

Book Reviews

Lincoln Bibliography, 1839-1939, 2 vols., compiled by Jay Monaghan
(*Collections of the Illinois State Historical Library*, vols. XXXI,
XXXII, Springfield, Illinois, 1943, 1945, pp. xlv, 519, xi, 560. \$5.00.)

"This scholarly and elaborate bibliography appears at a time when it may be said that the Lincoln subject as an intellectual interest has come of age." These words from the foreword written by J. G. Randall, Lincoln scholar and professor at the University of Illinois, rightly evaluate these volumes. The development of the great Lincoln collections of books and pamphlets and the rules which the collectors have adopted are discussed by the compiler in the introduction.

The bibliography includes books and pamphlets, but not magazines or newspapers. If the magazine as a whole or a special issue is devoted to Lincoln, it is included. Magazine articles are not listed, unless reprinted as separate pamphlets. Titles have been arranged chronologically, and alphabetically under each year. There is one exception and this is somewhat difficult to appreciate. Later editions follow the original entry and thus do not appear under the year of their publication. More than one-fourth of the entries under 1863 were not published in that year but in later years as recent as 1936.

Much interesting information may be acquired from these volumes. Some six hundred publications about or by Lincoln appeared before 1865, and in the year of his death 563 are listed, quite a number being sermons preached following his death. Interest in Lincoln must have declined very quickly and sharply for only three items are given in 1869 and only one in 1871. In the 1890's and early 1900's interest revived and in the centennial year of his birth 258 separate publications are noticed. Approximately a half hundred entries are included in each succeeding year. The peak was reached in the years 1927-1930 when over eighty are found each year. In a separate list over two hundred foreign publications are given.

A very noticeable point is the very small number of contributions by scientifically trained historians. Very few of the professors of history in our colleges and universities have contributed this type of Lincoln literature. The authors who occupy the most space in the index, which is only a rough measure of output, are Emanuel Hertz, William E. Barton, Louis A. Warren, and Paul M. Angle. The earlier Lincoln authorities have many fewer titles. Perhaps the inclusion of articles in learned society periodicals would bring in more of the work of university men, but the fact remains that there is no other field in American history which they have so consistently avoided. Perhaps the appearance of this work may serve to enlist their labor.

The chief significance of this work, however, is as a guide to Lincoln literature, a guide for all types of persons interested in Lincoln. The Illinois State Historical Library has rendered the historical world a distinct service in a highly creditable manner.

John D. Barnhart