

ALLEGHENY COLLEGE
MEADVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

THE REIS LIBRARY

October 26, 1943

PHILIP MOHR BENJAMIN
LIBRARIAN

Dear Miss Tarbell:

I was so pleased to get your note about Otto Eisenschiml's new book and I am happy to begin my letter by telling you that we have the book on order and expect to receive it soon after its publication date. I am also happy to take this occasion to tell you of further additions we have made to our Lincoln Collection since I wrote you June 1st. Since that time we have received or ordered the following books:

Anne Colver: Mr. Lincoln's wife
Oscar O. Winther: With Sherman to the sea
Milton H. Shutes: Lincoln and California
Helen Jones Campbell: The case for Mrs. Surratt
William F. Petersen: Lincoln - Douglas The weather as destiny
Richard S. West: Gideon Welles, Lincoln's Navy Department
Earl Conrad: Harriet Tubman
John W. DuBose: The life and times of Wm. Lowndes Yancey
R. L. Kincaid: Joshua Fry Speed
Pierce Long: The journal of Zadoc Long 1800 - 73
R. D. Mead: Judah P. Benjamin: Confederate statesman

I had mentioned a number of contemporary pamphlets on the assassination of Lincoln which we had just purchased from Goodspeed's on the Americana Fund. At the time of Dr. Schultz's inauguration the library arranged displays of phases of the library in which he is particularly interested. We naturally gave a good deal of space to Lincoln items. It was interesting to group these "assassination" pamphlets around Helen Jones Campbell's new book, The case for Mrs. Surratt.

We also displayed the photograph of Lincoln taken in 1860 and now believed by Mr. Meserve to be a hitherto uncatalogued one. Andrew Williams of Chicago gave us the Lincoln - Hamlin campaign ribbon which his grandfather probably wore. It has an interesting picture of Lincoln on it.

We are also very happy to have a photograph of yourself, taken in Meadville when you were an undergraduate and preserved in an invaluable album containing many autographed pictures of Allegheny classmates, by Judson A. Wann, class of 1881. His son who now lives in Canon City, Colorado, was thoughtful enough to preserve for us three such volumes of Allegheniana.

The inauguration of Dr. Schultz was an auspicious day for Reis Library, as you can well imagine. I doubt whether any other college librarian has a president as familiar with and sympathetic to the problems and ambitions of the library. Already Dr. Schultz's enthusiasm over our searching out a portrait of William Bentley, of whom the college has never had one, is meeting with real success. By spring we shall have, hanging in the library, either an original

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Frothingham or a fine copy made in 1849, now owned by the American Antiquarian Society. Thus we shall do honor to the Library's first patron, one whose devotion and trust in Timothy Alden made indeed "the desert to blossom as the rose".

Meanwhile we are carrying out at least a few of our plans for undergraduates. We have conducted a week of informal lectures on the library for our two hundred new freshmen, dividing them into small groups so that the discussions could be informal and personal. I only wish that you might have been in the Lincoln Room to greet these young friends as they came in and to tell them yourself of your hopes and dreams for such a place for them. Already this year a senior has begun working on his senior thesis dealing with a Lincoln subject. He is gathering materials on Bishop Simpson, his relations to Allegheny, to the church, and to the Lincoln cabinet. He will not finish it before next May but already he has worked through the summer on his materials. This, I trust, will give you heartening news about our Lincoln Room, and I assure you that this work will continue to go forward.

I regret to say that Miss Hendershot has requested a year's leave of absence because of poor health.

I stopped over-night with friends in Rowayton, Connecticut on my way home from Boston in September and was sorely tempted to come over the hills to Bethel and tell you in person much more than I have written here, but I discovered myself near your place too late to inquire beforehand when I could conveniently call. None the less I send you my sincerest best wishes for continued comfort and happiness.

Yours very truly,

Philip M. Benjamin

Miss Ida M. Tarbell
R. D. 1
Bethel, Conn.