

A NATION IN TEARS

150 YEARS AFTER LINCOLN'S DEATH

Few events in American history have had a greater impact on Americans than the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. That tragedy precipitated an unprecedented outpouring of grief and commemoration, especially because it followed hard upon the collapse of the Confederate cause. Lincoln was shot in Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C. on April 14, 1865, only five days after Robert E. Lee's surrender to U. S. Grant at Appomattox.

Lincoln's funeral lasted for twenty days, from his death at 7:22 a.m. on April 15, to his burial in Springfield, Illinois, on the morning of May 4, 1865. It was a period of deep mourning, dirges, muffled drums, torchlight vigils, and processions. Thousands lined the tracks of the funeral train as it crossed the country, listened to funeral sermons, and draped their homes and businesses in black.

This exhibition, largely drawn from the Library's Illinois History and Lincoln Collections, marks the sesquicentennial of the Lincoln assassination.

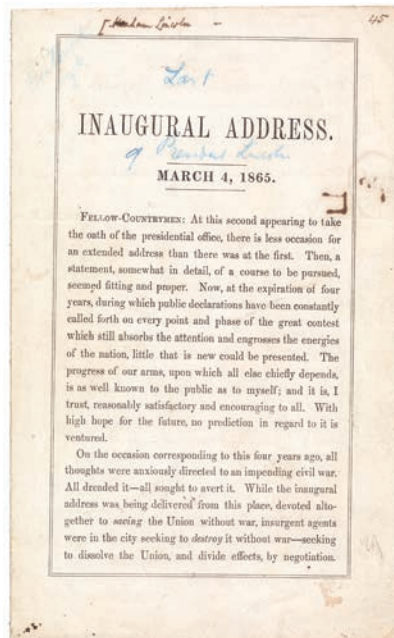
JOHN HOFFMANN

Illinois History & Lincoln Collections

THE SECOND INAUGURAL

1. [Abraham Lincoln], *Inaugural Address, March 4, 1865*. 8 7/8" x 5 3/4". 973.7L63 N1865L. Monaghan 600.

Lincoln caused his second *Inaugural Address* to be printed in advance of its delivery. The resulting three-page leaflet served as a press handout and is now quite rare.



The *Address* is brief, noble, and indeed Biblical. Note in particular the concluding paragraph, "With malice toward none, with charity for all..." Lincoln's plea was scarcely heeded after his assassination.

ASSASSINATION and FUNERAL

4. *The Martyr of Liberty*. Unsigned lithograph, [1865]. 13 1/2" x 9 1/2". 973.7L63 DM367.

John Wilkes Booth shot Abraham Lincoln on Good Friday, April 14, 1865, at approximately 10:30 p.m. He died the following day at 7:22 a.m.



The President knew by heart many passages from Shakespeare, particularly from *Macbeth*, so the printmaker was not far from the mark when he quoted an approximation of *Macbeth's* soliloquy, changing the opening words from "This Duncan" to "This Lincoln":

*This Lincoln
Hath borne his faculties so meek, hath been
So clear in his great office, that his virtues
Shall plead, trumpet-tongued, against
The deep damnation of his taking off.*

5. *The Assassination of President Lincoln at Ford's Theatre, April 14, 1865*. New York: Currier & Ives, 1865. 10" x 14 1/10".

Pictures of the assassination are largely imaginary, but the presidential party in this print, unlike in *The Martyr of Liberty*, is at least shown as they were seated, left to right: Maj. Harry Rathbone, his fiancée Clara Harris, Mary Lincoln, and the President.



2. *Ritchie's Historical Picture: Death of President Lincoln, (1868)*. 31 1/2" x 41". Signed artist's proof and key.

Minutes after he was shot in Ford's Theatre, Lincoln was carried across the street to the Petersen House, where he died in the back room. That room is too small for more than six or eight people, but printmakers enlarged it to accommodate many more. In this engraving, Alexander Hay Ritchie carefully portrayed twenty-six mourners around Lincoln's deathbed; the record is forty-seven!

