May 7, 1931

My dear Mr. Griffith:

Pardon the delay in replying to your note of April 24th. No, I have not an important Lincoln collection. I might have had if I had ever had the collector's sense. Of course I have accumulated, in spite of myself, books and pamphlets and letters - that is, correspondence with various people interested in the study of Lincoln's life.

I have perhaps four or five hundred volumes, quite a number of them autographed. I have possibly a couple hundred pamphlets - a good many newspaper clippings - the most valuable being four or five scrap books filled with clippings gathered during the Civil War. I have a large Lincoln correspondence, naturally some of the letters I think of real interest - the letters from Gilbert Tracy - from Rankin - Stoddard - and others.

My own notes which have never been worked up are not in a very practical shape, I fear, but as I have leisure I am trying to arrange them with the hope that possibly some student may eventually get something out of them.

As for illustrated material, I have a good deal in the way of photostats and photographs - not complete and not properly arranged - but capable of being properly arranged and being filled out. That too, I am hoping to do.

When I discovered a few years ago, in spite of myself, this material had been accumulating I decided that I would try to classify it and fill it out as my means and time permitted and give it to my old college - Allegheny at Meadville, Pennsylvania - with the hope that it might serve as a working collection for students. I do not know whether I shall ever be able to carry out this plan, though I am working on it as I have time.

If you can get a paragraph out of this you are welcome to it. I shall be very glad if you will send me a copy of whatever you may write on Lincoln collections.

Regretting the delay, believe me

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