

Predicting Lincoln

Steve Tomashefsky

Those of you who love Sherlock Holmes will remember that, in cataloging his quirks after their initial meeting, Watson noted with amazement, "Upon my quoting Thomas Carlyle, he asked in the naivest way who he might be and what he had done." Watson was stunned. Holmes was a certified weirdo. No educated person in Victorian England could fail to know Carlyle's work.

I thought about Carlyle – if briefly – after seeing Steven Spielberg's film on Abraham Lincoln. *On Heroes, Hero-Worship, and the Heroic in History*, which Carlyle published in 1841, offers the theme that the history of the world "is at bottom the History of the Great Men who have worked there." Carlyle's test for political greatness was simple, if not simplistic:

Find in any country the Ablest Man that exists there; raise *him* to the supreme place, and loyally reverence him: you have a perfect government for that country The Ablest Man; he means also the truest-hearted, justest, the Noblest Man: what he *tells us to do* must be precisely the wisest, fittest that we could anywhere or anyhow learn

Of course, finding the Ablest and Noblest person is not easy, which brings me back to *Lincoln*. The film portrays him as almost unbelievably wise, patient, tolerant, determined, and principled. A sort of political rendering of the Boy Scout oath, with deviousness added.

Which raised a question in my somewhat cynical mind. Lincoln was, by near universal acclaim, our greatest president. In poll after poll of scholars and politicians going back

more than 50 years, he takes the top score.

So my perhaps slightly cynical question is this: how is it that, faced with secession and the Civil War – by far our nation's most desperate crisis – we just happened to elect our greatest president? How is it that, in the moment of our country's greatest need, we were able to find Carlyle's Ablest and Noblest person?

As Father Brown, another great detective, said, it's all too neat to be true. We needed our greatest president and, sure enough, we got him. But it's one thing to say, with Carlyle, that we should *choose* the Ablest and Noblest person. How do we *recognize*

war on their respective watches. Yet they are universally regarded as among our very worst presidents.

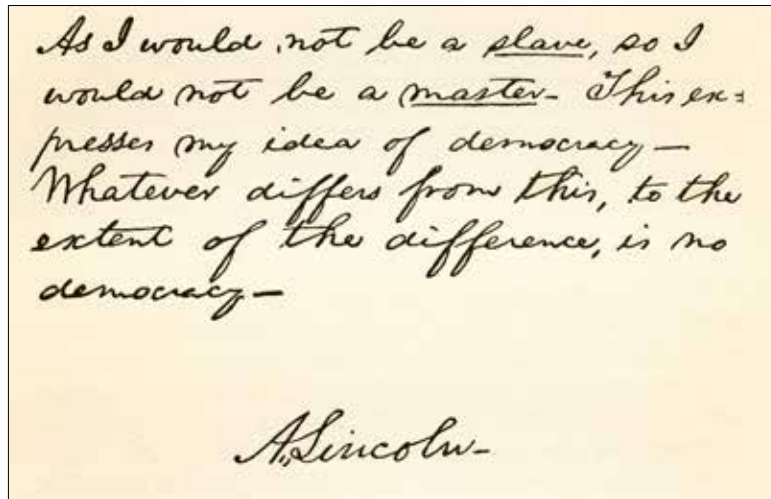
I don't think it's unfair to say that a great hero elected in 1860 would have figured out a way to resolve the nation's differences without a war. You don't need to be a pacifist to understand that over a million casualties, including 600,000 to 750,000 deaths (according to recent estimates), could never be considered a good thing. But if you considered war as inevitable, a great hero surely would have persuaded Robert E. Lee to side with the Union instead of with

his home state. Without doubt, that would have shortened the war and reduced its human cost. And if you considered Lee as unpersuadable, a great hero surely would have appointed generals willing to lead the North's vastly superior numbers and resources toward a swifter and far less bloody victory. By most accounts, McClellan's reluctance to engage with and pursue Lee's army wasted real oppor-

tunities to end the war quickly. Still, if you considered a long and deadly war unavoidable, a great hero surely would have issued a proclamation freeing all slaves as soon as the South abandoned the authority of the United States Constitution, which had protected slavery. By waiting almost two years, and by pitching the Emancipation Proclamation as a necessity of war, Lincoln showed he was able, but not necessarily that he was noble.

