



THE LINCOLN FORUM BULLETIN

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Chairman

Hon. Frank J. Williams
300 Switch Road
Hope Valley, RI 02832
Phone 401-364-3642
Fax 401-539-7979
alincoln@worldnet.att.net

Vice Chairman

Harold Holzer
Metropolitan Museum of Art
1000 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10028-1098
Phone 212-570-3951
Fax 212-472-2764
hholzer@compuserve.com

Treasurer

Charles D. Platt
14 Blue Heron Drive
Greenwood Village, CO 80121
Phone 303-721-8550
Fax 303-290-0097
DNHX71A@prodigy.com

Administrator

Catherine A. Boyers
133 Oates Avenue
Winchester, VA 22601
Phone 540-722-5684
Fax 540-722-2970
surtsey@visualink.com

Nathaniel A. Boone

Peter G. Brown
Gabor S. Boritt
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Don E. Fehrenbacher, (1920-1997)

THIRD ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM TO FEATURE NEW AND RETURNING SPEAKERS, PLUS SPECIAL FOCUS ON LINCOLN'S ORATORY

The third annual symposium of the Lincoln Forum will take place at Gettysburg November 16-19, 1998, Forum Chairman Frank J. Williams has announced. This year's roster will feature a variety of returning speakers, plus a number of new presenters who will be making their first appearances before the group.

A capacity enrollment of 160 is expected for the three days of activities, which this year take place at the Holiday Inn in downtown Gettysburg, within walking distance of Cemetery Hill — this year's battlefield tour locale.

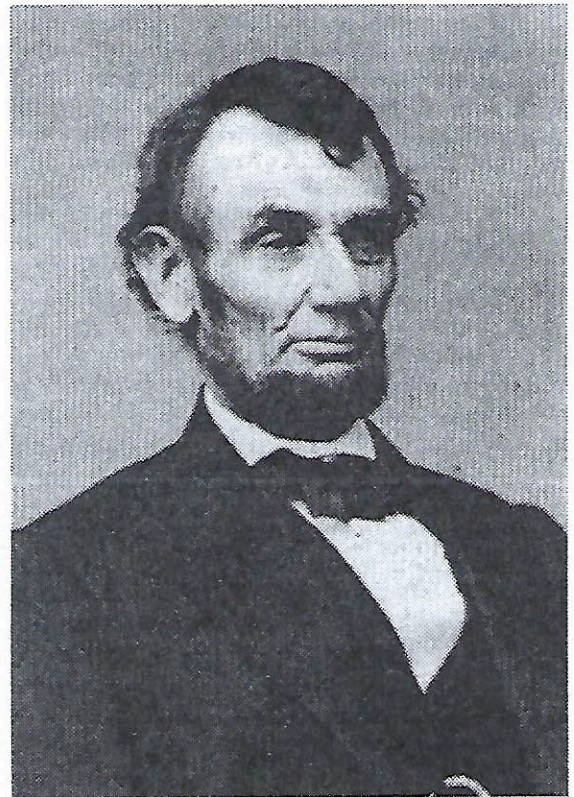
The 1998 banquet address will be delivered by the nation's leading historian of the Civil War, James M. McPherson. That evening, the Forum's annual award of achievement will be presented to the distinguished historian John Hope Franklin, with an appreciation to be delivered by Prof. Edna Greene Medford.

Among this year's symposium speakers will be Craig L. Symonds, recent biographer of General Patrick Cleburne; John Marszalek, whose new book on the Peggy Eaton "scandal" during the Andrew Jackson era will inspire a special talk on morality in the White House; Stephen B. Oates will speak on Lincoln's ten percent plan; and Gerald Prokopowicz, Director of the Lincoln Museum in Fort Wayne. Forum Chairman Frank J. Williams and Vice Chairman Harold Holzer will offer new papers.

