

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.

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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.

But the importance and attraction of Lincoln is the effect he had on the events of his time and the influence he has had on others since his death. These effects are the measure of the man's greatness, and this is the measure taken by Mr. Stern in his voluminous collection. The more than two hundred memorial sermons after the President's assassination, for instance, are one indication of the nation's sense of loss. "Works about Lincoln, the Civil War, Etc." include more than 4,400 titles. The quantity is not surprising when two such popular topics are combined. Then there are broadsides, sheet music, cartoons, half a dozen letters, stamps, coins, medals, sculpture, and various ephemera. Finally, there are the Volk bronze casts of Lincoln's head and hands.

Almost every entry contains an explanatory note of identification and provenance. The corresponding number in Jay Monaghan's monumental *Lincoln Bibliography, 1839-1939*, is cited. By the use of three sizes of type the entries are clear and easy to read. An informal photograph of Stern forms the frontispiece, undoubtedly over his protest, for he has been a most self-effacing collector and donor. The nation stands in his debt.

William L. Clements Library
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Howard H. Peckham

The Trumpet Soundeth: William Jennings Bryan and His Democracy, 1896-1912. By Paul W. Glad. (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1960. Pp. xii, 242. Illustrations, notes, bibliographical essay, chronology, index. \$4.75.)

William Jennings Bryan has stood in need of re-evaluation and reinterpretation for almost a generation. He was a master orator and lecturer, spokesman for millions of midwestern Americans, and three times the Democratic standard-bearer as well as the acknowledged leader of his party. Yet many Americans remember him only as the "ludicrous anachronism" at the Scopes evolution trial. In this timely and well-written monograph Paul W. Glad re-examines a portion of Bryan's career and attempts to assess his contributions within the context of his own time and culture.

The McGuffey Reader, evangelical Protestantism, and the circuit Chautauqua are found as the keys to Bryan's system of values and moral convictions. Growing up in the midst of the agrarian unrest of the late nineteenth century, Bryan unquestioningly championed the embattled farmers with the same moralistic fervor that he had observed at rural camp meetings. To these people he became a symbol and the prophet of their faith. He expressed their hopes, shared their fears, and denounced their foes.

In this atmosphere of political revivalism Glad discusses and evaluates Bryan's principles and objectives during his years as leader of the opposition from 1896 to 1912. In order, he examines Bryan's relation to the leading questions of the period and his reaction to the policies of the McKinley, Roosevelt, and Taft administrations. Overriding the specific issues was Bryan's insistence on a moral view of public affairs and a deep faith in popular democracy.