



THE LINCOLN FORUM BULLETIN

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EIGHTH ANNUAL LINCOLN FORUM SYMPOSIUM TO FOCUS ON ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S IMAGE IN HISTORY AND POPULAR CULTURE

Special Appearance by Sam Waterston

The indelible, enduring impact of Abraham Lincoln on both his time and our time will be explored in depth at the eighth annual symposium of the Lincoln Forum: "Abraham Lincoln's Image in History and Popular Culture."

Lincoln Forum VIII—which will feature a rare and exciting blend of historical scholarship, visual art, and performance—convenes from November 16-18, 2003 at the Holiday Inn Gettysburg National Battlefield, in the center of the town where the 16th President delivered his most famous speech, the Gettysburg Address, exactly 140 years ago.

The Forum announced that Sam Waterston, the award-winning actor who has portrayed Lincoln on stage and screen—and has recited Lincoln's words from the stages of the Library of Congress and Ford's Theatre, among many other venues—will be the special featured attraction at this year's symposium, making his first appearance at the Lincoln Forum after a 19-year-long professional interest in the subject. Mr. Waterston will join Forum Vice Chairman Harold Holzer for a live performance of their acclaimed spoken word-visual image program, *Lincoln Seen and Heard*, at this year's opening banquet.

Among the other acclaimed scholars who will appear at Lincoln Forum VIII are the leading Grant and Civil War historian John Y. Simon; celebrated biographer Jean Edward Smith; historian Catherine Clinton, a specialist in the history of women in the Civil War; historians David Eicher and Joseph Fornieri; and, in an unusual dual presentation, perennial Forum favorites Craig L. Symonds of the U.S. Naval Academy and John F. Marszalek, recently retired from Mississippi State University.


In addition, Richard Moe, the head of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, will make a special appearance to update Forum attendees on the status of the rehabilitation of the Lincoln & Soldier's Home National Historic Site—the Great Emancipator's summer residence—in northern Washington, D.C.

The visual arts will be showcased in a group panel discussion that will bring together some of the most prominent contemporary painters and sculptors now working on Lincoln portraiture. Invitations have already been extended to Wendy Allen, John McClarey, Richard Wengenroth, Richard Masloski and Paul Martin.

Leading Lincoln re-enactor James Getty will perform his annual rendition of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, and Professor Gabor Boritt, Director of the Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College, will for the eighth consecutive time offer his traditional annual welcome (see feature story on Dr. Boritt in this issue of the *Bulletin*).

For the first time in its eight-year-history, the Forum will venture outside of its home base of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania for its annual battlefield tour. This November, the group will travel to Antietam, Maryland, for a tour of the site of the September 17, 1862 battle—with the pre-eminent Civil War historian James M. McPherson as official tour guide. The Princeton professor, winner of the Pulitzer Prize and most recently the Forum's Richard Nelson Current Award of Achievement, published a critically acclaimed book on the Battle of Antietam last year.

The coveted Current Award will be presented again at this year's Forum—and attendees are poised to provide a special welcome to the distinguished dean of Lincoln scholars for whom it is named, 90-year-old Professor Richard Nelson Current, author of *The Lincoln Nobody Knows* and many other books about the Civil War era.

"Considering our already-rich organizational history, it is difficult to suggest that the Lincoln Forum gets better every year," commented Forum Chairman Frank J. Williams. "But this year's program promises to provide education, enlightenment, and entertainment to our ever-growing audience. We are grateful to this year's scholars and artists, and grateful to our membership for their support and enthusiasm. Nothing better measures Lincoln's true impact on our history and culture than their hunger for more information about his life and times. This year, we intend to satisfy that hunger with one of the most exciting programs in our history." 

For A Vast Future Also

During the early days of his presidency, Abraham Lincoln was forced to decide whether American democracy was worth fighting for—even if, along the way, some of the civil liberties that animated that democracy might be sacrificed for the greater good.

Lincoln decided, as he later put it, that while a “body”—in this case, the Union—might be saved by amputating a limb (civil liberties), no limb could survive on its own if the body itself died first.

Almost every war since has required our commander-in-chief to judge the threat to the nation and to act, sometimes in the wake of major criticism, to save the “body” so the “limb” might thrive another day.

Our recent experience in Iraq has been no different, and everywhere I have spoken publicly since we last met in Gettysburg, I have been asked—both as a Lincoln student and a judge—to render my opinion on civil liberties in wartime. Can the nation continue to hold prisoners of war at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba? Can we place accused, American-born traitors on trial by military tribunal? What legal rights must be preserved in the spirit of the founders? What means must be adopted to save the country the founders created, from the frightening new threat of terrorism? Does self-preservation trump civil liberties? Or is the other way around?

These are questions that Lincoln himself could never have imagined. They probably seemed unimaginable to most of *us* only a few years ago, before the World Trade Center attack brought terrorism to our shore so horrifically in September 2001.

Men and women may differ on how to face this latest, perhaps greatest, threat to democracy, and there is no doubt that the debate will continue.

As always, we can find wisdom and inspiration in the words and deeds of Lincoln, who faced unprecedented crises of his own.

