



# THE LINCOLN FORUM BULLETIN

Issue 2

November 1997

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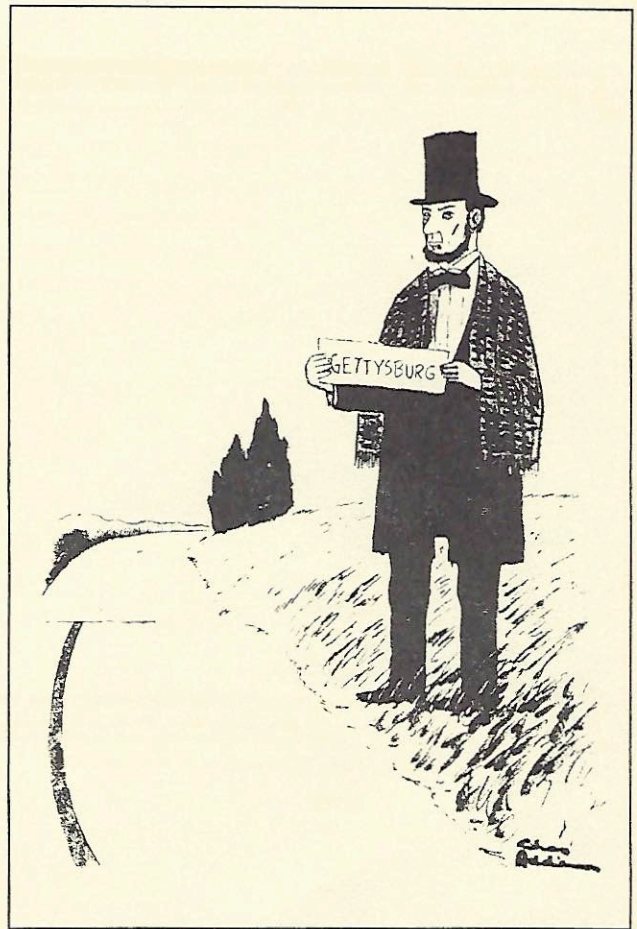
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## THE LINCOLN FORUM BECOMES AN INDEPENDENT MEMBERSHIP ASSOCIATION

The Lincoln Forum became an independent association on August 1, 1997, Chairman Frank J. Williams announced. The reorganization was accompanied by a national membership drive and the scheduling of the Forum's second annual symposium at Gettysburg.

Founded in 1996 — then, as now, to further the study of Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War — the Forum operated for its initial year under the umbrella of the non-profit Civil War Education Association (CWEA). CWEA President Robert Maher and Lincoln Forum Chairman Williams agreed during the summer that the Forum had grown enough in its first phase of operation to merit independence.

Mr. Maher termed the reorganization "a natural progression for a growing, healthy group, and one that will bring its members even closer to its leadership. In thanking the CWEA for "working with us to launch the Forum and organize our first conference," Judge Williams noted: "The Forum is poised now to pursue more vigorously than ever our annual conference, publication, and membership programs. Encouraged by widespread support from, enthusiasts and historians nationwide, we regard this as an exciting new beginning." \*



LINCOLN TRAVELS TO GETTYSBURG — ONE ARTIST'S VIEW  
Drawing by Chas. Addams; © 1988  
The New Yorker Magazine, Inc.

## FORUM WIN ANNUAL AWARD OF LINCOLN GROUP OF NEW YORK

The Lincoln Group of New York awarded its prestigious annual Award of Achievement for 1997 to the Lincoln Forum. Chairman Williams accepted the prize — in the form of a plaster relief portrait — at the November 13 Lincoln Group meeting. Members of the award committee: Hans L. Trefousse, Joseph Garrera, and Betty Zinn. Previous winners include Don E. Fehrenbacher, Garry Wills, and Harold Holzer. \*