One could go on in that vein, but of course, as Carlyle himself warned of hero-worship, "Ideals must ever lie a very

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that person?

It cannot be open to question that, looking back, the voters of 1860 who gave Lincoln his plurality chose wisely and well. But looking into the future from 1860, what evidence was there that would – as we lawyers say – “tend to prove” Lincoln would become a great president?

Before I get to that, we might perhaps pause to consider what Lincoln's greatness was if we want to know what signs he gave of it before 1860. After all, Lincoln's immediate predecessors, James Buchanan, Franklin Pierce, and Millard Fillmore, at least managed to avoid both secession and civil



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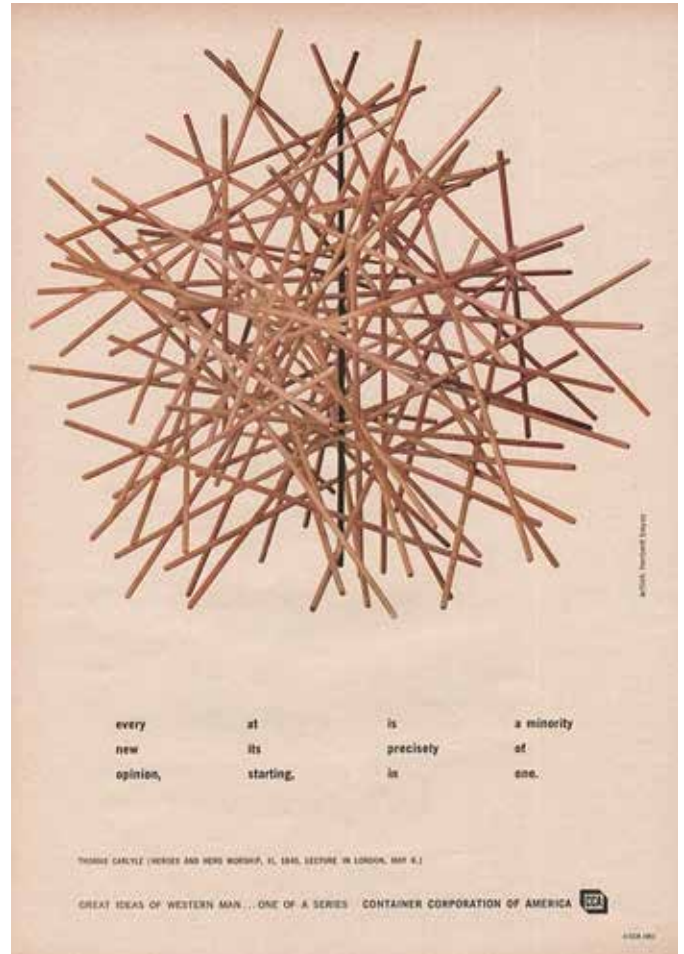
great way off; and we will thankfully content ourselves with any not intolerable approximation thereto!"

So what did the voters of 1860 know about Lincoln that might have given them hope that he was the man for the moment? I put aside as nearly irrelevant most of the external facts – the log-cabin birth, the rail splitting, the self-education, the successful legal career – because they don't tell us much in the context of a time when those features were not so uncommon. And I ignore the fact that, for a future war president, he had no real experience serving in the active military. Neither did Woodrow Wilson or Franklin Roosevelt.

What is important, I think, lies in what Lincoln believed and what he planned to do if elected. The best guide to that must be his many speeches over the 25 years or so before he became president. Of course, we have by now developed a justified skepticism regarding political speeches. But in Lincoln's case they're almost the only evidence we have to go on, and as evidence goes it's remarkably consistent – which, as any lawyer knows, means it tends to be true.

So, based on his speeches dating back to the 1830s, if you were voting for Lincoln in the 1860 election, here is who you might think you were getting.

