

January 21, 1931

Dear Mr. Brunyate:

I am glad that the Copyright Office has issued you a copyright on your photograph. I am not sure that it will be complete protection. Somewhere in somebody's file there must be other photographs such as I reproduced so long ago in my early Life of Lincoln, and if one should turn up it could be reproduced, I imagine, without infringing on your picture. But that is all a matter of affability rather than of probability I take it. You are wise, at least, to have your picture registered.

I am disappointed that I have not been able to make any arrangements for its publication this year.

As I think I wrote you, Collier's refused it on the ground that I had published what I did in my early Life of Lincoln. I had some unpublished Lincoln letters confided to me by that interesting Lincoln collector - Gilbert Tracy - before his death several years ago. I took those with your picture to the Herald Tribune and they were much interested in reproducing the article with the letters and illustrating it with your picture - I telling the story of the picture. But at the last moment they found that the New York Times - Literary Supplement - was publishing for Lincoln's Birthday a really remarkable series of unpublished letters - eight or nine installments, I understand. I have not seen them so I am just taking the word of the Editor that they are remarkable. Of course one article even illustrated with your picture made the "erald Tribune people feel that the contrast between what they had and what the Times had would be too great. So the material all came back to me and it is too late to do anything now - this year. I am extremely sorry. I really counted on Collier's taking the picture and I think they are wrong that they did not. If you wish, however, that I should go ahead and try to arrange something for later in the year or for February 1932 - February is always the best period for Lincoln publications - I shall be glad to do so.

Regretting exceedingly that I have not been able to place the picture where it would attract the attention that it deserves, believe me my dear Mr. Brunyate

Very sincerely yours

Mr. William L. Brunyate
Newark, New Jersey