Manuscript Collection Inventory
Illinois History and Lincoln Collections
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Note: Unless otherwise specified, documents and other materials listed on the following pages are available for research at the Illinois Historical and Lincoln Collections, located in the Main Library of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Additional background information about the manuscript collection inventoried is recorded in the Manuscript Collections Database (http://www.library.illinois.edu/ihx/archon/index.php) under the collection title; search by the name listed at the top of the inventory to locate the corresponding collection record in the database.
Harry E. Pratt. Papers.

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1. Writings


"The Life of John Dean Caton," [1933], carbon typescript ("Only 3 copies typed"), 150 pages, with 7 illustrations tipped in. [Formerly cataloged as MS.B.366p]

"Contributions, 1920-31" [title on spine], including the abstract of Pratt's dissertation and his articles on Orme (1930), Stuart-Swett (1931), and Allen (1931). Tipped-in is a letter from Judge Henry Horner, July 11, 1931. [Bound in 1932] [Formerly cataloged as 973.7 P88c]

"Articles" [title on spine], a collection of 22 articles [listed at the front and in the Bibliography cited above]. [Formerly cataloged as 973.7L63 GP88a]

Various published articles (unbound).

"Lincoln-Douglas Debates," carbon typescript, 46 pages. [Published?]

Book reviews.
Notes and typescripts on various topics. Many relate to research for Pratt's dissertation.

2. Correspondence

All are addressed to Harry E. Pratt, unless otherwise noted.

Angle, Paul M., Oct. 7, 1949, regarding the lack of openings for "historical work."

*Atlantic Monthly* (Charles W. Morton, Jr.) to Pratt and Ernest E. East, Jan. 17, 1942, rejecting their proposal to "put together some interesting details from Mrs. Lincoln's affairs."

Barker, H. E. (Lincoln Fellowship of Southern California) to M. L. Houser, Mar. 24, 1937 (typed copy on Abraham Lincoln Association stationery), on books owned by Lincoln.

Bailey, Theodore L., Harriman, N.Y., Jan. 14, 1951, regarding "an exotic cane which belonged to Dr Charles A. Leale."

Barondess, Benjamin, New York, Apr. 30, 1954, on the wording of a telegram from Edwin M. Stanton to Lincoln, two days before the Gettysburg Address: was it "A. Carnegie will call for you at 12" (Louis A. Warren, *Lincoln Lore*, #1023, Nov. 15, 1948) or "A carriage will call for you at 12" (*Collected Works*, 7:16)? According to Barondess, *Three Lincoln Masterpieces* (1954), 36, the latter reading is correct.

Bartley, Joseph L., Shawneetown, Ill., Jan. 25, 1940, on documentation of the *Dorman* litigation.

Barton, Bruce, New York, Apr. 19, 1938, declining an invitation.


Bollinger, James W., Davenport, Iowa, to Paul M. Angle, Apr. 18, 1927, mentioning the Browning diary.

Bonzi, Marion Dolores, Nov. 6, 1949, on David Donald, Lincoln's Herndon (1949); Dec. 10, 1949, on Benjamin P. Thomas, Portrait for Posterity: Lincoln and His Biographers (1947); Dec. 11, 1949, on editing the "Writings" [The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln], and Jan. 28, 1950, on Luckett v. Ruckel (1839) [typescript of an plea apparently not in The Law Practice of Abraham Lincoln]. Each letter also touches on other matters. Also Harry Pratt, Muskegon, Mich., to Marion Bonzi, with a carbon of a letter from Pratt to his Devore in-laws, Sept. 14, 1950.

"Books Across the Sea" Society of America (May Lamberton Becker), New York, to Hjordes Lind Pratt, July 17, 1946, enclosing nine items by or about the organization.

Broadcast Music, Inc. (Russell Sanjek), May 7, 1953, regarding a review of Lloyd Lewis, Captain Sam Grant (1950).


Butt, Harry S. (Clerk, Circuit Court, Decatur, Ill.), May 21, 1940, regarding a Lincoln case in 1839.