Gift of Ronald Fark, 2012.



IMPORTANT.

ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT LINCOLN.

The President Shot at the Theatre Last Evening.

SECRETARY SEWARD DAGGERED IN HIS BED, BUT NOT MORTALLY WOUNDED.

Clarence and Frederick Seward Badly Hurt.

ESCAPE OF THE ASSASSINS.

Intense Excitement in Washington.

Scene at the Deathbed of Mr. Lincoln.

J. Wilkes Booth, the Actor, the Alleged Assassin of the President,

THE OFFICIAL DESPATCH.

WASHINGTON, April 15—1:20 A. M.

The following is a copy of the despatch received from Washington at about 9:00 P. M., at Ford's Theatre.

At about 10:30 P. M. of the 14th inst. Mr. Lincoln, Mrs. Harris and Major Rathbun, was shot by an assassin, who suddenly entered the box and approached behind the President.

The assassin then leaped upon the stage, brandishing a large dagger or knife, and made his escape in the rear of the theatre.

The pistol ball entered the back of the President's head and penetrated nearly through the head. The wound is mortal.

The President has been insensible ever since it was inflicted, and is now dying.

About the same hour an assassin, whether the same or not, entered Mr. Seward's apartments, and under pretence of having a prescription was taken to the Secretary's sick chamber. The assassin immediately rushed to the bed and inflicted two or three stabs on the throat and two on the face.

It is hoped the wounds may be mortal. My apprehension is that they will prove fatal.

The nurse alarmed Mr. Frederick Seward, who was in an adjoining room, and he hastened to the door of the father's room, when he met the assassin, who inflicted upon him one or more dangerous wounds. The recovery of Frederick Seward is doubtful.

It is not probable that the President will live through the night.

General Grant and wife were advertised to be at the theatre this evening, but he started to Burlington at six o'clock this evening.

At a Cabinet meeting, at which General Grant was present, the subject of the state of the country and the prospect of a speedy peace were discussed. The President was very cheerful and hopeful, and spoke very kindly of General Lee and others of the confederacy, and of the establishment of government in Virginia.

All the members of the Cabinet except Mr. Seward, are now in attendance upon the President.

I have seen Mr. Seward, but he and Frederick were both unconscious.

IRVING M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

THE HERALD DESPATCHES.

Washington, April 14, 1865.

Assassination has been inaugurated in Washington. The Bowie knife and pistol have been applied to President Lincoln and Secretary Seward. The former was shot in the throat, while at Ford's theatre tonight. Mr. Seward was badly cut about the neck, while in his bed at his residence.

SECOND DESPATCH.

Washington, April 14, 1865.

An attempt was made about ten o'clock this evening to assassinate the President and Secretary Seward. The President was shot at Ford's Theatre. He is not yet recovered. Mr. Seward's throat was cut, and his arm badly wounded.

There is intense excitement here.

Details of the Assassination.

Washington, April 14, 1865.

Washington was thrown into an intense excitement a few minutes before eleven o'clock this evening, by the announcement that the President and Secretary Seward had been assassinated and were dead.

The wildest excitement prevailed in all parts of the city. Men, women and children, old and young, rushed to and fro, and the streets were filled with people until we had

3. *New York Herald*, April 15, 1865.

The first newspaper to report the assassination was the *New York Herald*. It issued six extra editions on April 15, beginning with word of Lincoln's death, which it received by telegraph at 2 a.m. This is a rare uncut copy of that issue.

There are many facsimiles of this newspaper, including some twenty-five in this library's collections. Few months go by without someone turning up with one of the many facsimiles and claiming to have discovered another original.

