters and manuscripts he sells, while the latter sees suspicion and discredit cast on his entire collection by the chance inclusion of questionable items. In either case, the sale or purchase of one bad letter presupposes the possibility of another.

According to Webster, a facsimile is an "exact copy or likeness." The same definition might apply to expert forgeries with one important difference — while facsimiles are executed in good faith, with no fraudulent intent, forgeries are made with the deliberate purpose in mind of misleading someone.

The average person's experience in facsimiles is varied. Perhaps the most familiarly known are those which come with the morning's mail, the advertisements, signed by distinguished bank officials, steel magnates, or by chairmen of outstanding charities—facsimile signatures in many cases. Again, it is not uncommon to find the daily newspapers, or books of a historical or biographical nature freely illustrated with photostatic copies of quoted letters or maps. Compilers of biographical dictionaries, today, customarily include with the brief sketch of their subject not only his picture but also a reproduced signature. The famous prints of Washington, Napoleon, or Lord Nelson repeatedly bear such facsimile autographs.

Despite these numerous examples brought to their attention, it is still difficult for many

to recognize a facsimile when they see one and to realize that intrinsically it has no value. Only last month Dr. Jameson, Librarian of Congress, ruefully admitted to receiving as often as once a week letters stating that the writers had unearthed in some old trunk or chest of drawers the original copy of the Declaration of Independence. In reality, of course, the famous Document is safely framed under lock and key on the second floor of the Library of Congress, and may be examined by all. Another experience is to have a woman walk into the office carrying under her arm a facsimile paper, yellowed with age and carefully framed in an antique case, which has hung on the old homestead walls and been cherished in the family for eighty or ninety years. She not only will not believe her letter is not authentic but leaves the room, convinced that we are liars, taking advantage of a poor, defenseless woman.

In such cases the facsimiles are usually lithographs or photostats. There is, however, another type of facsimile signature, the rubber stamp, which probably originated to aid the harassed executive. Whereas the printed facsimile was excellent for form letters issued by the thousands, it was not suitable for large correspondence of a private and varied nature. For such purposes, the stamp proved most serviceable. Certainly this reason lay behind its use by President Andrew Johnson, whose badly crippled right arm rendered it a physical impossibility for him to write his name on the countless state papers and military and naval commissions signed by the Presidents at that time. A perfect reproduction of his signature was made, of which on authorized occasions his secretary made use. An original autograph of President Johnson on a document may bring \$7.50 but the same item bearing a stamp signature is worthless. Noted persons such as Presidents Woodrow Wilson and Franklin D. Roosevelt and many others have signed letters in this manner.

There is small doubt that to the uninitiated both rubber stamps and finely executed printed facsimiles have caused great confusion. Differentiating between an original letter or signature and a copy is by no means an easy matter. It is a curious fact that although

an original letter can never be mistaken for a facsimile, there is something about a facsimile which can readily pass for the original. In the case of the rubber stamp, the color of the stamp pad ink gives trouble. Certain shades of blue and black are most realistic and convincing in appearance, while red and purple ink immediately suggest a stamp. When it comes to printed facsimiles, the problem is more difficult. The art of making them has reached such a point of perfection in the matter of quality, texture, and type of paper, as well as color of ink, that the sharpest eyes alone are able to recognize the difference. In earlier days, printers did not attempt to imitate the old paper itself. They were satisfied in merely reproducing the handwriting. Today, however, imitation linen paper, brown ink to suggest the fading effects of sunlight, and other methods are employed to give added charm and illusion to the copied letter.

The inevitable outcome of such perfection, as the value of autographs was noised about, was for dishonest persons, who did not hesitate to take advantage of the general ignorance in such matters, to step into the field and attempt to pass off facsimile letters for the originals. Such letters have frequently appeared on the market and been privately offered for sale. From a harmless and educational pursuit, facsimiles became for the private collector as much of a problem as forgeries. In forgeries, however, although familiarity with paper and ink is very necessary, knowledge and acquaintance of the actual handwritings is of greater importance. A forgery is rarely, if ever "an exact copy," but a facsimile, however bad, can never be anything else.

Since Robert Spring, in 1855, first began manufacturing his famous Washingtons, Franklins, Livingstons, and Nelsons, unscrupulous persons have followed in his wake, but rarely with as great success. In the past two or three years a band of forgers has flooded the country with letters of Lincoln, Edgar Allan Poe, Mary Baker Eddy, Henry W. Longfellow, Lafcadio Hearn, Robert Louis Stevenson, Walter Scott, Francis Hopkinson, John Marshall, Eugene Field, and others. Forgeries and facsimiles definitely represent the two outstanding dangers to be encounter-

ed by autograph collectors. With a view to helping less experienced buyers, the following general list of rules is suggested in detecting them:

1. Be suspicious of any letter with fine contents of a famous man or woman. Facsimiles of such letters are frequently made for advertising or illustrative purposes. For monetary reasons, they are more likely to be forged. Contents add greatly to the value of any letter. An unimportant letter is rarely worth reproducing or forging. Be doubtful of association items, in which two or more famous and unlikely names appear on the same letter.
2. Compare the writing, if at all possible, with other examples or printed facsimiles. Does it look like a forgery?
3. Examine carefully the paper on which the letter is written. Is the paper of the period or is it a paper invented many years after the date of the letter—pulp paper instead of linen paper, for example?
4. Is the date of the letter correct? And the locality? Forgers are apt to slip up on their dates and places, and through ignorance have the author write from one city when he is known at the time to have been in another.
5. Is the paper watermarked? It sometimes happens that in their anxiety to secure a special paper typical of the period, forgers will omit to notice that the watermark is dated several years after the supposed writer's death. Facsimile letters are rarely watermarked.
6. Examine the ink and writing carefully with a magnifying glass. One can often recognize a facsimile by this means. In ordinary writing, penstrokes are definitely shaded. In facsimiles, the ink is usually all one color and one thickness, and there are not visible shadings. If the letter is forged, the magnifying glass reveals any uncertainty or hesitancy on the part of the writer. It also shows up all erasures and grooves in those letters which have been first traced with a pencil or sharp instrument and later filled in with ink.
7. Refuse to buy any framed expensive let-

May 19 1936

JOSEPH A. McCABE
PAUL ROSEN

McCABE & ROSEN
COUNSELORS AT LAW
POUGHKEEPSIE, N. Y.

TELEPHONES (5070)
(5071)

May 19 1936
RECEIVED
COLUMBUS
BRANCH OFFICE
MAY 23 1936
LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE

Lincoln Insurance Company
Springfield, Ohio

Gentlemen:-

We have a client who recently discovered in an old family album a letter written by Abraham Lincoln which reads as follows:

"Washington March 8th, 1861

My Dear Friend Douglass" I have arrived at a conclusion that it is time to act understandingly in my determination to maintain the union of the states and I entertain a notion that it will be best to find out how the employees in the different Departments feel about sustaining my administration looking to that object - I wish you would get Judge Grange (word indistinct) tomorrow to ascertain in his own way and report in the evening the result

A. Lincoln"

This letter is written in pencil on unruled paper. We have every reason to believe in the genuiness of the document. We have been informed that your institution has at times purchased writings of President Lincoln. Would you be interested in purchasing this document assuming it to be genuine? On the assumption that this is a genuine document, can you let us have some idea of what you might offer for it? May we hear from you by early mail?

Yours very truly

McCabe & Rosen

by *[Signature]*

John C. Dorflinger
Glassware
White Mills, Penna,

Dr. Louis A. Warren, Director,
Lincoln National Life Foundation,
Fort Wayne, Ind.

March 15th. 1937.

My dear Dr. Warren -

Under date of April 6th. 1936 you wrote me relative to a visit that you had just made to Charleston, W. Va. where Margaret Burdon had told you of a Lincoln document that I possessed.

At the time your letter arrived I was away from home working on some government matter which kept me quite busy and in the muddle of it all your letter went unanswered, for which I now offer an apology.

On Monday, March 1st. last I picked up the Scranton Tribune about 11 P.M. too late, much to my regret, to learn that I might have contacted you in Scranton that day. Even at that late hour I called the hotels only to find that you were not registered. The next morning, through Marywood College, I learned that you had been the guest of Mr. Glynn and at the Glynn home I found that you had departed, so I missed a fine opportunity to show you the document and also of making your acquaintance, which I am sure would have been a pleasure from all I have been told of you.

Now in reference to the Lincoln manuscript or document, herewith you will find a very poor photostatic copy of the item, which is a map of Illinois, published by J. H. Colton & Co., in 1855 on which Lincoln has traced the route usually taken in covering the 8th. Judicial district. On the back of the map, written in Lincoln's hand, is what I have transcribed on a separate sheet. The photostatic copy is rather hard to read, but the original is very distinct, showing however, its age. You will note a sketch by Lincoln showing Saline county in 1847 and in addition to this, the dates on which the court convened in the various counties. While I have shown this document to quite a number of persons able to pass on it and all were much impressed with it, I have not actually tried to sell it. A couple of months ago I took it, upon request of a customer, to her friend, Mr. Dauber, of Dauber & Pine Bookshops, New York, and Mr. Dauber was much interested in it and asked me to take it up to the manuscript department of the N. Y. Public Library and let Mr. Paltsis pass on it and if he said it was authentic, to bring it back and he would handle it at not less than twenty five hundred dollars. Mr. Paltsis (I don't know whether this name is spelled right) was out of the city attending a wedding in New Jersey and I did not contact him and have not been back since then to check with him. I will do nothing further until I hear from you. I was anxious for you to see the original map and indeed regret the fact that I missed you at Scranton, it would have been a good chance for you to examine it carefully.

There is no one here locally that can make a good photostatic copy and when I had this one made by a friend in one of the Scranton banks, I did not have time to wait for it to be properly finished up, as they usually are, hence this negative. Will you kindly return it to me.

Dr. Louis A. Warren.

(2)

March 15th. 1937.

My family were in the glass manufacturing business from 1852 to 1921 and made about all of the fine glassware used in the White House, the first set being made for President Lincoln and on down the line of Presidents to Woodrow Wilson. Upon closing the factory I acquired all of the glassware on hand, including all of the Working patterns or samples covering the years in which the plant operated and in the lot are some of the original samples of the Lincoln set, which were submitted to Lincoln on approval before the entire service was made. Each piece of the set had an engraved coat of arms of the U. S. in addition to a pretty design worked around it. Theodore Roosevelt's set was just like/except that the initial " R. " was substituted for the coat of arms. The latter, being of a personal nature, was paid for by Theodore Roosevelt and was removed from the White House upon his departure, but the other sets were handed down from one President to another. I am told that there is still some of the Lincoln set left, a few pieces, carefully kept in a cabinet. I have other things of interest, all of which I will be glad to show you, should you ever pass this way and pay me a visit, and I hope that you will.

I will, of course, await with much interest, what you have to tell me about my Lincoln document.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John C. Dorflinger". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

(John C. Dorflinger)

March 17, 1937

Mr. John C. Dorflinger
Glassware
White Mills, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Dorflinger:

It was very kind indeed of you to reply to my request for an opportunity to receive a copy of the Lincoln manuscript in your possession.

I do not think there is any question about its genuineness, although of course that could not be definitely determined without seeing the original manuscript, which I could not ask you to forward because of its value.

I would say offhand that if Mr. Dauber of Dauber and Fine, would guarantee at least \$2500 for it, that would be rather a fair price. Possibly, however, you should stipulate that it be sold on a commission with a minimum price of \$2500 allowing the dealer to secure as much as it would bring, retaining a percentage of what it brought over a minimum amount. I am not sure but what this would be better than placing it through an auction market.

