U.S. Lincoln Sesquicentennial Commission Office of the Research Director Records

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

2011

Contact information: http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2012

Finding aid URL: http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms012020

Collection Summary

Title: U.S. Lincoln Sesquicentennial Commission Office of the Research Director Records
Span Dates: 1809-1965
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1960)
ID No.: MSS43588
Creator: United States. Lincoln Sesquicentennial Commission. Office of the Research Director
Extent: 33,500 items ; 38 containers ; 12 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English
Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
Abstract: Correspondence, research notes, writings, bibliographies, reports, minutes, and other records relating primarily to the commission's publication of *Lincoln Day by Day* compiled by William E. Baringer and C. Percy Powell under the editorship of Earl Schenck Miers. Also includes indexes relating to the commission's bibliography project.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People
Baringer, William E. (William Eldon), 1909-2000.
Beale, Howard K. (Howard Kennedy), 1899-1959.
Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865--Anniversaries, etc.
Miers, Earl Schenck, 1910-1972.
Monaghan, James, 1854-1949.
Powell, Charles Percy, 1899-1982.

Organizations
Illinois. Lincoln Sesquicentennial Commission.
Indiana. Lincoln Sesquicentennial Commission.
Lincoln Group of the District of Columbia.
United States. Lincoln Sesquicentennial Commission. Lincoln Day by Day.
United States. Lincoln Sesquicentennial Commission. Office of the Research Director.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The records of the U.S. Lincoln Sesquicentennial Commission Office of the Research Director were given to the Library of Congress by the commission in 1960.

Processing History

The records of the U.S. Lincoln Sesquicentennial Commission Office of the Research Director were arranged and described in 1963. The finding aid was revised in 2008.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings in the U.S. Lincoln Sesquicentennial Commission Office of the Research Director is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The records of the Lincoln Sesquicentennial Commission are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, U.S. Lincoln Sesquicentennial Commission Office of the Research Director Records, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Organizational History

The Abraham Lincoln Sesquicentennial Commission was established by a Joint Resolution of September 2, 1957 (71 Stat. 587) authorizing the establishment of the commission "in order to provide for appropriate and nation-wide observances and the coordination of ceremonies" to mark the one-hundred-fiftieth anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln.

The Lincoln Sesquicentennial Commission, composed of twenty-eight members (three ex officio, one statutory, and twenty-four appointive), held its first meeting on December 11, 1957. The commission employed an executive director and his assistant and supporting staff to conduct research and prepare material essential to a commemoration of Lincoln's birth. Staff included John Sherman Cooper, chairman; William E. Baringer, executive director; and his assistant, John E. Allen.

Scope and Content Note

The records of the United States Lincoln Sesquicentennial Commission Office of the Research Director consist of the files of Research Director C. Percy Powell and the records of William E. Baringer in connection with his work on the manuscript of *Lincoln Day-by-Day*. The collection spans the period 1809-1965, with the bulk of the material from 1960. The papers are organized in three series: *Lincoln Day-by-Day* , Lincoln Bibliography Project, and Miscellany.

The bulk of the records consist of holograph and typewritten drafts, printer's copy, and a few page proofs of the manuscript of the three-volume work compiled by Baringer and Powell under the general editorship of Earl Schenck Miers entitled *Lincoln Day-by-Day* (Washington, D.C.: Lincoln Sesquicentennial Commission, 1960). Of particular significance is the extensive file of research notes from primary to secondary sources that document the chronology of Lincoln's life. Only about half of these were cited in the printed work.

The office of the research director was also engaged in compiling a bibliography of all publications concerning Lincoln published since the appearance of a bibliography by Jay Monaghan in 1943-1945 (*Lincoln Bibliography*, 1839-1939, 2 vols., Springfield, Ill., Illinois State Historical Library, 1943-1945). The series relating to the bibliography project, which was not completed, consists of card indexes by title and author to publications appearing between 1939 and 1959.

Miscellany consists of the research director's office files. Included are copies of records, reports, and minutes of the commission, correspondence with leaders and groups concerned with Abraham Lincoln, including the Lincoln Group of the District of Columbia, the Illinois and Indiana sesquicentennial commissions, and such authors as Howard K. Beale and Earl Schenck Miers. Rounding out the collection are the manuscript and printers proofs of the *Handbook* published by the commission in 1958, material relating to their public relations and publicity programs, and a few printed items by other groups.

Arrangement of the Records

This collection is arranged in three series:

- *Lincoln Day-by-Day*
- Lincoln Bibliography Project
- Miscellany

Description of Series

Container	*Series*
BOX 1-29	***Lincoln Day-by-Day***
	Chiefly holograph and typewritten drafts, printer's copy, and a few page proofs of the manuscript of the three-volume work *Lincoln Day-by-Day*. Includes an extensive file of research notes from primary to secondary sources that document the chronology of Lincoln's life.
	Arranged by type of material.
BOX 30-34	**Lincoln Bibliography Project**
	Card indexes by title and author to publications relating to Abraham Lincoln appearing between 1939 and 1959.
	Arranged in two groups, by author and by title of publication, and therein alphabetically.
BOX 35-38	**Miscellany**
	Research director's office files including copies of records, reports, and minutes of the commission, correspondence with leaders and groups concerned with Abraham Lincoln. Also publication and promotional material relating to the *Handbook* published by the commission in 1958.