Lincoln hated slavery. I imagine that is no surprise. His earliest public expression on the subject was a brief statement in 1837. The Illinois General Assembly had passed a resolution condemning abolitionists and affirming the constitutional right to own slaves. Lincoln voted against the resolution. But after the vote, he wanted to stake out the position – perhaps too subtle for us today – that both slavery and abolitionism were wrong. "The institution of slavery is founded on both injustice and bad policy," he wrote, "but the promulgation of abolition doctrines tends rather to increase than abate its evils." Lincoln firmly believed that the Constitution barred Congress from interfering with slavery where it already existed. For him, the key political question was then – and remained through 1860 – whether Congress had the power to prohibit the spread of slavery to new territories. He thought that it did



Poster celebrating Thomas Carlyle from the "Great Ideas of Western Man" series sponsored by the Container Corporation of America. The series ended in 1975.

and that it must.

Lincoln's political hero was Henry Clay, the senator from Kentucky who had engineered passage of the Missouri Compromise of 1820, in which Congress admitted Missouri as a slave state but barred slavery in the portion of the Louisiana Purchase north of a latitude line at 36-and-a-half degrees. Though North and South bitterly debated whether the federal government had the power to prohibit slavery anywhere, the Compromise calmed the waters by giving half a loaf to each side in the short term and – as the saying goes – kicking the can down the road.

Lincoln greatly admired that solution. In his view, Clay rightly opposed the abolitionists, who would, in Lincoln's words, "shiver into fragments the Union of those States; tear to tatters its now venerated constitution; and even burn the last copy of the Bible, rather than slavery should continue a single hour." But Clay also opposed what Lincoln called the "increasing number of men, who, for the sake of perpetuating slavery, are beginning to assail and to ridicule the white-man's charter of freedom – the declaration that 'all men

are created free and equal.”

The Missouri Compromise was repealed by the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854, brainchild of Lincoln’s rival, Senator Stephen Douglas. Under Douglas’s leadership, Congress erased the Missouri Compromise line and left it up to the new states themselves to decide whether to permit or prohibit slavery – the so-called doctrine of “popular sovereignty.”

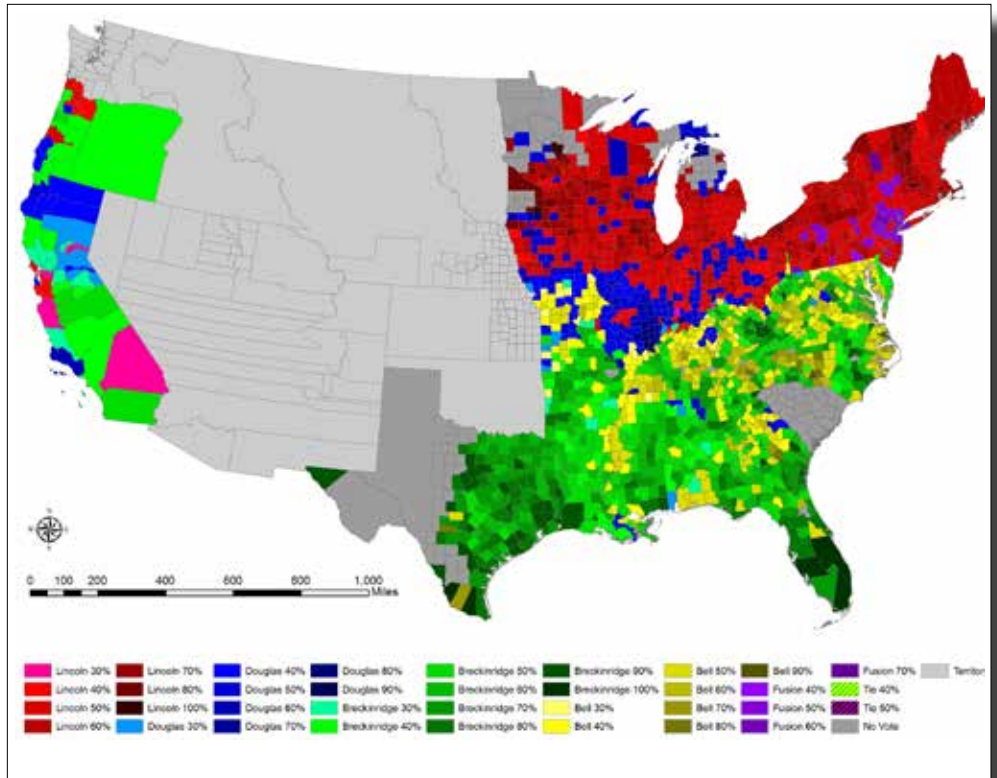
Lincoln’s key statement against the Kansas-Nebraska Act was his “Peoria speech” of 1854. There, he distinguished between maintaining “the existing institution” of slavery and permitting “the extension of it.” He was willing to accept the former but not the latter. The Missouri Compromise, he believed, had successfully saved the Union by balancing the two interests.