We regret that we do not have a budget here of sufficient size to acquire such rare items as this, as the information it contains is valuable, indeed, and it would make a nice addition to our collection.

I did not arrive at Scranton until late Sunday night and left on Monday afternoon for Wilkes-Barre so I had checked out Monday afternoon.

Possibly on my next visit to Pennsylvania I may have an opportunity of seeing you.

Very truly yours,

LAW:EB

Director

March 19, 1937

Mr. John C. Dorflinger
White Mills, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Dorflinger:

In making a little copy of the contents of the letter which you kindly forwarded, I find that we returned to you the copy we mad and kept your original.

I do not know if it makes much difference but we are enclosing your original as we had a carbon copy made of the one returned to you. Possibly you can use them both.

Yours very truly,

Director
The Lincoln National Life Foundation

LAW/AD
1 enc.

STAR LIQUOR CO.

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL

513 Eleventh Street Northwest
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Jan 5, 1938

Dr. Louis H. Warren
Lincoln Nat Life Found.
Fort Wayne Ind.

Dear Dr. Warren,

Upon the advice of my good friend Mr V.V. Parma of the Congressional Library I am inclosing a photostat of the original Lincoln item. The picture is actually twice the size of the original and it looks like it was torn out of book. That is, it appears to be a fly leaf out of small book.

I have been given information that this quotation has been published some where, but I have failed to find it in a rather hasty search. I have also been informed that during that ^{time} some one asked him (Lincoln) for some sort of an autobiography and this is what he wrote - rather brief I should say, as the person believed he was going to get a real story. If there is any information you can give me it will be greatly appreciated. Of course you may keep the inclosed photostat. With best wishes for a Happy New Year
Respectfully Yours
N.N. Wallack

I was born Feb, 12, 1809
in then Hardin County
Kentucky at a point
within the new recently
formed County of Lawrence,
a mile or a mile and
half from where Rodgers-
ville now is. My parents
being dead and my own
memory not serving, I have
no means of verifying
the present location, I live
on Nelson Creek

H. Lincoln
June 14, 1860.

ABEL & CO.
PHOTOSTATS
12 NAT'L PRESS
NEW YORK, N. Y.

12/1/38

January 8, 1938

N. N. Wallack
513 Eleventh Street, Northwest
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Wallack:

You will please find enclosed two copies of our bulletin, Lincoln Lore, which gives brief accounts of the original manuscripts written by Abraham Lincoln of which you have a copy.

You will observe a slight difference between the printed copy which we have and your original. We are glad, indeed to get a correct reproduction.

Very truly yours,

LAW:AD

Director

Forgery

FEBRUARY 12, 1938. *W. H. ...*

Birthplace Vague to Lincoln

I was born Feb, 12, 1809
in then Hardin County
Kentucky, at a point
within the new recently
formed County of La Rue,
a mile or a mile and
half from where Hodgson
ville now is, My parents
being dead and my own
memory not serving, I have
no means of verifying
the present location, I think
on Nolin Creek
A. Lincoln
June 14, 1860.

Abraham Lincoln himself was in doubt of the exact location of his birthplace, a question that has been debated for more than half a century. In this letter, reproduced by courtesy of Nathan N. Wallack, Washington collector of rare books and manuscripts, is Mr. Lincoln's confession of ignorance of his original home.

The text reads: "I was born February 12, 1809, in then Hardin County, Ky., at a point within the new county of La Rue, a mile or a mile and a half from where Hodgen's Mill now is. My parents being dead and my own memory not serving, I have no means of verifying the precise location. I think on Nolin Creek. A. Lincoln, June 14, 1860." —Star Staff Photo.

See original in Race Resources

F 809, p 607

3 - - - -

Post Office Department

T. M. Milligan
Inspector

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR

CASE No. 17298-F

Philadelphia, Pa., March 25, 1938.

Subject:

Mr. Louis C. Warren, Director,
Lincoln National Life Foundation,
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

My dear Sir:

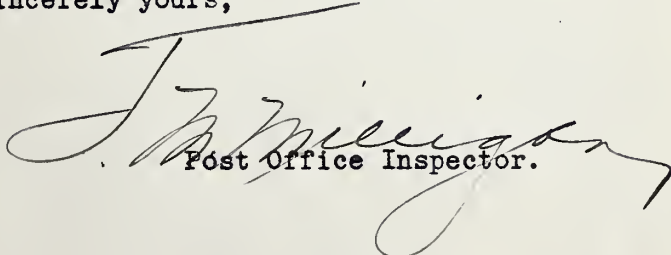
I have some information indicating that during the last year you had some transactions with FOLIOS, Louis Filler, 2209 Walnut St., Philadelphia, Pa., and that you purchased from him certain Lincoln items, such as autographed letters, etc.

If such is the case, will you be good enough to inform me, confidentially, whether your transactions with this firm were satisfactory, and whether the items purchased by you were as represented, or subsequently ascertained to be forgeries. If your dealings were not satisfactory, I should be glad to have a complete statement thereof, accompanied by all advertisements, correspondence, etc. relating thereto.

This letter should not be considered as reflecting in any way upon the concern in question, and should be treated as strictly confidential.

An envelope, which requires no postage, is enclosed for your use in replying to this communication.

Sincerely yours,


Post Office Inspector.

March 31, 1938

Mr. T. M. Milligan, Inspector
Post Office Department
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

My dear Mr. Milligan:

On two occasions we have purchased material from Louis Filler, 2209 Walnut Street, Philadelphia. On April 16, 1937 we purchased an autograph check, a scrap book, and two broadsides, paying \$36.00 for them. There was submitted to us at that time what was alleged to be an autograph letter of Abraham Lincoln, but which we did not feel was genuine, so we returned it.

On May 20, 1937 we acquired a book of autographs and miscellaneous items which we paid \$17.25 for.

Our dealings with Mr. Filler have been satisfactory inasmuch as he has always been willing to send Lincoln items on approval, and seemed very much chagrined to learn that we did not feel that his autograph letter was genuine.

We will be very glad to give you further information with respect to our correspondence with him with reference to these items if you would care to have it.

Very truly yours,

LAW:EB

Director

SCHINDLER'S ANTIQUE SHOP

HERMAN A. SCHINDLER, PROP.

SILVER
FURNITURE
GUNS
PISTOLS
PRINTS
ETCHINGS
RELICS



BOOKS
MAPS
CURIOS
OLD GLASS
AUTOGRAPHS
ANTIQUE JEWELRY
CONFEDERATE ITEMS

HOME OF THE AZALEA FESTIVAL

200 KING STREET

CHARLESTON, S. C.

9/20/38

Louis A. Warrenⁿ, Esq.
Lincoln Life National Foundation
Fort Wayne, Ind .

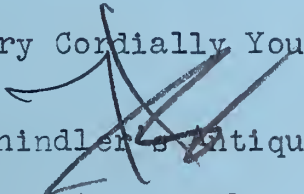
Dear Mr. Warren :

A party just brought in 2 Lincoln Documents that you might be interested in .

I must get \$ 35.00 for the 2 items . In the event that you keep them or not could you tell me whether they are genuine or not. There was one fellow who says that are not, but they look good to me .

I will appreciate an early reply and hoping to be of further service and oblige,

Very Cordially Yours,


Schindler's Antique Shop,
Herman A. Schindler, Prop.

AMERICA'S MOST HISTORIC CITY

September 23, 1938

Harry E. Pratt
Abraham Lincoln Association
703 First National Bank Bldg.
Springfield, Illinois

Dear Mr. Pratt:

We have just had another installment of Lincoln autographs offered to us and I hasten to send photostat copies as there is no question that they were done by the same hand which created the others.

The reply with reference to their acquisition is being held up until we hear from you with respect to the accuracy of the internal evidence. Of course we have suspected that it is not in conformity with Mr. Angle's "Day by Day" report.

We are now about ready to begin forwarding to you a large number photostats of unpublished Lincoln letters which will begin to reach you by the first of the week and from now on, with our letters well systematized, we hope to be able to cooperate with you quite fully in your attempt to secure a fine photostat collection.

Please return the enclosed photostats as we would not care to release them in case we do not acquire the documents.

Very truly yours,

LAW:AD

Director

THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN ASSOCIATION

LOGAN HAY, PRESIDENT
ROBERT E. MILLER, TREASURER
PAUL M. ANGLE, SECRETARY
HARRY E. PRATT, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY



PURPOSES:

"To observe each anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln; to preserve and make more readily accessible the landmarks associated with his life; and actively to encourage, promote and aid the collection and dissemination of authentic information regarding all phases of his life and career."

FIRST NATIONAL BANK BUILDING
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

Sept. 27, 1938

Dear Dr. Warren:

I have had a lot of fun with the photostats you sent. I get a lot of fun out of trying to make the case read incorrectly, but these are not as vulnerable as the others. I think you are right in supposing the same hand did them.

Paul Angle had the originals some days ago and pronounced them forgeries. He said the paper of the letter was book end paper and that the legal document was not folded as it should have been for a document that had been filed.

I am wondering where the clerks mark and date of filing is, if this document was filed as it says. It also seems odd that it was written on March 2 and filed on March 1.

It was not customary for Lincoln when away from Springfield and Petersburg to write Lincoln & Herndon on his legal papers. I have never seen another declaration that had so much information on the back of it as this one, unless it was this same man's previous production.

The thing that brands it is as you mention that Lincoln was not in Urbana on either Mar. 1, or 2 and therefore would not have known just when the document was filed, and also that Lincoln knew that the law provided that the court meet in an April term in 1858 and not a March Term.

The p.p. at the foot of the declaration is a new one on me. The only ones I have seen are p.q. and p.d.

I have looked on a Champaign county map and there does not seem to be a Miniers Creek; true three of the creeks flowing into the Sangamon do not have names, but the mill is not listed among mills given in the county history.

The name J.C. Eccles, is not mentioned in Monticello history that I can find. Of course that doesn't prove he didn't live there.

Thanks for giving me a chance to see these.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Harry E. Pratt".

September 30, 1938

Herman A. Schindler
200 King Street
Charleston, S. C.

Dear Mr. Schindler:

We regret exceedingly that we can not pass upon the documents which you submitted to us as genuine although we do not claim they are forgeries.

They look very much, however, like several forgeries which we have recently discovered and which have been offered to us. You would greatly help us and all antique dealers if you would give us information as to who submitted these documents to you and also such information about their origin as you might be able to learn.

Of course you are aware that if any considerable number of items appear which cannot be accepted as genuine, every dealer in original material is directly injured. Can you help us in tracing the origin of these items?

Very truly yours,

LAW:AS

Director

THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN ASSOCIATION

LOGAN HAY, PRESIDENT

ROBERT E. MILLER, TREASURER

PAUL M. ANGLE, SECRETARY

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FIRST NATIONAL BANK BUILDING
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

Nov. 14, 1938

Dr. Louis A. Warren
Ft. Wayne, Indiana

Dear Dr. Warren:

He is at it again. This time in the form of a record book kept by Lincoln in 1858. It was ordered on approval from James Lewis Hook, 13 Snowden Road, Bala-Cynwyd, Pa. Mr. Hook was suspicious of the item and well he might be. He seems convinced that it is no good and he said for me to send it on to you: "Please forward it to Dr. Warren and ask him to make me an offer for it as a fine example of a forgery." This is about the fifth item this same fellow has turned out. Why don't you give him the works in an issue of Lincoln Lore? I imagine there are several collectors that have items stored away that they think are good.