Container List

Container	*Contents*
BOX 1-29	***Lincoln Day-by-Day***
	Chiefly holograph and typewritten drafts, printer's copy, and a few page proofs of the manuscript of the three-volume work *Lincoln Day-by-Day*. Includes an extensive file of research notes from primary to secondary sources that document the chronology of Lincoln's life.
	Arranged by type of material.
BOX 1	Project records (index orders, correspondence, advisory subcommittee, statistics)
BOX 1	First typed draft of 1809-1860 manuscript (incomplete, 1809-1943), William E. Baringer (compiler and editor)
BOX 1	Second typed draft of 1809-1860 manuscript (incomplete, 1809-1841), edited by William E. Baringer
BOX 1	Retyped pages (1809-1835)
BOX 2	Second typed draft of 1809-1960 manuscript (complete), edited by C. Percy Powell
BOX 3-8	Holograph and edited first typed draft of 1861-1864 manuscript, C. Percy Powell (compiler), 1861-1864
BOX 9	Holograh and edited first typed draft of 1861-1864 manuscript, 1864-1865, carbon copy of first typed draft annotated by Earl Schenck. Miers, 1861-1865
BOX 11-13	Printer's typescript
BOX 11-13	1809-1863
BOX 14	1864-1865
BOX 14	Page proofs (incomplete)
BOX 14	1809-1847
BOX 14	1859-1860
BOX 15	Slips for index entries under "Lincoln," "Lawyer," and other terms
BOX 16	Source notes for volumes 1809-1860
BOX 16	1809-1845
BOX 17	1846-1854
BOX 18	1855-1860
BOX 19	Source notes for volumes 1861-1865
BOX 19	Series I
BOX 19	1861, Jan.-May
BOX 20	1861, June-1862, Mar.
BOX 21	1862, Apr.-1863, Mar.
BOX 22	1863, Apr.-1864, June.
BOX 23	1864, July-1865, June.
BOX 24	Series II
BOX 24	1861, Jan.-1862, July
BOX 25	1862, Aug.-1864, Feb.
BOX 26	1864, Mar.-1865, Apr.
BOX 27	Miscellaneous source notes, unused, 1861-1865
BOX 27	Abbreviations used
BOX 27	Miscellaneous records on cards

Container	*Contents*
BOX 28	Source notes for bibliography
BOX 29	Bibliography of book and periodical sources
BOX 30-34	**Lincoln Bibliography Project**
	Card indexes by title and author to publications relating to Abraham Lincoln appearing between 1939 and 1959.
	Arranged in two groups, by author and by title of publication, and therein alphabetically.
BOX 30	Authors of publications
BOX 30	A-C
BOX 31	H-M
BOX 32	N-Z
BOX 33	Titles of publications
BOX 33	A-O
BOX 34	P-Z
BOX 34	Gifts lists, publishers, book collections, and suggestions
BOX 35-38	**Miscellany**
	Research director's office files including copies of records, reports, and minutes of the commission, correspondence with leaders and groups concerned with Abraham Lincoln. Also publication and promotional material relating to the *Handbook* published by the commission in 1958.
BOX 35	Lincoln bibliography project
BOX 35	Handbook information
BOX 35	"Lincoln's Ideals"
BOX 35	*Intelligencer*
BOX 35	Anniversaries and celebrations
BOX 35	Letters to publishers
BOX 35	Press releases
BOX 35	Printers
BOX 35	Clippings
BOX 35	*Library of Congress Bulletin*
BOX 35	Book records
BOX 35	Miscellaneous pamphlets
BOX 36	Legislation
BOX 36	Commissioners (Victor M. Birely and Gerald R. McMurtry)
BOX 36	Executive committee
BOX 36	Commission meetings
BOX 36	Executive director's reports
BOX 36	Preliminary reports
BOX 36	Subcommittee
BOX 36	Honorary membership
BOX 36	Special projects
BOX 36	School programs
BOX 36	General correspondence
BOX 36	Commission appropriations and finances
BOX 36	Bills and receipts

Miscellany

Container	*Contents*
BOX 37	Personnel records of the research staff
BOX 37	Personal correspondence of C. Percy Powell
BOX 37	Research staff members
BOX 37	Personnel matters (job applications and administrative affairs)
BOX 37	Miscellaneous memoranda
BOX 37	General correspondence
BOX 38	Lincoln Group of the District of Columbia
BOX 38	Commission members (John E. Allen and C. J. Corliss)
BOX 38	Letters and papers from the Illinois Sesquicentennial
BOX 38	Indiana Sesquicentennial Commission
BOX 38	United States Civil War Centennial Commission
BOX 38	Alexander Hamilton Bicentennial Commission