Lincoln rejected Douglas’s “popular sovereignty,” and not just because he saw it as a pretext for extending slavery. Lincoln agreed that the doctrine of self-government is “absolutely and eternally right,” but he said there was no “popular sovereignty” if the white voters determined the slaves’ fate. As Lincoln put it: “When the white man governs himself that is self-government; but when he governs another man, that is more than self-government – that is despotism.”

Stirring words. But, as I have already noted, Lincoln was no abolitionist, nor did he favor giving blacks the right to vote. Indeed, in his Peoria speech he immediately retreated from his grand sentiment by conceding, “Let it not be said I am contending for the establishment of political and social equality between the whites and the blacks. I have already said the contrary.” But if freed slaves couldn’t vote, they would still be governed by other men. Lincoln left that contradiction unresolved.

Lincoln also supported enforcement of fugitive slave laws, which required northerners to return escaped slaves to their southern masters. In one of the Peoria speech’s most revealing passages, Lincoln set out his basic political program:

Some men, mostly whigs, who condemn the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, nevertheless hesitate to go for its restoration, lest they be thrown into company with the abolitionist. Will they allow me as an old whig to tell them good humoredly, that



Presidential election results by county in 1860. Lincoln won in the North and bits of the West.

I think this is very silly? Stand with anybody that stands RIGHT. Stand with him while he is right and PART with him when he goes wrong. Stand WITH the abolitionist in restoring the Missouri Compromise; and stand AGAINST him when he attempts to repeal the fugitive slave law. In the latter case you stand with the Southern disunionist. What of that? You are still right. In both cases you are right. In both cases you oppose the dangerous extremes.

Of course, that was a bit of rhetorical deception. Abolitionists were not generally in favor of restoring the Missouri Compromise, which protected southern slavery. But for Lincoln, the Missouri Compromise was exactly the sort of half-a-loaf solution he liked to support.

I hear an objection. Wasn’t Lincoln the man who said, in his 1858 “House Divided” speech, “I believe this government cannot endure, permanently half slave and half free”? To be sure. But from that statement, would his supporters have assumed his program was to eradicate slavery in the nation’s half-slave section? I doubt that. Lincoln advocated no action to end slavery. Rather, he believed that, if left alone where it was, eventually, in the fullness of time, slavery would simply cease to exist. As far

as I know, Lincoln never explained why he believed slavery would ultimately fade away. He did believe, based on what I cannot say, that the slaveholding framers of the Constitution, as well as the slaveholding Henry Clay, shared that view, and maybe for him that was proof enough.

So what Lincoln said in his “House Divided” speech was this: “I do not expect the Union to be dissolved – I do not expect the house to fall – but I do expect it will cease to be divided. It will become all one thing, or all the other.” The Kansas-Nebraska Act and the Supreme Court’s Dred Scott decision suggested to him that the tendency was heading toward all slave. The proper way to prevent that, in Lincoln’s view, was to halt the spread of slavery, not to abolish it. Go back to the Missouri Compromise, and one of these days the house will be all free.

As to abolitionism, Lincoln clearly reaffirmed his view while debating Douglas in 1858: “Now I have upon all occasions declared as strongly as Judge Douglas against the disposition to interfere with the existing institution of slavery.”

