



# THE LINCOLN FORUM

# BULLETIN

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### Board of Advisors

#### Chairman

Hon. Frank J. Williams  
300 Switch Road  
Hope Valley, RI 02832  
Phone: 401-364-3642  
Fax: 401-539-7979  
alincoln@courts.state.ri.us

#### Vice Chairman

Harold Holzer  
Metropolitan Museum of Art  
1000 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
New York, NY 10028-0198  
Phone: 212-570-3951  
Fax: 212-472-2764  
harold.holzer@metmuseum.org

#### Treasurer

Charles D. Platt  
14 Blue Heron Drive West  
Greenwood Village, CO 80121  
Phone: 303-721-8550  
Fax: 303-290-0097  
cdp31@earthlink.net

#### Administrator

Annette Westerby  
7285 E. Fremont Place  
Englewood, CO 80112  
Phone: 303-721-6681  
Fax: 303-721-6682  
anetwest@uswest.net

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## GARRY WILLS WINS RICHARD N. CURRENT LINCOLN FORUM AWARD OF ACHIEVEMENT

Garry Wills—whose dazzling array of scholarly interests has embraced both ancient and modern history, from St. Augustine to George Washington to John Wayne and, of course, to Abraham Lincoln—is the winner of the sixth annual Richard N. Current Lincoln Forum Award of Achievement.

Wills was cited especially for his virtuoso book *Lincoln at Gettysburg* (1992), winner of the 1993 Pulitzer Prize for history and universally regarded as the definitive study of Lincoln's greatest three minutes as president.

"It is altogether fitting and proper that we honor Garry Wills in the very village where Abraham Lincoln delivered the immortal words that this superb scholar and gifted writer has helped us to understand and appreciate," commented Forum Chairman Frank J. Williams. "Scholarship on the Gettysburg Address can be divided into two eras: 'BW' and 'AW' – Before

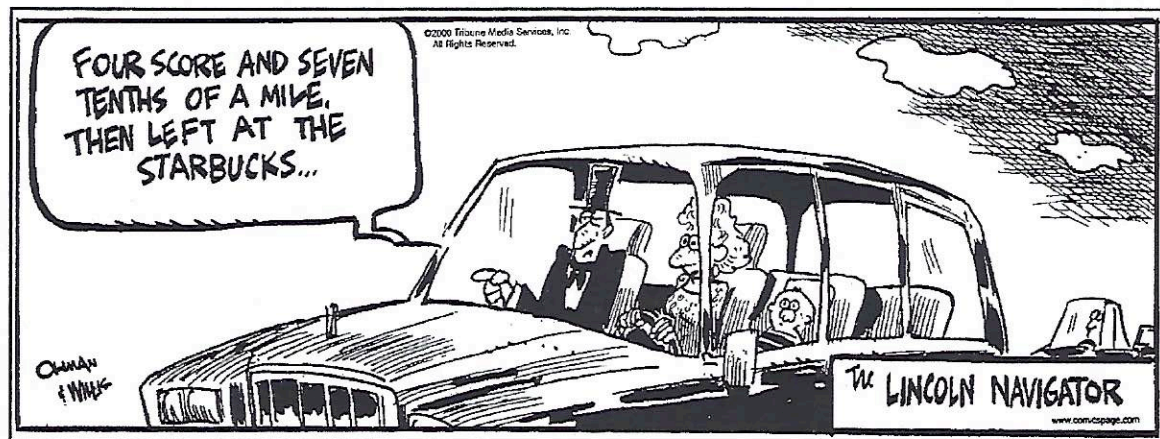
Wills and After Wills. Until 1992, we basically knew only *what* Lincoln said here. Since the publication of Wills's milestone book, we also appreciate *why* he spoke here, how he came to write what he wrote, and most important of all, how decisively those words re-defined America forever."

Wills will be presented with his award at the annual banquet of Lincoln Forum VI on Sunday, November 18. He will then deliver the keynote address: "Henry Adams on Abraham Lincoln." The event marks Wills's first appearance at the Forum, whose attendees have for years routinely listed him as one of the speakers they would most like to appear.

*continued on page 12*



Garry Wills





## Democracy in Action



**MESSAGE**  
from the  
**CHAIRMAN**

The organizers of the 1863 dedication ceremonies for the Gettysburg National Cemetery chose their date well: November 19—just after we end our election season, which traditionally embroils us in controversy and partisanship, and just before we gather for Thanksgiving, the holiday (created by Lincoln!) that traditionally unites us in gratitude for our families and our country.

Since the Lincoln Forum symposium coincides annually with that same November 19 milestone, we have basked each year in this wonderful season of reflection and renewal. With political campaigns behind us, and family reunions awaiting us, we have peacefully convened, November after November, liberated from the present to think only about the past.

That is, until *last* year.

In November 2000, Lincoln Forum V took place during the long, heated, incessantly discussed and widely reported re-count of disputed ballots from the presidential election in Florida.

Who will ever forget the scene at last year's annual awards banquet, sharply reminding us that our national future lay in doubt, perhaps even peril, even as we convened at Gettysburg to immerse ourselves in history? Dramatically, even as Doris Kearns Goodwin was delivering her Saturday night speech, NBC News was busy wiring the Holiday Inn lobby for a possible Sunday morning live-from-Gettysburg Goodwin interview on the ballot controversy. The interview never occurred—the decisive Florida court case was postponed to another day—but the rare sight of technicians, cameras, and wires (those not belonging to our good friends at C-SPAN, that is) provided a vivid reminder of how close we remain to history that is being made during our own lifetimes.