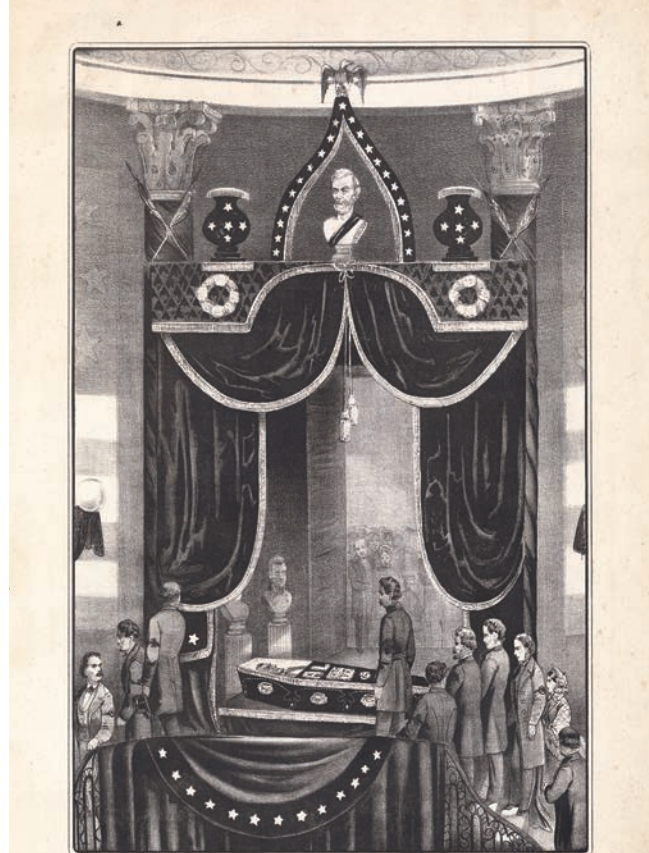
6. "Piece of the Pillow Slip upon which the head of Abraham Lincoln lay the last night of his life— Blood stained" (not pictured).

So reads the note with this item, which is owned by the chapter of the Zeta Psi fraternity at the University of Illinois. It is part of the Zeta Psi collection of Lincoln memorabilia on deposit in the University of Illinois Library. Henry Theodore Thomas presented the collection to the fraternity when it was formed in 1909. Thomas's father, Richard S. Thomas, was a lawyer, newspaper editor, and Whig politician in Virginia, Illinois, who corresponded with Lincoln.

Exhibited with the permission of Brant E. Davis, President, Zeta Psi Chicago Regional Alumni Club.

7. "President Lincoln's Funeral Procession in New York City," *Harper's Weekly*, May 13, 1865. 15 3/4" x 21 3/4".

This engraving was based on a photograph by Mathew Brady. Note the black men leading the horse-drawn catafalque through the vast crowd.



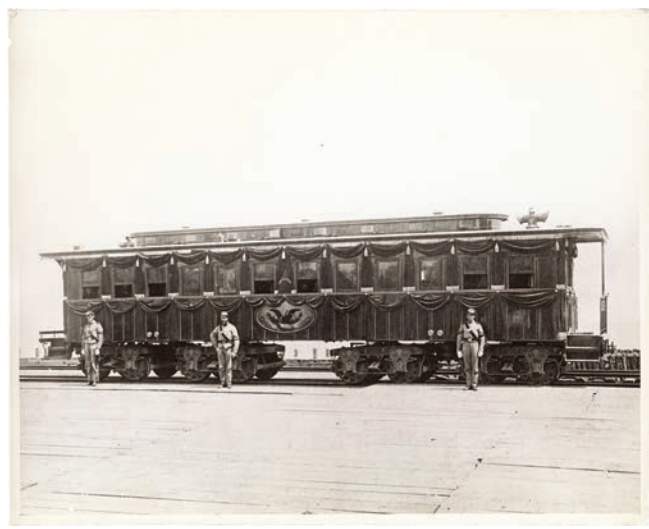
THE BODY OF THE MARTYR PRESIDENT, ABRAHAM LINCOLN, LYING IN STATE AT THE CITY HALL, N.Y., APRIL 21, 1865.

8. *The Body of the Martyr President, Abraham Lincoln*. New York: Currier & Ives, [1865]. 18" x 12 1/2".