A special focus — as always in history-rich Gettysburg — will fall on Lincoln's legacy of great oratory. Once again, symposium participants will be invited to hear Lincoln impersonator James Getty re-create the Gettysburg Address on its November 19 anniversary, inside the National Soldier's Cemetery a few blocks from our headquarters hotel.

Additional speakers for November 19th will be announced soon. This year's symposium will also feature a special presentation on Lincoln's earlier oratorical triumph — his debates with Stephen A. Douglas — in a re-creation by renowned Illinois Lincoln-Douglas impersonators George Buss and Rich Sokup.

Gabor S. Boritt returns with a welcoming address, and the dean of Lincoln scholars, Richard Nelson Current, will moderate a session. A panel discussion on the topic of *Lincoln in the National Archives* will include John Y. Simon, Budge Weidman, Thomas Lowry and Michael Musick. More details will be announced soon via direct mail and advertisements.



LINCOLN AT 55

Three days before his 55th birthday, on February 9, 1864, Abraham Lincoln sits before the camera at Matthew Brady's Washington gallery. Though an uncharacteristic pose — his hair is parted on a different side than usual — it quickly becomes a favorite model for painters and printmakers, and ultimately one of the best-known of all Lincoln images when it is adapted for the portrait on the five-dollar bill. (Photo from the collection of Stuart Schneider: see guest article inside.)

THE LINCOLN FORUM FEATURED ON C-SPAN MARATHON

Many of the major addresses at the 1997 Lincoln Forum — sprinkled with live studio interviews and telephone conversations with viewers from all over the nation — were featured on an unprecedented marathon C-SPAN telecast on January 2, 1998.

C-SPAN Chief Executive Officer Brian Lamb hosted the program, which ran for nearly six hours and included the speeches delivered at the Gettysburg symposium by John Y. Simon, Harold Holzer, Gary Gallagher, Stephen B. Oates, and Edna Greene Medford, along with scenes from our 1997 recreation of Pickett's Charge, led by battlefield guide Gary Kross.

Frank J. Williams and Harold Holzer appeared on six separate live segments between broadcasts of the formal papers, fielding viewer calls from around the country on such diverse subjects as race, Union, state rights, Lincoln's family and married life, and even his legendary sore feet (one call came from a descendant of Lincoln's chiropodist, Isachar Zacharie!).

More than 100 new members joined the Lincoln Forum via telephone, letter, and e-mail in the days and weeks following the broadcast, which C-SPAN estimates was viewed in part or in its entirety by several million Americans during the course of the program. The beginning of a C-SPAN-Lincoln Forum tradition? We hope so. If you agree, write to C-SPAN at 400 North Capitol Street, N.W., Suite 650, Washington, DC 20001.

FORUM MEMBERSHIP SWELLS TO 400

Lincoln Forum membership has reached — and surpassed — the 400 mark, Administrator Catherine Boyers has announced. With 150 renewals and 250+ new members, the Forum muster rolls now constitute one of the largest Lincoln organizations in the nation -- with participation growing every week.

BARRETT KREISBERG DIES AT 72

One of the founding members of the Lincoln Forum, Barrett G. Kreisberg, died suddenly of a heart attack on December 29 at age 72. Barry attended both the first and second annual Lincoln Forum symposiums at Gettysburg. At the 1997 Board meeting, he took a leading role — tragically cut short by his death the following month — in an effort to broaden student participation in future Forum activities.

The Manhattan resident was a devoted student of Lincoln and the Civil War, as most Forum members knew — but also a distinguished New Yorker with a wide range of interests and accomplishments. A longtime attorney and public official, he was for seven years head of the State Board of Acquisition and Assessment, and earlier a Town Councilman from Greenburgh, N.Y. A lifelong dance aficionado, he was President of the Harkness Foundation, a leading supporter of the American Ballet Theatre, and a onetime college basketball player at George Washington University. He is survived by his wife, Luisa Kreisberg, a leading arts public relations executive, their son, Joel, and five grandchildren.

