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SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR EARNS THE LINCOLN FORUM AWARD OF ACHIEVEMENT

Sandra Day O'Connor—a lifelong student of American history who made history in her own life as the first woman to serve on the United States Supreme Court—is the winner of the 2009 Richard Nelson Current Award of Achievement.

The presentation was made November 18 at the closing banquet of the 14th annual Lincoln Forum Symposium at the Hotel Wyndham in Gettysburg. The official citation was offered by another retired court justice, Lincoln Forum Chairman Frank J. Williams, the emeritus Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Rhode Island. Judge Williams particularly praised Justice O'Connor's "thoughtful and inspiring writings on Lincoln's view of Union, emancipation, and executive powers under the Constitution, which have not only added to our understanding of the Civil War era, but provided valuable guidance in our own era as well." Justice O'Connor responded with this year's keynote address to the Forum.

Noted Williams: "In character, in integrity, in diligence, in strength, and in her cool and re-assuring demeanor in crisis after crisis, in test after test, Justice O'Connor has reflected the very best Lincolnian ideals for leadership. She has combined wisdom and scholarship with a deep respect for what she believes is right for the people. And once she made up her mind, just like Lincoln, she never second-guessed herself or her country. It is a true honor to celebrate Her Honor at the 14th annual Lincoln Forum. We are enormously pleased that she agreed to participate in this year's symposium by addressing us and by accepting this heartfelt tribute from the Board and the membership of our organization."

In a personal tribute, Forum Vice-Chairman Harold Holzer said: "We should also acknowledge that Justice O'Connor has exemplified as well the legacy of Lincoln's empathetic and forgiving *personal* nature. As Lincoln's wife Mary deteriorated emotionally during the Civil War—outraging many heartless critics and fueling unsympathetic attacks by some historians since—the President never complained, never blamed, and never criticized his troubled spouse. Instead he understood that her condition was not her fault, and hoped for forbearance, not intolerance. In recent years, facing similar, agonizing challenges over the tragically declining health of her beloved husband, Justice O'Connor has made manifest her extraordinary courage, enormous heart, and brave understanding—again in the Lincoln tradition. As she has been in her public life, Sandra Day O'Connor remains a model for us all in her private life. It means much for us to express our admiration to her for her life as a compassionate jurist, as well as her life as a compassionate wife."

Sandra Day O'Connor served as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court from 1981 until her retirement in 2006 (and still serves as a substitute appellate judge). She was the featured speaker at the November 19, 1998 ceremonies at Gettysburg marking the anniversary of Lincoln's 1863 oration dedicating the Soldiers' National Cemetery. The following year, Justice O'Connor graciously allowed the Lincoln Forum to publish the full text of her talk, "The Anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address," in its first collection of essays, *Abraham Lincoln, Gettysburg, and the Civil War*. Historian William C. Davis cited it for addressing "the vital question of civil liberties guaranteed by custom and Constitution." The speech was recently reprinted in the book *Lincoln Lessons: Reflections on America's Greatest Leader*, edited by Frank J. Williams and William D. Pederson.

Born in El Paso, Texas, in 1930, Justice O'Connor remembers being introduced to Abraham Lincoln at the local grade school by "a marvelous woman teacher with an understanding of history and Lincoln's place in it." She has been an avid reader of Lincoln ever since.

Her own books include *Lazy B: Growing up on a Cattle Ranch in the American Southwest*, *The Majesty of the Law: Reflections of a Supreme Court Justice* (2003) and the memoir *Chico*. Deeply committed to the study and appreciation of American History, she chaired the 2007, 400th anniversary of Jamestown, and has taught at law schools across the country. This February she founded OurCourts.org, a website dedicated to offering engaging interactive civics lessons for students and teachers.



The Honorable Sandra Day O'Connor

continued on page 2

THE LINCOLN IDEAL: ALIVE AND WELL AT 200



MESSAGE from the CHAIRMAN

The canonization of Abraham Lincoln as the Great Emancipator and the savior of the Union began as soon as he was shot on Good Friday 1865. In celebrating Lincoln, the kind and sagacious leader, eulogists drove from view the guileful politician and the man of human faults. An 1865 newspaper described what was at work in this way: “It has made it impossible to speak the truth of Abraham Lincoln hereafter.”

Time has passed, and the bicentennial of Lincoln’s birth has almost passed too. Scholars, particularly those who appear at our Lincoln Forum, have reached a disinterested judgment on key features of Abraham Lincoln and, particularly, his presidential leadership: his vision, strategic command, political management, and techniques as a communicator.

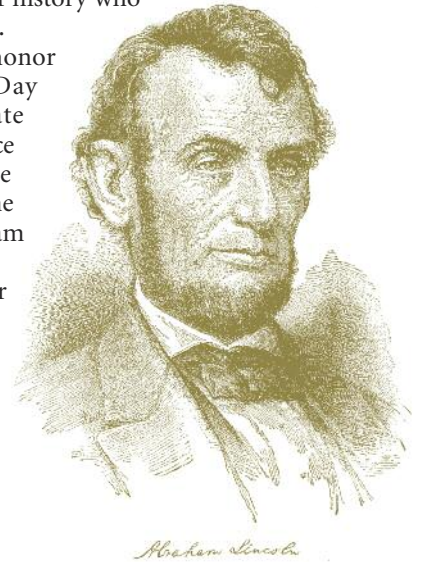
No president has held power at a greater time of crisis than Lincoln.

Over 150 books have been published within the last two years. He adorned the cover of *U.S. News and World Report* and was the subject of a three-hour documentary on the History Channel. One popular, recent volume studied his penchant for melancholy, another the manhunt to find Lincoln’s killer. Steven Spielberg has optioned the Doris Kearns Goodwin best-selling *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln* and has cast Liam Neeson and Sally Field in the leading roles.

Students of Lincoln believe that the lanky lawyer’s staying power renders traditional explanations for it insufficient.

But, his is the quintessential American story – a boy born to rural poverty, with only a year of formal schooling, who rose to the presidency through the force of his own fierce determination. Yes, he freed the slaves and saved the Union. Yes, he was a great writer and a first-class intellect with the moral and political courage to match his moment in history. But Lincoln’s endurance has as much to do with quieter things, more subtle virtues like his wisdom, compassion, and abiding goodness. In short, Lincoln is one of the few figures of history who was magnified by intense scrutiny, not diminished by it.

Consistent with this kind of leadership, we honor Supreme Court Associate Justice (ret.) Sandra Day O’Connor. Like Lincoln, she was a lawyer and state legislator. Unlike Lincoln, she became first, a trial justice then an appellate on the Arizona Court of Appeals. She became the first woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme



Court from which she retired on January 31, 2006. She has written several chapters about Abraham Lincoln and executive power.

For her exemplary service, President Obama presented her with the Medal of Freedom earlier this year. The Lincoln Forum is pleased to present her with The Richard Nelson Current Lincoln Forum Award of Achievement for her exceptional service and leadership that exemplify Abraham Lincoln’s character and wisdom. **I**

Frank J. Williams, Chair

AWARD OF ACHIEVEMENT • continued from page 1

Among her many other honors have been: the 2003 Liberty Medal from the National Constitution Center; the 2005 Sylvanus Thayer Award from the U. S. Military Academy; the 2008 Harry F. Byrd Jr. ’35 Public Service Award from VMI; the 2008 Franklin Award from the National Conference on Citizenship; and the 2009 Medal of Freedom from President Obama. She was also the 2006 recipient of the Lincoln Leadership Prize from the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation, recognizing “a lifetime of service in the Lincoln tradition.” And in 2008, President Bush awarded Justice O’Connor the Lincoln Medal.