What strikes me now in recalling those unforgettable days is the equanimity that characterized all our gatherings—both formal and social—controversy notwithstanding. Just look at our membership roster: we are both Democrats and Republicans, Northerners and Southerners, men and women, conservatives and liberals. We were Gore supporters and Bush supporters. Some of us prayed the Supreme Court would intervene; others hoped the Supreme Court would remain silent.

Yet at every session, every meal, every chat at our book and art stalls, every stroll through the streets; at the Holiday Inn and the Dobbin House, in the cemetery and on the battlefield, I experienced nothing but good cheer, good will, and a constant emphasis on what had brought us together—not what might yet drive us apart.

Ironically, the man who inspires us toward “the better angels of our nature,” Abraham Lincoln, led the most divisive, bloody war in our history, splitting communities, breaking hearts, spilling blood, but in so doing, saving the democracy that allows us so peacefully to endure the wrenching challenges of the 21st century. He sacrificed himself, and many of his contemporaries, so that our blessed system might survive even the most unexpected crises in the future.

Now our country has been challenged yet again. The World Trade Center tragedy and our new national war to eradicate terrorism have shocked and galvanized us. Poised to return to Gettysburg, we are united again—perhaps as never before. And like the Americans of Lincoln's era, we will undoubtedly rise to the occasion. That is the kind of united nation—the kind of united people—that Lincoln left to us as his most priceless legacy.

November 19 approaches again. Partisanship is again behind us. Thoughts of war consume us. But Thanksgiving is near. If it were not for Abraham Lincoln we would not be here—and I mean this in more ways than one. In an atmosphere no one could have predicted a year ago, it is time for Lincoln Forum VI.

**Find The Lincoln Forum on the web at:**

**WWW.THELINCOLNFORUM.ORG**

- Membership and Symposium registration forms
- Essay contest information
- Purchases from Amazon and The Lincoln Bookstore benefit The Lincoln Forum

*If you wish to receive periodic information on Lincoln Forum activities via email, please advise administrator Annette Westerby (anetwest@uswest.net)*





*Garry Wills  
On Lincoln:*

“In the crucible of the occasion, Lincoln distilled the meaning of the war, of the nation’s purpose, of the remaining task, in a statement that is straightforward yet magical. No wonder the *Chicago Times* chafed impatiently at the Gettysburg Address. Lincoln argues, but he also casts a spell; and what can a rebuttal do to incantation?”

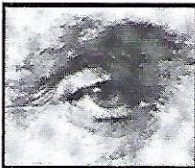
– From *Lincoln at Gettysburg*



*Garry Wills  
On Lincoln:*

“Lincoln, bringing unwelcome demands for equality, returned Americans to something familiar, to the Declaration Americans celebrate every Fourth of July. He braced people to face the new by reminding them of old ties and commitments, identifying their own earlier voice with the new message he brought. He reassured them that they are being true to themselves, not giving in to others. They were listening to the better angels of their nature.”

– From *Certain Trumpets*



*Garry Wills On Lincoln:*

“At the least, Lincoln had far surpassed David Wills’s hope for words to disinfect the air of Gettysburg. The tragedy of macerated bodies, the many bloody and ignoble aspects of this inconclusive encounter, are transfigured in Lincoln’s rhetoric, where the physical residue of battle is volatized as the product of an experimental *testing* whether a government can maintain the *proposition* of equality.... . Lincoln has aligned the dead in ranks of an ideal order. The nightmare realities have been etherealized in the crucible of his language.”

– From *Lincoln at Gettysburg*

## **NEW CIVIL WAR MUSEUM OPENS IN HARRISBURG**

As frequent visitors to Gettysburg may already have noticed, a new National Civil War Museum has opened on a hilltop overlooking nearby Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The 60,000-square-foot facility was built in 2000 at a cost to the State of Pennsylvania of \$16.2 million.

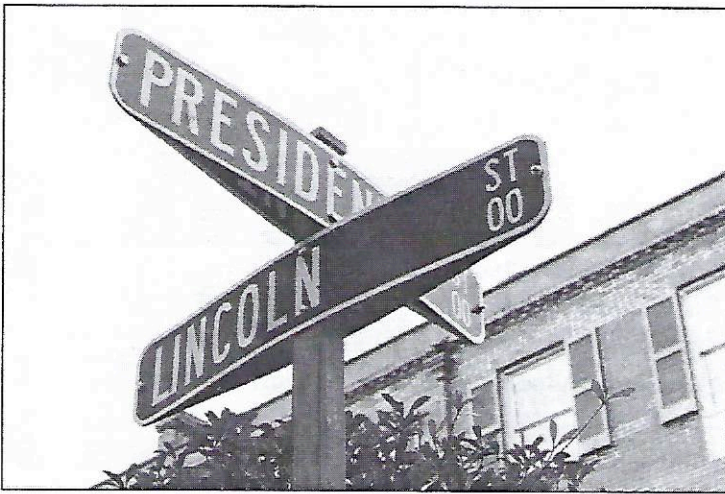
The museum’s collection comprises 12,000 artifacts and documents covering the entire Civil War era. Highlights include the bloodied glove that Stonewall Jackson was wearing when he was shot after the Battle of Chancellorsville; a hatbox allegedly owned by Abraham Lincoln in 1860, the year of his election to the White House; and the battle map Robert E. Lee consulted around Appomattox, Virginia, during the final campaign of the Army of Virginia.