Chenery, William Dodd, inscription on a fly-leaf of one volume in a set of J. Fenimore Cooper's works: "To my esteemed friend, Harry E. Pratt." Chenery also wrote: "John William Chenery, and his father, William Dodd Chenery, I, were the last hosts, in the Chenery House, in
Springfield, of Abraham Lincoln." The flyleaf of other volumes of the set read "Jno. W. Chenery / Springfield / Ills / July 1st '58."

Corneau, Octavia, Boston, Mass., to Alice Bunn, n.d., enclosing An Address by Abraham Lincoln on the Death of Mr. Benjamin Ferguson, Delivered February 8, 1842 (Monaghan 1778; Collected Works, 1:268-69) and an envelope for this item in the hand of John W. Bunn.


Dathpalia[?], Y. P. (National Archives, New Delhi), Dec. 21, 19[29?], season's greetings.

Davis, David (grandson of Judge Davis), Bloomington, Ill., Mar. 7, 1929, offering to make the judge's papers available to Pratt.


Dennett, Tyler (President, Williams College), June 2, 1937, on being unable to "inveigle" the college library into becoming a library member of the Abraham Lincoln Association.


East, Ernest E., Peoria, Ill., May 29, 1939, regarding certain legal cases in Peoria, 1850-53.

Edwards Brothers (lithographers and publishers, Ann Arbor, Mich.), to Paul M. Angle and to Pratt, May 12, 23, Sept. 9, 1938; Aug. 3, 1939, proposing a change in the format of the Lincoln Day by Day series, including a page of Lincoln: 1847-1853 (1936) to illustrate this change; Pratt's notes on the costs; information on the company's lithoprinting.

Felsenthal, Morton, n.d., mock certificate of the Confederate States of America, making Pratt an "Honorary Colonel in the Confederate Air Force."

Fifer, Joseph W., Bloomington, Ill., Aug. 5, 1931, praising Pratt's thesis on David Davis.
Gates, Arnold F., Cleveland, Ohio, May 7, 1941, sending a copy of his second *Amberglow* (on Joshua Speed).

Halbert, Sherrill, Porterville, Calif., Sept. 9, 1941, acknowledging a copy of Paul M. Angle's booklet, *The Marine Bank* (1931) and praising the new *Abraham Lincoln Quarterly*.

Hertz, Emanuel, Aug. 4, 1929, to Paul M. Angle, faulting Angle for not crediting Hertz for items included in the manuscript of *New Letters and Papers of Lincoln* (1930) that Hertz first "brought to the surface." Also Angle's note on Hertz's *Abraham Lincoln: A New Portrait* (1931), Vol. 2, listing both the number of published items that Hertz represented as new and the pages containing "Lines cribbed from Angle."

Hix, John, on *Strange As It Seems* stationery, May 25, 1938, thanking Pratt for furnishing data for a story.

Houser, M. L. (Martin Luther), Peoria, Ill., typescript of letter from Esther C. Cushman (Charles W. McLellan Collection of Lincolniana, Brown University), Mar. 30, 1937, commenting in detail on Houser's list of books thought to have been read by Lincoln; postcards, Houser to Pratt, Nov. 23, 1938, June 29, 1940, in part regarding Elliott's *Journal and Debates of the Federal Constitution* (1836).

Illinois State Library (Helene H. Rogers), n.d., regarding two copies of Carl Sandburg's *Always the Young Strangers* (1952) that he autographed for Pratt and his daughter.

Indiana University Press, Nov. 18, 1954, wanting the mailing list of the *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society* so as to promote Lewis Atherton's *Main Street on the Middle Border* (1954).

Jacobs, Warren (Secretary, Railway and Locomotive Historical Society, Inc.), Nov. 8, 1940, verifying the wording of the tablet to mark the site of the Hudson River Railroad station in New York at which Lincoln passed on Feb. 19, 1861, and his funeral train passed on Apr. 25, 1865.

James, Marquis, Pleasantville, N.Y., Nov. 18, 1937, returning "the [Andrew] Jackson photostats."

