

FREDERICK H. MESERVE
79 Leonard Street
New York

July 25, 1930.

Mr. William L. Brunyate,
605 Broad Street,
Newark, N. J.

Dear Mr. Brunyate:-

You were very good to send me copies of Miss Tarbell's and Dr. Holland's letters about your portrait of Lincoln.

I have again read your letters to me in which you describe this item, but it is not clear to me whether the portrait is upon glass backed with paper or not. As I understand, an ambrotype is a glass positive made from direct contact with a glass negative, and it was customary to paste black paper on the film side of the positive in order to bring out its detail. I hope that I may be able to call at your office and see this. I would like to see it before giving an opinion about it. It is, however, clearly the head and shoulders of the sitting portrait No. 3 in my book, which I was informed was taken from a daguerreotype and this may turn out to have been an ambrotype instead of a daguerreotype. The portrait is, undoubtedly, very interesting, and I hope it will be shown that you have an original.

I appreciate your writing to Miss Tarbell, who has always retained her interest in the Lincoln photographs, and her knowledge is, of course, very great as she made the first search, so far as I know, of such matters in the Lincoln country, and her writings are authoritative. She helped me very much in my own study at the time I was editing my book about twenty years ago.

Very truly yours,

(signed) F. H. Meserve

FHM-Q