The director of the Museum, George Hicks, told the *Columbus Dispatch* that the exhibits offer “no overt judgments on the morality of slavery or the virtues of any cause,” but displays cover not only battles but also slave life in the South. The “real people history” displays include not only genuine slave and soldier artifacts – shackles and weapons alike – but also video exhibits, fiber-optic interactive technology, and life-size mannequins.

The museum’s web site is [www.nationalcivilwarmuseum.org](http://www.nationalcivilwarmuseum.org)



## SIGNS OF THE TIMES



(Above) Forum member Charles W. Snyder sent the *Bulletin* this photograph of the intersection of President and Lincoln Streets in—of all places—Mr. Snyder’s home town, Savannah, Georgia. Do city officials know that on December 25, 1864, General William T. Sherman seized that city and wrote to President Lincoln: “I beg to present to you as a Christmas gift the city of Savannah... .” Lincoln wired “many, many thanks for your Christmas-gift,” rejoicing especially because its conquest came with the capture of 150 heavy guns, much ammunition, and 25,000 bales of cotton.

(Below) Kathleen McCullough sends this picture taken on the corner of Lincoln Avenue and College Avenue in the town of Lincoln, Illinois. The town was named after Abraham Lincoln in 1853, eight years before he became President. In the distance, through the trees on the right, is the entrance to Lincoln College, which was completed in 1864. The college was officially named for President Lincoln on the day he gave his second inaugural address, March 4, 1865.



## Symposium Satisfaction: High and Higher

Lincoln Forum V participants expressed high levels of satisfaction in response to 1999 survey questions about accommodations, food, and presentations, according to an analysis of the annual enrollee evaluations.

On a scale of 1-10, participants ranked the 1999 symposium 9.3 (up a tenth of a point from 1998), and ranked the headquarters hotel and its food service at 8.2 and 7.9 respectively.

According to the survey, last year’s attendees – a record high enrollment of 200 – traveled an average of 652 miles to attend the Forum (30 miles more than last year). Most attendees reported making their reservations in response to annual mailings, although some respondents credited advertisements, the Web, HistoryAmerica, and personal friends and acquaintances for inspiring their participation.

Among the speakers most frequently requested for future meetings were Craig L. Symonds of Annapolis, who appears at this year’s Lincoln Forum VI, and James M. McPherson of Princeton, who has tentatively agreed to speak at Lincoln Forum VII in 2002.

The Lincoln Forum *Bulletin* was awarded a ranking of 8.93, up from 8.37 in 1999.



## ***Shaara, Goodwin Ranked First Among Speakers at Lincoln Forum V***

Novelist Jeff Shaara and historian Doris Kearns Goodwin have been voted the most popular speakers at Lincoln Forum V. The two writers tied in the annual evaluation rankings submitted by enrollees in the November 2000 symposium. Each earned an extraordinarily high rating of 9.6 on a scale of 1-10.

Ms. Goodwin spoke last year on her much-discussed work-in-progress: a highly anticipated study of Abraham Lincoln and his presidential cabinet. She appeared at the 2000 Forum at the height of the Florida presidential ballot dispute, taking time from her busy schedule as a network news commentator who adds historical perspective to political news.

Jeff Shaara, who has won acclaim for both a prequel and sequel to his father, Michael's, classic Civil War novel *The Killer Angels*, spoke eloquently about his personal journey from coin dealer into one of the most popular historical novelists in America. He has also written novels of the Mexican War and the Revolutionary War.

The Forum's Chairman, Frank J. Williams, earned the third-highest ranking of the symposium with a 9.20, and Vice Chairman Harold Holzer, with whom he shared the podium for a slide lecture on the iconography of Lincoln's deathbed, was rated slightly behind at 9.10.

Michael Beschloss, who offered a dinner lecture on the research he is conducting for his forthcoming book on the Lincoln assassination, earned a ranking of 8.90, and Civil War historian Gary Gallagher was ranked next at 8.76 for his lecture on the Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1864.

Last year's panel discussion on the Lincoln family — featuring Frank J. Williams, Jean H. Baker, Steven L. Carson, and Al Jerman—was rated 9.3.

And the 1999 student lecturer, Jared Peatman of Gettysburg College, earned an exceptionally strong 9.06 rating, punctuated by an unusually high number of favorable written comments, notes, and congratulations added by hand to survey forms by appreciative attendees.

All symposium participants receive survey forms asking for suggestions and general information, as well as rankings of Forum facilities and speakers.

The Forum's highest-ranked 1999 speaker was William C. "Jack" Davis.