Jones, Zarel, Honolulu, Hawaii, Sept. 22, 1941, enclosing a card regarding her uncle, Thomas Dow Jones. The card, issued by C. B. Galbreath, Ohio State Librarian, refers in particular to Jones's *Lincoln and Soldier's Memorial* in the Ohio Capitol.
Judson, Clara Ingram, from Pratt, July 9, 1950, regarding her *Abraham Lincoln: Friend of the People* (1950); Wilcox & Follett (publisher) to Pratt, Mar. 22, 1951. Proofs of the book, annotated by both Harry and Marion Pratt, are in Sec. 4.

Kentucky Historical Society (Bayless E. Hardin), Aug. 3, 7, 1953, providing data on whites and blacks in tax books of Hardin County, Ky., in 1799-1802, 1810-1811, and Pratt's note of thanks for the information.


King, Willard, to Benjamin P. Thomas, Nov. 30, 1953, on an 1852 Lincoln letter regarding a legal fee, and on Abraham Brokaw's story about Stephen A. Douglas withholding a sum due Brokaw, "a disbarrable offense today."


Lackey, George A., Lawrenceville, Ill., Nov. 8, 1939, regarding a receipt signed by Lincoln relating to the estate of Daniel L. Gold.

Lewis, Lloyd, Aug. 4, 1938, stating that he does not recognize Grant or anyone else in a picture sent to him by Pratt; Kathryn Lewis, Apr. 6, 1954, on the disposition of Lloyd Lewis's research notes.

Lincoln Fellowship of Pennsylvania (Coleman, J. Walter), n.d., mimeographed report on a meeting in Gettysburg on Nov. 19.

Lincoln University, Lincoln University, Pa. (Horace Mann Bond, President), Aug. 15, 1950, mimeographed letter seeking to develop a Lincoln collection; pamphlet, *Lincoln University and the Medical Sciences*.

Lindstrom, Ralph G. (Lincoln Fellowship of Southern California), June 11, 1941, praising Pratt's two volumes in the series, *Lincoln Day by Day*; and Nov. 8, 1949 (copy of letter to Marion Bonzi) regarding the Lincoln campaign scrapbook for 1858.

Lorant, Stefan, Scarsdale, N.Y., and Lenox, Mass., letters, telegrams, postcards, Nov. 24, Dec. 5, 1941; Feb. 22, Mar. 9, 1942; Jan. 18, Dec. 27, 1951; Jan. 29, June 22, June 30, July 25, July 28, Aug. 12, Nov. 18, 1952; Jan. 1, 1955, mainly regarding Lorant's *Lincoln: His Life in Photographs* (1941) and *Lincoln, A Picture Story of His Life* (1952), books that Lorant sent to the printers before taking Pratt's corrections into account. Lorant's letter of Nov. 18, 1952 apparently refers to the newly-discovered "coffin picture" of Lincoln and the "misunderstanding" between Lorant and Pratt over its publication in *Life*. See also Lorant's volumes as cataloged, including a dummy copy, with annotations and notes by Pratt.

Lowden, Frank O., Oregon, Ill., to Thomas Rinaker, Carlinville, Ill., Apr. 26, 1925, declining an invitation.


Luthin, Reinhold, Mar. 6, 1950, asking for information on the almanac trial.

McClelland, Stewart W. (Lincoln Memorial University), July 3, 1941, congratulating Pratt on finishing the Day by Day series.

McPharlin, Paul, Birmingham, Mich., June 19, 1942, asking if Lincoln ever saw a puppet show.

Mearns, David C., Oct. 12, 1949, indicating his delight on Pratt's "return to Mr. Lincoln."

Megan, Charles P., Chicago, Jan. 6, 1939, enclosing a copy of his article, "Reflections on Lord Macmillan's Visit to Chicago," *Chicago Bar Association Record* (Nov. 1938).

Meserve, Frederick H., Jan. 11, 1951; May 21, July 15, 1953, on the publications of his Lincoln photographs and Lincoln's Ellsworth's Letter.