A note came to Gov. Horner about a Fish and Oakleaf item that you have for sale. He needs the Fish item, and also the Oakleaf if it is one of the two mentioned in the footnote in Oakleaf. He has the two that Oakleaf describes in the large type. I am mentioning this because Mrs Cornwall is busy and may not get around to ordering for some days. Ask Mr. Cook to hold them or if they fit the above description to send them on approval.

Sincerely,

Harry E. Pratt

November 25, 1938

Mr. Harry E. Pratt
The Abraham Lincoln Association
First National Bank Building
Springfield, Illinois

My dear Mr. Pratt:

I have been out of the city for several days so my reply to your letter is somewhat delayed.

We have been interested indeed in looking over the items forwarded at the request of Mr. Hook, and I agree with you that it certainly is from the same pen which wrote the other forgeries with which we are familiar.

You will be sorry to learn that it has been necessary for me to change secretaries, so that copying of the unpublished Lincoln letters will have to be delayed for some little time. However, you may expect that we will carry through with you on this task which we have begun just as soon as it will be convenient.

Mr. Cook I believe had already corresponded with Mr. Horner about the Lincoln items before your letter arrived.

Very truly yours,

LAW: EB

Director



ENGINEERS BOOK SHOP

TRADE MARK REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.

168 EAST 46th STREET

NEW YORK, N. Y.

August 2 1940

The Lincoln Life Insurance Company
Fort Wayne
Indiana

Attention: Mr. Sheldon Hine
Advertising Dept.

Dear Mr. Hine:

We thank you for your letter of July 30.

There is a well-known volume by A.S. Osborn QUESTIONED DOCUMENTS which was in second edition in 1929, price \$12.00. This book is still available and would present various problems of paper, ink, writing etc. for identification of forgeries.

C.A. Mitchell has two books both of which should be of value to you. One is INKS 4th edition, 1937 price \$6.00; the other is SCIENTIFIC DETECTIVE AND EXPERT WITNESS, published in 1931, price \$2.50.

I am not quite certain from your letter whether you are trying to identify forged documents which date back to 1850. We can of course make a search for you and assemble the literature of inks in use during the 1850's as much of the information would be in papers and articles from periodicals.

There are also a good many books on forgeries that might be of value to you but we ask you kindly to give us more fully what you are seeking and we will be glad to quote further.

Very truly yours,

E. Harder

ENGINEERS BOOK SHOP

H:LS

9

September 20, 1940.

Dr. Louis A. Warren,
Fort Wayne, Ind.

Dear Dr. Warren:

May I send you herewith a photostat copy of forged Lincoln document. The market is starting to be flooded with these items. Have any been offered to you or do you already have any? You want to know how forger can be caught and punished. Well all you have to do is:

1. Prove document is forged.
2. Prove who did it.
3. Prove to whom they were sold
4. Prove who sold them.
5. If more than one prove those in on ~~conspiracy~~.

I have all points proved by written evidence in my possession except point 2. Am now awaiting the answer to that point. One prominent man who was stuck by the forger I think is getting cold feet on helping me cause he is probably getting his money back. But one he sold me they will never get back even by paying a premium. Some one in this world must have enough guts to stand up and really fight when necessary. What do you think? Will you send me copy of any recent Lincoln forgeries you may have as I want to have it looked at while my matter is being carefully looked into.

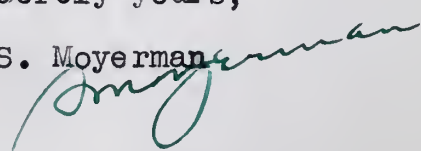
If you do not have on your list for receipt of Lincoln Lore the following:

Elbridge W. Stein
2301 Park Row Bldg.
15 Park Row, N.Y. City, N.Y.

- . will you not please send him all back numbers you can spare and also current ones from now on. He is fellow who analyzed Hauptmann's handwriting on Lindberg Kidnap notes and this was most important link in convicting Hauptmann. You may mention if you care to that it was at my suggestion you sent material. Please keep confidential at this time what is being done in these new Lincoln forgeries.

Sincerely yours,

S. Moyerman



Approved -
A. Lincoln

War Department
Adjutant General's Office
Washington July 29/63

Special Orders }
No 337 } (Extract)

13. The following Officers (published officially July 6th 1863) having failed to appear before the Military Commission instituted by Special Orders No. 53, current Series from the War Department, within the prescribed time; the President directs that they shall be dismissed the service of the United States, to date July 6th 1863. for the causes set opposite their respective names

Absence without Authority.
Captain James Cox 56th N.Y. Volz

* * *
By Order of the Secretary of War
C. D. Townsend
Apt. Adj't. General

Ad. Qu. Davis Brigade
Folly Island S.C. Aug 14/63
Official;
M. T. [Signature]
Capt & a [Signature]

War Department
Adjutant General's Office
Washington D.C.
July 29th 1863

Special Orders No 337
Jan 13

Captain James Cox 56th N.Y.
New York Vols dismissed the
military service the United
States.

September 24, 1940

Mr. S. Moyerman
P. O. Box No. 2412
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Mr. Moyerman:

It will be a pleasure for us indeed to place the name of Mr. Elbridge W. Stein, New York City, on our mailing list to receive Lincoln Lore.

We admire your pluck in going after the forgers and we would like very much indeed to help you get such evidence as may be available that certain forgeries are being circulated.

We do not have any of the more recent ones but we have several that we have picked up from time to time, but I do not know whether or not they are done by the individual who is at present disturbing the autograph market.

It is very difficult indeed to catch up with a man who may be merely using Lincoln's signature but if he writes a letter of any considerable length he will become immediately involved by historical accuracy and other evidences which will convict him.

We will advise you immediately if any of the new forgeries are offered to us.

Very truly yours,

LAW:EB

Director

REPORT OF AN EXAMINATION

OF A SIGNATURE

"A. Lincoln"

* * * *

I have made a careful examination of the word "Approved" and the signature following it, "A. Lincoln," on a sheet of paper dated July 29, 1863, purporting to be a military order. This examination was made for the purpose of determining, if possible, whether or not the word "Approved" and the signature "A. Lincoln" were actually written by Mr. Lincoln.

The document itself seems to be a genuine one and probably in its main part was an actual order written and issued on the date which it bears. The paper, the ink and the handwriting all tend to support this main document as being genuine. This statement, of course, applies to all of the document except the part that is in dispute.

After a very careful study of the word "Approved" and the signature "A. Lincoln" and a comparison of this handwriting with the genuine handwriting of Mr. Lincoln, I am of the definite opinion that the disputed matter on this document was not written by Mr. Lincoln. I have a photographic file of genuine signatures and writing of Mr. Lincoln from documents in the Boston Public Library. This file was

supplemented by the matter that is available at the New York Public Library. The available signatures and writing of Mr. Lincoln cover the period from 1847 to 1863 and undoubtedly give an accurate picture of the handwriting and signatures of Mr. Lincoln.

In the investigation of this problem, I studied the disputed writing with the aid of a microscope and also made an enlarged photograph of the disputed matter. I then made a comparison of the disputed writing with the original writings of Mr. Lincoln in the New York Public Library and with the photographic file of his writings which I have. The result of this investigation leaves no doubt in my mind whatever but that the disputed matter on this document is fraudulent.

This conclusion is susceptible of demonstration and is not merely an unsupported opinion. In arriving at my conclusion I have considered every phase of this disputed handwriting which included the vigor and skill in the writing; the writing habits either included or violated in the disputed matter; the execution of the writing; the slant; the proportions; the connections between letters; the order of strokes; the pen emphasis, and every characteristic and quality found in the handwriting of Mr. Lincoln.

The document on which this disputed matter appears is undoubtedly a genuine one that fell into the hands of some unscrupulous person who committed a forgery and then passed it off as genuine.

Respectfully submitted,

C. H. Stein

Report to
S. Moyerman, Esq.
Post Office Box 2412
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
September 24, 1940

EWS:WAE

THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN ASSOCIATION

LOGAN HAY, PRESIDENT
ROBERT E. MILLER, TREASURER
PAUL M. ANGLE, SECRETARY
HARRY E. PRATT, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY



PURPOSES:

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FIRST NATIONAL BANK BUILDING
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

Sept. 26, 1940

Dear Dr. Warren:

I have just talked with Mr. Fay about the letter to William Doughty, August 2, 1839. Mr. Fay thinks and it looks that way to me that it is just as well that you have lost record of the letter. Fay has a copy of the Junior World, Pub. in Phil. Feb. 7, 1931 Vol. XVII No. 2 Part 1, and in it is grandmother's story about this letter. Supposedly Lincoln has misspelled the ~~letter~~ ~~in~~ words possession and very, and the letter is stiff an formal and the whole thing looks like just another story in a childs magazine. It would take the facsimile of the thing to convince me otherwise. So I think I will leave that date blank.

Sincerely,

Harry E. Pratt

IF ABRAHAM LINCOLN wrote it, said it or joked about it, chances were excellent that shrewd Walter Maybury had a copy of it in his files. Did he have the true collector's glint in his eye? Glint? It was as bright as a spotlight! And as penetrating. When its rays were focused on Lincolniana, Maybury not only became blind to all else, but also deaf.

"Do we have to beat down the door?" called a young voice from the next room. "Are you in there, Uncle Walter?"

"Come in, Russell. Come in," Maybury liked to have people visit him in his library. But—10 o'clock in the morning? Russell should be at work.

"I've brought my boss to see you, Uncle Walter. Mr. Burnham, this is Mr. Maybury."

Maybury shook hands cordially. His nephew had taken bar exams, then rented an office and hung out a lawyer's shingle. Only one client in eight months. Russ had won the case but collected no fee. This experience had soured him on the law as a means of making a living, so he'd quit. Burnham dealt in rare books, documents, stamps and antiques.

"Business call, Mr. Maybury," he said. "We've got something here that will interest you. Russell wanted you to have first look at it . . . an original Lincoln letter."

"Rare as the eyeteeth of a hen," said Maybury. "By all means let me look at it." He glanced at Russell. "Thanks for thinking of me, Russ." His nephew's blue eyes were evasive. The lines of his sensitive mouth—his mother's mouth—betrayed disdain. But Burnham beamed expansively.

"He had only to mention that you collected Lincoln stuff, and I said, 'Your uncle will go for this, Russell.' I've got a customer who lives in Sangamon county, Illinois, Mr. Maybury. She was looking through an old trunk, found this letter. It's for sale."

The document, Maybury saw, was a letter written from the White House over Lincoln's signature to a person addressed as Zeb.

"Hang onto yourself, Zeb," the letter counseled. "Don't kick over the traces. Hang onto the country, too. America is still a place where a man can go forward knowing that every time he lifts his foot he can put it down again on firm ground."

"Umm. Good advice. Just as sound today as it was in Lincoln's day." Maybury glanced at the date of the letter. "August, 1864—the darkest month of the Civil war, when it looked as if the Union army would

be defeated, and the cause lost. Even Lincoln's friends doubted him. Yet he could write a letter like this, full of faith in America and in its future."

"Then you'll buy it?" Burnham was eager as he bent toward his prospective customer.

"Ordinarily I'd mortgage the house to buy it," Maybury answered cautiously. "But money comes hard these days. So many things the family needs more." He looked steadily at his nephew. "What's your opinion, Russ?"

Russ stared at the carpet, digging at it with the toe of his right shoe.