Of course, we’ll never know whether slavery would have died out as Lincoln had hoped. But before we get to that, it is important to understand clearly whether

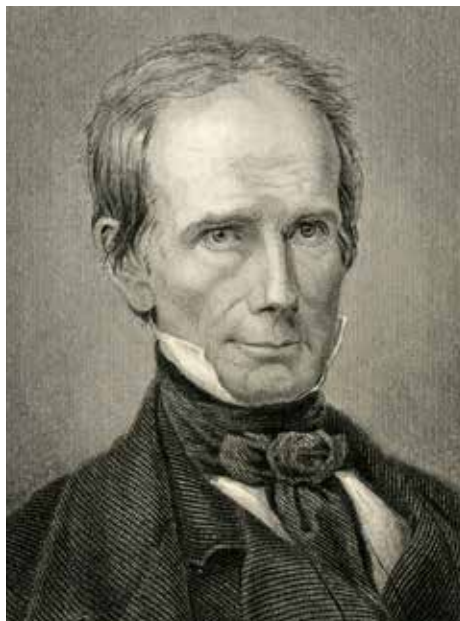
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the voters of 1860 would have thought that – other than opposing the spread of slavery and hoping that, confined to its 1820 boundaries, slavery would perform a gradual disappearing act – Lincoln had any larger social program. The answer seems to be he did not. To him, as to most anti-slavery Americans of his day, ending slavery and granting political equality to African Americans were very different things. Indeed, in his last debate with Douglas, Lincoln strongly denied Douglas’s accusation that Lincoln believed blacks should be citizens or have the rights of citizens. Toward the end of the debate, Lincoln summed up the major agreements and differences between him and Douglas:

On the point of my wanting to make war between the free and the slave States, there has been no issue between us. So, too, when he assumes that I am in favor of introducing a perfect social and political equality between the white and black races. . . . There is no foundation in truth for the charge that I maintain either of those propositions.

Lincoln’s speeches gave few hints of any other actual plan. Indeed, in his first inaugural address – where one might have expected him to lay out a program of some sort – he said again, clearly enough, “I have no purpose, directly or indirectly, to interfere with the institution of slavery in the States where it exists. I believe I have no lawful right to do so, and I have no inclina-

tion to do so.”



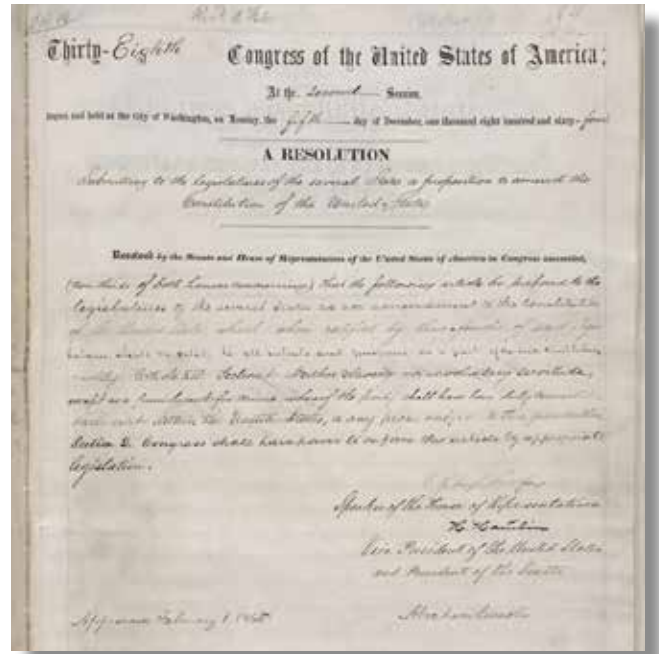
Henry Clay was a slaveholder. Lincoln really believed that his positions should not worry southern leaders. In that, he badly misjudged them. Despite his stated disinclination to interfere with slavery where it already existed, the South just didn’t believe him. On December 20, 1860, South Carolina became the first state to secede from the Union. In its formal Declaration of Causes of Secession, it protested that the northern states had

united in the election of a man to the high office of President of the United States whose opinions and purposes are hostile to slavery. He is to be intrusted with the administration of the common Government, because he has declared that “Government cannot endure permanently half slave, half free,” and that the public mind must rest in the belief that Slavery is in the course of ultimate extinction.