Printmakers rushed to engrave Lincoln lying in state in several cities on the twenty-day journey from the Capitol to Springfield.

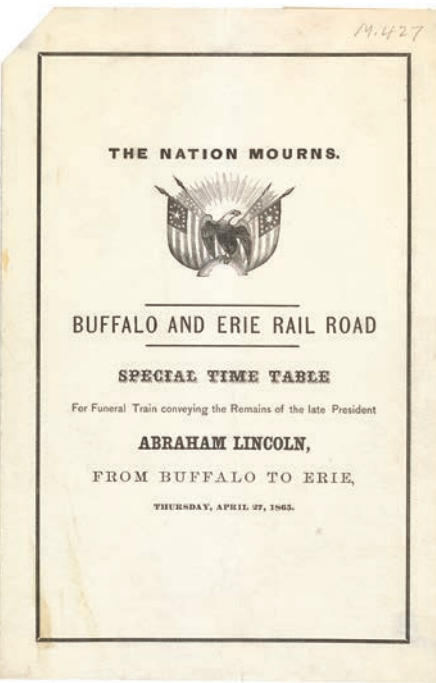
9. Photograph.

The funeral car in which Lincoln's remains were brought from Washington, D.C. to Springfield, Ill.



10. Photograph.

The Lincoln funeral train arrived in Chicago over the Illinois Central tracks, which at that time skirted the shores of Lake Michigan.



11. *The Nation Mourns: Buffalo and Erie Rail Road: Special Time Table.*

Thousands of mourners lined the tracks of the Lincoln funeral train. Between Buffalo and Erie, a distance of about ninety miles, the train made seventeen ten-minute stops at towns along the route. At Silver Creek and Westfield, N.Y. it took on "Wood and Water." In 1861, en route to Washington, D.C., Lincoln had spoken briefly in Westfield, where he met Grace Bedell, the eleven-year-old who had suggested that he let his whiskers grow.



12-13. Photographs.

In Chicago, the Lincoln catafalque (above) was drawn past a great triple arch on which was written: "We Honor Him Dead who honored Us while Living/ Rest in Peace Noble Soul. Patriot Heart / Faithful to Right, A Martyr to Justice." Dignitaries awaiting the catafalque at the beginning point of a huge military parade to the Courthouse gathered for this photograph (below).



14-15. Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, May 20, 1865.

Leslie's pictured the Lincoln entourage in Chicago. A sketch in its issue of May 20, 1865 (left), showed the coffin being removed from the funeral train to the catafalque. The inscription on this side of the entry arch included the following words, again in all caps: "AN HONEST MAN IS THE NOBLEST WORK OF GOD / OUR UNION CEMENTED IN PATRIOTIC BLOOD SHALL STAND FOREVER."

A second sketch in the same issue (right) showed "thirty-six young ladies of the high school strewing the bier with garlands and immortelles." Both sketches were based on photographs by Samuel Alschuler. Alschuler had twice photographed Lincoln, first in Urbana in 1858 and then in Chicago in 1860.



16. Photograph.

At Chicago's City Hall, draped in crepe, thousands lined up to pay their respects.



17. Photograph.

On May 4, 1865, twenty days after the assassination, Lincoln's body was placed in the receiving vault of Oak Ridge Cemetery, on the north edge of Springfield, Illinois. Mourners gathered on the hillside behind the vault. On the crest of the hill behind them, the Lincoln Tomb itself was later constructed.



18. Photograph.

In May 1865, the Lincoln home in Springfield was draped in mourning, and a succession of delegations gathered there to be photographed, having come to Springfield for the funeral.