A GIANT AMONG LINCOLN SCHOLARS — DON FEHRENBACHER — DIES AT AGE 77

The Lincoln community suffered a huge and irreparable loss on December 13, 1997 with the death of the brilliant historian Don E. Fehrenbacher after a long and brave battle with heart disease.

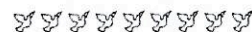
The much-honored Stanford University-based professor emeritus — winner of the Pulitzer Prize, numerous awards from Lincoln and Civil War groups around the nation, and shortly before his death the prestigious Lincoln Prize of Gettysburg College — was universally considered one of the deans of Lincoln scholarship in the United States. He was a founding member of the Lincoln Forum Board of Advisors, and in recognition of his singular accomplishments and unfailing support and encouragement, Forum officers have decided to keep Prof. Fehrenbacher's name on the organization's letterhead in perpetuity.

Don Fehrenbacher's many important Lincoln works include *Prelude to Greatness: Lincoln in the 1850's* (1962); *Abraham Lincoln: A Documentary Portrait* (1964); *The Dred Scott Case: Its Significance in American Law and Politics* (1978); *Lincoln in Text and Context: Collected Essays* (1987); and *Abraham Lincoln: Speeches and Writings* (1989), a two-volume collection for the Library of America series. He was also a consulting scholar to the *Lincoln on Democracy* Project in 1984.

Dr. Fehrenbacher's last — and one of his greatest — works was his highly original *Recollected Words of Abraham Lincoln*, compiled and edited with his widow, Virginia Fehrenbacher. The book presented and analyzed more than 500 pages of quotations attributed to the 16th president. Mark E. Neely, Jr. called it "the most important archival work on Lincoln since the publication of the *Collected Works*. *Recollected Words* has already taken its place as one of the essential reference works on the all-time Lincoln bookshelf.

In his final address — prepared for the 1997 Lincoln Prize dinner, but undelivered (Professor Fehrenbacher was too ill to travel across the country to receive it) — the widely respected scholar was asked to assess the enduring value of his profession. "Asked to state in minimal terms the essential value of historical study," he said with typical modesty and acuity, "I would say simply that it lends perspective to personal experience and...enrichment to the life of the mind."

Don Fehrenbacher added enrichment to the life of the mind — and to the entire realm of Lincoln scholarship and the field of American history. He grew up on the Lincoln Highway, near Lincoln Park and the Lincoln School, not far from which was a plaque marking the spot where Lincoln had once given a speech. He was, not surprisingly, inspired. Since his first essay was published, he has also been inspiring. To say he will be missed would be a vast understatement. He is, in a word, irreplaceable.



GUEST ESSAY: LINCOLN'S PHOTOGRAPH

By Stuart Schneider

Abraham Lincoln may have the most familiar face in America. Due to his appearance on the five-dollar bill, he is probably pretty well known around the world as well. If you are skeptical about this statement, ask 12 friends whose face appears on the nickel, the dime, and the penny. A third will get at least one wrong, and the wrong one will not be Lincoln. While Lincoln's bearded face is well known from currency and bills, there are other, lesser-known photographs of Lincoln that the public might not recognize as Lincoln at all.

Lincoln without a beard may fool those people who remember faces in terms of beards, mustaches, sideburns, and hair style. (I personally remember voices better than faces). Again, if you do not believe this, remember watching television and having someone point out that the person whom you have been watching is actually someone from a popular TV show with or without their usual attire.

I have always been fascinated by Lincoln's face. It changed constantly from the late 1850s to the time of his death. The burden of events during his presidency really drained the vitality from him to the extent that in his last photos, Lincoln looks very old. In searching out Lincoln photographs that I do not already own, I am usually drawn to those on paper. These include salt prints, CDVs, and larger albumen prints. Many photos were taken by Mathew Brady, his "operatives," or Alexander Gardner.