“If I be wrong on this question of Constitutional power,” he wrote to Erastus Corning and other Democratic opponents on April 15, 1863, “my error lies in believing that certain proceedings are constitutional when, in cases of rebellion or invasion, the public Safety requires them... . The constitution itself makes the distinction; and I can no more be persuaded that the government can constitutionally take no strong measure in time of rebellion, because it can be shown that the same could not be lawfully taken in time of peace, than I can be persuaded that a particular drug is not good medicine for a sick man, because it can be shown to not be good food for a well one.”

We meet this year on the 140th anniversary of the Gettysburg Address. As Lincoln so wisely put it then, there is a “great task remaining before us.” It remains before us still, and more bitter pills may yet be required to complete that task. Thankfully, Lincoln remains our beacon.

In our eternal struggle for freedom let us together remember what Lincoln told Congress in 1862: “The way is plain, peaceful, generous, just—a way which, if followed, the world will forever applaud, and God must forever bless.”

Find The Lincoln Forum on the web at:

WWW.THELINCOLNFORUM.ORG

- Membership and Symposium registration forms
- 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@earthlink.net)



ALL ABOARD FOR FORUM MEMBERS ON THE HISTORIC DELTA QUEEN

For seven magical nights beginning October 31, Forum members are invited to an autumn Lincoln cruise aboard the legendary steamboat Delta Queen, with historian guides Frank J. Williams and Harold Holzer. James Getty will also join the tour to perform his renowned one-man show as Abraham Lincoln.

HistoryAmerica Tours is organizing the event—the second Lincoln Forum cruise program it has produced.

The tour will take passengers to Rockport, Henderson, Dover, Savannah, and Chattanooga, and feature tours of Lincoln and Civil War sites (including the Shiloh and Fort Donelson battlefields as well as the Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial), as well as on-board lectures.

The ship features down-home Southern food, a famously amiable staff, and superb Dixieland jazz music.

The Delta Queen was briefly out of service last year—arousing deep concerns that this gem of the rivers would be lost forever. But it has now returned, and offers those who have never experienced the old-world experience of paddle-wheel steaming an unforgettable opportunity to step back in time on her decks and in her staterooms.

For further information and reservations, contact HistoryAmerica Tours at 1-800-628-8542.

ON 'LINCOLN SEEN AND HEARD'

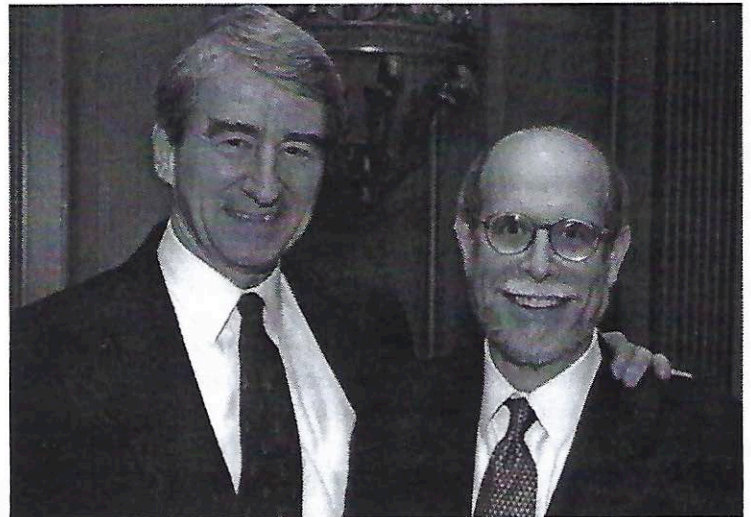
The unique words-and-images production, "Lincoln Seen and Heard," presents Abraham Lincoln as his contemporaries knew him — by tracing the development of his rhetoric and his image from his days as a Congressman through his climactic moment as President, the Second Inaugural Address that he delivered only a few weeks before his assassination.

Throughout his career, Lincoln managed— either at his own initiative or at the urging of others — to pose for photographs around the time of many of his greatest speeches. As a result, he left behind a parallel, words-and-pictures record of the crucial moments of his political career. The words and pictures are seldom examined in tandem; this is what "Lincoln Seen and Heard" attempts to do. Sam Waterston provides the voice of Lincoln; Harold Holzer supplies the pictures and a narrative history of Lincoln as a subject for artists and photographers.

Waterston and Holzer, who met on a TV-movie set in Richmond nearly 20 years ago, have performed the program three times previously: at the Grace Rainey Rogers Auditorium of The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York; at the Hotchkiss School in Connecticut; and at the Library of Congress in Washington. Sam Waterston's powerful readings, illuminating a maturing, evolving Lincoln in all his complex moods, has won particular public and critical acclaim. Last February, C-SPAN broadcast the Washington performance on the national cable network.

Waterston is, of course, best-known for his portrayal of District Attorney Jack McCoy in the long-running NBC drama, "Law and Order," but he is no stranger to the role of Abraham Lincoln. He has played him on television ("Gore Vidal's Lincoln"), on stage ("Abe Lincoln in Illinois"), and even in ballet (a new Elliot Feld-choreographed adaptation of Aaron Copland's "Lincoln Portrait," in which the actor spoke but, alas, did not dance). He also appeared in February 2003 at The Metropolitan Museum in yet another voice-and-image production, "The Lincoln Family Album," featuring his onetime "Law and Order" co-star Dianne Wiest as Mary.