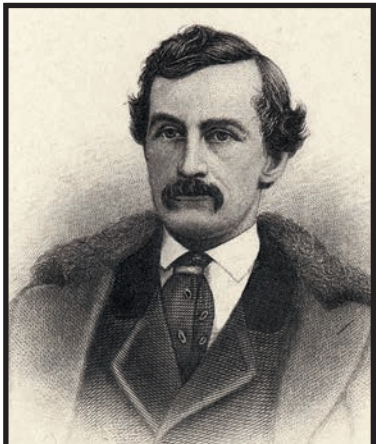


BOOTH and the CO-CONSPIRATORS



19. "The Assassin's Carnival"

The National Police Gazette, on April 22 and April 29, 1865, included an imaginative series of woodcuts relating to Lincoln's murder. The first issue also pictured the attempted assassination of Secretary of State, William H. Seward. The second issue depicted the arrest of two co-conspirators, Lewis Payne (Powell) and George Atzerodt, and added a picture of the tarring and feathering of a "justifier" of Lincoln's assassination.



20. Engraving.
John Wilkes Booth. Portraits of Actors Collection, B725tw-01.

Founded in 1845, and edited by New York's ex-chief of police, the National Police Gazette made such a business of reporting on criminal activity that it was known as "the Nickel Shocker."

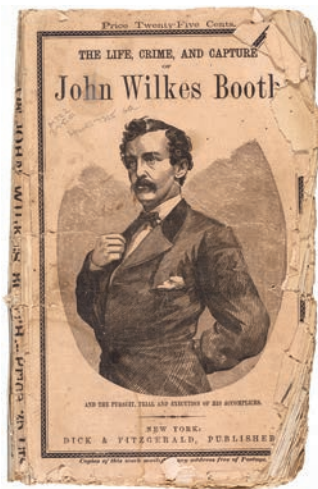




21. *The Assassination and History of the Conspiracy.* New York & Cincinnati: J. R. Hawley & Co., 1865. 9 1/4" x 6". 973.7L63 Das82 1865. Monaghan 378.

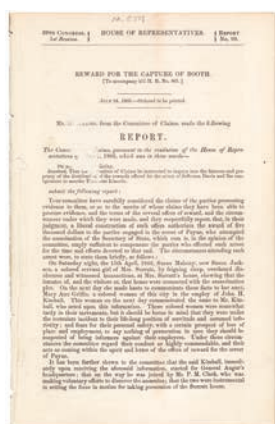
22. [George Alfred Townsend], *The Life, Crime, and Capture of John Wilkes Booth....* New York: Dick & Fitzgerald, [1865], 9 3/4" x 6 1/4". 973.7L63 DT664L. Monaghan 781.

George Alfred Townsend's reports on the Lincoln assassination and its aftermath are collected in this book. Townsend, who used the penname "Gath," was a prolific journalist who later had the means to build on his estate in Maryland a national war correspondents' memorial.



23. *Reward for the Capture of Booth.* Report No. 99, H.R. 1st Sess., 39th Cong. 9" x 5.75". 973.7L63 Dun36r. Monaghan 859.

This report, submitted by Rep. Giles W. Hotchkiss (New York) to the



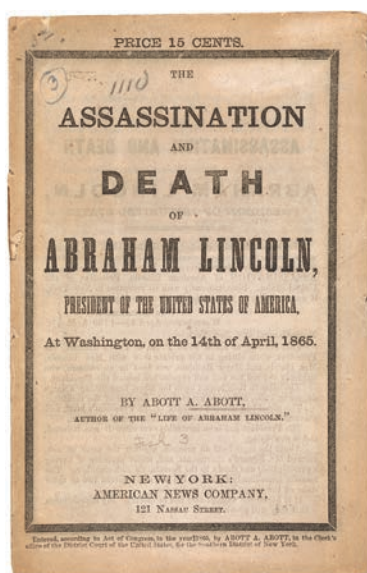
Committee of Claims of the House of Representatives on July 24, 1866, includes lists of detectives and soldiers entitled to reward for apprehending Jefferson Davis and the Booth

conspirators. How to allot \$100,000 was a complex, contentious issue.

