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The Ida M. Tarbell Collection of Lincolniana

Correspondence, research materials, writings, etc. about Abraham Lincoln

1931-08-12

Letter: Ida M. Tarbell to Louis A. Warren, August 12, 1931

Tarbell, Ida M.

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August 12, 1931

Mr. Louis A. Warren
Lincoln National Life Insurance Co.
Fort Wayne, Indiana

My dear Dr. Warrens:

I have been out of town for some ten days so that your letter of July 29th was delayed in reaching me. I have looked over the lists of Lincolniana which you so kindly sent.

I am very ignorant of prices but from what little I do know I should say that you were not appraising the collection you offer too highly when you put the price at \$9,000.00, but even that is far beyond my means at present, at least.

There would be a good deal of duplication in your collection. For instance I have almost all the items which you include in your list of "Not Listed in Bibliographies."

As to Fish Oakleaf and Star items, I am sure I have a respectable percentage. If I could afford it I would take the collection but it is out of the question.

There is another consideration and that is that in making my collection I have in mind, not by any means a complete set of pieces, such as you properly have, but rather a collection of books and pamphlets which seem to me useful to the student in college, graduate and undergraduate. If I can live to do it I should like to get the items cross catalogued and analyzed for practical exercises in biographical research and writing by young men and women who are still students.

Whether I shall be able to carry out my idea or not seems at this writing a little doubtful to me. However, I have made a start.

I do appreciate your interest, my dear Dr. Warrens. If I had the money I would take your collection I am sure, however, your will find real collectors who will be glad to have the items. I am returning the lists you sent though I would like very much to keep them with our correspondence. How about it?

Yours very sincerely