unfinished WORK

The collection and our donors in the limelight

An exhibit displaying unique and exceptional pieces of artwork, artifacts, and items from our Taper collection underwritten by our generous donors.

APRIL 15 – MAY 15, 2016
Illinois Gallery

For information on how to underwrite an artifact, contact the Foundation at pevans@alplm.org or (217)557-6250.

On November 19, 1863, Abraham Lincoln delivered his Gettysburg Address stating: "It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced." He called for a "new birth of freedom" so "that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

One of the ways in which we do this is by preserving and protecting precious, time-honored, historic artifacts and documents which tell the story of freedom and democracy. At the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, this is our "unfinished work," which we continue so that people from across the nation and around the world can learn from and be inspired by Lincoln—his life and times—for ourselves and our posterity.

Thank you

This unfinished work is accomplished in partnership with our generous community of donors, without whose underwriting, these priceless documents and artifacts might indeed be lost to time and perish from the earth.

We extend our deepest gratitude to the many individuals who have generously underwritten the items in this exhibit, thereby securing a public, permanent home for these historic items which make up our American heritage and the Lincoln legacy.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN
PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY
FOUNDATION

www.ALPLM.org

Abraham Lincoln.
Presidential Library & Museum

For information on visiting the Library & Museum:

www.PresidentLincoln.illinois.gov

Museum Hours: Open daily 9 – 5

unfinished WORK

ABRAHAM LINCOLN
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An exhibit highlighting our donors and the collection...

April 15 - May 15, 2016

It is for us the living rather to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced.
Abraham Lincoln, November 19, 1863

unfinished WORK ...The collection and our donors in the limelight

Our donors and our collections are the gifts that keep on giving... Nearly 50 of the 71 items in this new exhibit—open now through May 15, 2016—have never been displayed before at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum.

These historical windows on Lincoln's broad legacy are briefly, but truly, views into the vault. For those who like samplers, the Illinois Gallery has been redesigned for this 'jewel box' of a show, into a tribute to our donors. Dozens of individuals, families, and companies have stepped forward to put their name to a specific artifact from the collection so that it can remain here in Springfield in perpetuity for all to see and enjoy. If you would like to join the ranks with these honored donors, there are still hundreds of items in our collection that have not yet found sponsors—including the featured artifacts below, some of which can be viewed in this exhibit; others are available for viewing upon request. The Taper collection has more than 1,500 items, in all formats and value ranges so we're really just scratching the surface... Join us today in our mission to support this amazing institution... underwrite an artifact and become a patron of Lincoln's history!

The 'Unfinished Work' exhibit revolves around 6 themes:

Lincoln's early work and career; his wider family, before and after his own lifetime; his presidency; his friends; his beloved wife Mary; and his death.

Legal

Tolpo sculpture of Lincoln and Douglas in Freeport

Lily Tolpo (1917-2014) of Freeport, Illinois, crafted the life-sized work for that town's Debate Square in 1990. Her charming miniature bronze also brings both men to life; and finally Douglas gets to speak, while Lincoln sits silently, here in his own Museum. *This sculpture is available for Sponsorship.*

Lincoln's certificate for 6 shares in the Alton & Sangamon RR Co.

When Lincoln died, the only shares he owned were 6 in the Alton & Sangamon RR Co. He had helped to incorporate that firm in 1847, and likely saw this only known copy of the 1848 map of the original line. That line is now the Union Pacific-owned track along 3rd St. in Springfield. *This stock certificate is available for Sponsorship.*

Friends

Three pieces of 1840s currency issued by Illinois firms

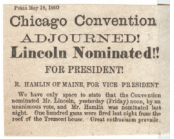
Before the Union issued greenbacks nationally to support the Civil War effort, most states had their own bank and allowed nearly anyone to print paper currency. Here, from Illinois alone: a hotel company in Dixon; a prospective town in Will County (for 6 and 1/4 cents); and the State Bank of Illinois (Springfield branch). *This currency is available for Sponsorship.*

Presidency

Edwin Booth portrait

The true heir to the acting stardom of father Junius Brutus Booth, dashing Edwin Booth was a pro-Lincoln Unionist and one of the secret funders of John Brown's 1859 raid on Harpers Ferry, Va. Younger brother John's mad act overshadowed his career. This 1888 pastel on paper, by A. Clark, hung in Edwin's mansion on Gramercy Park, New York, now the Players Club. *This pastel portrait is available for Sponsorship.*

Pekin, Ill. tiny broadside on Lincoln's nomination, 1860



Chicago Convention
ADJOURNED!
Lincoln Nominated!!
FOR PRESIDENT!

Printers issued large as well as tiny bulletins about Lincoln's career. His nomination at the Republican national convention in Chicago in May 1860 was the first surprise. The English one is from Pekin, Illinois; *Die Indiana Post* of Lafayette, Indiana, had both German and English readers. *This Pekin bulletin is available for Sponsorship.*

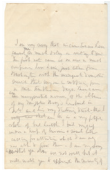
Mary

Poems Old and New for Mrs. Lincoln

The poet Frank Ballard personally inscribed this new book to Mary Lincoln just before Christmas 1864. *Golden Leaves from the American Poets* includes works that she and Abraham certainly knew—Poe, Longfellow, Holmes, and Whittier—as well as new voices with whom they were likely unfamiliar, such as Ballard. Mary bought and read poetry her entire life. *This book is available for Sponsorship.*

Family

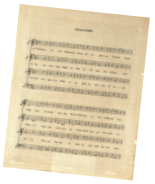
Robert to 'cousin' Alice



Alice Ferguson was an Edwards. Robert was a Lincoln. They grew up together in Springfield, and after Robert's retirement in 1911 they often corresponded about the extended family. In this 1919 draft letter, Robert expresses his concerns about the Lincoln Home (which he had sold to the State for $1, so that all could visit it free) and continuing anger at William Herndon's offensive statements about Mary Lincoln. *This draft letter is available for Sponsorship.*

Assassination

Pleyel's Hymn, held by a singer at Springfield funeral 1865



At Lincoln's final funeral, in Springfield, one of the chorus members, as led by conductor H. H. Beecher, sang from this sheet of music. Pleyel's Hymn was used at many funerals in that era, on the merits of its familiar harmonies, in G-major yet still plaintive. Ignaz Pleyel was an Austro-French contemporary of Mozart. *This sheet music is available for Sponsorship.*

Help us continue our "unfinished work"

FOR INFORMATION ON HOW TO UNDERWRITE AN ARTIFACT:

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