Missouri Historical Society (Charles van Ravenswaay), Nov. 28, 1950, regarding Lincoln items in the Missouri Republican, and a file of *The Curiosity Hunter* (Belvidere [Rockford?], Ill. 1876-77).


Morehouse, Frances, Shafer, Minn., Aug. 20, 1938, regarding the papers of Jesse Fell and David Davis.


National Archives and Records Service (Jane F. Smith), Apr. 30, 1952, regarding the identity of the recipient of a note from Tad Lincoln.

Nevins, Allan, Jan. 5, 1953, somewhat regretting the publication of *The Statesmanship of the Civil War* (1953), his Page-Barbour lectures at the University of Virginia.


Newman, Ralph, to Marion Bonzi Pratt, Aug. 17, 1959; n.d.

Nicolay, Helen, June 11, 1941; Jan. 9, 1943; Aug. 20, 1953; Jan. 12, 1954, thanking Pratt for *Lincoln, 1809-1839*, and *Abraham Lincoln Chronology*; also a copy of Pratt to Helen Nicolay, June 12, 1952, on letters of Willie and Tad Lincoln.

Oakleaf, Josephus Leroy (son of Joseph Benjamin Oakleaf), carbon typescript of his remarks at the program to mark the acquisition of the Oakleaf collection of Lincolniana by Indiana University [Feb. 13, 1943]; Robert E. Miller (director of libraries, Indiana University), June 6, June 15, 1945, on additions to the collection.

Packard, R. D., Cleveland Heights, Ohio, Jan. 28, 1950, on being delighted that Pratt is "ack in the Lincoln field."


Pratt, Marion Bonzi, to Ralph Newman, n.d., regarding his review of Irving Stone's *Love is Eternal* (1954); Harold G. Baker, East St. Louis, Ill., to Marion Pratt, Feb. 28, 1956. See also Marion Bonzi, for her letters to Harry E. Pratt before their marriage on Oct. 1, 1950.

Random House, Inc. (Lewis Miller), Feb. 27, 1940, thanking Pratt for a list of Lincoln associations and dealers.

Randall, Ferris S. (Library, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale), May 5, 1955, providing a copy of *Illinois in 1837*.

Randall, James Garfield, Nov. 21, 1939, concurring with Pratt's criticisms of Agnes Rogers, *Abraham Lincoln: A Biography in Pictures with Accompanying Text* (1939); Sept. 21, 1949 (postcard); Aug. 5, 1953.

Randall, Ruth Painter, Nov. 11, 1949; Apr. 3, 1951 (postcard), on visits of the Pratts to Urbana.

Riddle, Donald W., Jan. 5, 1951; Feb. 16, 1952, on material for *Congressman Abraham Lincoln* (1957).


Sandburg, Carl: undated note to Pratt with items to "pick and choose and be an editor which you are" in preparing the one-volume edition of Sandburg's *Abraham Lincoln*...(1954); Catherine McCarthy (Sandburg's editor at Harcourt, Brace), note regarding the publication of this edition, Sept. 8, 1954; Speech at the dedication of Carl Sandburg High School (Orland Park, Ill.), Oct. 10, 1954 (carbon); two requests for a copy of the Sandburg issue of the *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society*, 45:4 (Winter 1952).

Schmidt, Otto L., business card.

Schriver, Lester O., text accompanying a photograph of the Lincoln tomb, Dec. 25, 1939.

Shutes, Milton H., June 13, 24, 1943, regarding reviews, by Pratt and others, of his *Lincoln and California* (1943).

Smith, George W. (Southern Illinois University, Carbondale), to Henry B. Ward (professor of Zoology, University of Illinois), Feb. 3, 1941, regarding Smith's *When Lincoln Came to Egypt* (1940); to Pratt, n.d., regarding *Park v. Mason* (1842).

Starr, John W., Jr. (Millersburg, Pa.), July 8, 1931, regarding three of his Lincoln books.