## 1997 AWARD OF ACHIEVEMENT RECIPIENT: BRIAN LAMB OF C-SPAN

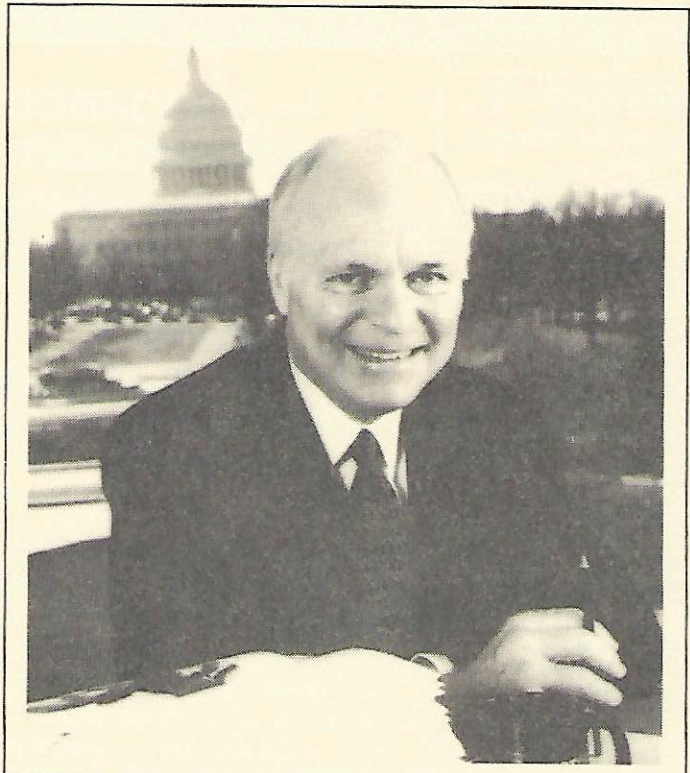
This year's winner of the Lincoln Forum Award of Achievement is Brian Lamb, the founding Chief Executive Officer and principal on-air host of the C-SPAN cable network. Mr. Lamb is one of the most respected and familiar personalities in national television news and public affairs.

As host of the weekly series, *Booknotes* -- for which he has read every one of the titles whose authors he has interviewed (more than 400 to date) -- Brian Lamb has also had an immense impact on the country's appreciation for non-fiction literature. A history enthusiast, Mr. Lamb has included dozens of Lincoln and Civil War authors on his program, including: David Herbert Donald, James McPherson, Shelby Foote, Mark E. Neely, Jr., and Stephen B. Oates.

During a 1994 interview with Lincoln Forum vice-chairman Harold Holzer -- the subject was Holzer's book, *The Lincoln-Douglas Debates: The First Complete, Unexpurgated Text* -- Mr. Lamb first proposed the idea of television re-creations of the original 1858 debates. C-SPAN proceeded to help organize, and broadcast, re-enactments in all seven of the Illinois towns in which the joint meetings were first held. The results were widely praised, well-attended, and seen by millions of television viewers, igniting renewed appreciation for the 19th-century political discourse which Abraham Lincoln personified.

Among the scholars Mr. Lamb featured during those special broadcasts were: John Y. Simon, Edna Greene Medford, Robert Johanssen, Stephen B. Oates, Paul Simon, and Harold Holzer. The broadcasts were re-aired nationally several times.

Under Mr. Lamb's stewardship, C-SPAN has broadcast an array of history programming, including Lincoln symposia from Gettysburg to Springfield; tours through the Library of Congress,



**BRIAN LAMB**

*Host of the acclaimed C-SPAN series, "Booknotes," he is the founding CEO of the cable network and an avid reader of Civil War and Lincoln titles -- and now, the first-time author of his own book, already in its ninth printing. (Photo: Times Books)*

Lincoln's home, and other sites; and on-site interviews from locations as diverse as the Lincoln College Museum in Lincoln, Illinois, and David Herbert Donald's home in Lincoln, Massachusetts.

Now a first-time author, Brian Lamb recently collected many of his most provocative on-air author interviews into a volume entitled, like his weekly series, *Booknotes* (Times Books), now in its ninth printing.

Mr. Lamb will be honored by the Lincoln Forum for encouraging broad understanding of American history in general and the Lincoln era in particular, and for fostering a renewal of national interest in civic affairs, public debate, and the importance of the past in charting our future. \*

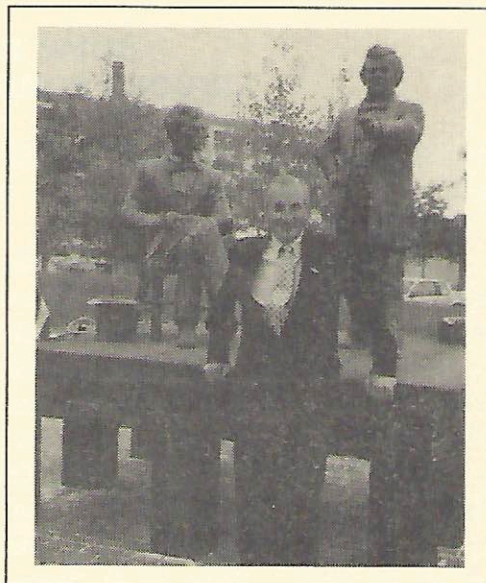
### E-MAIL THE LINCOLN FORUM!

