

*Lincoln Images: Augustana College Centennial Essays.* Edited by O. Fritiof Ander. *Augustana Library Publications*, Number 29. Edited by Ernest M. Espelie. (Rock Island, Ill.: Augustana College Library, 1960. Pp. xiii, 161. Illustrations, index. \$3.95.)

*John Palmer Usher: Lincoln's Secretary of the Interior.* By Elmo R. Richardson and Alan W. Farley. (Lawrence: University of Kansas Press, 1960. Pp. 152. Frontispiece, notes, bibliography, index. \$3.50.)

*Lincoln Images*, edited by O. Fritiof Ander, professor of history at Augustana College, honors both Lincoln and the founders of Augustana College and is dedicated to Carl Sandburg, a son of the Swedish immigration which founded Augustana College. This small volume is written by friends and students of the late Professor James G. Randall, of the University of Illinois.

*Lincoln Images* contains two general types of essays—bibliographical and analytical or interpretative. The bibliographical essays include "Books and Pamphlets in the Augustana College Library," by Ernest M. Espelie, librarian at Augustana College and general editor of *Augustana Library Publications*. Mr. Espelie has prepared a bibliography of books on Lincoln found in the Augustana College library. He hopes that "it may be representative of the average liberal arts college, and for that reason, of interest" (p. 137). The other bibliographical essay "An Agonizing Reappraisal: 'Has the Lincoln Theme Been Exhausted?'" by Clyde C. Walton, state historian of Illinois, reappraises the essay "Has the Lincoln Theme Been Exhausted?" by James G. Randall, which appeared in the *American Historical Review* in 1936. The major part of the essay is a bibliography arranged according to the subjects of the questions raised by Professor Randall, which are representative of work done since 1936.

The analytical or interpretative essays include "Lincoln and the Causes of the Civil War," by T. Harry Williams, Boyd Professor of History at Louisiana State University. He examines various schools of historical interpretation and challenges many beliefs held by contemporary historians. Professor Norman A. Graebner, of the University of Illinois, who specializes in American diplomacy concludes in "Lincoln and the National Interest" that Lincoln as president, in both domestic and international situations, practiced the "art of the possible" (p. 97). "This was the essence of his greatness as wielder of the nation's military and diplomatic power" (p. 97).

Other interpretative essays of a more specialized nature include "Lincoln and the Founders of Augustana College," by Professor Ander, which describes the historical events and forces that were behind the rise of the Republican party and the selection of Lincoln as its presidential candidate in 1860. Ander notes the impact of these events and forces upon the founders of Augustana College. Professor Robert M. Sutton, of the University of Illinois, in "Lincoln and the Railroads of Illinois" describes the part played by Lincoln during the "transportation revolution," first as a state legislator and later as an attorney for a number of Illinois lines. Finally, Professor Ralph Roske, of Humboldt State College, in "Lincoln and Lyman Trumbull" traces the careers of

two adopted sons of Illinois who joined their fortunes with the Republicans in 1855.

John Palmer Usher was secretary of the interior from January, 1863, to May of 1865. Mr. Richardson, instructor in history at the University of Kansas, and Mr. Farley, an attorney of Kansas City, Kansas, refer to their study as primarily an essay on the personal politics of federal administrative policies during the period of the Civil War. According to the Preface, the authors believe Usher fills the role of the "intermediary in history—the essential link between men of ideas and the fulfillment of their intentions." A little more than half of the book takes Usher from his birth in western New York in 1816, through his early legal career in Terre Haute, Indiana, to his resignation from the Lincoln cabinet in May, 1865. The remainder of the volume is devoted to Usher's career as solicitor for Kansas railroads until his death in 1889. The authors have done remarkably well in this short biography considering the limitations of (1) lack of information on Usher, (2) the subject's reticent character, and (3) the fact that Usher was not in the forefront of events of his time. A useful bibliography, index, and notes are included.

Purdue University

Paul E. Million, Jr.

*A Catalog of the Alfred Whital Stern Collection of Lincolniana in the Library of Congress.* (Washington: Library of Congress, 1960. Pp. xi, 498. Frontispiece, index. \$15.00.)

Alfred Whital Stern, of Chicago, has given to the Library of Congress approximately seven thousand items relating to Abraham Lincoln and his times. This collection is the largest ever assembled by one person. The accomplishment is all the more remarkable when Mr. Stern confesses to have begun as late as 1923. When the Library of Congress began preparing this *Catalog* in 1958, the collection amounted to 5,200 items, which are faithfully listed and explained. Consequently the *Catalog* (also provided by Mr. Stern) is an important new tool in itself: a careful bibliography, an encouragement to other collectors, and an inducement to scholars to re-examine the Lincoln theme in the convenient body of literature Mr. Stern has brought together and made available.

Two Lincoln experts have assured this reviewer that a good, basic source collection on Abraham Lincoln would number less than fifty titles; that beyond this total one encounters later editions of the same titles, selections, translations, interpretations by others, endless repetitions, slight allusions, myths, etc., etc. Mr. Stern's collection of Lincolniana, obviously, is much more than a gathering of Lincoln's published writings. Indeed, that section of the *Catalog*, with all its variant editions, translations, selections, and facsimiled letters, numbers only 266 titles. The only significant lacuna is the "autobiographical" sketch that appeared in the *Chester County Times* (Chester, Pa.) of February 11, 1860. It should never be forgotten that these entries are the source materials on Lincoln; everything else is secondhand.