The famously versatile actor, who has also portrayed characters as diverse as Nick Carraway in "The Great Gatsby" and Sydney Schanberg in "The Killing Fields" (the latter earning him an Oscar nomination), has long, and successfully, avoided typecasting. But as he confesses: "If I am going to be typecast, I'd be delighted to be typecast as Abraham Lincoln."



Sam Waterston and Harold Holzer at the Library of Congress.

BORITT URGES NEW EMPHASIS ON U.S. HISTORY

By Donald Pieper

Gabor Boritt laments the indifference many young Americans seem to feel about U.S. history. That's not surprising. He's a professional historian, after all. Naturally, he wants others to experience the excitement that's motivated him to become a leading interpreter of the national story.

But his concern goes beyond merely wanting to share his personal fascination with the subject. Boritt says there are serious implications for the country's future if history, especially American history, is allowed to be a turn-off.

"We'll be in deep trouble," he says, "if new generations lack the context gained by an understanding of the events and personalities that shaped the national character."

Boritt, a member of the Lincoln Forum Board of Advisors and the 1996 winner of the Forum's Richard Nelson Current Award of Achievement, says he has watched with sadness in recent years as middle and high school curricula writers de-emphasized history.

The situation was brought home to him when he went to Union Square in New York City during a rally protesting the American role in Afghanistan. He wanted to be sure the participants realized that principles established by America's founders in 1776 allowed the protesters to express their opinions about government policy in the 21st century. He carried a sign to that effect and another that said if it hadn't been for what happened at Gettysburg, there might be no United States as we know it today.

Boritt says that while he was talking to one of the protesters, the man told him he didn't understand what 1776 and the Civil War had to do with criticizing policies of the Bush administration.

"I was not surprised," Boritt says, "but I was appalled."

Boritt, a native of Stalinist Hungary and a witness of the futile but heroic uprising there in 1956, knows first-hand about suppression of free speech.

Few have examined the Gettysburg battle and the Abraham Lincoln connection as closely as Boritt, director of the Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College, where he is a professor of Civil War Studies. He has written and edited numerous books on mid-19th century subjects — the latest is *The Lincoln Enigma: The Changing Faces of an American Icon* (Oxford University Press, 2001) — and he serves on the Lincoln Bicentennial Commission.

The power of history — especially as it is manifested at Gettysburg — was demonstrated to Boritt not long after the September 11th terrorism attacks. A group of what Boritt describes only as "significant White House leaders" asked him to conduct a private tour of the battlefield and cemetery.

They were looking to gain strength, he says, for the tests of national resolve that lay ahead as they developed the U.S. response to the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Their first visit outside Washington was to Gettysburg.

As a Gettysburg resident, Professor Boritt greets Lincoln Forum members as we gather each November for our symposium.

Asked how Forum members could address the history deficit that worries him, Boritt urges us to use our enthusiasm for history to encourage secondary school officials to reconsider curriculum shifts that have de-emphasized the subject.

He says he doesn't know for sure why history is considered less important to educators. "But I can make a couple of guesses," he says.

One reason, he suggests, may be an attitude by some educators that American history tends to be "self-congratulatory" and is offered primarily to develop uncritical patriotism. "That bothers a lot of people," he says. They feel obliged to emphasize the negatives and diminish the inspirational aspects.

Another reason, Boritt says, may be that Americans are apt to be future-minded, impatient to keep up in a fast-paced society and unwilling to reflect on the past.

In addition to young Americans, he says, immigrants have a responsibility to sharpen impressions about the national values and how they evolved. As an immigrant, Boritt says he finds American history, particularly Lincoln's log cabin-to-the-White House saga, inspiring.

His outlook on the popularity of history isn't entirely gloomy. Boritt says that, while the September 11th attacks and their aftermath have had a negative effect on tourism generally, visits to Gettysburg have increased. He says the Ken Burns television

documentary *Civil War* had a measurable impact on the public and has stimulated interest.

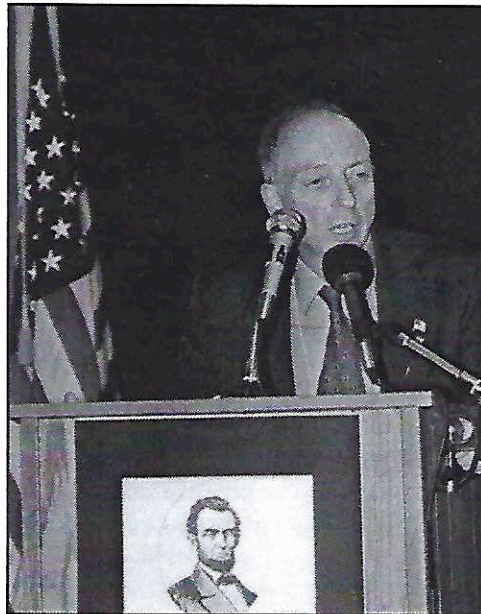
Whereas Americans need to enhance their knowledge of history, Boritt says, citizens in many other parts of the world over-emphasize history. Much of the turmoil in recent years stems from a refusal to forget or resolve centuries-old conflicts, he says.