"He thinks you ought to have it," put in Burnham. "Otherwise we wouldn't have brought it here first. We'd have put it up at auction."

"Is it worth \$500, uncle?" said Russ.

"Maybe," came the reply. Maybury took a large magnifying glass from his desk drawer. Bending over the letter, he carefully examined the writing and the signature. Finally he raised his head. "I'll take it," he said, abruptly. He sat down, wrote out a check, handed it to his nephew. "I made it out in your name, Russ. They know you at the bank. You'll have no trouble getting it cashed."

* * *

For a long time after his two callers departed, Walter Maybury sat staring at the Lincoln letter, drumming nervously. At length he stirred himself to action, resuming his work. But he kept watching the door. An hour passed. The library door opened again. Russ, alone, hesitated in the doorway. "Yes, Russ?"

"I couldn't go through with it, Uncle Walter," said the boy. He put the check down on the desk. "I couldn't let you pay \$500 to a faker like Burnham. That letter is a fraud." The boy's eyes pleaded for understanding. "I thought you'd spot it, uncle. Then I could have had it out with Burnham with you as a witness. But you didn't."

"And that put it squarely up to you, didn't it?" said Maybury kind-

ly. "You came through, Russ—just as I thought you would."

"I spoiled his sale, and got fired—if that's what you mean," answered the boy.

"That's what I mean."

"I should have quit him weeks ago, when I first found out that everything he sold was faked," said Russ. "I needed a job so much, uncle. But now I've made up my mind. I'm going back to the law. I'm going to lift my foot to take a forward step. Maybe, by the time it comes down, some firm ground will be underneath. You know what Lincoln said in that letter: 'Hang onto yourself, Zeb. And hang onto the country!'"

Maybury marked "Forgery" in large letters across the top of the letter; then with a smile put it away with others he knew were genuine. Fraud though it was, it had earned its right to be there.

FRANCIS L. DAILY
HOMER D. DINES
HARRY A. WHITE
EDWARD H. FIEDLER
OLIVER R. BARRETT
JOSEPH A. CONERTY
JOHN M. CONNERY
CHESTER L. BUTLER
GEORGE J. O'GRADY
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WILLIAM P. O'KEEFE
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SUCCESSORS TO
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ORR, SULLIVAN & RICKS
122 SOUTH MICHIGAN AVENUE
CHICAGO

BOETIUS H. SULLIVAN
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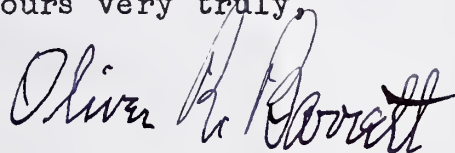
April 28, 1941.

Mr. H. E. Barker,
1653 South Gramercy Place,
Los Angeles, California.

Dear Mr. Barker:

Eugene Field II is now, I think, in California with his sister, Mrs. W. L. Engler, who, in her younger days, was known as "Trotty Field." It is quite probable that he wrote the notes in the volumes, and I am pretty sure he will be able to tell you (if you can persuade him) the name of the writer of the signature of the alleged "original owner" A. Lincoln.

Yours very truly,



ORB:LK

P.S. E.F. II lives with Mrs. Engler in Altadena, California. I do not know their street number.

O.R.B.



THE COLLECTOR

A Magazine for Autograph and Historical Collectors

Vol. LV, No. 11

NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER, 1941

WHOLE No. 607

The Collector, Established 1887, is published the first day of the month. It will be sent, post-paid, One Year for One Dollar.

Address—

WALTER R. BENJAMIN
MARY A. BENJAMIN
655 Fifth Avenue

Telephone Plaza 8-3287 NEW YORK CITY

Vol. LV SEPTEMBER, 1941 No. 11

PITFALLS OF COLLECTING

(Reprinted in part from Aug. 9, 1941, AMERICA)

September is the beginning of the season for collectors along all lines. Summer with its vacations and travels has passed by, and while many have caught up on their reading and taken out and browsed among their old treasures, the desire to add to these has not been overpowering during the hot season. A glimmer of interest, however, appears with the opening of the school year and the return of wanderers to their homes. It seems appropriate, therefore, to discuss at this time a subject that has been brought up at various intervals in the past—one that is ever-present: the dangers and pitfalls of autograph collecting. The comments we make below are given in a friendly spirit as a gentle warning.

Dishonesty and ignorance, unfortunately, exist in the autograph field as in all other lines of collecting. Many collectors will in the course of the coming months find that they have made a purchase which is incorrect, either a forgery, a facsimile, or misrepresented in some other way. It is fairly safe to say that full-fledged dishonesty is only encountered in the case of forgeries. The seller's ignorance of his subject is largely responsible for mistakes in other categories to be described.

Because of the widening interest in autographs, many individuals have attempted to dabble in them. With all the good will in the world, they do not and can not possibly realize the vast amount there is to learn about old documents and letters and the painful and often embarrassing mistakes that can occur due to inexperience. The same applies to collectors, however long they may have been collecting. Nothing can replace the expert's years of training, long study, actual handling of old letters, opportunity to compare paper, ink, writing, and endless research into history. The wise collector will for his own sake patronize only a recognized and reputable authority. In him he will put his trust, depending on the latter's knowledge, experience, and honesty.

The most obvious slip the collector can make is in the line of forgeries. Periodically a flood of these appears on the market. Washington and Lincoln are the most commonly perpetrated examples, as they are undoubtedly the two names most frequently wanted. In the 1860's when Robert Spring was at work, his Washingtons fooled all but a few. Some ten years or so ago a genius at Lincoln forgeries papered the country with lengthy legal documents, actually written out on "Lincoln blue" paper, authentically watermarked with the proper date! Interspersed with these were forgeries of such names as Franklin, Mary Baker Eddy, Lindbergh (at the time of his famous flight in 1927), Poe, Hawthorne, Longfellow, Eugene Field, Dickens, Oscar Wilde, Lewis Carroll, William Blake, and many others. It is a curious fact that with multiplicity of forgeries has come deterioration in quality. Today serious collectors will pay \$10 for one of Spring's Washington drafts, so cleverly are they made. But few would offer a fraction of that sum for the feeble attempts of modern crooks. Spring and the Lincoln

forger at least tried to get a certain price for their artistic creations, usually obtaining a sum commensurate with their efforts. But customers today repeatedly tell tales of Poe letters and Lincoln and Washington documents being offered to them for the paltry sum of \$1 and \$2. This fact in itself should be sufficient warning to prospective buyers.

In certain ways the modern forger is wiler than the old-timer. In the past only very fine letters of unusual historical contents would be chosen, but as the dealers warned their clients to doubt such attractive items, and forgers caught on, the latter changed their tactics and produced simple notes with no particular contents. The argument could then be given that a letter was no forgery at all. Why would anyone think of forging so unimportant a piece? And the casualties were numerous.

Very recently the up-to-date forger has advanced one step further. Franks, which are handled by both stamp and autograph dealers, are a popular and modern field. To collectors of an earlier period they were of no interest whatsoever. With their popularity came the inevitable reproductions. Skillfully executed Washington and Lincoln and other Presidential franks are frequently purchased by gullible persons, particularly if the price is low.

Another profitable source of income for forgers is books, purporting to have been part of a famous man's library. Few items are more desirable than a volume in which has been written the authentic signature of a great man or woman. It has an association value that is unparalleled. And unfortunately so. Unscrupulous persons have turned this appeal to their own purposes. Books now appear on the market at regular intervals signed by individuals whose eyes unquestionably never saw that printed page and whose hand never guided the pen. These autographed books present a difficult problem. In autographs, a letter is 100 percent right or 100 percent wrong. There is no inbetween grade. But signatures are a different matter. They can be reproduced so easily that few experts will guarantee them. It is hard to define what is wrong with them, but instinct and memory and past experi-

ences of a given man's handwriting, the provenance and history of an item, all signal danger to the dealer and play a large part in his ultimate decision. If doubt exists, he will check with the libraries most likely to have similar material and learn whether it was customary for a certain person to sign a book with his full name or his initials, on the title page or on the fly leaf, in ink or in pencil. Man is a creature of habit, and once he adopts a method, it is unlikely that he will change.

As complicated as are the various factors which determine the authenticity of a forgery, contrastingly simple are the points which establish the facsimile. The expert needs no magnifying glass. His naked eye, the quality of the paper and ink, etc., tell him more at first glance than any substitute or artificial aid will ever do. Should doubt arise, the ink eradicator solves his problem incontestably. Upon application of it, the ink, if original and not printer's ink, will immediately disappear. If, however, the letter is a facsimile, the strongest acid will not affect the writing. It is inadvisable to use the ink-eradicator unless absolutely necessary, as the chances are it will leave a faded or white spot on the paper treated, regardless of whether the ink disappears or not. This may cause the owner some concern.

Speaking of facsimiles, the rubber stamp should not be overlooked. This is definitely hard to detect except with the aid of the ink eradicator. Our personal experience is that a rubber stamp, especially on vellum, is more difficult to recognize than any other facsimile.

In studying forgeries and facsimiles, the ink and the manner in which it fades, the deterioration and quality of the paper, its weight, the way mildew affects it when wet, the appearance of paper wet decades ago and that of the same paper dampened today, are all points that damn a letter or authenticate it. An expert knows the approximate period and locality in which certain types of paper were used. The differences between linen and pulp paper and other varieties are all taken into consideration. Nothing but nature, for example, can produce the peculiar purple spots and splotchy appearance of

mildew. Ink, also, fades in one way only, and the variations of color and lights and shadows of ink that has been exposed to sunlight can never be matched. This one factor alone betrays a forgery more quickly than anything else.

Knowledge of handwritings is probably the expert's most vital asset. He is familiar with the calligraphy of hundreds of outstanding characters and recognizes them without ever glancing at the signatures. He can tell at once whether the script is English, American, Italian, German or French, as each country and each individual have their own idiosyncracies. The forger will often note those peculiarities, but forgetting that the writer is not consistent in these variations, he will reproduce the entire letter based upon them. Washington may make his *S*'s or his *N*'s nine times out of ten in a certain way, but the tenth he will use a totally different script. The forger will seize upon this eccentricity in copying out a letter and make all the *S*'s and *N*'s in this unusual manner. Such a difference is immediately noticeable to the expert, but not to the amateur.

The warnings above are only the obvious pitfalls into which a collector may stumble. Aside from these are other strange points, peculiar to the field of autographs, which experience alone has made evident. One such example is the question of contemporary copies, frequently mistaken, because of ignorance of a man's handwriting, for an original letter. The dealer's knowledge in such a case is his protection. Should he be in doubt, and the letter is a famous one with historical contents, he secures the help of the large libraries, many of which are apt to have fine collections of manuscripts useful for purposes of comparison. Librarians are glad to give assistance in such matters and readily send facsimiles of originals in their possession upon payment of a small charge. Contemporary copies of letters were formerly one of the few methods of obtaining information. Printing was not as cheap or common a medium as in modern times. A letter might be copied over an indefinite number of times by many different persons. It is wise, therefore, if an item is an historical one or of outstanding importance, to inquire

whether the original or the draft may be housed in some archive.