Starr, Thomas I. (Detroit, Mich.): Oct. 27, 1941, referring to a letter by H. G. Wells that was found after the publication of Starr's *Lincoln's Kalamazoo Address...* (1941); July 11, 1950, referring to Pratt's corrections to Sandburg's *Lincoln*; Aug. 1, 1950.

State Historical Society of Missouri, Columbia (Floyd C. Shoemaker), July 18, 1941, thanking Pratt for a reference to John M. Clemens (Mark Twain's father).


[Stevenson, Adlai E.] Carol Evans (Stevenson's personal secretary), Feb. 21, 1952, regarding the "Lincoln" dinner at the Governor's mansion; Elizabeth Stevenson Ives to the Pratts, thanks them for a gift as they leave "Lincoln's town," Jan. 9, 1953; Democratic National Committee acknowledges Marion Pratt's gift, Feb. 19, 1953; Carol Evans acknowledges photostats from Marion Pratt, Oct. 11, 1954; gift copy of Elizabeth Stevenson Ives, *My Brother Adlai* (1956), sent to the Pratts, Jan. 6, 1956; Stevenson's cards, acknowledging Marion Pratt's Christmas cards, Jan. 7, 1959, n.d.


Tarbell, Ida M.: her secretary acknowledges notes by Pratt on Sandburg's *Abraham Lincoln: The War Years*, Jan. 29, 1940.


Thomas, Benjamin P.: To Arthur T. Meyer (Sussex, Wisc.), Sept. 7, 1933, regarding Thomas Lincoln's homes in Coles County, Ill., and the "mystery" concerning the disappearance of his log cabin in 1893; to Pratt, Dec. 5, 1949, on his return to "the Lincoln field" and on Thomas's Portrait for Posterity (1947); and Sept. 17, 1950, regarding Thomas's Theodore Weld (1950).

Townsend, William H. (Lexington, Ky.): To Charles Kirkendall (Peoria, Ill.), Sept. 29, 1942, regarding errors in his unpublished manuscript "Whiskey in Illinois," particularly one taken from Emanuel Hertz, Lincoln Talks (1939); to Prattt, Feb. 2, July 12, 1955, regarding pictures for Townsend's books.


Wakefield, Sherman Day (New York) to Harry J. Lytle (Davenport, Iowa), May 7; Lytle to Wakefield, May 25; Wakefield to Lytle, June 1, 1939, regarding Lytle, "A Selected List of Books About Lincoln," in M. L. Houser, The Education of Abraham Lincoln (1938), 45-50, and Wakefield's How Lincoln Became President: The Part Played by Bloomington, Illinois... (1936). Also Pratt to Wakefield, and Pratt to Paul M. Angle, June 6, 1936, taking exception to Wakefield's view of the prominence of Bloomington in Lincoln's nomination; and Wakefield to Pratt, Jan. 19, 1940, regarding the Illinois State Bulletin (1852) and the Lincoln Circuit markers.

Warren, Louis A., Apr. 4, 1940, regarding errors in Agnes Rogers, Abraham Lincoln: A Biography in Pictures... (1939), "a fine example of the average author's attempt to break in the [into a] highly specialized field"; Dec. 26, 1941, incomplete letter formerly attached to Pratt's copy of Stefan Lorant, Lincoln: His Life in Photographs (1941), noting several errors and commenting that "accuracy was sacrificed" in the rush to publish.

Pratt family and friends, miscellaneous items.
3. Books

Most of these books contain annotations by Pratt. Some contain original manuscripts that Pratt tipped in. And a few contain inscriptions or other writings by the author.

Of particular interest in this collection of Pratt's books is his copy of Carl Sandburg's *Abraham Lincoln: The Prairie Years*. Pratt affixed 89 original manuscripts, mostly court papers, into those two volumes. If a particular person was mentioned both in one of Pratt's manuscripts and in Sandburg's text, Pratt would paste the item as near as possible to the point of the text where that person is mentioned. The manuscripts have no relation to the text apart from Pratt's own wish to bring the two together.