What, then, Professor Boritt, has history to tell us about the events unfolding in Iraq?

If the question is what would Abraham Lincoln do if he were in George W. Bush's shoes, Boritt doesn't want to guess. He says he was asked once how Lincoln would have felt about school busing to achieve integration and he replied that Lincoln would have asked: What's a bus?

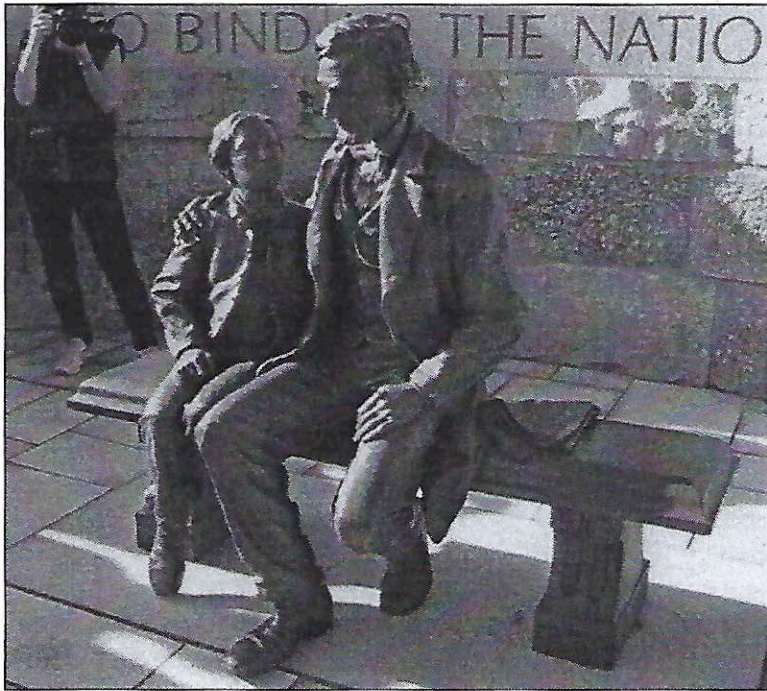
But he did say that while Lincoln is remembered as a compassionate man, and there are countless anecdotes to illustrate it, he also was a resolute war leader. Boritt recalled the Lincoln phrase: "You don't fight wars by blowing rose water through cornstalks."

Lincoln's references in the Second Inaugural to charity and a lack of malice may indicate how Lincoln, had he survived to face that challenge, would have approached post-Civil War reconstruction. Boritt says Lincoln's philosophy might be instructive for those involved in establishing the post-conflict Iraq. ■



Above: Gabor Boritt welcomes the 2002 Forum.

LINCOLN 'RETURNS' TO RICHMOND IN FIRST PUBLIC MONUMENT IN THE OLD CONFEDERACY



Lincoln and Tad return to Richmond — in this life-size bronze by David Frech. (Photo: Michael Bishop)

A small, gentle-looking bronze statue of a father and son—in this case Abraham Lincoln and Tad Lincoln—unleashed a firestorm of controversy in April when it was installed on the site of the old Tredegar Iron works, arms builders to the Confederacy, near the shore of the James River in Richmond Virginia.

The unveiling, staged on April 5, the anniversary weekend of Lincoln's own 1865 visit to the conquered and devastated Confederate capital, attracted several thousand people, who heard former Virginia Governor Douglas Wilder, historian Ronald C. White, Jr., and Forum Vice Chairman Harold Holzer, among others, all of whom emphasized the spirit of sectional reconciliation represented by the sculpture.

But while their talks won considerable applause, a dozen or so hecklers from Aryan Nation, Sons of Confederate Veterans, and assorted white supremacist groups jeered from a distant hill, where they also unfurled the controversial Confederate battle flag and kept up a steady barrage of Rebel Yells.

A lone protester inside the grounds, which are leased by the National Park Service, wore a T-shirt emblazoned with the slogan, "John Wilkes Booth was a national hero," while overhead, a small, low-flying, single-engine propeller plane buzzing the area throughout the ceremony, hauled a banner reading: "Sic Semper Tyrannis"—the slogan that Booth shouted to the stunned Ford's Theatre audience after shooting Abraham Lincoln a few weeks after his visit to Richmond. The dedication unleashed national press coverage, and much editorial commentary about the passionate reaction by opponents of the project ("Lincoln statue opens war wounds in Virginia," headlined the AP).

One online petition circulated before the dedication, and signed by 3,000 protesters, insisted: "A statue to this politician is no more appropriate in Richmond than one celebrating Sherman who burned Atlanta to the ground or one glorifying the evil Third Reich to Hitler [sic] in Tel Aviv." But as Joan Flinspach, director of Fort Wayne's Lincoln Museum, countered that the statue conveys "the message that Lincoln was trying to cite in his second inaugural: with malice toward none, with charity for all."

Lincoln's original visit to the city was considerably calmer. He and young Tad first arrived in Richmond on April 4, 1865, the little boy's unforgettable 12th birthday. Jefferson Davis's government had fled, and much of the city lay in ruins.