The Forum’s coveted annual achievement prize is named for the dean of Lincoln scholars, beloved nonagenarian historian Richard Nelson Current, the Bancroft Prize-winning author of *Lincoln and the First Shot*, *The Lincoln Nobody Knows*, and many other classics of the Lincoln literature. The prize itself is in the form of the expressionistic statuette, *Freedom River*, created for the prize by Decatur-based sculptor and Current Award laureate John McClarey.

The roster of 13 previous winners of the Richard Nelson Current Lincoln Forum Award of Achievement have been: Gabor Boritt (1996), Brian Lamb (1997), John Hope Franklin (1998), Senator Paul Simon (1999), David Herbert Donald (2000), Garry Wills (2001), James M. McPherson (2002), Sam Waterston (2003), John Y. Simon (2004), John McClarey (2005), Doris Kearns Goodwin (2006), Jeff Shaara (2007), and Ken Burns (2008). **I**

O'CONNOR ON LINCOLN: THE JUSTICE JUDGES THE PRESIDENT

“Scholars still debate whether Lincoln had authority to invoke the constitutional provision suspending habeas corpus during the early days of the war. I will not wade into the muddy waters of that debate. I am more interested in talking about what Lincoln *did* after March of 1863—for that is when Congress gave Lincoln legislative authority to suspend the writ. From that point forward, Lincoln faced no constitutional obstacles. He could arrest whomever he chose, without courts interfering with writs of habeas corpus. What did Lincoln do at this point? Did he attempt to stifle political debate, by imprisoning his opponents? In short, did he trample on the civil liberties that the writ of habeas corpus was meant to protect? ‘[N]o’...throughout the war, Lincoln was guided by [what Mark Neely called] ‘a steady desire to avoid political abuse...’”

—Remarks at Gettysburg, November 19, 1998

“*Ex parte Milligan* [the post-war case that reversed the late President Lincoln on habeas corpus] does not undermine our holding about the Government’s authority to seize enemy combatants, as we define that term today. In that case, the Court made repeated reference to the fact that its inquiry into whether the military tribunal had jurisdiction to try and punish Milligan turned in large part on the fact that Milligan was not a prisoner of war, but a resident of Indiana arrested while at home there... That fact was central to its conclusion. Had Milligan been captured while he was assisting Confederate soldiers by carrying a rifle against Union troops on a Confederate battlefield, the holding of the Court might well have been different. The Court’s repeated explanations that Milligan was not a prisoner of war suggest that had these different circumstances been present he could have been detained under military authority for the duration of the conflict, whether or not he was a citizen.”

—Opinion in *Hamdi v. Rumsfeld*, 2004.

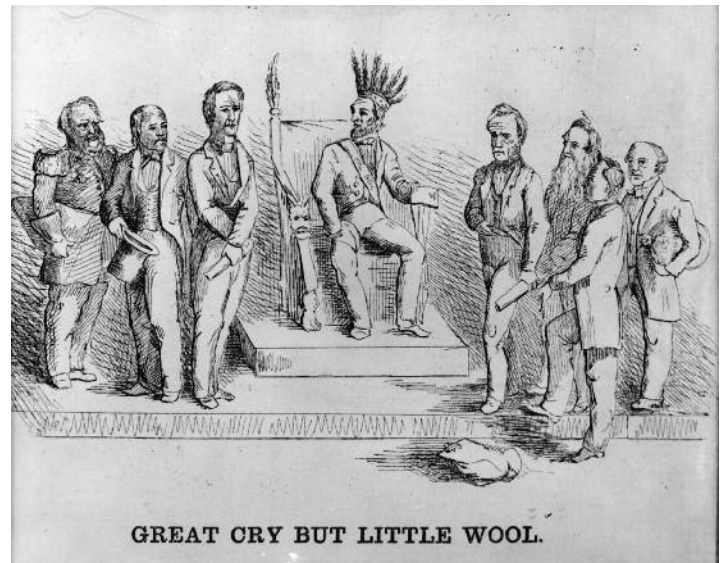
“...[T]oday, let us heed the wisdom of a man who led our nation to a ‘new birth of freedom.’ Let us always be, first and foremost, lovers of liberty.”

—Remarks at Gettysburg, November 19, 1998. 🗣️



Many prints of the Lincoln era showed the President as a careful administrator in council with his Cabinet (top). But as charges of unconstitutional actions mounted, some portraitists depicted Lincoln as an emperor (bottom), surrounded by military and civilian sycophants.

(Photos: Library of Congress)



NEWS FROM THE LINCOLN BICENTENNIAL: THE CELEBRATION CONTINUES

Well-attended Lincoln Town Hall meetings, a major scholarly and public affairs symposium in Illinois, and the appearance of the third of the four new Lincoln pennies, marked the last six months of national Lincoln Bicentennial activities.

On October 12, the Chicago History Museum presented U. S. District Court Judge Ruben Castillo on “Abraham Lincoln and the American Dream: Lincoln’s Leadership for a Multicultural World.” Two weeks later, on October 28, Chicago’s National Museum of Mexican Art will present “Lincoln and Juárez: In Myth and Memory,” featuring Dr. Ramón Gutiérrez, Preston & Morton Distinguished Service Professor of History at the University of Chicago.

The latest Lincoln Town Hall meeting—on the theme “Lincoln, Douglass, and the Transformative Power of Words”—took place October 3 at Northeastern University, Boston. Panelists included actor Hill Harper (*CSI: NY*), Harvard professor John Stauffer, Robin Chandler (Director of the school’s Women’s Studies Program), Boston community activist Gloribell Mota, and writer/director Gary Ross (*Seabiscuit*). Author and Tufts professor Peniel Joseph (*Waiting ‘Til the Midnight Hour*) served as moderator. Future Town Halls are scheduled for Newark, New Jersey, and Los Angeles, California.

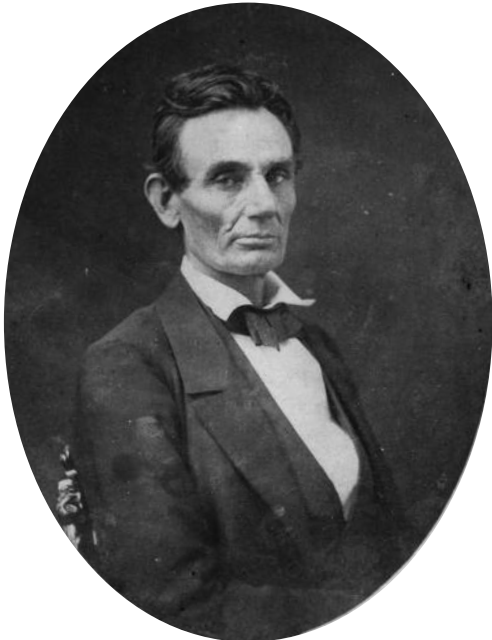
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150 YEARS AGO: “THE BEST LIKENESS”

With this issue of *The Lincoln Forum Bulletin*, we inaugurate a new, regular feature keyed to the upcoming Civil War Sesquicentennial.