**Doris Kearns Goodwin**



**Jeff Shaara**



**Most missed: Craig L. Symonds of the Naval Academy, seen here at sea between engagements at The Lincoln Forum.**

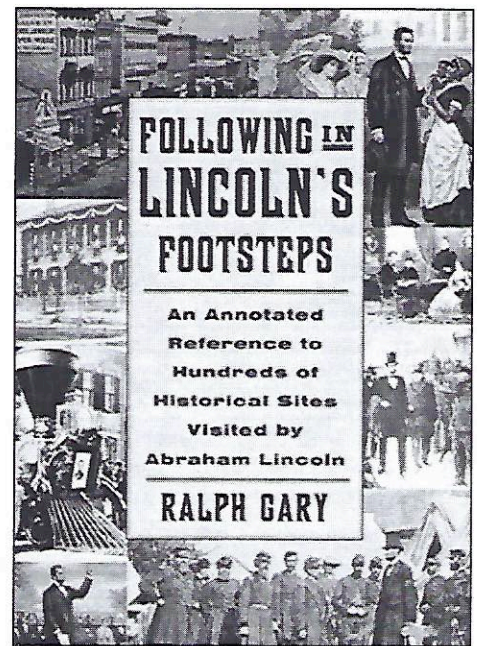


## NEW ON THE LINCOLN BOOKSHELF

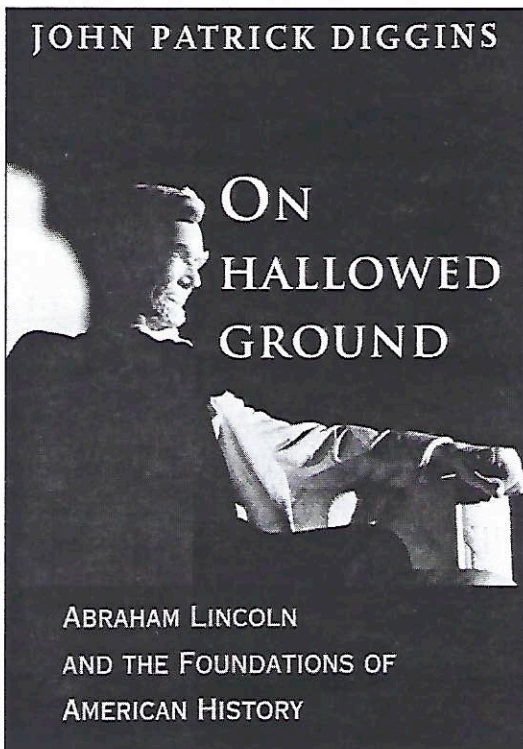
This new *Lincoln Forum Bulletin* feature will highlight and summarize the latest literature in the Lincoln field. Eventually, reviews may also be featured. Readers are cordially invited to submit titles for consideration—and brief review essays for publication. Send both comments and essays to: Harold Holzer, c/o The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Communications Department, 1000 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10028-0198.

Now for the latest in the field, a field that shows no signs, after nearly 140 years, of drying up or even pausing for breath. New titles continue to appear with extraordinary regularity.

**New and noteworthy since the last Lincoln Forum symposium (most available at the symposium bookstore):**

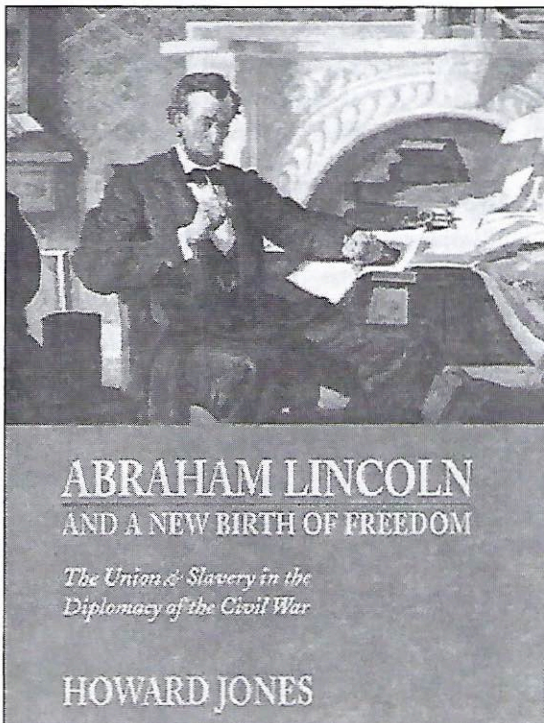
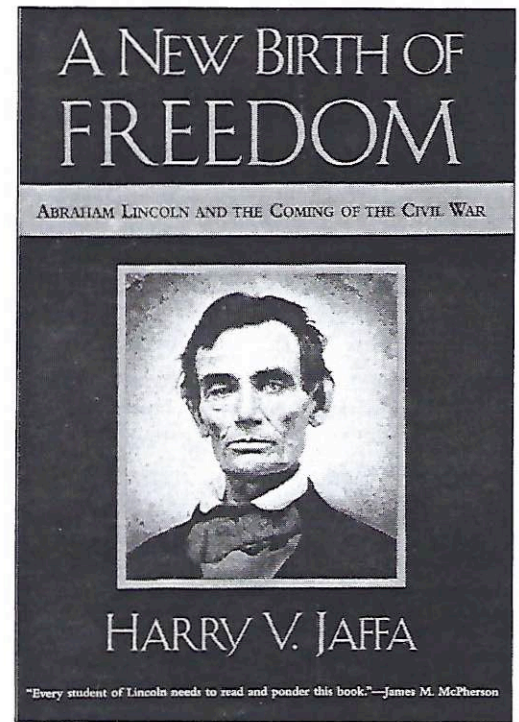