In the 1850s, photographers perfected making negatives on glass. Positives were then printed onto paper. They were "fixed" (this stops the print from being light-sensitive) with a chemical mistakenly called "salt." These are called salt prints. Multiple prints could be made from each negative. Salt prints have a softness to them and lack luster or gloss. The photo is deeper into the fibers of the paper rather than on the surface of the paper, as with the later albumen print.

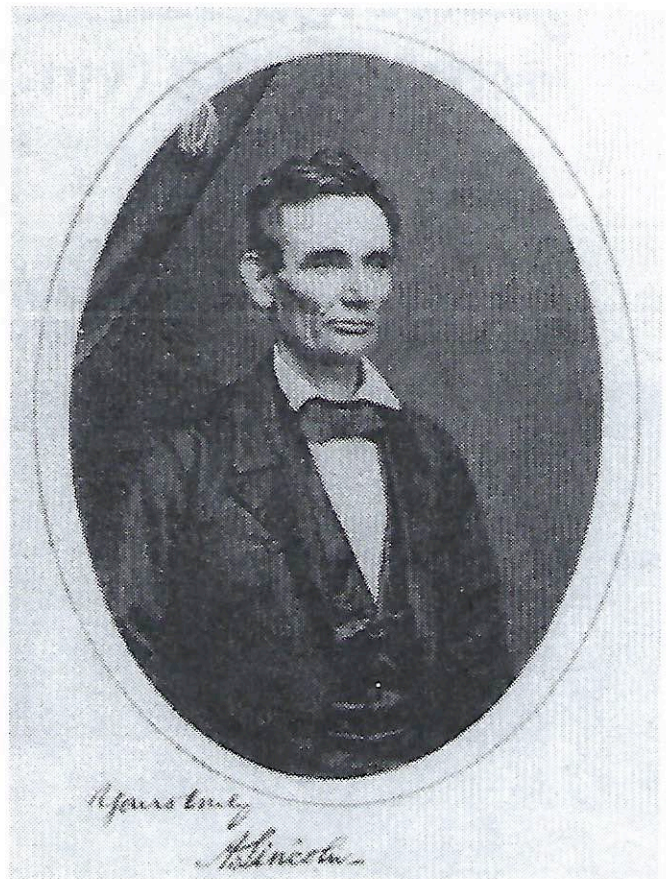
By 1860, the albumen print became popular. The paper was coated with an egg white mixture (albumen), made light-sensitive, and then printed on the albumen surface. Brady's and Gardner's photos of Lincoln and the Civil War were made this way. Albumen prints were richer and glossier than salt prints, but over time, many fade to a softer finish that may look like a salt print.

CDVs — *cartes de visite* (2.25 x 3.75 inches on a card 2.5 x 4 inches) were albumen prints. The CDV made its appearance in the U.S. about 1860. Brady's studio tried to fill the demand for Lincoln photos, but it was greater than the studio could handle. A New York photo supply house, E. Anthony & Co., took over the printing and sale of the photos. They printed from original Brady negatives, and Brady/Anthony prints are considered first-generation photos. Second- and third-generation photos were made when photographers took photos of Brady images and sold them as their own.

CDV cameras often had four lenses, which were sequentially uncapped and then capped to give four images on one plate. If two, side-by-side, were uncapped together, they yielded a stereo view. Stereos were twin photos mounted on a card. The slightly different perspective of each lens gives the stereo card a three-dimensional effect when examined through a stereo viewer.

There are many other types of Lincoln photographs that one can collect, including ambrotypes, tintypes (ferrotypes), composites, photos of lithographs, cabinet cards, Ayers' prints and others. I offer you here an opportunity to see one of the less-known Lincoln photographs. Even though Lincoln looks different in every picture you might see, there is the "magic" or "spark" that is Lincoln — that comes through in authentic photographs of our most popular president.

(The illustration accompanying this article is courtesy of Stuart Schneider).



Autographed photo by Roderick Cole, ca. 1858.



**VISIT THE LINCOLN FORUM
ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB
<http://web.mountain.net/~niddk/Forum>**

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Greetings to all of our members — now totaling a record 400! — as we enter a new season of Lincoln Forum activities, and plan for our third annual symposium.

