

ABRAHAM LINCOLN  
Martha Friedman; March 1984

I. DESCRIPTION

A. Purpose: To provide an excellent working collection for the study of Abraham Lincoln, his associates, and the issues with which he dealt.

B. History of Collection: Abraham Lincoln has been of great interest in the University of Illinois Library virtually since the founding of the University. An ox yoke made by Lincoln during his years in New Salem has, for instance, always been displayed in the Library. The collection which forms the important nucleus of the Lincoln Room, however, was the gift of Harlan and Henrietta Horner as a memorial to the Class of 1901. This collection came to the University in 1953-1954. Upon their deaths, the bulk of the Horners' estate came to the University as an endowment for the collection and the maintenance of the Lincoln Room.

C. Estimate of Holdings: The Lincoln Room contains some 9,000 books, pamphlets, manuscripts, microforms, prints and other art objects, and memorabilia.

D. State, Regional, and National Importance: The Lincoln Room affords to scholars an excellent opportunity for original research and study of Abraham Lincoln. As a collection primarily of printed material it is one of the best in the country. However, it is not one of the great collections primarily because it contains few manuscripts. The Illinois Historical Society, the Library of Congress, and the Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum are the dominant national and international collections. Manuscript holdings make each of these collections relatively unique. Especially in recent years, however, it has been possible to acquire an increasing number of titles which are not only treasured rarities but which are of genuine research value.

E. Unit Responsible for Collecting: The History and Philosophy Library. The History and Philosophy Librarian administers the Horner endowment income and authorizes purchases against it.

F. Location of Materials: The Lincoln Room. Other copies of books and pamphlets are found in many locations, primarily in the History and Philosophy Library, the Bookstacks, the Illinois Historical Survey, the Undergraduate Library, the Reference Library, and the Rare Book and Special Collections Library. The Sandburg collection in the Rare Book and Special Collections Library is an important companion to the Lincoln Room. All known unique copies of Lincolniana are in the Lincoln Room unless they are part of the Sandburg collection.

G. Citations of Works Describing the Collection: The Lincoln Room is largely unknown in the literature of Lincoln enthusiasts. A current project of the small Lincoln Room staff is the compilation of citations.

## II. GENERAL COLLECTION GUIDELINES

- A. Languages: No restrictions.
- B. Chronological Guidelines: No restrictions other than those inherent in the subject.
- C. Geographical Guidelines: No restrictions other than those inherent in the subject.
- D. Treatment of Subject: Because it is a special collection, there are no restrictions with regard to treatment of the subject. The standard for Lincolniana which is most generally accepted is the bibliography compiled by Jay Monaghan and published by the Illinois Historical Society in the 1940's. The goal is to acquire, in addition to current publications, holdings as nearly complete as possible of all works by and about Lincoln in every edition and variant. Lincolniana includes not only standard historical studies and primary sources such as Lincoln's writings and those of his most immediate associates, but literary works (Poetry, drama, novels, movie scripts, radio scripts, etc.), children's books, sermons, recordings, photographs, manuscripts, graphic art, etc.
- E. Types of Material: All formats are grist for the mill of Lincolniana. Printed material is dominant in the Lincoln Room, but examples of all formats, including "cracker-jack" cards, are found there.
- F. Date of Publication: No restrictions other than those inherent in the subject.
- G. Place of Publication: No restrictions.

## III. COLLECTION RESPONSIBILITY BY SUBJECT SUBDIVISIONS WITH QUALIFICATIONS, LEVELS OF COLLECTING INTENSITY, AND ASSIGNMENTS.

| <u>SUBJECTS</u> | <u>ES</u> | <u>CL</u> | <u>DL</u> | <u>ASSIGNMENTS</u> |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------------|
| Abraham Lincoln | 4         | 5         | 5         | HORNER             |