SERMONS

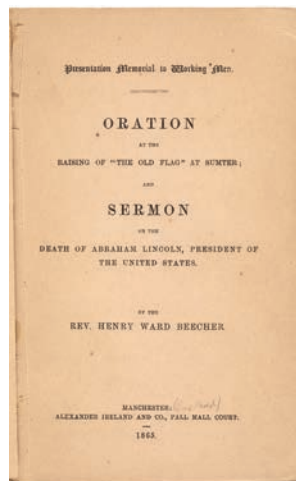
24. Abott, Abott A. *The Assassination and Death of Abraham Lincoln.* New York: American News Company, 1865. 7.5" x 4 3/4". 973.7L63 Dab7a. Monaghan 372.

Abott's work is the first of no less than 462 Lincoln imprints in 1865, mostly sermons, which are listed in Jay Monaghan's *Lincoln Bibliography, 1839-1939.*



25. Rev. Henry Ward Beecher. *Oration at the Rising of "the Old Flag" at Sumter; and Sermon on the Death of Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States.* Manchester: Alexander Ireland and Co., 1865. 7 3/4" x 5". 973.7L63 D2B39o. Monaghan 395.

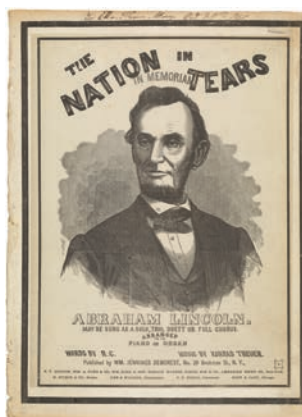
Henry Ward Beecher (1813-87) was perhaps the most prominent cleric of his day. From the pulpit of the Plymouth Church in Brooklyn, N.Y., he identified the Northern war effort with God's mission.



HYMNS and SONGS

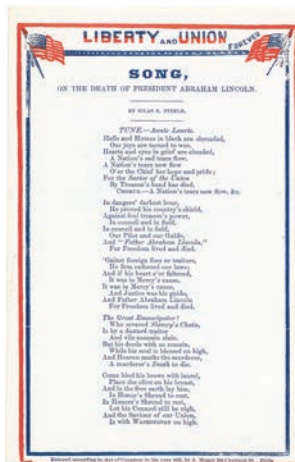
26. *The Nation in Tears: In Memoriam Abraham Lincoln.* New York: Wm. Jennings Demorest, [1865]. 973.7L63 H5T72n.

Music publishers lost no time after the assassination in publishing sheet music such as this "Dirge in Memory of the Nation's Chief."



27. *Song on the Death of President Abraham Lincoln.* Philadelphia: J. Magee, 1865. 8" x 5".

In 1864, Silas S. Steele wrote the words for a song to celebrate the "Sinking of the Pirate Alabama," a Confederate commerce raider, by the Kearsarge, a Union sloop-of-war. That song was published within a patriotic border that adapted Daniel Webster's peroration in his celebrated reply to Hayne in 1830: "Liberty and Union, [now and] Forever, [one and inseparable]."



In 1865, Steele's publisher used the same border for his tribute to Lincoln which he set to the Scottish tune "Annie Laurie."

28. *Abraham Lincoln's Funeral March.* Milwaukee: H. N. Hempsted, [1865]. 14 1/4" x 10 3/4".



MEMORY

29. Sangamo Insurance Co. *The Home & Tomb of President Lincoln.* Springfield, 1865. 9.5" x 12.75".



30. Bronze plate.

In the late nineteenth century, Lincoln's profile appeared on hundreds of plates and medallions.

31. Phoenix Silk Manufacturing Co., Silk ribbon, Chicago, 1893, 21" x 2 1/2".

Woven at the World's Columbian Exposition.

A NATION IN TEARS: 150 YEARS AFTER LINCOLN'S DEATH

An Exhibition in The Rare Book & Manuscript Library 12 February—4 May 2015



Curated by John Hoffmann (Illinois History & Lincoln Collections, University of Illinois Library), Dennis Sears, and Michelle Yestrepky (Rare Book & Manuscript Library, University of Illinois Library.)

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