The Oakleaf Collection
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Readers of the *Magazine* will be interested to know that on February 13, Indiana University formally opened to the public the Indiana Oakleaf collection of Lincolniana. This collection is now housed in the Lincoln Room located in the rare book area of the main library building where it may be viewed and used by both the public and the student.

It will be remembered that the University acquired the Oakleaf Collection by purchase in December of 1941. This was made possible by contributions to the Indiana University Foundation by the Ball Brothers Foundation of Muncie, William G. Irwin of Columbus, and Frank L. Jones of New York City.

The Oakleaf Collection was the last of the great privately owned Lincoln collections to be placed in a public institution. Joseph B. Oakleaf, an attorney of Moline, Illinois, spent over forty years gathering the material. By the time of his death in 1930, his collection numbered some 8000 items. An entire issue of the *Magazine* could be taken up with a description of the Oakleaf Collection alone. Suffice to say that in printed and pictorial material it embraces practically every aspect of the Lincoln theme. Speeches, biographies, histories, memoirs, journals, and diaries as well as contemporary photographs, steel engravings, and lithographs enable one to get an estimate of the man Lincoln and the world in which he lived.

Since the Oakleaf Collection came to the University, much new material has been added to the collection through the generosity of friends. The Ball Brothers Foundation recently presented a rare and striking oil portrait of Lincoln painted by Jessie Atwood at Springfield in 1860. More recently this Foundation purchased the Robert Coster collection of Lincolniana which contains over fifty manuscripts by Lincoln, members of his cabinet and Mary Lincoln, three oil paintings, 800 carte-de-visite photographs of the Lincoln period, and many lithographs and rare pamphlets.

A dinner held on the evening of February 13, marked the opening of the Collection. Due to war-time restrictions on travel, the dinner was limited to fifty invited guests. Present were Lincoln scholars from neighboring regions: Paul
Angle, Harry Pratt, James Monaghan, William H. Townsend, R. Gerald McMurtry and others. The governmental officials of Indiana were represented by Governor Schricker, Lieutenant-Governor Dawson, and others from both the House and Senate. The University was represented by administrative officials and members of the history department. Rounding out the list of guests were George A. Ball and A. M. Bracken representing the Ball Brothers Foundation, William G. Irwin, and Frank L. Jones.

The program on that occasion proved to be very appropriate and interesting. J. L. Oakleaf, son of Joseph B. Oakleaf, spoke on the collecting activities of his father. Paul M. Angle, editor of the Abraham Lincoln Quarterly, spoke on "The Lincoln Collector." A.L. Kohlmeier talked on "The Hoosier Lincoln," and Governor Schricker gave an inspired address on "The State of Indiana and Abraham Lincoln." For the final part of the program President Herman B Wells introduced the honored guests Messrs. Ball, Bracken, Irwin and Jones.

1 See supra.