- *Final Freedom: The Civil War, The Abolition of Slavery, and the Thirteenth Amendment* by Michael Vorenberg (Cambridge University Press, 2001). This new study examines the next steps *after* the Emancipation Proclamation, and the impact of the decisive amendment on society and on the American constitution. Michael Vorenberg is assistant professor of history at Brown University.
- *On Hallowed Ground: Abraham Lincoln and the Foundations of American History* by John Patrick Diggins (Yale University Press, 2000). According to one historian, this is “a learned, skeptical, and often persuasive attempt to restore the liberal tradition to its rightful place at the center of American political thought.” Diggins is a distinguished professor of history at the CUNY Graduate Center.
- *A New Birth of Freedom: Abraham Lincoln and the Coming of the Civil War* by Harry V. Jaffa (Rowman and Littlefield, 2000). Forty years ago, Jaffa published *Crisis of the House Divided*; this is its long-anticipated sequel, taking Lincoln from his debates with Douglas to the decisive decision on whether to accept secession or wage war for Union. Jaffa is professor emeritus of political philosophy at Claremont McKenna College.
  - *Abraham Lincoln: A Press Portrait*, ed. Herbert Mitgang (Fordham University Press, 2000). This is a new edition of the classic collection of newspaper reports on Lincoln—pro and con—from the 1850s through the assassination, all brilliantly assembled and with a new introduction by the retired senior correspondent of the *New York Times*.
  - *The Lincoln Image: Abraham Lincoln and the Popular Print* by Harold Holzer, Gabor S. Boritt, and Mark E. Neely, Jr. (University of Illinois Press, 2000). A reprint of the 1984 original with a new introduction by the authors, this book launched the study of Lincoln engravings and lithographs and their impact on wartime and post-war public opinion and memory.
  - *Lincoln Reconsidered* by David Herbert Donald (Vintage Books, 2001). This is the third edition of an American classic, with two new essays and a new introduction. “As refreshing as an opened window in a stuffy room,” *The New York Times* said when the book was first published 35 years ago. The author has won the Pulitzer and Lincoln prizes, and the Richard N. Current Lincoln Forum award for lifetime achievement.
  - *Abraham Lincoln and a New Birth of Freedom: The Union & Slavery in the Diplomacy of the Civil War* by Howard Jones (University of Nebraska Press, 1999). Another important book in the recently renewed study of Lincoln’s foreign policy by the chair man of the history department at the University of Alabama.





- *Abraham Lincoln and the Road to Emancipation, 1861-1865* by William K. Klingaman (Viking Press, 2001), a new popular history tracing Lincoln's decision to issue his preliminary proclamation in 1862. The *Library Journal* called it "tightly focused and engagingly written." Klingaman is a cultural historian with a Ph.D. from the University of Virginia.
- *The Slaveholding Republic: An Account of the United States Government's Relations to Slavery* by Don E. Fehrenbacher (Oxford University Press, 2001). This posthumously published history by the late scholar—ably completed by Ward N. McAfee—argues that pro-Southern federal policies in the late 18th and early 19th centuries consistently protected and enshrined slavery. James M. McPherson noted Fehrenbacher's "careful research and precise language," and Phillip Shaw Paludan called the book "thoughtfully conceived, and filled with flashes of insight...a compelling contribution to the ongoing debate about the nation's ends and means, its better angels, and its fundamental law." This is Don Fehrenbacher's last book—reason alone to buy, read, and cherish it.
- *Following in Lincoln's Footsteps: A Complete Annotated Reference to Hundreds of Historical Sites Visited by Abraham Lincoln* by Ralph Gary (Carroll & Graf, 2001). The sub-title says it all: this 400-page book is exhaustive, comprehensive, and consistently entertaining. A must for anyone who follows the Lincoln trail.
- *Our Secret Constitution: How Lincoln Redefined American Democracy* by George P. Fletcher (Oxford University Press, 2001). A noted legal scholar shows how the Civil War changed America from a country of individuals to a united nation dedicated to common purposes. Includes a penetrating new analysis of Lincoln's most famous speech: "Radical Gettysburg."
- *American Places: Encounters with History. America's Leading Historians Talk about the Sites Where the Past Comes Alive for Them*, ed. William E. Leuchtenberg (Oxford University Press, 2000). This rich, if uneven, collection of personal reminiscences by eminent historians includes essays on Gettysburg by James M. McPherson, and Springfield, Illinois, by Robert W. Johannsen.



- *With my Face to the Enemy: Perspectives on the Civil War*, ed. Robert Cowley (G. P. Putnam's Sons, 2001). The longtime editor of *Military History Quarterly* has collected essays by leading historians. Lincoln enthusiasts will find particular rewards in the chapters "Lincoln Takes Charge" by David Herbert Donald; and "How Lincoln Won the War with Metaphors," by James M. McPherson. But they will doubtless regret the absence of an index.
- *The Lincoln Enigma*, ed. Gabor Boritt (Oxford University Press, 2001). Leading scholars – including Robert V. Bruce, David H. Donald, and Jean H. Baker – provide the latest word on Lincoln's politics, family life, and other provocative subjects. Boritt provides a trenchant introduction, and collaborates with Harold Holzer for an illustrated, 50-plus-page essay on "Lincoln in 'Modern' Art."
- *All for the Regiment: The Army of the Ohio, 1861-1862* by Gerlad J. Prokopowicz (University of North Carolina Press, 2001). The historian of the Lincoln Museum – and Lincoln Forum advisor – provides what James McPherson calls a "lucid and lively" look into Civil War military culture.



## **Newly Named Co-Chair of Lincoln Bicentennial Commission: Harold Holzer** *By Donald Pieper*

Surely, despite what Harold Holzer likes to suggest, he wouldn't have become a Khan man if he had pulled Genghis' name instead of Abraham Lincoln's from that hat in the fifth grade.

Most Lincoln Forum members have heard Harold explain how his teacher had her pupils pluck the subjects for a biography assignment from a hat. It was his research for that assignment that ignited Harold's lifetime fascination with Mr. Lincoln. The book that kindled the flame was Richard Nelson Current's *The Lincoln Nobody Knows*. Then he read Stefan Lorant's *Lincoln: A Picture Story of His Life* and, as Harold puts it, he was "off to the races." He has raced on to renown as an iconologist and historian specializing in the Civil War period.

He says he still has — somewhere — a Lincoln scrapbook he put together as a kid. It was the first "book" in what would be an distinguished and still-growing volume of Holzer literary production.