Copies of letters have proved a source of worry to collectors for other reasons than those mentioned above. It was not uncommon in other days for a man to write a letter and follow it up by one or two copies, marked as such, written in his own hand also. Franklin frequently resorted to this method. When he was Commissioner to France during the Revolution, the dangers of seizure at sea of a vessel and all its contents, including the mail, was great. To be certain that the message would be received, he would send by different routes the copies, one or all of which would be bound to reach their destination. Since, in some cases, the originals were undoubtedly seized, lost, or destroyed, and only the copies received by the addressee, in our opinion the value of the copies are fully as important as the originals. Collectors are sometimes puzzled by this, but the explanation above should remove any doubts as to the actual authenticity of these duplicates. It may be mentioned that John Paul Jones also sent letters in duplicate, these copies not to be confused with the original drafts of letters, which were kept by the sender, and which would correspond to our modern carbon copy.

Franklin used still a different method in sending copies. He would dispatch a letter on a certain date, then two weeks later write a second letter. On the third page of the second letter, he would copy out the contents of the first letter, on the chance that this first one might never have been received. We have had such examples in our office. These copies and those mentioned above are authentic copies by the authors themselves, and not merely contemporary copies written by someone else.

A more disquieting angle of copies in our opinion is the custom of some men to have their secretaries write out and sign their letters for them, making no note on the page to that effect. Among our papers, for example, is a letter of Baron Steuben to Governor William Whipple, Signer from New Hampshire, written in 1777, shortly after his arrival in America to join the Colonial forces. In it he speaks of presenting letters of in-

roduction to John Hancock and John Adams from whom he hoped to obtain a commission. It is an important item, but the letter is not in the hand of Steuben, but entirely written and signed by his secretary, Peter S. Duponceau, later the noted Philadelphia author and lawyer. The only concession Duponceau made was that in copying Steuben's curious paraphe at the end of his name, he embodied in the paraphe a diminutive *P*, noticeable only to the trained eye. Not so considerate were the amanuenses of Theodore Roosevelt, Marie Antoinette, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Chester A. Arthur, James A. Garfield and others. No initials, no word "per" or "by" or "dictated" suggests the letter's being written by anyone other than the person whose signature appears at the bottom of the page. Here again, experience must be the teacher.

Still another perplexity in the never-ending study of autographs is that of differentiating between signatures of contemporary persons, sometimes related to each other, sometimes not, who bear identical names, and whose signatures, particularly in the cases of father and son, resemble each other to an incredible degree. Amongst these can be mentioned Oliver Wolcott, Connecticut Signer of the Declaration of Independence, and his son of the same name, Secretary of the Treasury under Washington; Richard Stockton, the New Jersey Signer, and his son, the distinguished Senator; William Ellery, Signer from Rhode Island, and Collector of the Port of Newport, and his son who held the latter position also; Nathanael Greene, General in the Revolution, and his cousin of the same name, a Captain; Jonathan Trumbull, who signed *Jonth.*, known as "Brother Jonathan," friend of Washington and Governor of Connecticut, and his son Jonathan, who signed *Jona.*, Aide to Washington and also a Governor of Connecticut; and John Trumbull, grandson of Jonathan, Jr., also an Aide to Washington and a noted artist, and the other John Trumbull, no relative, but a famous poet and the author of *McFingall*. All too frequently these persons are confused and one finds the wrong man in a set.

Finally to make "confusion worse con-

founded" comes the question of persons whose handwriting and signature varied for one reason or another with the course of years. The average collector, acquainted with only one of these types of writing, will, unless reassured by an expert, refuse to believe that the same man wrote the various styles. Washington's handwriting and signature as a lad of eighteen and his later writing when he was Commander-in-Chief of the American Armies are totally different. The change was a natural one, however. George Wythe, the Virginia Signer, went blind in his old age, and his writing before and after this unfortunate occurrence are completely diverse. The main characteristics alone remain, the sole evidence of one identity. Lord Nelson, great British admiral, used swift, running, masculine strokes, but after the loss of his right arm, his left hand formed the characters of the alphabet in square, rounded figures. Robert Louis Stevenson used so many different hands, that of all experts only Gertrude Hills, Librarian of the Beinecke Stevenson collection, is capable of verifying his writing. Many other examples could be given, but the above should suffice.

Pitfalls, then, are numerous and varied for collectors. There are others which the dealer encounters every day. The latter, protected by the knowledge he has obtained through training under those longer in the business than himself, or taught by experience, feels a glow of satisfaction in leaping and not stumbling over them. But before that agile leap may be taken, many long years have gone into his education, an education which each generation of dealers and collectors must acquire with equal difficulty and patience, but in the acquisition of which much joy and pleasure is to be had.

MARY A. BENJAMIN

* * * * *

The few items listed each month in *THE COLLECTOR* represent only a small fraction of our large and varied stock. Anyone having special wants or interests should write in and inquire. We shall be glad to describe what we have on hand and give prices.

9
7-10-42
August 4, 1942

Mr. E. Rogert
427 Fleming Bldg.
Des Moines, Iowa

Dear Sir:

We would be pleased indeed to have a list of the books in your possession which upon their fly-leaf have the signatures of Abraham Lincoln.

Would you be willing to make a list of these titles which are autographed and also give us the name of your fraternal grandfather with whom Lincoln did business.

Very truly yours,

LAW:EB

Director

May 7, 1943

Mr. E. Rogers
427 Fleming Bldg.
Des Moines, Iowa

My dear Mr. Rogers:

Several months ago you wrote to us with respect to some Lincoln books which you had in your possession or books in which Lincoln's signature appears. We replied asking if you would please give us further information about these books.

Are we to understand from your failure to notify us about the titles that they have been disposed of or do you still retain them?

Very truly yours,

LAW:vff

Director

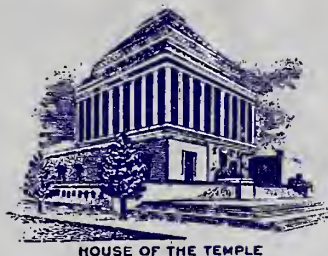
2

LIBRARY OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL

OF THE THIRTY THIRD AND LAST DEGREE

ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE OF
FREEMASONRY, SOUTHERN JURISDICTION, U. S. A.

1733 SIXTEENTH STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C.



HOUSE OF THE TEMPLE

R. BAKER HARRIS
LIBRARIAN

October 8, 1942

Dr. Louis A. Warren,
Lincoln National Life Insurance Co.,
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Dear Dr. Warren:

Captain Bert Sheldon of the Metropolitan Police, who is Secretary of The Lincoln Group here, has suggested that I bring the enclosed volume to your attention and I am sending it herewith by registered post.

It is a copy of M. Jacobs' Notes on the Rebel Invasion..., Philadelphia, J. B. Lippincott, 1864, with the signature "Abraham Lincoln" on the title-page.

We would be very grateful for your informal opinion as to the authenticity of this signature. This would be for our personal information only, and we would not quote you.

I think perhaps you have heard of our Lincoln Collection here, consisting of about one thousand volumes and an equal number of pamphlets, assembled by the late Dr. Carman of this city. The collection was presented to this library shortly before Dr. Carman's death.

If you can oblige us in this matter, the favor will be deeply appreciated; and postage is enclosed herewith to cover return of the volume to us by registered post.

Sincerely yours,

R. Baker Harris
Librarian

RH. ea

October 13, 1942

Mr. R. Baker Harris, Librarian
Library of the Supreme Council
1733 - 16th St., N.W.
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Harris:

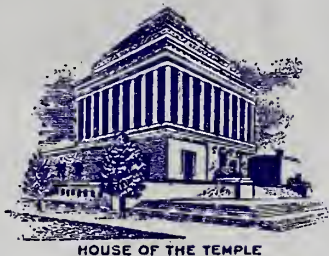
I regret very much to advise you that it is our opinion the autograph "Abraham Lincoln" appearing on the title-page of M. Jacob's "Notes on the Rebel Invasion" is not in the hand of the President.

As far as I know Lincoln never made a capital "A" similar to an enlarged small "A." He always used the old-fashioned "A" with the converging upright lines joined with the horizontal cross. This it appears in itself would be sufficient evidence to pronounce the signature curious.

We sincerely regret that you do not have in your library what we consider to be autographed Lincoln book.

Very truly yours,

LAW:WM



HOUSE OF THE TEMPLE

R. BAKER HARRIS
LIBRARIAN

LIBRARY OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL

OF THE THIRTY THIRD AND LAST DEGREE
ANCIENT AND ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE OF
FREEMASONRY, SOUTHERN JURISDICTION, U. S. A.

1733 SIXTEENTH STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C.

October 15, 1942

Dr. Louis A. Warren, Director,
Lincoln National Life Foundation,
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Dear Dr. Warren:

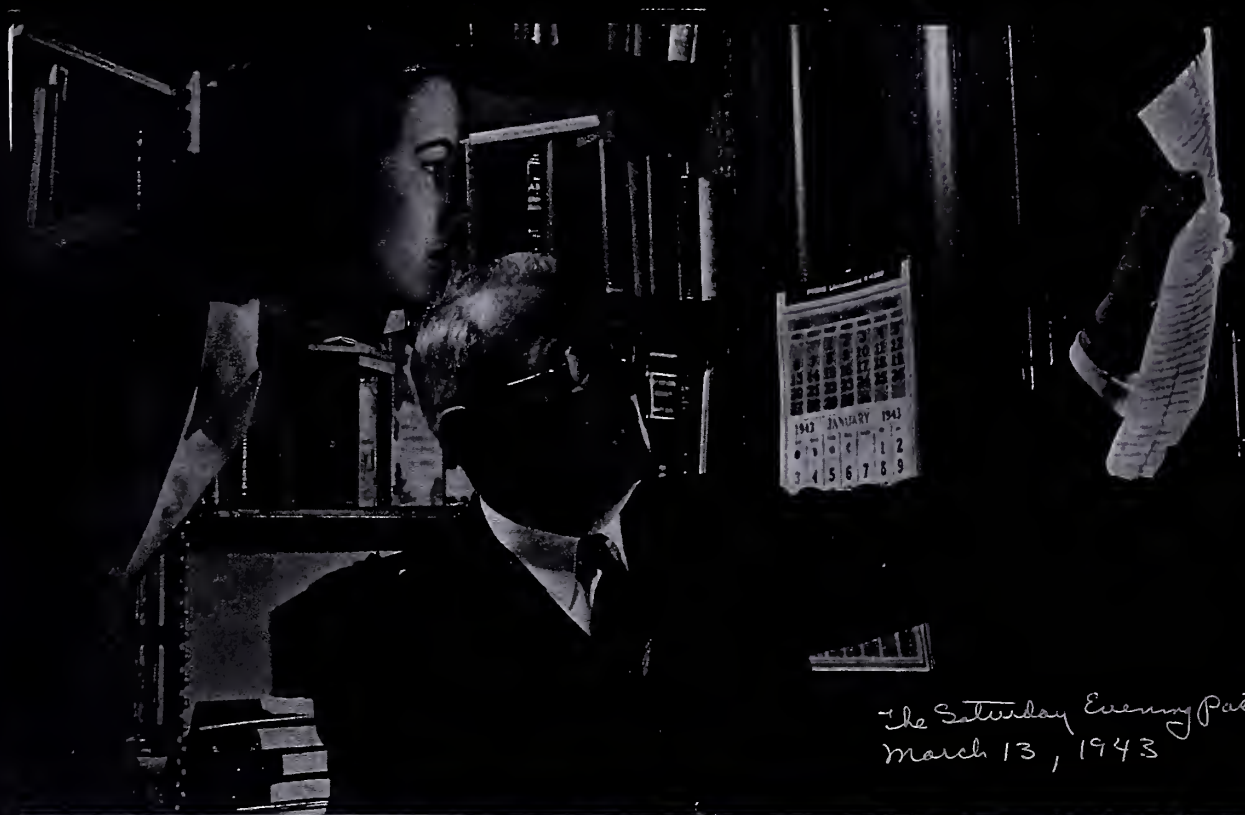
I am greatly obliged to you for your letter of October thirteenth regarding the Lincoln signature on the title-page of M. Jacob's Notes on the Rebel Invasion, 1864.