Each issue, the editors will present a Lincoln image or incident that occurred exactly 150 years ago. For this maiden entry, we turn of course, to 1859. That year, Lincoln received his career-altering invitation to speak in New York (originally at the Brooklyn church of Henry Ward Beecher, later moved to Cooper Union).

But though he was beginning now to be openly discussed as a candidate for president (or at least vice president), and though this very year he wrote out his autobiographical sketch for the first time, with an eye toward seeing it adapted for campaign literature (“There is not much of it,” he explained, “for the reason, I suppose, that there is not much of me”), Lincoln apparently did not yet appreciate the equally potent power of images. For he posed for only one universally acknowledged photograph in the entire year of 1859—for this portrait made at the Cooke and Fassett galleries in Chicago on October 4.



Photograph by Samuel M. Fassett, Chicago, October 4, 1859.

Though the handsome result is attributed to camera operator Samuel M. Fassett, it was his obscure partner Cooke (we do not even know his first name) who wrote shortly after Lincoln’s death that the President’s widow particularly admired the picture. “Mrs. Lincoln,” he claimed, “pronounced [it] the best likeness she had ever seen of her husband.” Indeed, there is independent evidence for this assertion. When Mrs. Lincoln gathered up her family photos for the trip to Washington in 1861, she included a beautiful large-sized print of the Fassett pose. It soon took its place in the White House—even though her husband, now sporting whiskers, looked entirely different. That precious print survives to this day, in the collection known as “The Lincoln Family Album.”

If Lincoln looks supremely confident in the pose, it was for good reason. Though still more than six months away from his nomination for President, he was fresh from a triumphant speaking tour of Ohio, where he eloquently attacked Stephen A. Douglas and his acquiescence to the idea of westward slavery expansion through so-called “Popular Sovereignty.” As Lincoln warned at Columbus on September 17:

“I ask attention to the fact that in a pre-eminent degree these popular sovereigns are at this work; blowing out the moral lights around us; teaching that the negro is no longer a man but a brute; that the Declaration has nothing to do with him; that he ranks with the crocodile and the reptile; that man, with body and soul, is a matter of dollars and cents. I suggest to this portion of the Ohio Republicans, or Democrats if there be any present, the serious consideration of this fact, that there is now going on among you a steady process of debauching public opinion on this subject.”

Just one day after posing for this photograph, Lincoln moved on to Clinton, Illinois, for a court case. As if he were describing this very pose, a reporter who glimpsed him that morning wrote: “The old familiar face of A. Lincoln is again amongst us, and we cannot help noticing the peculiarly friendly expression with which he greets everybody, and everybody greets him. He comes back to us after electrifying Ohio, and with all his blushing honors thick upon him; yet the poorest and plainest amongst our people, fears not to approach, and never fails to receive a hearty welcome from him.”

Here is the “old familiar face of A. Lincoln”—about to become more familiar than ever. 📷



The photo was revived during the 1860 presidential campaign as a model for engravings and lithographs. Here, the Fassett picture inspires a “Lincoln Quick Step” sheet music cover published in distant Philadelphia.

LINCOLN ON LINCOLN: 1859

In late 1859, the same year as he posed for Samuel Fasset's popular photograph, a newspaperman asked Lincoln to write out a sketch of his life. The budding presidential candidate obliged with this brief story of his life. This is the way Abraham Lincoln saw himself at age 50—a fine career of accomplishments behind him, but his greatest challenges yet to come:

"I was born Feb. 12th 1809, in Hardin County, Kentucky. My parents were both born in Virginia, of undistinguished families—second families, perhaps I should say... .

"My father, at the death of his father, was but six years of age, and he grew up, literally without education. We removed from Kentucky to what is now Spencer county, Indiana, in my eighth year. We reached our new home about the time the State came in the Union. It was a wild region, with many bears and other wild animals still in the woods. There I grew up. There were some schools, so called; but no qualification was ever required of a teacher, beyond "readin, writin, and cipherin" to the Rule of Three. If a straggler supposed to understand latin, happened to sojourn in the neighborhood, he was looked upon as a wizzard. There was absolutely nothing to excite ambition for education. Of course when I came of age I did not know much. Still somehow, I could read, write, and cipher to the Rule of Three; but that was all. I have not been to school since. The little advance I now have upon the store of education, I have picked up from time to time under the pressure of necessity... .

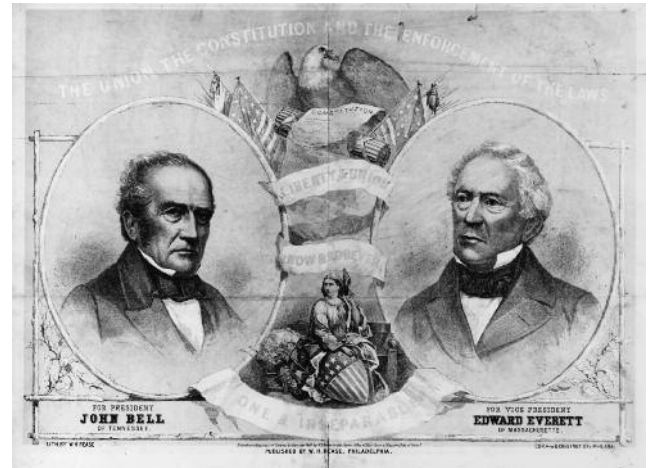
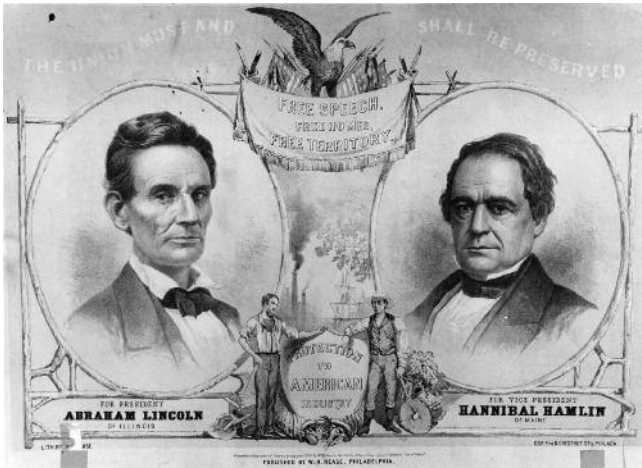
"If any personal description of me is thought desirable, it may be said, I am, in height, six feet, four inches, nearly; lean in flesh, weighing, on

average, one hundred and eighty pounds; dark complexion, with coarse black hair, and grey eyes—no other marks or brands recollected.

December 20, 1859" 📄

LINCOLN FOR PRESIDENT?

Philadelphia Printmaker W. H. Rease apparently liked Samuel Fasset's 1859 photo of Lincoln (Page 4). The following year, he adapted it for this campaign lithograph (below left): *The Union Must and Shall be Preserved* (showing Lincoln and running mate Hannibal Hamlin, their portraits surmounted by an eagle). But Rease was after customers, not votes; like all printmakers of the day, he was an equal opportunity praise-giver. He soon used the identical design for a new print, *The Union, the Constitution, and the Enforcement of the Laws* (below right), with the American Eagle now seeming to bless Lincoln rival John Bell and his own running mate, Edward Everett. Notice that the workingmen and split-rail motif in the first print were supplanted by a portrait of "Columbia" holding her liberty pole and shield. Pennsylvanians ultimately made the choice Rease would not: they voted for Lincoln. Photos: Library of Congress.