It was Harold's friend Dennis Fine who picked Genghis Khan from the teacher's hat. Harold went on to honor his subject by writing, co-writing or editing 19 books (the latest: "Prang's Civil War Pictures: The Complete Battle Chromos of Louis Prang," Fordham University Press, 2001) and hundreds of articles, by delivering talks and making scores of broadcast appearances, or by volunteering untold hours as founding vice chairman of the Forum and significant service to other organizations.

In an August 1993 interview with Brian Lamb on C-Span, Harold said most Lincoln enthusiasts are asked what got them started. "I have just about the worst answer in the Lincoln fraternity," Harold said. Perhaps, but it means that it was, in a way, the luck of the draw that our man from Rye, N.Y., joins two members of Congress from Illinois in a three-way chairmanship of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission.

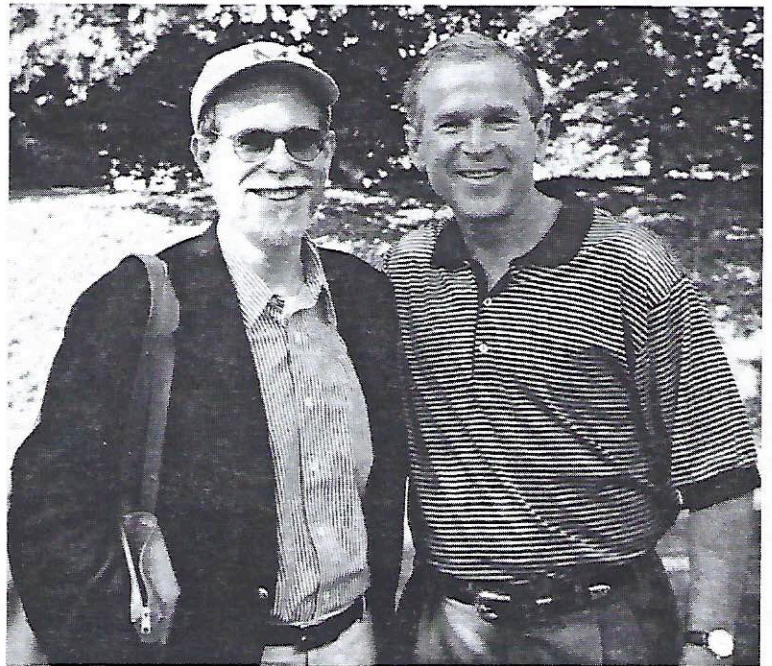
Under the guidance of Harold, U.S. Senator Richard Durbin of Springfield and U.S. Representative Ray LaHood of Peoria (who serves the same Congressional district that A. Lincoln represented in 1847-49), the 15 scholars and political leaders on the commission will organize the national observance of Mr. Lincoln's 200th birthday. A similar commission a century earlier recommended the Lincoln penny and the Lincoln Memorial as features of the 1909 observance. "That will be a huge act to follow," Harold says.

Lincoln Forum stalwarts Frank J. Williams, Gabor Boritt and Louise Taper also are members of the Bicentennial Commission. The Forum's strong representation is a tribute to the organization. Williams, Forum chairman, vice chairman Holzer, Gabor Boritt and Ms. Taper are members of the Forum's advisory board.

Williams, a long-time friend and associate, says Holzer takes "leadership, energy and passion" to the commission. "He will ensure that all will have an equal chance to participate and celebrate Mr. Lincoln's 200th birthday. As his friend and colleague, I am proud to serve with him on this commission." Gabor Boritt, who also has worked with Harold on Lincoln projects for many years, gave his friend this endorsement: "Harold Holzer is an outstanding historian, a rare treasure in a field that, over the years, has attracted many bright minds. His leadership of the Bicentennial Commission has already proved to be important in the very short time of its existence. We can expect much from him in the coming years."

One of the commission's regular meetings is scheduled Monday, November 19, at Gettysburg at the invitation of Commissioner Gabor Boritt, another Forum stalwart. Harold says some commissioners may sit in on the weekend sessions of the Forum's annual Gettysburg symposium.

With nearly a decade of lead time, Holzer says, the commission should be able to develop projects and programs that will appropriately honor the 16th president's "message and example." Education will be a key component, he says. The aim will be to help new generations understand and appreciate the personal and political qualities that make the Lincoln life and presidency so extraordinary.



**Harold Holzer and new friend at a July 2001 children's baseball game at the White House.**



“We must make sure the Lincoln story endures through the 21st century,” Harold says.

This mission is becoming increasingly important, he says, because of what he sees as a lamentable de-emphasis on history in contemporary schools and, as one result, a cynicism about patriotism. “There is less willingness by today’s youth to be beguiled by a hero,” says a man who, as a child, became enthralled by the story of Lincoln’s “climb from poverty to the presidency, his redefinition of the Declaration of Independence and equal opportunity, and his leadership during our bloody ‘Second Revolution.’” Although the current commission has begun the series of meetings leading to the 2009 observances, Holzer says not even tentative decisions about the bicentennial have been made. The commission’s only mandated duties are to recommend designs for a new Lincoln penny and a postage stamp, he says.

Enhanced research aids using new digital technology — such as Internet search access to the full files of Lincoln correspondence — are likely to be available soon to help with what is sure to be rekindled scholarly and amateur interest in Mr. Lincoln worldwide.

The commission membership is bipartisan and geographically representative. Harold’s co-chairmen are Democrat Durbin and Republican LaHood. Harold was appointed to the commission by President Clinton, who named five members, three of whom were nominated by the governors of the Lincoln-land states of Illinois, Indiana and Kentucky. The leadership of the House and Senate named the other ten.