The 89 manuscripts are described, and their location in the Sandburg volumes is indicated, in a list prepared in 1998 by Christopher A. Schnell for "The Lincoln Legal Papers," the documentary project that led to Series 1 of *The Papers of Abraham Lincoln*. This list is filed in this section of the Pratt collection while the books in the collection are shelved in call number at the end of the collection. These books have been separated from the Library's cataloged collection, although each one is preceded by its call number ["L" = 973.7L63]:

L/H3Y88. *Young Mr. Lincoln*: original story and screenplay by Lamar Trotti (Twentieth Century-Fox Film Corp., 1939). The title page of
this volume includes the autographs of Darryl F. Zanuck, John Ford, Kenneth Macgowan, and Lamar Trotti. Opposite the title page is a signed photograph of Henry Fonda. Pasted onto the inside cover is the program for the world premiere of the film, in Springfield, Ill. on Memorial Day, 1939, at which Lowell Thomas was master of ceremonies and Marian Anderson sang America, Schubert's Ave Maria, and My Soul's Been Anchored in the Land (a Negro spiritual). Tipped into the volume are 44 stills from the picture. This volume is separately boxed.

L/N1860aYba, c.2. Barondess, Three Lincoln Masterpieces (1954).
L/P1917, c.5. Tracy, Uncollected Letters of Abraham Lincoln (1917).
L/P1930, c.5. Angle, New Letters and Papers of Lincoln (1930).
L/H4J92a, c.3. Judson, Abraham Lincoln: Friend of the People (1950), and proofs of the book annotated by Harry and Marion Pratt.

4. Manuscripts and Documents


John Calhoun, Clerk of the Sangamon County Circuit Court, to the Sheriff of Gallatin County, regarding a debt of $5,000 and damages of $1,000, in the case of People v. John Wood et al., Dec. 31, 1847.

John B. Helm, Bowling Green, Ky., to Judge William Martin, Alton, Ill., Dec. 9, 1848. On "locating [land warrants] to advantage on prairie land between Springfield and Alton...as near the route of the contemplated rail road as possible."

Receipt for $12.90, paid by W. P. Ferguson on behalf of Philip C. Johnson, to cover costs in the Sangamon County circuit court case of Stuart and Edwards v. Johnson, Dec. 2, 1851.

Appointment of Peter Folsom as McLean County surveyor by Gov. Joel A. Matteson, Nov. 14, 1855; Folsom takes oath, Nov. 30, 1855.

Wood, Fernando (mayor of New York City), Mar. 9, 1860. A note on "the present divisions of the Democratic party" of New York from which the recipient "may be enabled to form a correct conclusion as to the
merits of the claims of the contesting delegations to Charleston Convention."

Thos. W. S. Kidd, publisher of the Sangamo Monitor, certifies on Oct. 6, 1875, that an attachment notice in the case of Lord & Barrell v. Ross C. Snow was printed in his paper for four consecutive weeks.

Music score and lyrics (undated half page), "'Taps' in memory of Gen. Phil. Sheridan" (died Aug. 5, 1888).

Thomas F. Tipton, Jas. Ewing, and J. W. Fifer, Bloomington, Ill., to A. Sample, Paxton, Ill., Oct. 8, 1885, regarding a case involving Harvey L. Harris.


5. Research Notes

This section of the Pratt collection contains a box of his notes on Franklin William Scott's Newspapers and Periodicals of Illinois, 1814-1879 (1920). Pratt collected information that is missing from that volume. His notes, on 3x5 cards, are arranged in alphabetical order by city. On each card Pratt indicated the page in Scott's book on which the newspaper is cited and the additional information he had compiled. The collection also contains worksheets that list publishers, dates of publication, locations of copies and the degree of completeness of holdings for some of the newspapers Pratt annotated.

Also filed here are transcriptions of sources used by Pratt in his dissertation as well as an unsorted miscellany of his notes from much subsequent research.

6. Articles, Booklets, Programs, Clippings

The first folder in this section contains lists of the material drawn up by Thomas F. Schwartz in the early 1980s.