THANKS FOR FAMILY

At Thanksgiving time, the nation typically turns its thoughts to family. But Abraham Lincoln, who enshrined the Thanksgiving holiday, sadly enjoyed precious little time of his own with his wife and sons after moving with them to the White House in 1861.

This fanciful scene, painted by artist Francis B. Carpenter from separate photographic models, amounted to no more than a composite dream of what might have been had the Lincolns lived ordinary lives around the dinner table.

Carpenter used for his central pose the now-famous photograph of Lincoln and Tad taken under his supervision at Mathew Brady's gallery on February 9, 1864. Mary Lincoln personally suggested the model photographs of herself, Robert, and her late son, Willie.

Carpenter did not follow all of Mary's suggestions to the letter—for she proposed that he copy an 1861 photo for which she posed after arriving in Washington, but which was heavily retouched to make her look thinner—an idea most Americans still harbor after overindulging around the family table for the holiday Abraham Lincoln gave us.

This painting, later adapted for a popular print, is on display through March in the "Image Gallery" of the New-York Historical Society exhibit "Lincoln and New York." (Photo: New-York Historical Society)



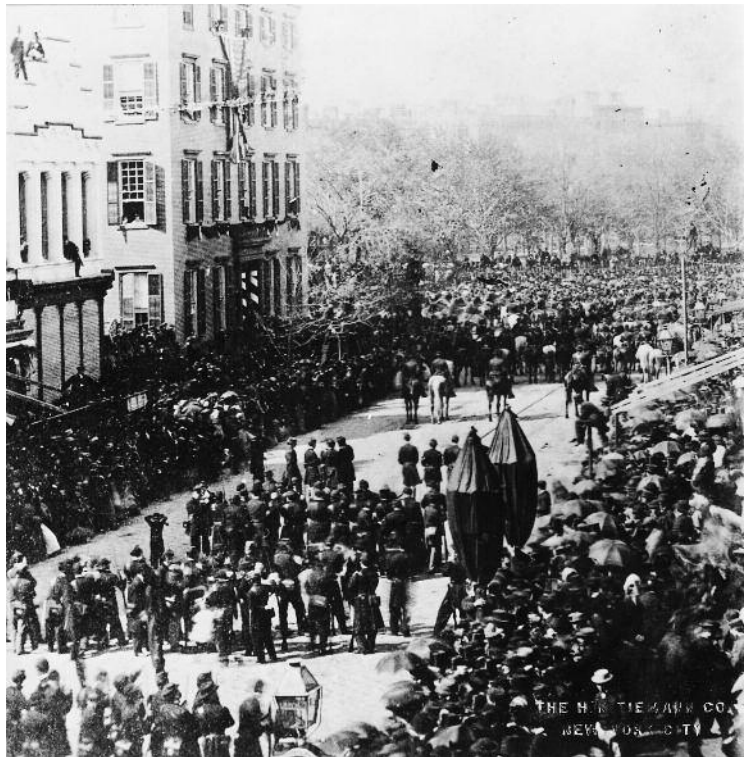
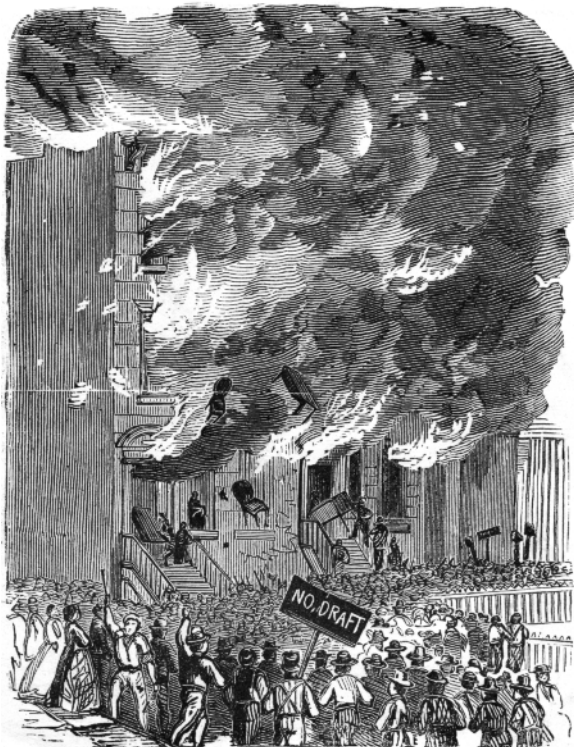
ABRAHAM LINCOLN:

Accompanied by a major, full-color catalogue, and involving the participation of Forum leaders Harold Holzer, Frank Williams, and Craig Symonds, among others, the New-York Historical Society opened its long awaited Bicentennial year exhibition, “Lincoln and New York,” October 9. Two days earlier, the Society awarded another former President (and noted Lincoln admirer), Bill Clinton with its annual “History Makers” tribute.



Exhibition chief historian Harold Holzer welcomes former President Bill Clinton to the New-York Historical Society on October 7. Photo: Don Pollard.

As the exhibition will show, from the launch of Abraham Lincoln’s 1860 Presidential campaign with a speech at Cooper Union, through the unprecedented outpouring of grief at his funeral procession in 1865, New York City played a surprisingly central role in the career of the sixteenth President—and Lincoln, in turn, had an impact on New York that was vast, and remains vastly underappreciated.



LINCOLN ON CITY STREETS: Two years after fire and violence raged in New York against Lincoln’s draft (left), hundreds of thousands of grieving mourners crowded Broadway for his funeral (right). Photos: New-York Historical Society.

This is the first museum exhibition to trace the crucial relationship between America’s greatest President and its greatest city. *Lincoln and New York* will run at the New-York Historical Society from October 9, 2009 through March 25, 2010.

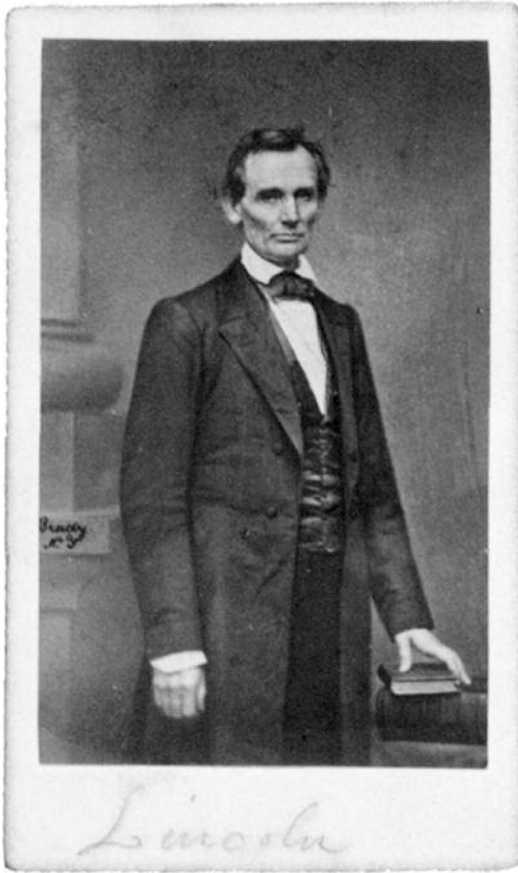
Lincoln and New York is made possible by the generosity of JPMorgan Chase & Co., lead sponsor for the exhibition and its robust school programs for New York City teachers and students. This exhibition is developed with grant funds from the U.S. Department of Education Underground Railroad Educational and Cultural (URR) Program.