Lincoln Forum members are encouraged to contact their officers via e-mail -- for instant response to inquiries about the association:

Chairman Frank J. Williams: [alincoln@worldnet.att.com](mailto:alincoln@worldnet.att.com)

Vice Chairman Harold Holzer: [hholzer@compuserve.com](mailto:hholzer@compuserve.com)

## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



This has been an exciting — and challenging — time for the newly reorganized Lincoln Forum.

With the enthusiastic support of our good friend, Robert Maher of the Civil War Education Association, we have successfully restructured our group into an independent, membership-backed national organization. When we first conceived the idea of the Forum in February 1996, we had no idea that your support and enthusiasm would encourage us to become self-sustaining so quickly. The Forum has clearly touched a chord in the Civil War, Lincoln, and American history communities -- and we intend to keep responding to your support with innovative programming.

Our stellar Board of Advisors continues to grow: among the recent additions, to name but a few, are historians Doris Kearns Goodwin, John Hubbell, and John Marszalek, and the Rev. Lee Moorehead, whose annual Lincoln meetings in Springfield, Illinois, have become a summertime tradition.

And thanks to a magnificent response from both scholars and enrollees, our second annual symposium at Gettysburg promises to be even more successful than our exciting premier conference of 1996.

Visiting Gettysburg is a unique experience. Here, we still feel the presence of the mature, wise, inspiring Lincoln who transformed national life with his 1863 address. Here, we sense both the awful cost of war, and the bright promise of democracy. And here, too, we fully appreciate how great an intellectual distance Lincoln traveled in his brief life.

We continue to profit by studying Lincoln's words and deeds. And with your ongoing support, the Lincoln Forum will work to provide the vehicle to make that study rewarding, stimulating, and enjoyable.

Sincerely,

FRANK J. WILLIAMS

## **SOME NEW BOOKS BY LINCOLN FORUM BOARD MEMBERS**

- Richard Nelson Current and Marcia Ewing Current, *Loie Fuller: Goddess of Light* (Northeastern University Press). "It brings its subject vividly alive" -- *The New York Times Book Review*.
- Gabor S. Boritt, *Of the People, by the People, For the People, and Other Quotations by Abraham Lincoln* (Columbia University Press). "A guide to Lincoln's thinking. Indispensable" -- David Herbert Donald.
- Don E. Fehrenbacher and Virginia Fehrenbacher, *Recollected Words of Lincoln* (Stanford University Press). "The most important archival work on Lincoln since the publication of the *Collected Works*" -- Mark E. Neely, Jr.
- James M. McPherson, *For Cause & Comrades: Why Men Fought in the Civil War* (Oxford University Press). "A brilliant analysis" -- C. Vann Woodward
- Stephen B. Oates, *The Approaching Fury: Voices of the Storm, 1820-1861* (HarperCollins).
- Charles M. Hubbard, Thomas R. Turner, and Steve K. Rogstad, eds., *The Many Faces of Lincoln: Selected Articles from the Lincoln Herald* (Mayhaven Publishing)
- Stuart Schneider, *Collecting Lincoln* (Schiffer Publishing).
- Craig L. Symonds, *Stonewall of the West: Patrick Cleburne and the Civil War* (University Press of Kansas). "Excellent researched...a doggone good book" -- Herman Hattaway, *Columbiad*.

### **WORKS-IN-PROGRESS**

Send us news of your current projects -- for inclusion in the next edition of the Bulletin.

## **MORE ON THE LINCOLN FORUM BOARD OF ADVISORS**

Leaders of major Lincoln organizations: Nathaniel Boone (Hildene), Gabor S. Boritt (The Lincoln Prize Committee), Frank Coburn (The Abraham Lincoln Museum), Norman Hellmers (The Lincoln Home); Charles Hubbard (Lincoln Memorial University), Don McCue (The Lincoln Shrine), Michael Maione (Ford's Theatre), Lee C. Moorehead (The Lincoln Seminar); Paul Pascal (The Lincoln Group of the District of Columbia), Daniel E. Pearson (The Lincoln Fellowship of Wisconsin), William D. Pederson (Presidential Studies Dept., Louisiana State University at Shreveport), Gerald Prokopowicz (The Lincoln Museum), Gregory Romano (The Lincoln Group of New York). (Partial List)

Pulitzer Prize winners: Robert V. Bruce, David Herbert Donald, Don E. Fehrenbacher, James M. McPherson, Mark E. Neely, Jr.

