January 11, 1933

Dear Mr. Hoban:

Please do not think I am indifferent to the compliment you pay me when you ask for an autographed original manuscript of one of my books to be added to the collection that you are gathering from the Pennsylvania authors. I did and do appreciate the invitation, but my delay has been due to the difficulty I have had in putting my hand on anything that would be of the least interest.

I rarely save the manuscript of anything I have written. What I finely turn in is usually a fourth and sometimes a fifth revision of the original and I put out of way as fast as possible the corrected versions. However, I have been able to unearth two steps in the making of an article which appeared in the American Magazine in February 1924 under the title of "Abraham Lincoln's Money Sense." I find in my file the correspondence and the notes made for this paper, as well as a few handwritten paragraphs. All this of course I must keep for reference. The material was first put into form, that is first copied as a whole, in a draft which I send. And on this I made the revisions for the final copy for the editor. I should suppose that these revisions are the only things which would interest a student of a writer's methods of revision. At least I am sending it along for what it is worth regretting that it is both untidy and shop worn. At all events it is the best I have for your purpose.

If you would care for a copy of the article as it appeared in the magazine I think I can get that for you, at least I shall be glad to try.

Very sincerely yours

Mr. C. F. Hoban
The State Museum
Harrisburg, Pa.

Digital Image, 2009. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library