Serving as chief historian for *Lincoln and New York* and editor of the accompanying catalogue is Harold Holzer. Curator is Dr. Richard Rabinowitz, president of American History Workshop and curator of the exhibitions *Slavery in New York* and *New York Divided: Slavery and the Civil War* at the New-York Historical Society.

“*Lincoln and New York* is an important new advance in our understanding of Lincoln’s career, and a prime example of the striking benefits of viewing our nation’s history through the lens of New York,” stated Dr. Louise Mirrer, President and CEO of the New-York Historical Society.

Noted Holzer: “For the first time, this exhibition will show how the city’s politicians, preachers, picture-makers and publishers—its citizens, black as well as white, poor as well as rich—continued to aid, thwart, support, undermine, promote and sabotage Lincoln and his political party. At the same time, we show how Lincoln came to influence the evolving history of New York. Despite ongoing political opposition, the state provided more men and materiel to the Union war effort than any other, even as it incubated virulent, sometimes racist, occasionally violent resistance to Lincoln’s presidency. In the end, New York created something more: it created the Lincoln image we know today.”

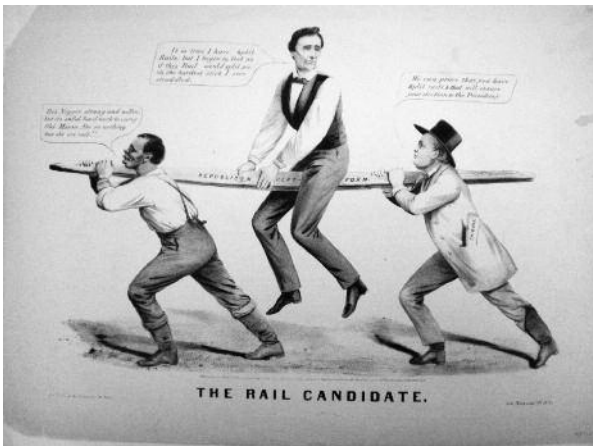
MADE IN NEW YORK



The signature image of “Lincoln and New York” is, of course, the only photo for which he ever posed in the City—the portrait by Mathew Brady the day of his Cooper Union address, February 27, 1860.

Commented Rabinowitz: “Seeing how New York, as America’s media capital, created successive images of Abraham Lincoln, and how Lincoln as President shaped New York’s growing commercial and financial power, visitors will be amazed by the new light this exhibition casts, not only on the Civil War years but on today’s political landscape.”

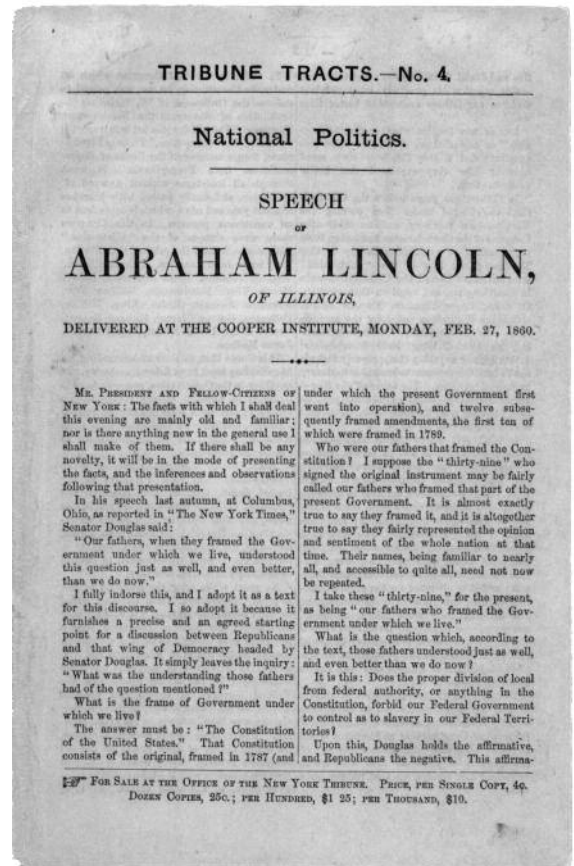
Lincoln and New York brings to life the period between Lincoln’s decisive entrance into the city’s life at the start of the 1860 Presidential campaign, to his departure from it in 1865 as a secular martyr. During these years, the policies of the Lincoln



Example of anti-Lincoln print publishing, a field dominated during the Civil War era by New York-based engravers and lithographers.

administration damaged and then re-built the New York economy, transforming the city from a thriving port dependent on trade with the slave-holding South, into the nation’s leading engine of financial and industrial growth; support and opposition to the President flared into a virtual civil war within the institutions and on the streets of New York, out of which emerged a pattern of political contention that survives to this day.

The exhibition is accompanied by a lavishly illustrated, full-color catalogue edited by guest historian Holzer, who has also contributed an introductory essay and a chapter on the city’s publishing industry and their contributions to the evolution of Lincoln’s image in New York—and nationally. Additional essays are written by historians Jean Harvey Baker, Catherine Clinton, James Horton, Michael Kammen, Barnet Schechter, Craig L. Symonds, and Frank J. Williams, with a preface by New-York Historical Society President and CEO Louise Mirrer, all featuring seldom-seen pictures, artifacts, and documents from the Society collections.



The first pamphlet printed of The Speech that made Lincoln President – The Cooper Union Address.

The Society will present an array of live programs during the run of the show. On December 1, Harold Holzer moderates a panel on “Lincoln as Commander in Chief,” featuring James McPherson and Craig Symonds. And on January 23, the Society hosts an all-day symposium “Lincoln & Emancipation,” featuring David Blight, Richard Blackett, Frank Williams, Edna Greene Medford, Paul Finkelman, James McPherson, Barnet Schechter, spirituals performed by the New York vocal group “Just Friends,” and a special appearance by George Buss reading from the words of Abraham Lincoln. For tickets visit www.smarttix.com.

LINCOLN BRIEFS: RECENT NEWS AND NOTES

Fordham University Press will publish *The Lincoln Assassination: Crime and Punishment, Myth and Memory* in spring 2010. Edited by Harold Holzer, Craig L. Symonds, and Frank J. Williams, the volume features some of the best lectures delivered at the 2005 Lincoln Forum symposium, dedicated to the Lincoln assassination story in observance of the 140th anniversary of the murder. Chapters include works by Edward Steers, Jr., Thomas R. Turner, Michael Kauffman, Thomas Lowry, Richard Sloan, and others. The illustrated volume will include as a bonus, a reprinted—and updated—essay on the Lincoln assassination first published half a century ago. It is the work of the beloved 96-year-old dean of Lincoln scholars and Lincoln Forum treasure, Richard Nelson Current.



Dr. and Mrs. Mark Zimmerman at Lincoln Forum XIII.

The 2009 Volk Lincoln Award of the Lincoln Forum—a replica of the Leonard Wells Volk life mask generously contributed by Dr. Mark Zimmerman to a leading institution devoted to the Lincoln theme—will be awarded at this year's symposium to The Soldier's Home in Washington, D.C. A full report will appear in the spring 2010 issue of the *Bulletin*.



