

It was, on motion,

RESOLVED that the sum of Twelve thousand dollars (\$12,000), or
RF 49131 as much thereof as may be necessary in addition to
RF 47038, be, and it hereby is, appropriated to the
ABRAHAM LINCOLN ASSOCIATION, Springfield, Illinois, for
expenses of preparing an annotated edition of the writ-
ings of Abraham Lincoln, this fund to be available
during the period ending June 30, 1952.

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The following considerations were presented:

Humanities: American Studies

Previous Interest: In April, 1947, an appropriation of \$30,000
(RF 47038) was made for the same purpose as the appropriation
now recommended. While it was expected that the fund would be
used rapidly, its terminal date was set at June 30, 1952, as
precaution against unexpected delays in completion of the manu-
script materials.

General Description: The Abraham Lincoln Association was reorganized
in 1924 as a non-profit corporation to collect and disseminate in-
formation on all phases of the life of Abraham Lincoln. A small
endowment fund provided a modest income, to which has been added
annually the income from membership fees. The present membership
of 1,046 individuals and libraries has the benefit of quarterly
issues of a journal, and an annual volume presenting a substantial
contribution to the Lincoln story and to American history of the
nineteenth century. The Association has published the Quarterly
and the annual volumes without interruption since 1924. It also
has issued four volumes giving a day-by-day record of Lincoln's
life from 1809 to 1861.

When the Association ventured to produce the writings of
Lincoln in a scholarly edition, it raised a special fund for that
purpose. This obligation was assumed in addition to plans to com-
plete the day-by-day record of Lincoln's life and to publish also
the full collection of his legal papers. Since 1947 the two smaller
projects have been held in abeyance. This has been advantageous to
their completeness because new facts have come regularly from the
research in general collections of material, and also a number of
lost items in the legal records have been brought to light. The
three volumes to appear after publication of the writings of Lincoln
will be produced during the period 1952-1955, provided there is a

sufficient fund from income and endowment to maintain the work of the Association. These two minor obligations of the Association and its larger project will present all the evidence on his place in American history that has been uncovered by a staff of specialists.

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The manuscript for the eight volumes is well on the way to completion. A staff of four persons headed by Professor Roy P. Basler has gathered here and abroad at least fifty per cent more than the materials that were included in the Nicolay-Hay edition in twelve volumes. This was published in 1905. Small collections of Lincoln papers have been brought to publication by other editors in 1917, 1929, and 1930. The search for unknown items has now covered several classes of documents in the National Archives with substantial success. The Library of Congress collection of Lincoln papers, released on July 26, 1947, has yielded 500 new items. Stimulus to private collectors here and abroad was responsible for free use of letters and documents hitherto not available to any scholar. One of the most important outcomes of the past two years has been to discredit finally a great number of forged papers that have been offered for sale or held in special collections.

The project's staff is exceptional for range and depth of understanding of American history in the Lincoln period. Professor J. G. Randall has been writing on Lincoln for nearly fifty years, Dr. Paul Angle for twenty-five, and Professor Roy P. Basler, the general editor, for fifteen years. They have had two trained scholars as full-time aides and have had full cooperation from owners of Lincoln papers, particularly the Barrett collection. It is clear that the project is now moving forward under the most favorable circumstances.

The Rutgers University Press proposes to have ready the manuscript for eight volumes by November, 1950, and by February 12, 1951, to have in print the full set, including the appendices, annotations, and index. Sale will be on a trade basis that will yield some return to the Association and therefore enable its officers to carry on the two smaller projects to completion as promptly as possible.

Finances: The present proposal calls for aid in bringing the completed manuscript to print by February, 1951, allocation to be as needed from the total of \$12,000. This would be applied to salaries, rent, travel, and incidental expense. The estimate is that not less than \$18,000 will be required, of which the Association will give any sum above the pledge of the Foundation.

The original request to the Foundation was for \$50,000. At that time the Association had pledges of \$22,000 for the project. At present the total of this amount and earlier appropriation of the Foundation have been used, together with about \$9,000 from the endowment fund. Action on the proposal in this item will enable the Association to conserve part of the remaining capital fund of \$27,000, and so maintain its normal work and complete the two smaller projects.

Future Implications: None.

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Comment: The value of support to intensive research in a period of American history is demonstrated by the record of this Association. A former Secretary finally established as forgeries documents published in the Atlantic Monthly in 1928 and 1929. Similarly, contributors to the Quarterly have dealt with other false evidence as well as with important additions to the Lincoln record. The annual volumes deal with varied aspects of mid-nineteenth century history. The one published in 1949, William E. Baringer's Lincoln's Vandalia, A Pioneer Portrait, is typical. It gives valuable evidence on the formative period of 1834-39 in Lincoln's personal history, and likewise describes the growth and function of American pioneer government in an early American town. The officers believe that the record of the Association provides assurance that this major project will be a product of far-reaching and intensive scholarship.