Historical detectives: Lloyd Ostendorf (unearthed many previously unknown Lincoln photographs, and believes he has found the second page of the lost reading copy of the Gettysburg Address); Ronald Reitveld (as a youngster, discovered the only known photograph of Lincoln lying in state).

Made Lincoln their beacon in modern government: Former Governor Mario M. Cuomo (New York), Governor Jim Edgar (Illinois), former Senator Paul Simon (Illinois).

Organizes annual Lincoln or Civil War symposia: Gabor S. Boritt (summer Civil War Institute at Gettysburg); Norman Hellmers (Lincoln's Birthday colloquium and annual symposium at UI/Springfield in October).

## FROM THE PEN OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Subject: Speech-making

*As to speech making, by way of getting the hang of the House [of Representatives]... I find speaking here and elsewhere about the same thing. I was about as badly scared, and no worse, as I am when I speak in court.*

-- Letter to William Herndon, January 8, 1848

*Reading from speeches is a very tedious business, particularly for an old man that has to put on spectacles, and the more so if the man be so tall that he has to bend over to the light.*

-- Speech in Chicago, July 10, 1858

*I have said nothing but what I am willing to live by, and, in the pleasure of Almighty God, die by.*

-- Speech in Philadelphia, February 22, 1861

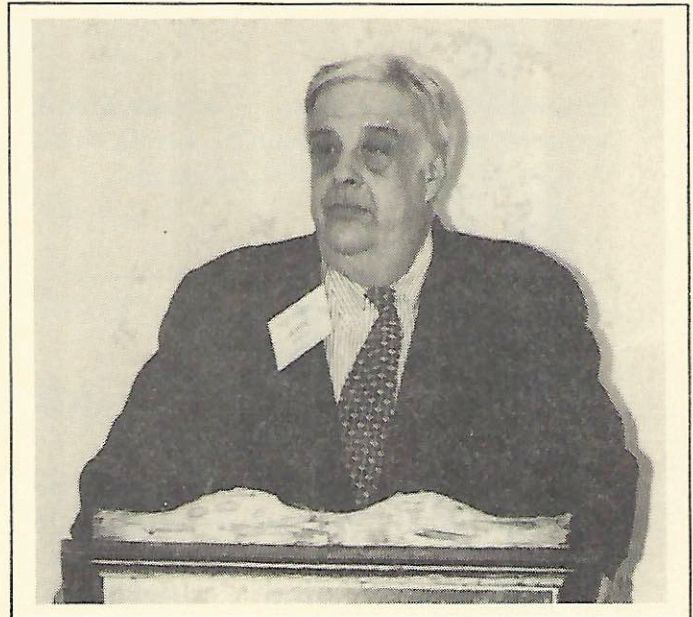
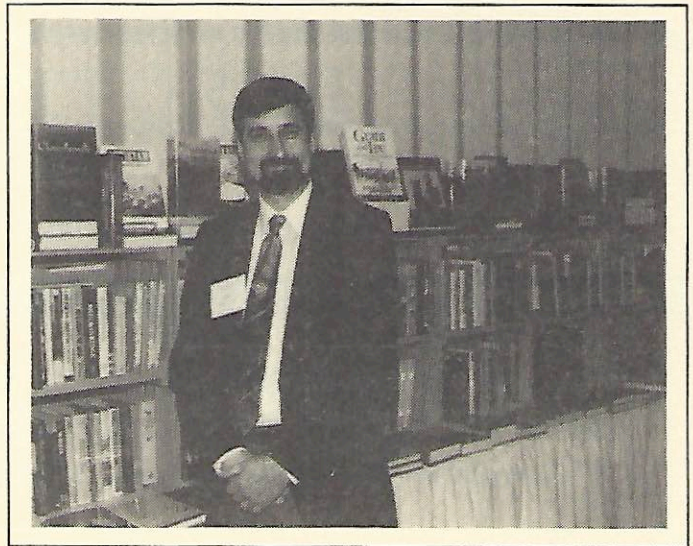
*I have made a great many speeches in my life, and I feel considerably relieved now to know that the dignity of the position in which I have been placed does not permit me to expose myself any longer.*