Wreath-Laying in London. Photo: Virginia Williams.

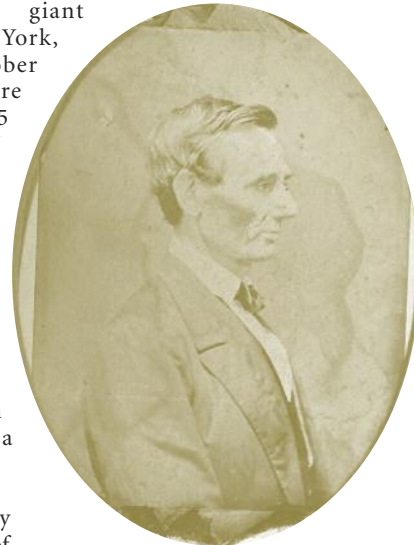
In the first international conference of the Lincoln Bicentennial year, historians from around the world—including Americans David Blight, Douglas Wilson, Frank Williams, and Harold Holzer, participated in an unforgettable conference on Lincoln's international legacy at Oxford University in July. Professor Richard Carwardine was the host scholar. Washington Post veteran Roger Wilkins offered the keynote address.

In London, Carwardine offered an inspiring address at Westminster Abbey, following an evensong worship service. In a pounding downpour, the deacon of the Abbey then laid a wreath on the Augustus Saint-Gaudens statue of Lincoln in Parliament Square (see photo).

Closer to home, the Grand Army of the Republic Museum in Philadelphia decided not to conduct a DNA test on what it claims is an authentic bloodstained, quarter-inch fragment of pillowcase salvaged from Lincoln's deathbed at the Petersen House in Washington. Some students of forensics have claimed that the tiny piece of linen could have yielded enough information to determine whether Lincoln suffered from Marfan's

Syndrome, venereal disease, or any of the other maladies that have been attributed to him. In the end, the president of the GAR Museum cited concerns that the test might destroy the miniature relic. He also expressed respect for Lincoln's son, Robert's lifelong quest for privacy. "Maybe we should consider if Robert was alive today, Robert would say don't do it for sure," board member Hugh Boyle said. The Museum vowed to re-examine the issue with the guidance of forensic pathologists in future years.

Sotheby's, the giant auction house in New York, offered in its October photographica sale a rare print of so-called O-35 (its Lloyd Ostendorf identification number), a faded ca. 1860 profile by an unknown photographer. The newly discovered salt print reveals more of Lincoln's brawny body than the sole, cropped version long known to historians—though it, too, was trimmed and even colored-in clumsily by a former owner.



Abraham Lincoln, ca. 1860—the first uncropped profile. Photo: Sotheby's, New York.

Until now, the tiny upstate New York hamlet of Homer, New York, has been known solely as the home town of two major figures in the Lincoln story: presidential clerk William Osborn Stoddard and presidential portraitist Francis Bicknell Carpenter. In recent months, however, the town and its enterprising teachers, including David Quinlan, have hosted forums and celebrations to mark the Lincoln Bicentennial. On May 15-16, the town welcomed both Carpenter and Stoddard descendants for a series of lectures, parades, and a cemetery in the graveyard where the painter of the "First Reading of the Emancipation Proclamation" is buried. In September, the village welcomed former U. S. Senator George McGovern, author of a new biography of Lincoln. And thus a new Lincoln Mecca has emerged.

The Journal of American History, the official scholarly publication of the Organization of American Historians, devoted its entire September 2009 issue to Lincoln—for the first time ever. The special edition was entitled, "Abraham Lincoln at 200: History and Historiography." The journal boasted new scholarship on the Wide-Awake Movement (by Jon Grinspan) and the ethics of emancipation (Dorothy Ross), and a surprising critique of the journal's long neglect of Lincoln by Allen Guelzo. More informal "roundtables" included assessments of the field by Edward Ayers, Catherine Clinton, Michael Holt, Mark Neely, and Douglas Wilson, as well as a "Global Lincoln" interchange among David Blight, Jay Sexton, Richard Carwardine, Vinay Lal, Eugenio Biagini, and Odd Arne Westad, among others. But principal attention focused on Matthew Pinsky, who contributed the principal article, "Lincoln Theme 2.0." The obscure title masked the fact that the historian was invited to write the major assessment of where the Lincoln field stands—and where it might think of going. As such, his essay achieves instant prestige, as the direct descendant of J. G. Randall's seminal 1936 essay (for a different publication), "Has the Lincoln Theme Been Exhausted" and Mark Neely's equally famous 1970 follow-up, "The Lincoln Theme Since Randall's Call: The Promises and Perils of Professionalism." Pinsky's message: much has been achieved, and much is left to accomplish. In the process of constructing his exquisitely comprehensive essay, Pinsky manages judicious shout outs to nearly every major Lincoln contribution of the last decade—and a few criticisms, too.



THE LINCOLN FORUM SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY

By Ruth E. Squillace

(This 2008 first-place essay by a Yaphank, New York high school teacher devoted to the creative teaching of American history, earned its author a full scholarship to this year's Lincoln Forum XIV. Ruth teaches at the Shoreham-Wading River High School on Long Island. She has also won teacher education scholarships from the Gilder Lehrman Institute, Tufts University, Harvard University, and Princeton University. Future winning essays will also be published in the Bulletin.)

From a young age, I felt drawn to the Civil War and Lincoln in particular. Perhaps it is because my mother was born on the same day as Lincoln and majored in history herself. Perhaps it is because I grew up just outside Princeton, New Jersey, a place rich in culture and history. Either way, history is integral to my spirit. In that regard, I have always been “different,” but I distinctly remember the exact moment when I realized it. I was the only student in my class who wanted to see the Lincoln Memorial on the eighth grade graduation trip to Washington. My friends had wandered off and I enjoyed a moment alone at the hallowed monument. It was my first encounter with the sacred document, the Gettysburg Address, and it moved me to tears. When my friends later mocked my sentimentality, I knew that I had a calling to be the “keeper of the story,” as I referred to it at the time. It is no surprise that years later, I would listen to the calling and become a history teacher.

A highlight in my education took place during the summer of 2001, early in my teaching career, thanks to a Gilder Lehrman Institute summer seminar. I will not soon forget studying “Command and Leadership in the Civil War” under the tutelage of Professor James McPherson, an opportunity that elevated my interest in the Civil War to new heights. Since that time, I have attended numerous seminars, lectures, and symposiums celebrating the Civil War, as well as, most reverently, the Lincoln Bicentennial. Those experiences inspired me to coordinate and host my own Lincoln symposium at the high school at which I teach on March 6, 2009, entitled, “The Life and Times of Abraham Lincoln.” My greatest hope, for students to come to understand and revere Lincoln and this time period on a deeper basis, was realized that day. Student feedback was astounding. What more can an educator hope for?

Much of my personal time is spent traveling to historic sites such as homes, museums, battlefields, and graveyards from the Civil War time period, so that I can further develop my collection of artifacts and stories, which can aid me in the classroom. Some of my most treasured experiences and learning opportunities have taken place while studying at the Gettysburg battlefield. Last June, just as the sun was rising, I was hiking through Hood's Assault near Devil's Den when I came upon a Confederate rifle pit. I crouched down into this spot and imagined how a young soldier must have felt as he was pinned down by gunfire. I hiked back atop Devil's Den and looked upon the landscape. I could feel the soldiers' stories whispering to me through the morning fog. This was a rare, but treasured, moment for me. History impacts me personally and compels me to preserve it.

