The photographs of Abraham Lincoln from the collection of Frederick H. Meserve, New York

Processed by Jane Carpenter with assistance from Simon Elliott; machine-readable finding aid created by Caroline Cubé.
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Descriptive Summary

Title: The photographs of Abraham Lincoln from the collection of Frederick H. Meserve, New York prepared for Ralph A. Gregory, a student of American history of Saint Louis, Missouri

Date (inclusive): 1942

Collection number: 94/72

Creator: Meserve, Frederick Hill, 1865-1962, collector.

Physical Description: 1 album (130 photographic prints) : silver gelatin, platinum ; 30 x 25 cm (album)


Added title-page, in typescript, dated 1941: "Photographs of Abraham Lincoln from the Frederick Hill Meserve Collection presented to Ralph Gregory by Frederick Meserve 1941."

Photographs are mounted on rectos and versos of 18 double leaves of white paper, with corners of each photograph slipped into slits cut into paper; each photograph numbered in pencil.

Bound in looseleaf notebook of faux grain black paper boards with black leather spine.

Spec. Coll. copy: in beige cloth clamshell box, with box title "Meserve Abraham Lincoln."

Abstract: Looseleaf notebook from 1941-1942 containing a set of 18 double leaves of 129 small photographs of Abraham Lincoln, collected by Frederick Meserve, and presented to his friend, Ralph A. Gregory, who was also a collector of Lincolniana.

Language: Finding aid is written in English.

Language of the Material: Materials are in English.

Repository: University of California, Los Angeles. Library Special Collections.

Los Angeles, California 90095-1575

Physical location: Stored off-site at SRLF. Advance notice is required for access to the collection. Please contact UCLA Library Special Collections for paging information.

Restrictions on Access

Open for research. STORED OFF-SITE AT SRLF. Advance notice is required for access to the collection. Please contact UCLA Library Special Collections for paging information.

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Provenance/Source of Acquisition

Gift of Albert Boni.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], The photographs of Abraham Lincoln from the collection of Frederick H. Meserve, New York prepared for Ralph A. Gregory, a student of American history of Saint Louis, Missouri (Collection 94/72). UCLA Library Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, UCLA.

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Biography/History

New York City businessman, and one of America's premier Lincoln collectors. Frederick Hill Meserve began collecting in 1880, when he set out to find photographs to illustrate the Civil War diary his father was writing. When he bought a packet of photographs at auction for $1.10 that included 100 Mathew Brady salted paper prints, he was hooked. By 1911, he had tracked down and catalogued 100 Lincoln photographs. The photographs document the changes in Lincoln's face over the years, as he struggled with the tragedy of the Civil War and the death of his son. Meserve's Lincolniana is now part of the Meserve-Kunhardt Foundation at SUNY Purchase, directed by Peter W. Kunhardt, Jr., Meserve's great-great grandson.

Scope and Content

According to Meserve's letter of Jan. 19, 1942 to Gregory, these photographs of Lincoln originally appeared in Meserve's book, The photographs of Abraham Lincoln (New York: Privately printed, 1911), and represent photographic prints of all known photographs of Lincoln, printed from the original negatives, and from copies of daguerreotypes and photographs. The single 8x10 platinum print of Meserve is by Lawrence B. Lockwood of Cleveland, Ohio. Also included in the notebook...
are 11 letters written by Meserve to Gregory, documenting the course of their friendship from July 24, 1940 to March 14, 1959; 5 p. of notes on photographs #117-130, and A-B; and 1 printed "contact sheet" of 108 small photographs, with title "Meserve's enumeration of Abraham Lincoln's original photographs," and notes below of name of photographer and place of sitting of each photo.

**Indexing Terms**
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

**Subjects**
Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865 --Photographs.
Meserve, Frederick Hill, 1865-1962 --Correspondence.
Meserve, Frederick Hill, 1865-1962 --Photographs.
Gregory, Ralph A.

**Genres and Forms of Material**
Portrait photographs.
Silver gelatin prints.
Platinum prints.
Photographic prints.
Photograph albums.

**Other Index Terms Related to this Collection**
Photographs of Abraham Lincoln from the Frederick Hill Meserve Collection presented to Ralph Gregory by Frederick Meserve 1941
Lockwood, Lawrence B., photographer.
Gregory, Ralph A., former owner.

**Related Material**
Part of the Photograph Album Collection (Collection 94) in UCLA Library Special Collections.
Descriptions of 118 of these portraits will be found in Meserve's *The photographic portraits of Abraham Lincoln: a descriptive list of the portraits in the Meserve collection*, copies of which were presented to Lincoln Memorial University by Carl W. Schaefer, a trustee of the University. New York: Privately printed, 1941.