Although white citizens did not rush to greet him, the city's newly liberated black population swarmed around the President, "enthusiastic in the extreme" once they recognized their emancipator, according to one contemporary report.

Notwithstanding the protests by the modern-day extremists, an eyewitness to Lincoln's 1865 visit marveled: "He came not as a conqueror, not with bitterness in his heart, but with kindness. He came as a friend, to alleviate sorrow and suffering—to rebuild what has been destroyed."

For the commemorative statue, young New York sculptor David Frech imagined a moment when father and son might have paused in town to reflect on the jubilant welcome. Frech seated them, and left space on either side of their bench for modern-day visitors to sit with Lincoln and Tad. The life-size bronze sits only a few dozen yards from the back of a National Park Service Civil War visitor center.

A national Civil War Museum—designed to reflect the Northern, Southern, and African-American experience—is planned for the Tredegar site.

The sculpture was funded, and donated to the Park Service, by the U.S. Historical Society, a non-profit Richmond company, which has also created authorized miniature replicas to help pay for the project. For details about bronzed and bonded bronze miniatures, call the Society at 1-800-788-4478. **I**



The gang's all here: The 2002 Forum posing, as always, in front of the Dobbin House.



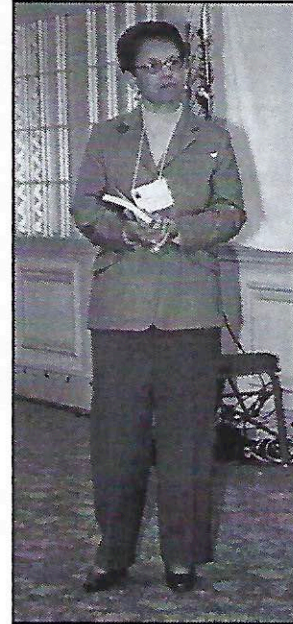
Return of C-SPAN: Richard Hall, one-man production team, pauses from his endless filming chores to pose with Forum Administrator Annette Westerby.



"Lincoln" and son: Veteran attendee George Buss and rookie Jason Buss share a moment at the banquet.



Return of a hero: Richard Nelson Current at the annual banquet.



In command: Professor Edna Greene Medford chairs a session.



Where we live: this year, members identified their home towns on a central map. Looks as if the Union still holds sway.

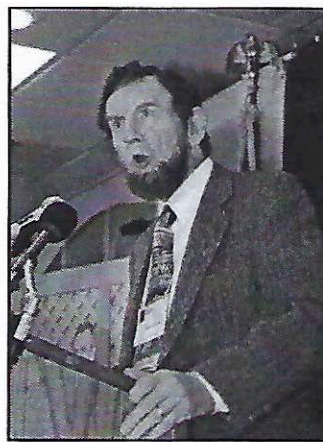
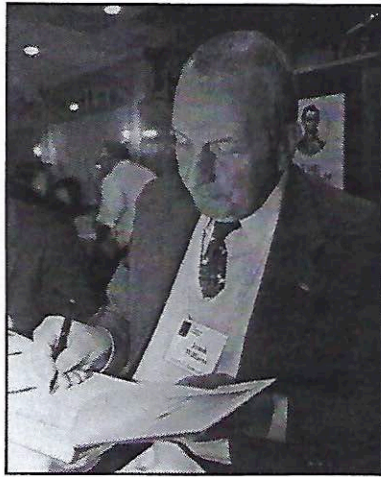


Boys in the band: The Providence Brigade band performs at the opening-night dinner.



Family portrait: Speaker Lucas Morel and his beautiful family pose during a dinner break.

Sign here: the talk of the Forum was the much-delayed delivery of Frank Williams' new book, "Judging Lincoln." When it finally arrived, it became a Forum best-seller. Here the Chairman signs one of the copies members purchased at the symposium.

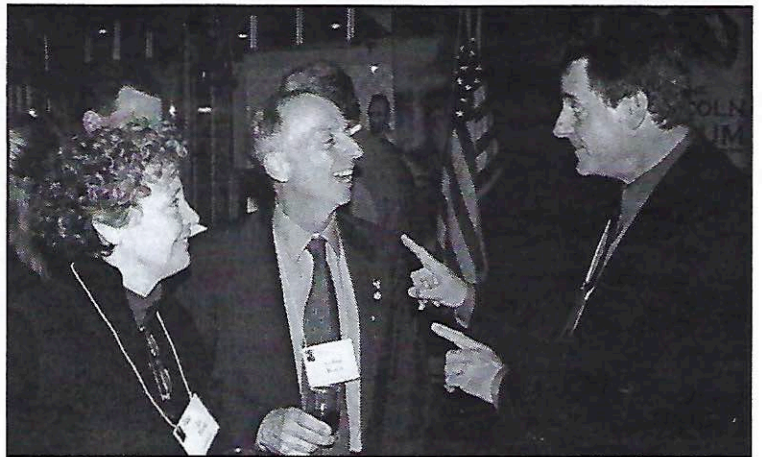


A few appropriate remarks: Jim Getty delivers the Gettysburg Address at the closing banquet — a memorable Forum tradition.