I consider myself an unconventional teacher and one who is constantly searching for new ways to breathe life into

curriculum by providing students with unique and authentic experiences. I have always subscribed to a philosophy of education that places the student at the center of his or her learning. This sense of empowerment and self-exploration propels students into fields of study they may not have previously considered. While there are state standards of education and curriculum guidelines with which to compete in the modern academic landscape, higher-order thinking and inquiry need not be sacrificed in that model. Therefore, I am on a constant quest to attend seminars, conferences, and workshops, which aid in my ability to bring history to life for my students.

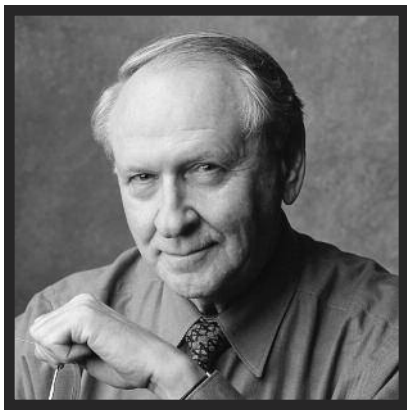
Scholarship opportunities, such as the Lincoln Forum, propel educators to highly evolved, critical thought about content and inspires teachers to stray as far away from the textbooks and canned comments about the past as possible—to strike out on new frontiers of thought and discourse as a direct result of interaction with historians who have invested years of their lives so that innovative and provocative postulations and interpretations of our history can be brought to light. This in turn is disseminated through these experiences and trickles down into American classrooms. When educators relate to and work with the brightest minds on the front lines of history, the American educational system is emboldened and enlightened one classroom at a time. The impact of teacher sponsorship is far-reaching.

The closest description I can provide about the feelings I experience when studying history is, in one word, “bliss.” It is during these times when I can feel history come alive. It drives me to put more time and energy into my craft by compiling data, stories, artifacts, and photographs into various PowerPoint presentations and in-services opportunities for my colleagues. In essence, by examining the past, these opportunities help me to “pay it forward.” With your gracious assistance, I wish to continue on this path of personal educational growth and pedagogy. 📌



Virginia & Frank Williams with Ruth E. Squillace and the Challenge Coin awarded in the spring of 2009.

IN MEMORIAM: WILLIAM SAFIRE, MERRILL PETERSON, MILTON MELTZER



William Safire

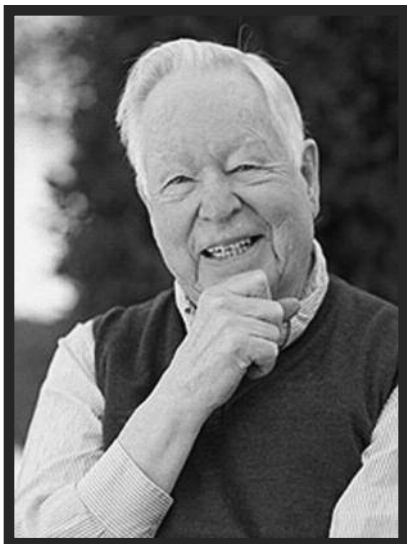
William Safire, who died in September, was best known as a former Nixon speechwriter, Pulitzer Prize-winning *New York Times* op-ed columnist, voice of political conservatism, and droll authority on English grammar and usage (his column, “On Language,” ran for years in the *New York Times Sunday Magazine*). Though best known for

coining memorable phrases—for example, he invented the rant, “nattering nabobs of negativism” for Spiro Agnew—Safire was also a hard-working novelist, and his 1987 fiction opus *Freedom* was recognized as an earnest, exhaustive, and scholarly attempt to dramatize the 16th President’s determination to free America’s slaves, not to preserve the Union or extend liberty, but to preserve democracy.

Yet it never achieved huge popularity. All but obscured by formidable competition—Gore Vidal’s best-selling Lincoln novel—Safire’s ambitious book achieved only minor success in its own right, and probably remains best known to today’s readers for its famous “underbook”—a lengthy appendix detailing and analyzing, in breathtaking detail, the historical sources that the author had consulted in his years of research.

Among Safire’s many controversial arguments was that the imminence of the Emancipation Proclamation was the worst-kept secret in Washington between July 1862 (when Lincoln first revealed his plan to his Cabinet, then tabled it) and September 1862 (when, emboldened by the Union victory at Antietam, the President finally issued it to the public). Safire insisted that much of America knew full well, throughout these 60 difficult days, that an emancipation order was inevitably to be proclaimed. To date, however, few historians have sided with Safire. Yet it is fair to say that many of those who read his carefully constructed but rather bland novel, as well as his crackling, fiery “underbook,” always harbored the wish that this masterful prose stylist had answered his Lincoln muse with non-fiction instead of fiction.

Merrill D. Peterson, who died in October at 88, was an acclaimed Jefferson scholar who turned to Lincoln late in his career—with enormous critical success. The Professor of History Emeritus at the University of Virginia had already authored *The Jefferson Image in the American Mind* and *Thomas Jefferson and the New Nation* when in 1994 he published *Lincoln in*



Merrill Peterson

American Memory, one of the first, and still the most definitive, surveys of evolving American attitudes toward its 16th President. At the time of its publication, Don Fehrenbacher hailed it as a “splendid contribution to American cultural history,” and Richard Current predicted it would be “a prizewinning work.” Indeed, the book became a finalist for the 1994 Pulitzer Prize, and Peterson’s book has remained a classic ever since.



Milton Meltzer

Children’s writer Milton Meltzer also died this fall. One of the most successful young readers’ authors in the history of the genre, he collaborated in 1993 with artist Stephen Alcorn for a highly original, yet also quirkily specialized, edition of Lincoln’s writings, *A. Lincoln in His Own Words* (Alcorn’s stylized pictures looked like woodblocks). The winner of two Christopher Awards and five nominations for the National Book Award, Meltzer (who also produced biographies of Thomas Jefferson,

Christopher Columbus, Benjamin Franklin, and George Washington), noted that his aim was “to share with the reader the strength and beauty, the humor and wit, the tenderness and compassion, the wisdom and insight of Lincoln’s words.” This Meltzer did, explaining in an introduction that still stands as a model for such a compendium: “For us today his words provide many a lesson on the connection between personality and politics.”

The same might well be said about William Safire, Merrill Peterson, and Milton Meltzer. ■



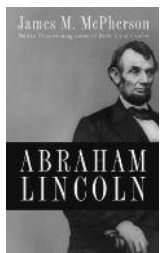
Bicentennial News ■ continued from page 3

On October 23, the Bicentennial Commission is scheduled to convene a major history, education, and civic engagement conference called “Lincoln’s Unfinished Work: The Morrill Act and the Future of Higher Education.” The event commemorates Lincoln’s history-altering support for the bill that created America’s land grant colleges—forerunners of the modern state university systems. The conference takes place at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign campus on October 23. Educators and historians join Prof. Orville Vernon Burton, a key organizer for the ALBC event, to explore Lincoln’s role in expanding educational opportunity, and the challenges facing educators in the future.