The book did not belong to our Lincolniana Collection but had been offered to us by a dealer. If there had been no doubt as to the authenticity of the signature it would have been a very desirable item to purchase for our collection of Lincoln material. Naturally we have not mentioned your name or quoted you, but merely advised the dealer that we do not feel justified in purchasing the copy.

With many thanks again for your kind services in this matter,

Sincerely yours,

R. Baker Harris
Librarian



*The Saturday Evening Post
March 13, 1943*

Book crooks he has tropped admire Bill Bergquist for his know-how and often drop him notes from jail. Bergquist shows a student how watermarks often expose a forged paper.

Trailing the Book Crooks

By JOHN KOBLER

G. William Bergquist's specialty is trapping the brainiest of all criminal types, hot-book heisters, book-faking fagins, and the boys who make up historical documents while you wait.

ROOM 222 of the New York Public Library is the world's clearinghouse of literary crimes. Behind its dark, book-musty walls, where few of the library's 2,000,000 annual readers ever wander, sits the only detective of his kind in captivity, G. William Bergquist. Equipped with a cheap magnifying glass, Bill Bergquist has recovered more stolen first editions, exposed more fake documents and hagged more scholarly crooks than any other man alive.

Stacked high around him are some 300 volumes, which have figured in as many biblio-criminal investigations. Take that little paper-bound pamphlet, Hall Kelley's History of the Settlement of Oregon—1868. As a rare bit of Americana, it's worth around \$800. Or it would be if it were the McCoy. Actually it was faked by the late Charlie Romm, one of the game's slickest operators.

Charlie, who resembled Al Capone and posed as an appraiser behind a shop front on Fourth Avenue, New York's Book Row, was a fence, forger and Fagin rolled into one. Too esger for a big killing to restrict himself to handling hot books, he had a crony steal him a genuine Hall Kelley and proceeded to duplicate it in quantity by photo-offset. To simulate age, known in the trade as "foxing," he stained the pages with coffee, tea and tobacco. Charlie unloaded five copies

around town at an average of \$400 each before Bergquist nailed an error—a pretty crude one too. Half-way through the job, Charlie had printed the same page twice.

But it wasn't faking books that finally landed him in jail. As the most active fence of the 30's, he kept half a dozen best artists working for him. Within five years they brought him and other fences \$200,000 worth of rarities from such libraries as Harvard, Dartmouth and Columbia.

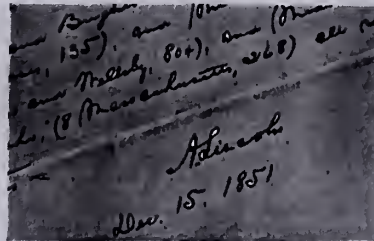
Charlie's nimblest provider was "Doctor" Harold Borden Clarke, who operated thieftily in New England, where many small libraries have innocently kept prime firsts on their open shelves since the day of publication. Every year Doc would map himself an itinerary of New England towns. He preferred to work in winter, when he could wear roomy overcoats

without exciting suspicion. Some members of the Romm ring had deep inside pouches sewed into their clothes; others used open-end packages. Touring through Massachusetts by bus, rail and bank's mare, Doc would lift as many as forty items during a single stopover. Book thieves freely swap information and he knew through underworld gossip that in such a library a corridor connected the stacks with a public washroom, that in this one the librarian had poor eyesight. Tour over, he would leech out the library markings with Javelle water or, if embossed, iron them flat with a heated tablespoon.

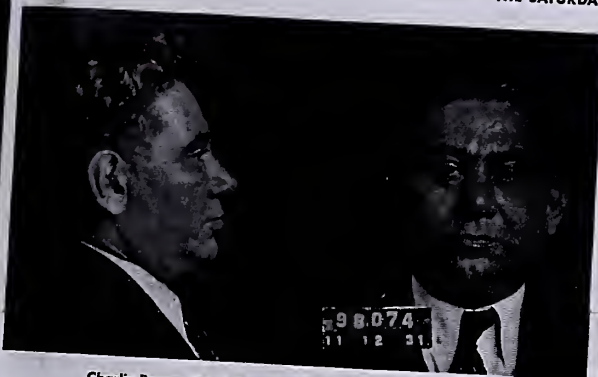
Bergquist hit Doc's trail while moseying along Fourth Avenue in the wake of rumors that fences had flooded the market with bot books. Spotting an item reported missing from a Massachusetts library, he challenged the dealer, who happened to be honest. Doc Clarke was described as the seller.

Meanwhile Doc, with incredible brass, had written to the late Alfred C. Potter, Harvard librarian, offering to install a thiefproof system—an opportunity which would have given him access to a fabulous collection. In the letter he pointed out that Harvard had already sustained considerable loss. This was news to Potter until he checked and found \$10,000 worth missing from the Widener Collection. He phoned Bergquist, who urged him to play Clarke on a long fishing line.

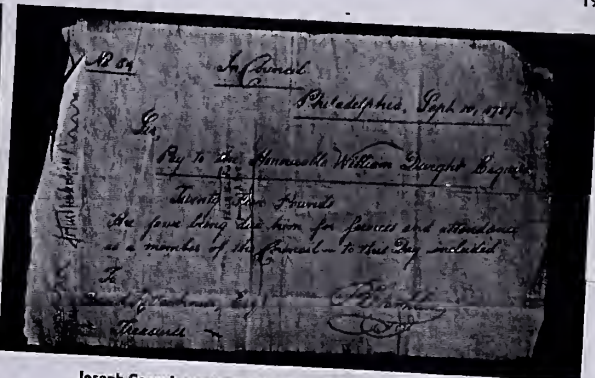
Soon after, Doc, emboldened by his apparent immunity, dumped thirteen books from the Lancaster, Massachusetts, library on another Fourth Avenue dealer. In his self-confidence he had neglected to remove the markings, and Bergquist advised the Lancaster authorities to swear out a warrant. The police picked up Doc near Boston. What he disclosed under



One of the forgeries of Joseph Cosay, who specialized in Lincoln documents.



Charlie Romm, fence, forger and one of the smoothest of bibliophakes, posed as an appraiser until Bergquist exposed him.



Joseph Cosey's work was done convincingly down to the last detail of pen, paper and ink. Even Bergquist was fooled by it.

the detective's gentle, friendly questioning enabled him to smash the entire Romm combine.

Bill Bergquist is a large, white-haired, ministerial-looking man of sixty, who would rather potter around books than eat. Born the son of the superintendent of highbrow Groton School, he was exposed to them early in life and has been collecting them ever since. He specializes in nautical science. Otherwise his youth was remote from culture. He ran away from home at fourteen to work as a cattle breeder, race-horse rubber, grocery salesman and finally assistant in the public library's periodical division.

The library appointed him chief investigator in 1929 to safeguard its own 4,000,000 hooks. But he soon extended his services to the field at large. Today, in surroundings reminiscent of Sherlock Holmes' flat on Baker Street, he investigates about forty cases a year for other libraries, private collectors and dealers, with 80 per cent success.

In highly technical book-faking and forgery cases, Bergquist borrows the police department's crime laboratory. Under ultraviolet rays, for example, an aniline erasure—another method of removing library markings—will fluoresce a telltale purple. But mostly Bergquist draws on his enormous personal acquaintanceship in the literary underworld.

Bibliophiles constitute a freemasonry which transcends the normal cops-and-robbers relationship. Book crooks admire Bergquist for his know-how, often drop him friendly notes from jail, where he sent them, and visit him after they get out. In his turn, Bergquist never tires of trying to rehabilitate them, and occasionally tides them over a rough spot with a loan. At one time he had a reformed thief on his staff, giving him the benefit of his experience.

"As long as he sticks to his own special field of literature," says Bergquist, "the book thief is the brainiest of all criminal types. He has to be both craftsman and scholar. But when he ventures out of it, he's as big a

fall guy as his most gullible victim. Generally, he knows hook values rather than content. To my knowledge, no professional thief ever stole a book for love.

"There are seldom more than five topnotchers active in the country at one time. They play a lone hand, though they all deal with each other and will sometimes team up for a particular job. The centers of the racket are New York, Boston and Philadelphia, the most marketable items Americana and English firsts. The seasoned crook rarely tackles anything worth more than a few hundred dollars. The big stuff is too easy to trace."

The holdest haul in Bergquist's memory was the manuscript of Sir Walter Scott's *Guy Mannering*, which vanished in 1932 during a loan exhibition at Columbia. It belonged to J. P. Morgan and originally cost \$30,000. How the thief managed it remains a poser. It stood in a locked glass case in the center of a small room, frequented by few visitors. The only keys were retained by two attendants who never left the room. Yet one moment the case was intact, the next its lock had been forced and the manuscript whisked away—a split-second maneuver.

Twenty Thousand Suspects

BEFORE Bergquist could sink his teeth into the mystery, the thief—or rather kidnaper, it being impossible to sell a treasure so unique to anybody but the owner—restored it. Morgan has never discussed the circumstances or the identity of the thief. Best guess is that he paid heavily for its return, no questions asked.

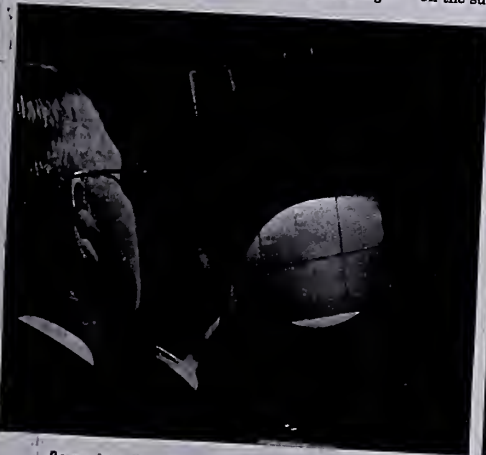
Of the library's readers, an annual 1 per cent, or approximately 20,000, bear watching. They rarely steal for profit, but out of sheer laziness will razor out a page rather than take notes. One reader, with a mania for Mayan literature, has mutilated some fifty volumes on the subject without being caught.

The commonest offense is defacing controversial hooks. A good many ideology-hipped readers, who can't resist the impulse to set the next reader straight, will scribble rebuttals in the margins, a phenomenon which increases in troubled times. The penalties run as high as \$100 fine and/or a year in jail.

Recently, a sailor named Jacoby attempted to convert the entire library into a Communist propaganda agency. He began by annotating anti-Soviet periodicals. "Lies!" he would scrawl all over them in indelible pencil. "Bilge!... An outrage!" He moved next to the circulation division, where he took out books like Jan Valtin's *Out of the Night* and tossed them into the East River. Conversely, he switched pro-Soviet hooks out of their regular classification to a shelf marked **BOOKS YOU MAY HAVE MISSED**. "An emotional impulse," admitted Jacoby, when caught trying to make off with Martin Dies' *Trojan Horse in America*. He got ninety days in the workhouse.

To minimize these losses, Bergquist maintains an intricate system of secret controls. It includes thirty lynx-eyed guards, Bergquist's intelligence corps, who patrol the large reading rooms. Each book carries a hidden identification mark, and the librarians rifle the pages before and after issuing it. Time slips, on which the reader must inscribe his name and address, enable them to narrow an investigation down to two or three suspects. There are only three ways in and out of the building and a telephone network links the guards who patrol them with every room and with one another.