Harold Holzer was chosen because ever since that fifth grade biography written on a lined school pad he has maintained such a lively interest in Lincoln that he is widely acknowledged and honored as one of the nation’s leading authorities on the political culture of the mid-19th century.

His scholarly achievements are as remarkable as they are distinguished because he has studied, written and lectured on Lincoln while holding demanding and responsible jobs unrelated to the 16th president. “My Lincoln activities have always been avocational, never full-time,” Harold says, although he concedes “it isn’t easy to be an independent scholar.” He says he is “very grateful” that his employers have tolerated his sideline, but he has not short-changed them. His record of achievement on the job is impressive.

Harold’s current employer, the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, recently named him to the new post of vice president for communications and marketing, expanding his duties to include museum-wide marketing efforts. He is the Met’s chief spokesman and heads a department already responsible for press relations, advertising, and governmental affairs. In announcing the promotion, Metropolitan president David McKinney called Holzer “a proven leader” in communicating with the museum’s audiences.

Before joining the Met in 1992, Harold had been a weekly newspaper editor, a political press secretary, a government speechwriter and a public television executive. Throughout it all, he has been as active on the side in Lincoln organizations and conducting research and writing.

His only regret, he says, is that his hectic double life has eroded the time he could spend with his wife, Edith, and daughters Remy, 26, a recent bride and a Harvard graduate, and Meg, 22, 2001 graduate of Yale. Edith is director of public affairs for the Council of Child Caring Agencies.

Harold’s leadership and communications skills have been demonstrated for members of the Lincoln Forum, which he helped Frank Williams found. He is vice chairman and editor of the *Bulletin*. Invoking his authority as editor, he insisted that it be made clear in this article that he has not been involved in assigning the piece. His only role was as an interview subject — and fact-checker.

From 1991 through 1996, Harold was president of the Lincoln Group of New York. He also served as a director of the Abraham Lincoln Association and on the editorial advisory board of *The Lincoln Herald*. He is a member of the Research advisory Group for the President Lincoln and Soldiers’ Home National Monument and has been a member of the New York State Archives Preservation Trust Board since 1994.

Harold has an impressive list of literary, professional and scholarly awards and honors, some of which he has won as often as three times. His writing, in particular, has been widely praised.

Chuck Platt, Forum treasurer, said Harold’s writing style “is at once captivating and interesting and the result is that he has, on his own, been able to reach untold thousands who may not have ever given Lincoln much thought. Read one of his books and you’re ready, even eager, to read more. He is truly a Lincoln scholar and one the bicentennial commission is fortunate to have as its co-chair.”

Harold says he is able to do much of his research at his home where he has collected a large library of Lincoln lore. His resources include a microfilm reader, “a big blunderbuss of a thing.”

His Lincoln activities are still fun, Harold says — and a good thing, too, because his commitment has been enlarged with his appointment to the bicentennial commission and election as a co-chairman.



## *Lincoln Before Gettysburg: The Envelope, Please....*

On November 8, 1863—just 10 days before departing for Gettysburg to deliver his “few appropriate remarks”—Abraham Lincoln decided to visit Alexander Gardner’s photographic galleries on Seventh and D Streets in downtown Washington to fulfill a long-standing agreement to pose for new portraits.

Joining him were: his private secretaries, John G. Nicolay and John M. Hay; the sculptress Sarah Fisher Ames (who wanted some photographic prints of her own as models for a bust she was planning of the President); and the newspaper correspondent Noah Brooks of the *Sacramento Daily Union*. It was a Sunday—an unusual day for such an excursion. But “Mr. Lincoln carefully explained,” Brooks recalled, “that he could not go on any other day without interfering with the public business and the photographer’s business, to say nothing of his liability to be hindered by curiosity seekers ‘and other seekers’ on the way thither... .”

The group was barely out the door of the White House when Lincoln “suddenly remembered that he needed a paper” that he had evidently left behind, and bounded back to his office on the second floor of the mansion, returning a few minutes later “with a small envelope in his hand.”

The envelope contained an advance copy that Edward Everett had sent of his forthcoming principal oration at the Gettysburg cemetery dedication on November 19. It had been set in type as a two-page broadsheet for insertion into a future issue of the *Boston Journal*. Lincoln, still struggling at the time to compose his own Gettysburg remarks, evidently wanted to use every available moment to study the effort against which he would, essentially, soon be competing. Everett, the most famous public speaker of his day, would certainly be a tough act to follow. Lincoln wanted to know precisely how tough.

At the gallery, photographer Gardner posed Lincoln on a leather-upholstered chair, which he had rolled on its casters next to a draped table, moving a tasseled curtain over the subject’s left shoulder for added decoration. As the President prepared to freeze his expression for the camera, he absent-mindedly placed the envelope containing Everett’s speech on the table next to him—and there it remained while Gardner took the two warm and surprisingly intimate portraits, (reproduced on this and the following page) later to be



*“He absent-mindedly placed the envelope containing Everett’s speech on the table next to him”*



followed by several powerful close-ups (for Mrs. Ames's use as models for her sculpture) as well as a group portrait of Lincoln together with his private secretaries.

The President had intended to use the long preparation time between exposures to study the Everett composition, but, as Brooks remembered it, he became "engaged in talk" with his companionable group, and forgot about the papers that lay before him on the Gardner table. The unopened envelope containing Edward Everett's "Gettysburg Address" is clearly visible in these superb prints, particularly the pose at right.

On the way back to the White House in the presidential carriage, Lincoln finally got his chance to begin reading the Everett oration.