It has been an eventful six months: much television and press attention for our group, and for the Lincoln field in general, which continues to attract ever-widening attention in all media (even the new media: just check out the proliferation of Lincoln and Civil War websites on the worldwide web).

But no matter how well the news is conveyed — in print, in images, or via the Internet — I think we would all agree that there is no substitute for the original: for the ambiance of an authentic Civil War location, and the precious opportunity to hear great scholarship up close and personal.

That is why I am very pleased that our November '98 symposium will take place in the heart of historic downtown Gettysburg — at the Holiday Inn adjacent to the Jenny Wade House, down the slope from Cemetery Hill, and only a few blocks to the town square. But authenticity requires some sacrifice. The hotel is a bit smaller than our former headquarters, and we must limit attendance to the first 160 enrollees. So please do commit to the celebration soon.

What a special pleasure it is to be telling such a very young group — only three years old — that we must cap attendance at so high a number. Thanks to all of you for making the Lincoln Forum such a great success story.

Signed,



Frank J. Williams

BRIAN LAMB WINS 2ND ANNUAL LINCOLN FORUM AWARD OF ACHIEVEMENT



Brian Lamb accepts the 1997 Lincoln Forum Award of Achievement at the annual symposium in Gettysburg on November 18, 1997. Presenting the plaque to the C-SPAN CEO and principal on-air host are Harold Holzer (left) and Frank J. Williams. (Photo: Edith Holzer)



FOUR SCORE AS LINCOLN

Look-alikes posed for a rare quartet portrait at the first banquet.

From left to right: Gettysburg antiques dealer **Bill Ciampa**;

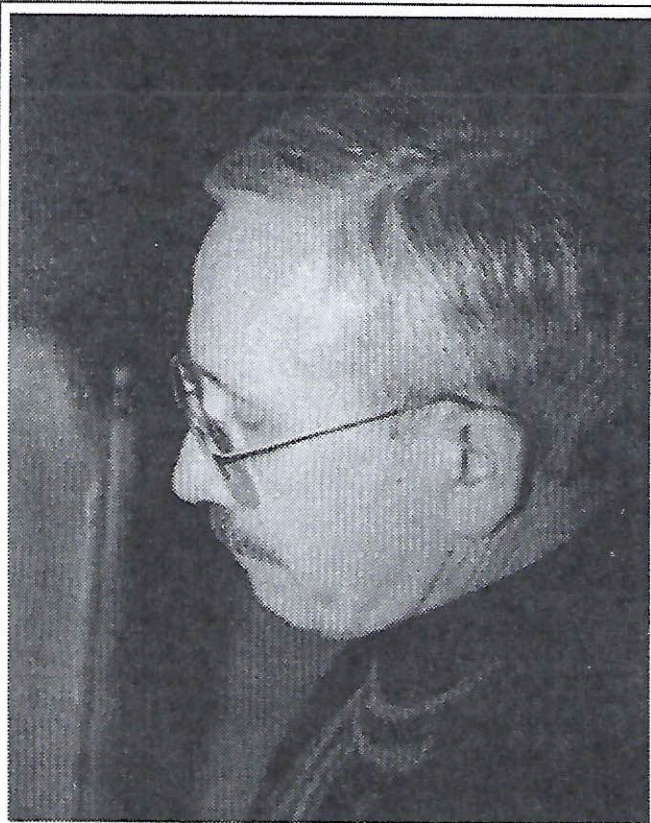
Freeport, IL teacher and Lincoln impersonator **George Buss**;

veteran impersonator **B. F. McClerren** of Charleston, IL;

and Gettysburg's own renowned Lincoln portrayer, **James Getty**.