The only section of interest to the professional thief, however, is the rare-book room with its 50,000 items ranging in value from \$50 to \$100,000. They are segregated behind iron doors, manned by two attendants who lock them before and after each visitor. Even if some bibliophilic Jimmy Valentine could crack this fortress, its treasures are so well known that disposing of them would be as conspicuous as smuggling the Statue of Liberty out of New York Harbor. (Continued on Page 101)



Bergquist relies not only on scientific aids but on his wide acquaintance among booklovers to trap crooks.



A locked, gridded door protects the New York Public Library's rare books.



Joseph Cosey, aristocrat of forgers and valued friend of Bill Bergquist.

practiced law, Cosey stumbled upon a whole ledger of it. He persuaded the owner to part with it and has been using it ever since.

Sometimes Cosey uses the flyleaves and margins of old books. To simulate old ink, he dilutes iron rust.

Cosey's *modus operandi* has become so familiar by now that he is no longer the menace to the autograph trade he once was. Dealers will still buy one of his forgeries as a curiosity, but their eyes are open and they seldom pay more than two dollars.

Last time Cosey called on Bergquist he gave him, as a token of his esteem, a card, reading: "Taking the pledge will not make liquor good, but it will improve it." It was addressed to "William Dean Howells" and signed "Mark Twain."

"I didn't do it very good," Cosey apologized, "but I thought you might like it."

"As a matter of fact," says Bergquist, "it was first rate."

What Cosey was to Lincoln, Tobia Nicotra, an Italian, was to the world's great composers.

Masquerading as a composer himself, he unloaded spurious Mozarts, Handels and Wagners on everybody from the Library of Congress to the Toscanini family.

THE MAN WHO HAD BEEN AROUND

(Continued from Page 20)

the reel, decided, apparently, that the tension was still too great, and returned to the business of investigating his mustache. "I've had a lot of fun with sharks on rod and reel. Tigers. Not game fish, you'd say, but did you ever try to hold one a fifteen-hundred pounder—when you were treading water?"

Crunch said, "No."

"I did. Off Mazatlan. Foolish thing to do. I went overboard because I was standing up when the fish hit and he pulled me off balance. I was standing up because the shark had attacked a dinghy—actually was shaking it in its teeth—about a quarter of a mile away, and I wanted to see the excitement. In I went. Hung on convulsively at first. Aquaplaned along when the shark came around to see what was aquaplaning in his wake. The two men nosed me with a boat hook about the neck, or maybe I wouldn't be having this fun right now."

Crunch said nothing. The dolphin came racing toward the boat and passed it on the port side. Crunch could see it, like a harrel of strewn jewelry under the clear sea. Des was turning the boat, and Mr. Humbert had actually condescended to reel. In fact he was reeling with considerable speed and competency.

He was also still talking. "The shark that attacked the dinghy shook it in its jaws three or four times and gave up. We harpooned ours after I'd been on it four hours. Sun too much for me. Must have been a hundred and thirty out in it that day. Funny thing. I've kept, and had kept, the records of the stomach contents of thousands of sharks, and not a sign of a person in one."

It was at about that point that Crunch felt in his soul the hurny dislike for Mr. Humbert. Des couldn't bring the boat fast enough. The dolphin was threatening to cross her bows. Mr. Humbert was standing with his rod far out over the gunwale. His pale blue eyes were sparkling with amusement, but whether at the dolphin or at his memories, Crunch could not say.

"I owned a shark factory," the passenger explained. "Lost in it every dime I made out of a bunch of radium shares I had. Man's an idiot to trade good radium stock for a shark business he never saw."

Crunch prepared to run forward to hold the line clear of the Poseidon's bows

Another Italian specialized in Christopher Columbus, selling a letter reporting the discovery of America for \$4300—an all-time high in fakes.

Then there was Charles—the Baron—Weisberg, who sold, but denies that he personally forged, quantities of Washingtoniana. The cream of the crop showed Washington's own topographical sketch of his Mount Vernon estate. Like most specialists who wander afield, the Baron came a cropper when he faked Katherine Mansfield's inscription in a first edition of her book, *The Doves' Nest*. Worse, he sold it by mail. Examining it later Bergquist readily remembered what the Baron either forgot or never knew—that *The Doves' Nest* was published posthumously. The Baron is now in Lewishurg Penitentiary on a mail-fraud rap.

But the prize boner of all forgery efforts is perpetuated in the library's copy of the *Secret Log-Boke of Christopher Columbus, Noted and Written by Himself in the Years 1492-1493*. According to the sales talk which accompanied the original purchase, Columbus dropped it overboard from the Santa Maria. The Gulf Stream carried it to the coast of Wales, where it was fished out in 1890, four centuries later. It is an impressive item, complete to barnacles and sea stains. It has only one defect. It is written entirely in English.

until Mr. Humbert and his rod could he brought up by Des. At that instant, however, the dolphin changed its course. It came about fast, throwing a vast belly in the line. Mr. Humbert wound, silent for the moment. The dolphin jumped, fought doggedly sidewise against the pull of the line for a few moments, and gave up. Mr. Humbert reeled steadily the while. In due time, Crunch leaned over the side with a long-handled gaff, stabbed the fish cleanly and shipside and brought it aboard.

His passenger viewed it with interest. "Nice fish. Nice work, skipper. Your mate about the boat marvelously. Funny things, fish. Beautiful and as coldly bloodthirsty as juramentados."

"As what?"

"It was late. Crunch started in. Mr. Humbert went up topside while Crunch plotted toward the sunset and the Miami landscape beneath it, and told him about juramentados—who are fanatics sworn to die killing Christians. Mr. Humbert, it seemed, was a Christian who had killed a juramentado, by a narrow margin. "By that crease wound," he said, "made me gimp for months."

The passenger went his way down the Gulf Stream Dock in due course. Mr. Williams had attested to the weight of the dolphin—forty-four and a quarter pounds—and it was tops for its kind on the lake, with every chance of staying tops, for the 1941 summer contest had only a few days more to run. But Crunch went back to the Poseidon and sat on the stern, tightening a cleat until the screw-driver maree in the bronze.

"What's the matter?" Des asked at last.

"That clown. Got my goat."

Des was honestly surprised. "I thought he was a nice guy. Everybody likes him. He only just came to Miami, but he already knows more people than most."

Crunch's eyes narrowed. "One of those, huh? Is he trying to sell anybody anything?"

"He's got dough. Plenty. Related the Bogart place till fall."

"A high-toned con man, then, huh?"

"Valerie Jones doesn't think he's a con man."

Crunch almost jumped. "Valerie! Does she know this monkey?"

(Continued on Page 104)

TRAILING THE BOOK CROOKS

(Continued from Page 19)

Only a chump would try it, and only a chump ever did. Being a chump he nearly got away with it. At noon of January 10, 1931, a gangling youngster, using the alias "Lloyd Hoffman," rapped for admission. His timing was shrewdly calculated, for at that hour one of the two attendants was always out to lunch. Once inside, Hoffman filled in three slips for first editions of Hawthorne's *Scarlet Letter*—valued at \$1000—Melville's *Moby Dick*—\$1000—and Poe's *Al Aaraaf*, of which there are only sixteen copies extant—\$8000.

Upon receiving them, Hoffman requisitioned three more books. These were kept, as he had determined during five preliminary visits, on distant stacks. By fetching them the attendant violated two cardinal rules: never leave a reader alone; never give him more than three books at once. His absence gave Hoffman time to slip the firsts under his coat and scurry out of the building.

Bergquist was less horrified than the librarians. Through his underworld contacts he knew that there were only five fences in town sufficiently organized to touch such loot. For months he'd had them under observation, but lacked the evidence to pounce. He notified a handful of trusted dealers and possessed himself in patience.

The movements of a stolen book follow a standard pattern. The fence relieves the thief of it at a fraction of its value, slaps on his own price and relays it on consignment to a borderline dealer not likely to ask questions. The dealer hands it along higher up, and so it travels until somebody finds a customer. Then everybody gets his cut. Al Aaraaf eventually reached Arthur Swann, perhaps the most incorruptible figure in the business, with an \$1800 price tag. Swann figured it might be the library copy and tipped off Bergquist. Whereupon the dealer who was holding it tossed it back like a hot potato to the consignee next in line, and the rest of the chain scrambled frantically to get out from under.

Tirelessly tracing these links, Bergquist wound up, as he expected, with one Harry Gold, a character who topped his list of known fences. "All I know is," said Gold, the picture of dewy innocence, "a stranger leaves it with me for a few days and I give it back to him."

The chase stalled there until one of Bergquist's carefully cultivated pigeons came home to roost. From jail, where the detective had landed him, Ben Harris, another fence, proposed a dicker. Let Bergquist intervene in his behalf and he'd recover Al Aaraaf. A few days later a Harris associate handed Gold \$500 in exchange for the book. Bergquist, who had been trailing him for days, happily watched the transaction through the shop window.

After Gold's departure for Sing Sing, the actual thief elected to unburden his conscience. He turned out to be a bumpkin from North Carolina named Dupree, and he testified the fence had, Svengali-like, engineered the whole job. What Gold did with *Moby Dick* and the *Scarlet Letter* he claimed to have no inkling. They remain to this day the only rare-book losses in the history of the library.

Bergquist's favorite character is a gaunt, hush-haired Irishman named Joseph Cosey, to use one of his seven aliases. Cosey belongs to the aristocracy of the literary underworld. He is a forger who specializes in Lincoln signatures so convincing down to the last detail of paper, ink and historical plausibility as to have fooled even Bergquist.

He adopted forgery as a career out of spite. As he tells it, he was touring the Library of Congress one day about twenty years ago when, on impulse, he filched a Lincoln letter out of its folder. He later submitted this prize to a New York dealer, who dismissed it as a gross fake. This opinion so outraged the scholar in Cosey that he manufactured his first Lincoln item. That one the dealer fell for. Cosey has since produced nearly a thousand assorted fakes, sticking half the dealers in town for as much as seventy-five dollars. "I take great pleasure in fooling them," he says, with quiet professional pride.

Cosey is a victim of technological unemployment. A tramp printer from Iowa, he lost his market to the linotype. Gradually he drifted into crime, accumulating a list of convictions ranging from vagrancy to forging checks. He has served

only one short prison term for literary forgery, however, because he usually avoids making any actionable claims. "I found this in an old trunk," he will explain. "Seeing as you're the world's foremost student of Lincoln, I figured it might interest you." The dealer, flattered pink, is apt to persuade himself to buy it.

Bergquist recalls with relish his first encounter with this rascal. An autograph dealer contacted the library

about a suspected Lincoln manuscript he was holding on approval. At the time the market was saturated with similar items, and from long study Bergquist recognized the master's touch. He posted two plainclothesmen in the dealer's shop. When Cosey returned they hauled him in.

Ordered to empty his pockets, Cosey spread out on Bergquist's desk an arsenal of forger's tools, sheaves of trick pens, doctored ink, sheaves of authentic nineteenth-century paper, a sheet of practice Lincoln signatures and notes for another Lincoln document in progress.

"I never said the stuff was genuine," Cosey pointed out handily. "What are you going to do about it?"

The only thing Bergquist could do was let him go.