He could hardly have predicted that the long, flowery address by the most renowned orator in America was destined to be completely forgotten soon after its delivery—the world has little noted nor long remembered what Everett said at Gettysburg. And surely Lincoln could not have imagined then that his own words, yet to be refined, would be remembered forever.

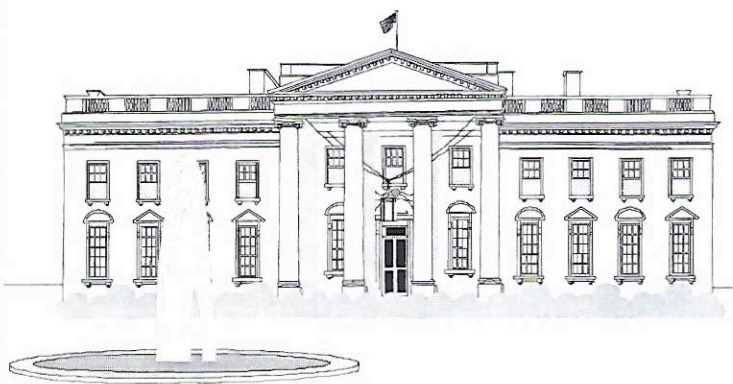
But here he is in these superb Gardner photos, virtually on the eve of his greatest rhetorical triumph, the slightest hint of a smile on his face, yet insecure enough about the challenge before him to keep his rival's speech just a few inches from his hand.



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Robert P. Watson, Ph.D., Editor  
White House Studies  
P.O. Box 756  
Boca Raton, FL 33429-0756



continued from page 1

## Garry Wills Wins Richard N. Current Award

Garry Wills was born in Atlanta in 1934, received his BA from St. Louis University, M.A.'s from Xavier University and Yale University, and his Ph.D. from Yale.

He served as an associate professor of classics at the Johns Hopkins University from 1962-1967, and as an adjunct professor there from 1968-80. From 1980-1988 he was Henry R. Luce Professor of American Culture and Public Policy at Northwestern University. Since 1988 he has served as an adjunct professor at Northwestern.

One of the most prolific and versatile of all American historians, he has written a number of acclaimed books over the past 40 years, including: *Roman Culture* (1966); *Second Civil War* (1968); *Nixon Agonistes* (1970); *Inventing America* (1978); *Cincinnatus: George Washington and the Enlightenment* (1984); *Reagan's America: Innocents at Home* (1997); *Lincoln at Gettysburg* (1992); *Certain Trumpets: The Call of Leaders* (1994); *John Wayne's America* (1997); *A Necessary Evil* (1999); and *Papal Sin* (2000). His newest book is *Venice: Lion City – The Religion of Empire*, just published by Simon & Schuster.

*Lincoln at Gettysburg* was for weeks a national best-seller. David Herbert Donald called it “a stimulating, original, and altogether absorbing book.” George Fredrickson proclaimed it “as close to a definitive exegesis of the Gettysburg Address as we have ever had or are likely to have for a long time to come.” And Mario M. Cuomo declared: “Seldom have so few words excited such scholarship, penetrating analysis, and brilliant explication.”

In addition to his 1993 Pulitzer, Professor Wills has won the Merle Curti Award from the Organization of American Historians; two National Book Critics Circle awards; Yale's Wilbur Cross medal; the coveted Peabody Award; the John Hope Franklin Award, and a National Endowment for the Humanities Presidential Medal.

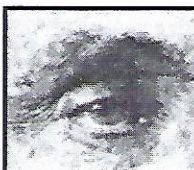
Professor Wills has also received a number of honorary degrees over the years, from, among other universities: Holy Cross, Columbia, Macalester College, Bates College, and George Washington University.

He writes for a number of periodicals, most often for the *New York Review of Books*, and for 30 years was a regular political and cultural columnist for the Universal Press Syndicate. He still serves as a member of the advisory committee of the International Center for Jefferson Studies at Monticello, and of the Historians' Advisory Board for Mount Vernon.

The Forum's achievement award is named for the beloved and venerable Lincoln scholar Richard N. Current, author of *The Lincoln Nobody Knows* (1958), *Speaking of Abraham Lincoln* (1983), and *Lincoln's Loyalists* (1992), among many other titles. Last year, Professor Current was honored with a surprise Award of Achievement at the annual Lincoln Forum banquet.

Previous winners of the Richard N. Current Award have been: Gabor S. Boritt (1996), Brian Lamb (1997), John Hope Franklin (1998), Paul Simon (1999), and David Herbert Donald and Dr. Current (2000).

The Richard N. Current Award of Achievement of the Lincoln Forum is a statuette, *Freedom River*, donated annually by sculptor John McClarey of Decatur, Illinois. The expressionistic piece represents Lincoln as both a “prime mover” and one “controlled by events,” according to McClarey.



### Garry Wills On Lincoln:

“...The possibility for heroism in our time will be tempered by the ideals we propose to ourselves — a thing proved in the heroic age of civil rights, when Dr. King and many others suffered and died for the concept of equality we profess but have not lived up to. Gilbert Chesterton said that Lincoln did not go to war to express his opposition to slavery; but, when the opportunity arose, he could issue the Emancipation Proclamation because his views were formed, just waiting their chance. In that sense, says Chesterton, the heaven of abstraction can at times send lightnings down.”

— From *Cincinnatus*

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  
Metropolitan Museum of Art  
1000 Fifth Avenue  
NY, NY 10028-0198  
e-mail: harold.holzer@metmuseum.org

Donald Pieper  
Associate Editor  
e-mail: depea@thegrid.net