



Lincoln Collection of Harold K. Sage

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The Lincoln Collection of Harold K. Sage began as a private collection of Lincolniana which was donated to Milner Library in 1979. It contains more than 2500 books, booklets and pamphlets on all aspects of Lincoln's life and work. Publication dates for the items range from the late 1850s to the present time.

Mr. Sage, who graduated from University High School in 1909, grew up in Normal not far from the home of Jesse Fell. In his own account published in the *Lincoln Herald*, Mr. Sage told how he became a collector of Lincolniana. A plantation operator in the country near Clarksdale, Mississippi, he purchased by mail order Tarbell's two-volume biography of Abraham Lincoln to pass the time of the long winter evenings. Fascinated by Tarbell's work, he next purchased Rothschild's *Lincoln: Master of Men*. The following summer, 1919, he visited at home. In search of additional Lincoln books to read, he happened on the Isaac N. Phillips collection in the Bloomington Public Library and determined to acquire those particular choice titles for himself.

Early on Mr. Sage established working relationships with a number of other collectors and with book dealers, including Will Johnson of Bloomington, who sparked Sage's interest in Lincoln juvenile titles.

Sage concluded his article, "In forming my collection I have had in mind a working Lincoln library, although there are included some collector's pieces. All the important Lincoln biographies are here and many of the unimportant, from the campaign issues of 1860 to the publications of the present day. In still greater number are the special studies covering every phase of the Lincoln subject, and it is unlikely that a student of the subject, whether one is a beginner or an advanced scholar, would call for a Lincoln book not to be found here. And the pamphlet collection, larger in number and to me in some respects more interesting, well supplements the books on the shelves."

Not only did Mr. Sage present his collection to the Library, but he also bequeathed a sum from which the interest might be spent for additional titles to ensure a "live" collection.