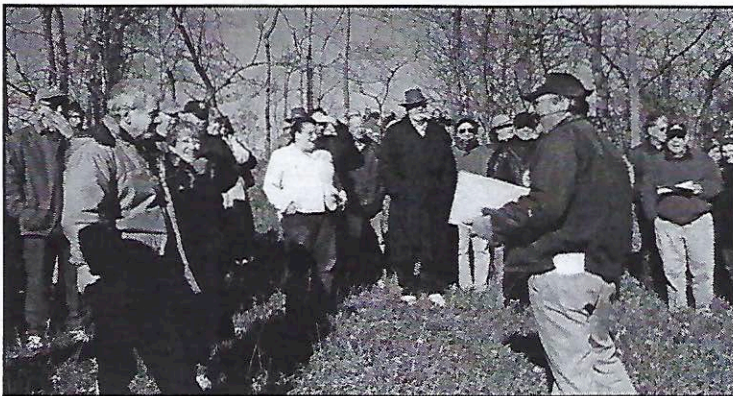


Summit meeting: Jack Davis confers with Craig Symonds and Dan Weinberg at a cocktail reception.

LINCOLN FORUM VII: AN ALBUM



Surprise guest: Novelist Jeff Shaara (right) greets Liz and Gabor Boritt at the opening banquet.



In the field: Beneath bright blue skies, Gary Kross leads another of his acclaimed guided tours of the Gettysburg battlefield.



Paneling: Harold Holzer chairs a group discussion on the subject of the Lincoln marriage and family. Participating, from left to right: Jean H. Baker, Matthew Pinsker, Tim Townsend, Gerald Prokopowicz and Frank J. Williams.

LINCOLN AT ANTIETAM

This November, the Lincoln Forum takes its first battlefield tour outside of its home base of Gettysburg—to Antietam, with historian James M. McPherson, as our guide. Lincoln, too, journeyed to Antietam—on October 4, 1862—to confront his recalcitrant general, George B. McClellan, and prod him into further action. The meeting proved to be the most famous “photo opportunity” of the Lincoln presidency, whose greatest moments (the Gettysburg Address, the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation) were seldom photographed. This time, however, Alexander Gardner was on hand to show Lincoln and McClellan conferring in a military tent summit, an American flag rather pointedly featured in the foreground as a tablecloth. Note how sunburned the general looks compared to the pale Lincoln. Lincoln also posed outside with McClellan and his staff, towering over “Little Mac” and his military family, a thoroughly civilian but unquestionably imposing commander-in-chief, on the site of the battle that made the Emancipation Proclamation possible. (Photos: Library of Congress)



LINCOLN FORUM MID-YEAR EVENT MARKS MONITOR-MERRIMACK DUEL AT HAMPTON ROADS

The third mid-year Lincoln Forum gathering took place March 7-9 at the Mariners' Museum in Hampton Roads, Virginia, as the Forum co-sponsored a "Battle of Hampton Roads Weekend" symposium featuring Craig L. Symonds, Frank J. Williams, Harold Holzer, and a host of Civil War scholars analyzing and debating the most famous naval engagement of the war.

More than 200 local and out-of-town visitors attended the weekend event, which also offered attendees an exciting first glimpse of the newly recovered, iconic gun turret from the *U.S.S. Monitor*. Recently brought to the surface from the ocean floor by the U.S. Navy, the instantly recognizable engineering marvel (still dented from the shelling of the Confederate ironclad, *C.S.S. Merrimack*, will be housed permanently at a new "Monitor Center" to be built by the Museum. Meanwhile it is being housed, and undergoing public restoration, in a giant, silo-shaped water tank in back of the building. Other relics and artifacts from the ironclad were also on view, along with an exhibition of graphic arts depicting the ship's one and only battle in 1862.

The festivities included family programs, and a special appearance at the Mariners' Museum theatre by "Mr. and Mrs. Abraham Lincoln," in the person of Forum members B. F. and Dorothy McClerren. Other scholars included MIT professor David Mindell, and John Quarstein, director of the Virginia War Museum. A book of essays is planned with Fordham University Press.

The weekend also featured a costume ball, in which Forum members (see illustrations) Budge and Russ Weidman, Harold and Edith Holzer, Craig and Marylou Symonds, Frank and Virginia Williams (portraying Chief Justice Roger B. Taney and his court clerk), with the Platt family, Annette, Chuck, and Linda.

The event ended with a memorial service for the sailors whose remains were found when the gun turret was recovered.

The Museum is currently weighing plans to produce a second symposium about other aspects of the Civil War navy. Previous mid-year Forum events have included a Delta Queen cruise in Illinois, organized by HistoryAmerica Tours, and a symposium on "New York and the Civil War" co-hosted by the New York State Archives Partnership Trust and the Civil War Round Table of Albany.



MATTHEW PINSKER VOTED BEST SPEAKER AT LINCOLN FORUM VII

Historian Matthew Pinsker—offering a preview of his forthcoming book on Lincoln's life at his summer residence, the Soldier's Home—was the highest-rated of all the speakers at the 2002 Lincoln Forum, according to the results tabulated from attendees' annual evaluation sheets.