-- Remarks to a regiment, Washington, July 4, 1861

*I believe I shall never be old enough to speak without embarrassment when I [don't] have anything to talk about.*

-- Response to serenade, Washington, December 6, 1864

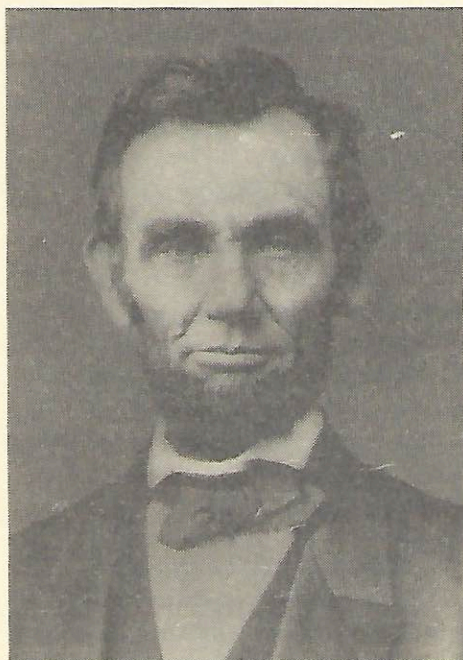
(All entries from *Of the People, By the People, For the People, and Other Quotations from Abraham Lincoln*, edited by Gabor S. Boritt, Columbia University Press, 1996.)



### 11 DAYS BEFORE GETTYSBURG

*Lincoln sat for this Alexander Gardner photograph in Washington on November 3, 1863, just 11 days before delivering the Gettysburg Address. But Gardner did not ask Lincoln to pose because he -- or his sitter -- expected great things from the President's forthcoming speech. A sculptor, Sarah Fisher Ames, requested this and a companion profile photograph as models for a bust she was making of Lincoln. And although well-known today, the picture was nowhere near as familiar in the Lincoln era as the so-called five-dollar-bill and penny-profile photographs made the following February. The Gettysburg Lincoln? It is the closest thing we have.*

(Photo: The Lincoln Museum)



### SCENES FROM THE FIRST SYMPOSIUM...

*Bookseller Ron Breedlove (top) poses before his Lincoln and Civil War volumes at the inaugural symposium at Gettysburg in November 1996.*

*John Y. Simon (center), editor of the Grant Papers, spoke on the Battle of Gettysburg and agreed to edit the first volume of the Lincoln Forum papers.*

*The first Forum banquet (bottom) featured a keynote by Richard N. Current and presentation of the first annual award to Gabor Boritt.*

**More on the Lincoln Forum Board of Advisors, continued**

One hundred years old: Charles Hubbard -- that is, celebrating the centennial of Lincoln Memorial University.

Owns Mary Lincoln's undergarments: Louise Taper.

Owns autograph in which Lincoln misspelled his own name: Daniel Weinberg (Abraham Lincoln Book Shop, Chicago)

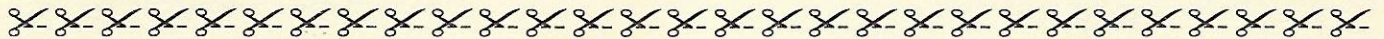
Retired preacher: Rev. Lee C. Moorehead.

Former lawyers: David E. Long, Gerald Prokopowicz, and *Judge* Frank J. Williams.

**CALL FOR NEWS**

If you have news to share — on your Lincoln or Civil War organization, activities, or studies — send it for inclusion in the next Bulletin to: Harold Holzer, VP/Communications, Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1000 Fifth Avenue, NY NY 10028-0198; or e-mail

hholzer@compuserve.com



**HOW TO JOIN THE LINCOLN FORUM**

Annual membership in The Lincoln Forum is invited at several levels. Your membership dues help defray the cost of mounting our annual symposium and publishing the twice-yearly *Bulletin*. And Forum members receive a subscription to the *Bulletin* and first call for the Gettysburg symposium. I understand I will receive a subscription to the *Lincoln Forum Bulletin* as well as an invitation to the annual Symposium at Gettysburg (Dues cover one year from November to November):

- \$10 for an individual membership
- \$15 for a family membership
- \$25 for a donor membership
- \$50 for a patron membership
- \$100 for a lifetime membership

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Tel \_\_\_\_\_

**Send your application to:**

**Charles D. Platt, Treasurer  
14 Blue Heron Drive  
Greenwood Village, CO 80121**