It was the beginning of a charming friendship. Responding to Bergquist's kindness, Cosey still drops in on him to talk shop. An improvident man, who has saved nothing from his frauds, he spends most of his time out-at-elbow in the Bowersy. Now and then Bergquist slips him a dollar or two, while Cosey enthusiastically discusses his trade secrets. "I never impose upon innocence," he insists; "only upon greed."

One reason for the excellence of his Lincoln fakes is the paper watermarked "Moinier's 1851." As experts know, Lincoln once wrote his legal briefs on this brand. While working in Peoria, Illinois, not far from where young Abe

PASS YOUR POST ALONG

Because of the Government's wartime restrictions on paper consumption, fewer copies of *The Saturday Evening Post* will be printed than last year. With the demand for the Post growing, this means that some readers will be unable to buy their favorite weekly magazine. To help meet this shortage, we urge you to pass your copy along to some friend after you have finished it.

HENRY E. HUNTINGTON LIBRARY AND ART GALLERY
SAN MARINO, CALIFORNIA

Leslie Edgar Bliss
Librarian

February 14, 1944

Dear Judge Bollinger:

Thank you for your report of the 4th. I hope you will forgive me for this tardy reply. I have been swamped.

I can't tell you very much about Henry Whitney Cleveland (apparently no kin to Grover), except the few facts I have been able to discover here. He claimed to have been an officer, Confederate, in the War between the States. He was an itinerant Methodist preacher after the war. He was Keeper of the City Archives in Louisville, Ky. in the 80's and early 90's. He was the author of Alexander H. Stephens in Public and Private (1866), which is a collection of Stephens' principal speeches, to that date, preceded by a eulogistic sketch. This, I believe, was his only book. He did some articles, usually illustrated by phony "facsimiles," for various magazines, notably General Grant's Military Abilities, "by a Confederate Officer," in the Magazine of American History, October, 1885.

Many biographers and historians have reprinted Cleveland's forgeries, and time and repetition have given them a false authenticity. For example, see Sandberg's A...L... the Prairie Years, vol. I, the illustration facing page 320. This shows two portraits, side by side, Lincoln and Stephens, the caption underneath says, in part, "...Lincoln once wrote Stephens, 'This is the longest letter I ever wrote in my life.'" The letter referred to is in the Huntington Library (Judd Stewart collection), it is one of Cleveland's efforts, and supposed to have been dictated by Lincoln.

I can't begin to cover the subject in a letter, but when the expose does come, there will be great weeping and gnashing. Incidentally, I do not believe that Cleveland had anything to do with the Bixby letter forgery.

It really is amazing how many reputable scholars have been taken in by "facsimiles" and forgeries. I went back east a few years ago, and of course visited a number of libraries holding collections of manuscripts, and was horrified to see so many fakes proudly displayed under glass. Just today a prominent librarian sent us a Jefferson letter - this happened to be an engraving - on modern paper, antiqued, and in an addressed envelope for the year, 1803, to be authenticated! Our collection of Lincoln forgeries is packed away at present, but after the war we'll put on a show for you.

Sincerely yours,
NORMA CUTHBERT

COPY

March 3, 1944

Mr. C.M. Cochrane
501 Lane Bldg.
Davenport, Iowa

My dear Mr. Cochrane:

I thought when I arrived here at my office I could find considerable material on Henry Cleveland but find very little indeed. I do have the compilation of Alexander Stephens' writings and speeches with the Cleveland Biography of Stephens. I also find a clipping here from the Los Angeles Examiner of February 15, 1929, which I am sending in photostat, which questions the authenticity of the long Stephens letter, published by Tracy in his uncollected letters.

Bulletin No. 21 of December 1930, Abraham Lincoln Association, has an article by Worthington C. Ford from the Massachusetts Historical Society for May and June 1928.

Paul Angle states that he is "entirely convinced that the letter is a forgery,"

I am not entirely convinced that it is a forgery and having heard your little story about Cleveland I am even now more inclined to accept the genuineness of the letter. It seems also as if Mr. Cleveland was linked with a forgery of the Lincoln marriage bond which has rather led to suspicion. This is for you to dig out and I will be intensely interested in what you discover. You might also refer to Barton's book on the maternity of Lincoln. I think he mentions Cleveland in connection with a biographical sketch of Christopher Columbus Graham.

It was very good to see you at Davenport and to have the interesting talk about the Cleveland appointment which you acquired.

Very truly yours,

LAW:EB
Enc.

Director


**LINCOLN NATIONAL
LIFE FOUNDATION**

LOUIS A. WARREN
DIRECTOR

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

March 23, 1944

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INTERPRETS THE LIFE OF LINCOLN AS REVEALED IN AUTHORIZED PUBLIC RECORDS AND ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPTS.

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PUBLICATION BUREAU

ISSUES A WEEKLY BULLETIN LINCOLN LORE, A MONTHLY MAGAZINE THE LINCOLN KINGMAN, AND OCCASIONAL MONOGRAPHS.

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PROMOTES ESSAY CONTESTS, ARRANGES PROGRAMS, AND STIMULATES AN INTEREST IN THE STUDY OF LINCOLN'S LIFE.

MEMORIAL BUREAU

MARKS SITES OF HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, AND EMPHASIZES ANNIVERSARY OCCASIONS ASSOCIATED WITH LINCOLN.

Mr. C. W. Cooperider
117 E. 19th St.
Indianapolis, Ind.

My dear Mr. Cooperider:

Your letter with respect to the correspondence Lincoln had with Mr. Lemon giving date and suggestion of contents has led me to identify it with one which is owned by the Huntington Library at San Marino, California. Whether or not they have the original I cannot say, but we happen to have a facsimile of the same letter.

Of course, we would not be interested in the acquisition of yours until we knew for a certainty that it was an original.

Very truly yours,

Louis A. Warren

LAW:vff

Director

In my opinion, my letter is original & authentic, without regard to what the Huntington library may have. If you want to see it, you can come or send some one to inspect it.
Sincerely,
C. W. Cooperider



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2	volumes John Barneveld. from Mrs. Lincoln to Ninian W. Edwards and Reverend Gage's statement. *****				
1	State Laws of Indiana 1833. Signature of Abraham Lincoln in front lid. *****				
1	Vestiges of Creation, with Rev. Gage's affidavit. *****				
1	Peck's Guide For Emigrants. A. Lincoln in front lid in blue crayons. *****				
1	Weems: Benjamin Franklin. A. Lincoln in front fly and affidavit of Cassie Harmon tipped into back of book.				

LWP:P

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Fiction, Etc.

Lincoln National Life Foundation
Fort Wayne, Indiana

March 26th, 1945.

...our 32nd year...

ATTENTION: Dr. Louis A. Warren.

Dear Dr. Warren:

I was pleased to hear from you and also to receive your check for the Uncollected Letters of Abraham Lincoln. I enclose two invoices and I am sending you by insured parcel-post all of the incunabula that I have pertaining to Lincoln - with the exception of the old song book which you saw, and which I think is a very good book, regardless of the authenticity of the two signatures.

Comments:

I notice that the Uncollected Letters that you are buying carries the signature of Seiler on the title page, dated 1924. I suspect that this is the Mr. Seiler from whom I bought a library and I presume that the Roosevelt signature is correct for that reason, although I could not prove it nor would I want to guarantee it.

The 3 volume Sue is the only item that I am sending you that came from Sickles. My judgment is that Field's signature is genuine. Victor Lawson's quite probably is too, but I presume that the Lincoln signature is a forgery.

The two items from Reverend Gage are true, as far as I know, and I think Reverend Gage believed what he told me, but it is intangible.

The other three items came from another source and there was a popular bit of Western History, done by Henry Howe of Ohio, in the lot in which was written Caassie Harmon's signature.

Then there is the Peck's Emigrants Guide to Missouri, where Cassie lived when she wrote in the Henry Howe book.

I do not know anything further about the Indiana Laws except they came with the same books.

I imagine you feel that these books came from the pen of the "Master Forger" as a lot of other people seem to think that he was a fountain-head of all those sort of things - of course

Please Address All Communications to the Firm or Department—Not to Individuals



Lincoln National Life Foundation - - - Page Two - - - March 26th, 1945.

they could have leaked out from there but, if so, they came to me indirectly.

At any rate these are all very intangible things and I do not like very well to offer them to various customers. I think you are the ideal customer for them if you care to own them, so I ask you to tell me what they are worth to you. You have your own way of appraising their worth and value and I know that in your hands they will stand for exactly whatever they should represent and no one will question them further so, if it your desire to father them let me know just what you have to say.

Yours very truly,

THE ECONOMY BOOK STORE.

L. W. Paine

LWP:P

March 30, 1945

The Economy Book Store
40 S. Clark St.
Chicago, Ill.

Gentlemen:

Your letter to Dr. Warren has arrived and also the books which you forwarded. He is out of the city on a speaking itinerary and will be back the second week in April, when I will call your letter to his attention.

Very truly yours,

mb

Martha Brown, Sec'y.

Forgeries

April 16, 1945

Mr. L. W. Paine
Economy Book Store
40 South Clark St.
Chicago, Ill.

My dear Mr. Paine:

Just back at my desk after an itinerary in Illinois, I had an opportunity to give a thorough examination of the books which you forwarded and regret to say that the report is not an encouraging one.

1. The Mysteries of Paris - 3 Volumes. As late as 1855 Abraham Lincoln would not be writing any such childhood expression as "This is my book."

Undoubtedly the Eugene Field autograph is authentic. There has been so much Lincoln forgery in the Field books that I can only associate this with all the others which would have no value whatever to us. In fact, we would not want it in our library.

2. The Life and Death of John Barneveld - 2 Volumes. The supposed autograph in this book by Mary Lincoln most certainly is not in her hand. Apparently it is written by a man. Mary Lincoln wrote a very light hand and there is no similarity whatever between the two writings. Rev. Gage has been very much deceived in this instance to believe the writing to be that of Mrs. Lincoln. The date in the book, 1874, of course, would eliminate it having any contact with the president. From our view point these books would have no value.

3. Chambers' Vestiges of Creation - William Herndon mentions that Lincoln read this book in Springfield but he definitely specifies that the book Lincoln read was published in Edinburg. This book was published in New York. It might be sold as an association book but I think again Gage may have been misinformed about this identical copy although it bears no autograph.

4. Three Missouri Books - All three of these books are most definitely forgeries. Two of them would have no Lincoln value whatever. One of them, the Franklin book, might have

APR 16 1945
F. L. WARREN

Dear Mr. Paine:
I have just received your letter of April 16, 1945, regarding the books in your collection. I am sorry that I cannot give you the answer you desire. The books in your collection are of great value to the Lincoln Association and I am sure that you would be glad to see them in our possession. I am sure that you would be glad to see them in our possession. I am sure that you would be glad to see them in our possession.

Mr. L. W. Paine - books - 2 - April 16, 1945

I have just received your letter of April 16, 1945, regarding the books in your collection. I am sorry that I cannot give you the answer you desire. The books in your collection are of great value to the Lincoln Association and I am sure that you would be glad to see them in our possession. I am sure that you would be glad to see them in our possession. I am sure that you would be glad to see them in our possession. This last book is the only one that we would have any interest in whatever and inasmuch as it is a better copy than the one we have in our possession here, we would be willing to pay \$5.00 for it with the understanding that that would be our appraisal on the value of the book without any signature in it. I regret indeed that my findings would not allow us to acquire these publications and I fear I shall have to return all of them unless the price for the Franklin book seems reasonable.

I sincerely regret that some evidence substantiating these autographs are not available, which I presume you have long since accepted. Very truly yours,
L. A. Warren

Director
L.A. Warren

7-11 19 1042