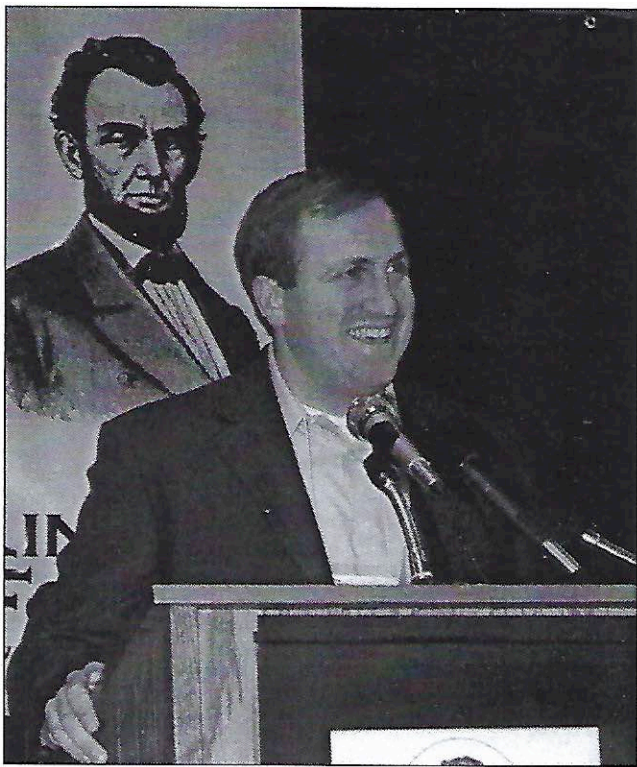
Pinsker received a 9.43 rating, just a tenth-of-a-point ahead of Professor Ronald C. White Jr., who received a 9.32 rating for his talk on Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address. Pulitzer Prize-winner James M. McPherson finished third with a ranking of 9.26. The three speakers—two of them, White and Pinsker making their Forum debuts—were the only 2002 speakers ranked above 9.0.

Pinsker's showing was particularly impressive since Forum organizers inadvertently omitted his name from the evaluation sheet. Pinsker's strong support came entirely from write-in votes.

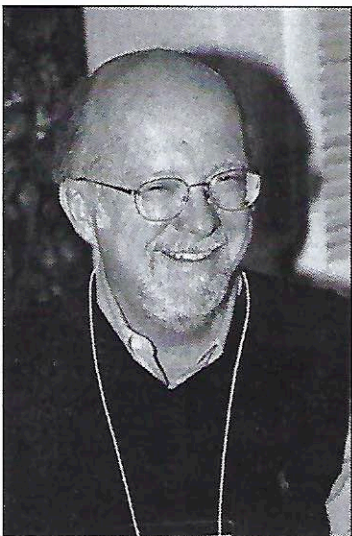
The other speakers all received strong ratings, with additional comments lauding all the Forum VII presentations for originality, energy, and mass-appeal.

Attendees ranked William C. "Jack" Davis at 8.96, Jean H. Baker at 8.77, Edward Steers, Jr. at 8.63, Daniel Weinberg and James Swanson at 8.56, Geoffrey Perret at 8.33, and Lucas Morel at 8.25.

"Once again, we were blessed to welcome accomplished, original, and appealing speakers to the Forum," commented Chairman Frank J. Williams on the results. "The response from our attendees shows that our enthusiasm for the 2002 roster was shared by our members. Their frequent comment was: 'Have these speakers back!' And we will."



Popular speakers (From top left): Matthew Pinsker, James Swanson with Dan Weinberg, Ronald C. White, Jr., Jack Davis, James M. McPherson, and Edward Steers Jr. (Photos: Edith Holzer, Virginia Williams, Budge Weidman)



2002 FORUM ATTENDEES: HAPPY, HAPPIER, HAPPIEST

Lincoln Forum VII attendees traveled an average of 665 miles to reach Gettysburg for the 2002 Symposium, and declared themselves amply rewarded for their efforts — and eager to return in 2003, according to the annual evaluation forms submitted by the Forum audience.

The Forum itself received a 9.95 rating overall — the highest numbers ever awarded to a symposium. Attendees declared themselves pleased with the Holiday Inn Gettysburg Battlefield, content with the food and service, and above all, happy to be back in the company of their Lincoln Forum friends for another annual symposium.

Some of this year's comments follow:

- "I came with a cast on my right leg this year. If I had to come on a stretcher, I would, so that I wouldn't miss the Lincoln Forum. It's the highlight of my intellectual year and a reunion with valued friends."
- "As usual, the Forum was great—the speeches, organization, and of course the people attending are top quality. This is our third one and we will return."
- "This is my first even with the Lincoln Forum. It will not be my last. All went far above my best hopes."
- "This is the best symposium I have attended. I have learned, I have shared. I look forward to another. Thank you."
- "I learned so much in the past three days, had a chance to have wonderful conversation with so many participants and met many interesting people."
- "I enjoyed the conference immensely. My husband had attended in the past, and since he had spoken so highly of it, we decided it would be something I would enjoy as well. I have not read any books on Lincoln, my knowledge was solely from high school and college. The fact that the conference can appeal to me, with limited Lincoln knowledge, as well as the many individuals who have a vast amount of knowledge, speaks well of the program."
- "Continued kudos for keeping Lincoln accessible to us non-scholars."
- "Great value, great content, great leadership."
- "This symposium was the best of the four I've attended—high praise indeed."
- "I enjoyed it very much better than school work. Harold Holzer is cool. Mr. Platt is cool also. So is Mr. Williams."
- "I appreciate the hard work that makes the Forums such a success."
- "I continue to be more impressed by the level of scholarship every time I attend."
- "C-SPAN should tape all Lincoln Forum annual meetings."
- "Attending the Forum the past two years has been great. I am hooked—for life, I hope."
- "I really enjoyed my first Forum. It was better than I expected."
- "Another winner—thank you!"
- "Fantastic experience."
- "This was my first Lincoln Forum meeting, and I had a wonderful time. I plan to attend future meetings on a regular basis."
- "The 2002 Forum was especially great. I was so pleased to see so many in attendance. I would say the 'we' and 'Lincoln' are in good company."