(Photo: Virginia Williams)

SCENES FROM THE 1997 SYMPOSIUM



A moment of reflection: historian **Stephen B. Oates**.
(Photo: Virginia Williams)



Back for a second year in a row: Howard University professor **Edna Greene Medford**
(Photo: Virginia Williams)



**Student Lecturer Avram Fechter — a major hit in his debut as a speaker.
(Photo: David Walker)**



**On behalf of the Forum, Chairman Frank J. Williams accepts 1997 Award of Achievement from the Lincoln Group of New York.
(Photo: David Walker)**



**Charge of the Forum Brigade: Symposium attendees prepare to follow Pickett's July 3 attack route.
(Photo: David Walker)**

THE JUDGE AND HIS PANEL

Chairman Williams introduces panelists on the state of Lincoln Museums.

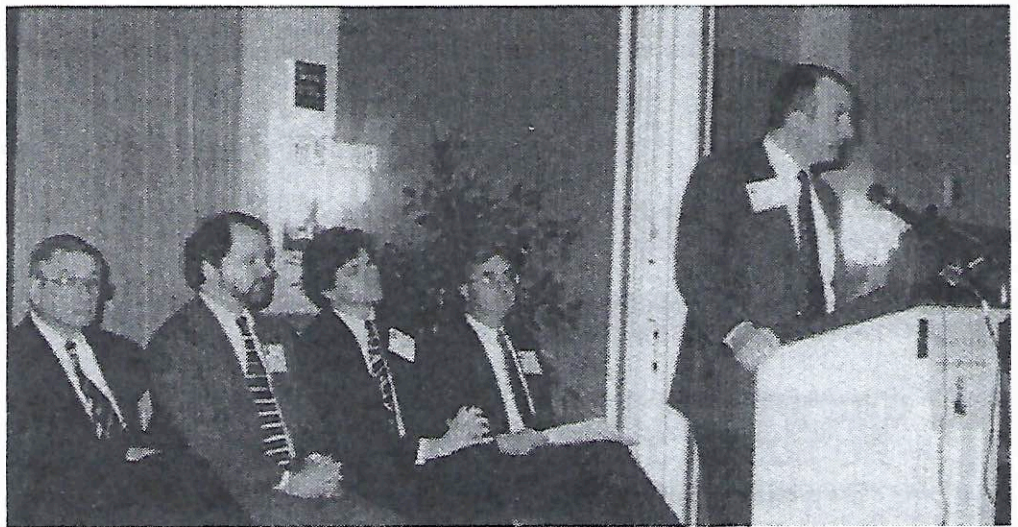
From left to right: **Charles Hubbard** of Lincoln Memorial University;

Gerald Prokopowicz of the Lincoln Museum,

Don McCue of the Lincoln Shrine, and

Norman Hellmers of the Lincoln Home.

(Photo: Edith Holzer)



FULL HOUSE

The Lincoln Forum opening banquet fills the Eisenhower Inn ballroom.

(Photo: David Walker)

MORE
SCENES
FROM
OUR
1997

SYMPOSIUM

OUR QUESTIONS, YOUR ANSWERS: SYMPOSIUM ATTENDEES RATE FORUM II

The Forum tried this year to take the pulse of its members — and the results show a healthy approval for the 1997 symposium.

More than 95% rated Forum II as a major success — and all the speakers at least an 8.5 overall rating on their performances, on a scale of 1-10. Four speakers topped the 9-point mark. More than 90% of those polled asked for the same speakers to return in 1998. The most frequently requested new speaker was James M. McPherson, who has accepted an invitation to address the 1998 symposium.

Respondents were asked what topics they would like to see addressed in future symposiums. Among the most frequently cited suggestions: Lincoln's ancestry, his assassination, politics, his contemporaries, the Lincoln-Douglas debates, and the personal side of the Lincoln story. His humor, his writing, his life in Springfield, his relationship with women, and his leadership also received votes. Expect to see some of your requests acted on in 1998 — and others at future symposiums.

The Board of Advisors were delighted to learn that most respondents view our registration fees as the same or lower than those of other meetings — that you voted overwhelmingly to return to Gettysburg for future symposiums — and that each person polled plans to return for Forum III in 1998.