For more information on all Bicentennial programs and activities, contact: www.abrahamlincoln200.org ■

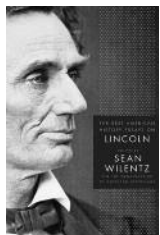
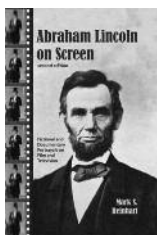
NEW ON THE LINCOLN BOOKSHELF

The latest list of new titles from the new, golden age of Lincoln publishing—issued by both commercial and scholarly publishers alike—as writers and readers continue to mark the Abraham Lincoln bicentennial.



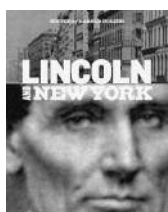
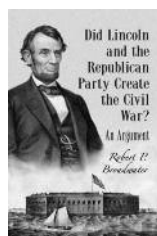
Abraham Lincoln, by James M. McPherson (Oxford University Press). Amidst big and bigger bicentennial books, the nation's foremost Civil War historian weighs in with the smallest book yet: a 77-page biography notable for lucidity of prose and fresh historical analysis. Ronald C. White noted that the author "touches more Lincoln bases than any reader might reasonably expect," and the late David Herbert Donald called it "the best very brief biography of our sixteenth president ever written."

Abraham Lincoln on Screen, Second Edition, by Mark S. Reinhart (McFarland & Company), is the long-awaited revised edition of the book the *Civil War Courier* called "fascinating...extremely detailed, thorough, and completely captivating." Reinhart, a musician, media consultant, and filmographer, calls Lincoln "the most frequently portrayed American historical figure in the history of the film and television arts."

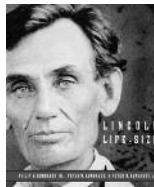


The Best American History Essays on Lincoln, edited by Sean Wilentz for the Organization of American Historians (Palgrave Macmillan). Although historian Allen Guelzo remarked in the recent Lincoln Bicentennial edition of the *Journal of American History* that the publication has failed to publish a quantity of Lincoln papers over the years, this collection proves that the *quality* of essays has been nothing to sneeze about. Chapters include old chestnuts by Richard Hofstadter, Edmund Wilson, James Oliver Horton, Richard N. Current, Mark E. Neely Jr., and David Herbert Donald, among others. They remain important—and many of them are just as controversial as the day they first appeared.

Did Lincoln and the Republican Party Create the Civil War: An Argument, by Robert P. Broadwater (McFarland & Co.) picks up on recent arguments in the new anti-Lincoln tradition by insisting that the Civil War was waged not to preserve the union or destroy slavery, but to strengthen the new Republican Party and establish a strong central government.

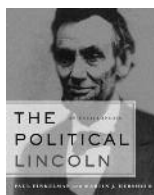


Lincoln and New York, edited by Harold Holzer (Philip Wilson Publishers) is the official catalogue—lavishly illustrated in color—of the 2009-2010 New-York Historical Society exhibition detailing the complex, unexpected relationship between America's greatest city and greatest leader. The book features essays by Jean H. Baker, Catherine Clinton, James O. Horton, Michael Kammen, Barnett Schecter, Craig L. Symonds, and Frank J. Williams.



Lincoln Life-Size, by Philip B. Kunhardt III, Peter W. Kunhardt, and Peter W. Kunhardt Jr. (Knopf Publishing). The talented descendants of pioneer Lincoln photograph collector (and historian) Frederick Hill Meserve have watched all but silently over the years as the chronological listings of Lincoln photos (once known by their "M"—for Meserve—numbers) have been supplanted, first by "L" numbers for Stefan Lorant, then by "O" numbers for Lloyd Ostendorf. Now the family returns to the subject with what they propose to be the definitive listing of Lincoln pictures, embracing the new, and rejecting the outlandish.

Lincoln's Censor: Milo Hascall and the Freedom of the Press in Civil War Indiana, by David W. Bulla (Purdue University Press), reminds readers in a carefully researched and judiciously argued book of a period when martial law in the loyal Union state of Indiana muzzled the state's anti-Lincoln editors.



The Political Lincoln: An Encyclopedia, edited by Paul Finkelman and Martin J. Hershock (CQ Press) offers a weighty and comprehensive (765-page) alphabetical guide to the life and politics of Abraham Lincoln—with "a to z" entries ranging from "abolitionism" to "Zouaves." Contributors include David E. Long, Michael Kauffmann, Harold Holzer, Ron J. Keller, Bruce Tap, John A. Lupton, Russell McClintock, Chandra Manning, William C. Harris, Frank Milligan, and the fine editors.

The Unpopular Mr. Lincoln: The Story of America's Most Reviled President, by Larry Tagg (Savas Beatie LC). Using original newspaper editorials, cartoons, and other evidence, the author reminds us that before he became a national saint, Abraham Lincoln was a hugely controversial politician, with perhaps more enemies than supporters. As even the once-sympathetic New York diarist George Templeton Strong wrote shortly before Christmas 1862: "A year ago we laughed at the Honest Old Abe's grotesque genial Western jocosities, but they nauseate us now."



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REDEDICATING A NATIONAL LANDMARK: THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL AT FOUR SCORE AND SEVEN



All decked out for the birthday: May 30, 2009. Photo: Henry F. Ballone

On May 30, 2009, four score and seven years from the day of its original dedication in 1922, the National Park Service and Lincoln Bicentennial Commission officially rededicated one of Washington's—and the nation's—most iconic landmarks: The Lincoln Memorial. After remarks by Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar and other dignitaries, the current director of the Tuskegee Institute gave the major dedicatory address, echoing the 1922 address by its then-director Robert Russa Moton, the only African-American asked to speak that day 87 years earlier. But as Bicentennial Commission co-chair Harold Holzer pointed out in his own official greeting, not only were African American attendees rudely segregated into a "colored section" at the original ceremony, all but herded to the back of the crowd by Southern-born American soldiers; Moton's remarks were censored by white officials fearful that his demands for immediate equal rights would prove too inciteful.

In Moton's draft 1922 address on Lincoln's unfinished work—the censored version of which was heard by, among others, President Warren G. Harding, Chief Justice William Howard Taft (neither of whom emphasized the issue of slavery in their own speeches), and Lincoln's sole surviving son, Robert, he hoped to say the following: "So long as any group within our nation is denied the full protection of the law, that task is still unfinished. So long as any group within the nation is denied an equal opportunity for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, that task is still unfinished. So long as any group is denied the fullest privilege of a citizen to share both the making and the execution of the law which shapes its destiny—so long as any group does not enjoy every right and every privilege that belongs to every American citizen without regard to race, creed, or color, that task for which the immortal Lincoln gave

the last full measure of devotion—that task is still unfinished. What nobler thing can the nation do as it dedicates this shrine for him whose deed has made his name immortal—what nobler thing can the nation do than here about this shrine to dedicate itself by its own determined will to fulfill to the last letter the lofty task imposed upon it by the sacred dead?" Concluded the great educator on that extraordinary May 30, 1922 afternoon: "Let us, therefore, with malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right—let us strive on to finish the work which he so nobly began, to make America the symbol for equal justice and equal opportunity for all."



Principal Address by Dr. Benjamin F. Payton, President of Tuskegee University. Photo: H.F.B.



Edith Holzer, Betty Anselmo, Malcolm Garber and Val Hallenbeck pledge allegiance. Photo: Henry F. Ballone



Additional photos at Henry F. Ballone's website: web.me.com/civilwarnut

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