William D. Cox, Inc.
126 East 57th Street
New York

Etchings Books Commissionaire

April 12, 1935

Miss Ida Tarbell
120 East 19th Street
New York City

Dear Miss Tarbell:

I have had the pleasure of corresponding with you in the past, and ~~I beg~~ to presume upon your valuable time for an answer to the following question.

For some time I have been quite interested in Philatelism. Recently I ran across the following story concerning Abraham Lincoln: At a lodge in Philadelphia a score or more years ago, a group of war veterans were telling stories about Lincoln. "My wife collects autographs", said one. "She wrote Lincoln for a sentiment and she got in reply a note which read: "Dear Madam: When you ask from a stranger that which is of interest only to yourself always enclose a stamp." There is your sentiment, and here is your autograph. A. Lincoln."

I did not run across this quotation in your history of Lincoln and I am wondering if there is any valid background for it.

Very truly yours,

William D. Cox

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