An interesting sidelight: the Forum II attendee who traveled the greatest distance to attend came 3,000 miles. The closest attendee came two miles. Altogether, the 33 people who answered this question logged 17,457 miles, for an average distance of 529 miles.

The Forum on C-SPAN: The Viewers Respond

C-SPAN'S January 2 Lincoln Forum marathon inspired much viewer response from both old and new friends. Following is a brief sample — with thanks to the scores of viewers who wrote:

- "...Terrific...especially good at responding to the squirrely questions that you got on the telephone. Excellent publicity for the Lincoln Forum." — *Richard Nelson Current, South Natick, MA.*
- "My husband and I were fortunate to view...the C-SPAN telecast of the Lincoln Forum...[your] endeavor to promote the life and times of Mr. Lincoln. -- *Dolores A. De Benedictis, Penn Valley, CA*
- "The presentation of the Lincoln Forum on television last week held me, fascinated, throughout the day." — *Mary P. Taylor, Brattleboro, VT*
- "What a special treat and public service! Your C-SPAN Lincoln Forum was superb. Please put my name on your mailing list." — *Norman L. Abrams, San Anselmo, CA.*

LINCOLN NEWS NOTES

Lincoln Legals Theft. Sean Brown, a former researcher at the Lincoln Legal Papers research project in Springfield was charged with stealing two of the documents collected by the team, after the Illinois State Historical Library purchased at auction papers the State already owned. An inventory revealed that some 60 documents were still missing.

Lincoln on the Web. The Abraham Lincoln Association is raising funds to establish "a virtual Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library" on the worldwide web — to include *The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln*, *Lincoln Day by Day*, and other publications. As of May 1, nearly \$17,000 had been raised toward a seed grant of \$50,000.

Lincoln Studies Center. Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois — site of the fifth Lincoln-Douglas debate — has inaugurated a new Lincoln Studies Center, headed by Rodney O. Davis, co-editor of the new collection, *Herndon's Informants*. Knox will host a future session of the Lincoln Home Colloquium, the first to travel outside of Springfield.

Lincoln in the Archives. Tom and Beverly Lowry counted 570 documents with Lincoln's signature on a search of 80,000 items at the National Archives, it was announced in March. They made their discoveries while indexing 40,000 Civil War court-martial. Mrs. Lowry said: "The first Lincoln signature I found -- and every one since — I burst into tears and had to push away from the table so not to smear it." The New York Times heralded the announcement as "The Softer Side of Lincoln."

The Day Lincoln Was Shot debuted to decidedly mixed critical reaction on April 12 over the TNT cable television network. Lance Henriksen, best known as the star of the series, *Millennium*, played Lincoln as a dour and deep-voiced depressive. Rob Morrow, who starred on *Northern Exposure* and such films as *Quiz Show* and *Mother*, made an ebullient John Wilkes Booth. Donna Murphy won excellent notices as Mary Lincoln.

Familiar Name, New Assignment. Lincoln Forum Chairman Frank J. Williams has undertaken yet another role: literary news editor of the *Lincoln Herald*. He succeeds Gary Planck.

1998 Lincoln Prize. James M. McPherson won the 1998 Lincoln Prize, a bronze bust of Lincoln and a \$30,000 cash award, at a banquet held at the Union League Club of New York on April 16. The prize is endowed by philanthropist-collectors Lewis Lehrman and Richard Gilder, and administered by the Lincoln and Soldiers Institute at Gettysburg College, with Gabor S. Boritt as director. William T. Harris' 1997 book, *With Charity for All*, a study of Reconstruction under Lincoln, was awarded second prize (and \$20,000). Honorable mention (and \$5,000 awards) went to James "Bud" Robertson for his biography of "Stonewall" Jackson, and Gary W. Gallagher, who addressed the 1997 Forum, for his study of Confederate nationalism.

CALL FOR NEWS

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