

COLLECTING LINCOLN

“In the end, it’s not the years in your life, but rather the life in your years!” A. Lincoln

As we celebrate the bicentennial of Lincoln’s birth, collections of Abraham Lincoln related items could include any or all of:

- Things he actually owned or used
- Things that represent his life and times
- Documents he wrote or signed
- Portraits or Paintings
- Photographs
- Books
- Commemorative and political items
- Souvenirs
- Folk Art

The items on the list have an enormous range of availability and prices. There are only three “stovepipe” hats used by Lincoln still in existence. There are over 16, 000 book titles available (so far).

There are simple Lincoln signatures that can be found for \$1,000 or more and important documents, like the recently auctioned 1864 Presidential address, which command several million dollars.

The Lincoln image was a popular advertising theme resulting in a wide range of collectable items from children’s books to oil paintings.

Political campaign memorabilia comprise another popular subset of Lincoln collectables.

Great sources for Lincoln information and treasures include:

- The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, Springfield, IL.
- The Chicago History Museum
- The Abraham Lincoln Book Shop, Inc. Chicago, IL.
- “Collecting Lincoln” by Stuart Schneider, Schiffer Publishing, Atglen, PA.