Best-Dressed

Historian Geoffrey Perret has won many honors — and undoubtedly more await him for his forthcoming book, *"Lincoln's War."* But surely he deserves the title of "best-dressed" at Lincoln Forum VII, as this dazzling, *GQ*-worthy photographic record attests.

Grateful for the praise, your Forum leadership is also working to address your concerns and suggestions: speed up the long lines for lunch buffets, repair the unpredictable sound system, and allot more time for audience questions. As always, your ideas guide us.

NEW LOCATION OF 2003 FORUM VIII AWARD BANQUET

SPECIAL EVENT, SPECIAL LOCALE

Because of the huge early interest in this year's banquet, and Sam Waterston's appearance, The Lincoln Forum will hold its annual banquet in the historic Gettysburg Hotel Ballroom at the town square — just across the street from the home where Abraham Lincoln stayed the night before delivering the Gettysburg Address.

The hotel ballroom is larger—and will accommodate more attendees—to what promises to be one of our most exciting events.

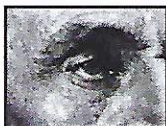
With increased seating capacity, we are able to offer single event admission for Sunday night's dinner and program. If you would like to bring a guest, or are interested in attending only the Sunday night activities at the historic Gettysburg Hotel, contact Annette Westerby. Tickets are available at \$50.00 per person.

We hope you will enjoy the change of venue for Sunday night's banquet. Buses have been arranged to transport our group from the Holiday Inn to the Gettysburg hotel.



The Historic Gettysburg Hotel
One Lincoln Square · Gettysburg, PA

- ◆ C-SPAN telecast the entire Lincoln Forum in a series of broadcasts through December 2003. The programming included the presentation of the Richard Nelson Current Lincoln Forum Award of Achievement to James M. McPherson, as well as his riveting opening-night lecture. The Lincoln Forum is grateful to producer-cameraman Richard Hall, and to the many members who sent their appreciation for the opportunity to view the event
- ◆ The Lincoln Group of New York marked its 25th anniversary with an all-day symposium April 12. Frank Williams and Harold Holzer were among the speakers. Also appearing was Draft Riots expert Iver Bernstein, on "The Real Gangs of New York." Former U.S. Senator Paul Simon—a Richard N. Current Lincoln Forum Award of Achievement laureate—was the keynote speaker.
- ◆ The collectors' publication *The Rail Splitter* (Winter 2003) has published an unknown ambrotype that appears to show Sarah Bush Johnston Lincoln, the President's beloved stepmother. It was unearthed at the Stephenson County Historical Society in Freeport, site of Lincoln's second 1858 Senatorial debate with Stephen A. Douglas. If authentic, it is only the second known portrait of the second Mrs. Thomas Lincoln.
- ◆ The Lincoln Bicentennial Commission met in February, welcoming more than 50 members of its national advisory board to the Library of Congress in Washington, and met again in April in Kentucky, retracing Lincoln's youth in his native state.
- ◆ The next months will bring an outpouring of new Lincoln books—perhaps the richest trove of new publications in years: by David Herbert Donald (on Lincoln's close friends and associates), Allen Guelzo (the Emancipation Proclamation), Harold Holzer (the Cooper Union address), Geoffrey Perret (Lincoln as commander-in-chief), and later in the year or early in 2005, additional, eagerly awaited books by Ronald C. White (Lincoln's presidential rhetoric), Douglas L. Wilson (the development of President Lincoln as a writer), William Lee Miller (his ethical biography, volume two), Michael Beschloss (the Lincoln assassination), and Doris Kearns Goodwin (Lincoln's cabinet).
- ◆ The Lincoln Forum has lost two of its best-loved members: George Craig, the elder statesman of the Lincoln Group and Civil War Round Table of New York, who passed away a few days before his 88th birthday, and Michael Maione, historian at Ford's Theatre National Historic Site. Both died in February. Craig was celebrated at a memorial service at the Seventh Regiment Armory in Manhattan, and Maione was remembered at a ceremony at Ford's Theatre in Washington.
- ◆ A group of anti-Lincoln writers and speakers gathered in Richmond in March for a "symposium" that condemned the 16th President as a poor parent, a duplicitous leader, a closet bigot, and a ribald story-teller. Thomas de Lorenzo, whose new book, *The Real Abraham Lincoln*, paints a similar portrait, was one of the featured speakers.



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:

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