South Carolina saw in Lincoln’s election the inevitable end of its existence as a slave state. His election catalyzed secession. The South saw in him the president he would become.

Lincoln did have a plan that didn’t feature much in his speeches and that, in retrospect, seems almost grotesque. He thought the government could end slavery by buying up all the slaves and setting them free. Lincoln supported that plan for many years, even after the war was well under way. At one point, he calculated that the cost of buying up all the slaves at the reasonable price of \$400 each would cost less than pursuing the war. But except for a small experiment in the District of Columbia, the idea was unanimously rejected by his cabinet and gained no traction South or North. Lincoln dropped it.

There is one more facet of Lincoln’s political personality that may have seemed plausible to him but that, looking back, is hard to understand. We know that Lincoln hated slavery. But he did not hate slaveholders – without whom, of course, there could be no slavery. He often said he believed that



The Thirteenth Amendment (1865).

slaveholders would have preferred not to hold slaves. As he stated in his 1854 Peoria speech:

I think I have no prejudice against the Southern people. They are just what we would be in their situation. If slavery did not now exist amongst them, they would not introduce it. If it did now exist amongst us, we should not instantly give it up.

I wonder what support Lincoln had for the proposition that southern slaveholders would not introduce slavery if it did not already exist. It seems his main authority was Henry Clay, who said:

I look upon [slavery] as a great evil, and deeply lament that we have derived it from the parental Government, and from our ancestors. But . . . [i]f a state of nature existed, and we were about to lay the foundations of society, no man would be more strongly opposed than I should be, to incorporating the institution of slavery among its elements.

In other words, the slaveholders were trapped by their ancestors and lacked the power to wriggle free of the golden handcuffs bequeathed to them, much as they wished they could. Lincoln really believed that.

What the South would have done if slavery never existed is a thought experiment with no satisfactory resolution. Despite the claim’s rhetorical appeal to

Lincoln himself, most southern slaveholders were not about to give up the slaves they had. But the belief that most southerners wished they didn't need slaves seems to have enabled Lincoln to avoid thinking of them in the same stark moral terms he reserved for the existence of slavery itself.

That strange view, if shared by any significant number of his countrymen, must have become much harder to hold once the war began and the slaughter mounted. It is hard not to hate the enemy who kills hundreds of thousands of your people to keep slavery safe. Yet that seems to have remained one of Lincoln's most remarkable ideas. His second inaugural address sounded an odd note of moral ambiguity. North and South, he said, "read the same Bible, and pray to the same God; each invokes His aid against the other. It may seem strange that any men should dare to ask a just God's assistance in wringing their bread from the sweat of

other men's faces; but let us judge not that we be not judged."

Then, as he closed, Lincoln uttered the words we all remember: "With malice toward none, with charity for all." What a remarkable idea! No malice toward generals who led a war leading to the slaughter of over 600,000? Charity toward politicians who tried to destroy the Union?

It seems far too much to ask of a people reeling from the carnage. It apparently was too much to ask, as events later showed. If Lincoln thought Americans on either side of the Mason-Dixon Line were brimming with forgiveness, once again he badly misjudged them.

In his book on hero-worship, Carlyle says it is a mistake to think that heroes have a grand plan to become great. Looking back, heroism can seem predestined, but looking ahead, it's more about how you play the hand you're dealt.

The cards Lincoln held differed enormously from any that any other American president has had to face, before or since. He didn't get to finish playing his hand. But by the time he was assassinated, despite more than 600,000 deaths, the Union remained intact and slavery was abolished. Would the voters of 1860 have seen that coming in this man? I think the best evidence is no.

Even "malice toward none," given enough time, has become a weird reality. In 1975, Congress restored full citizenship to Robert E. Lee, the enemy general responsible for so many American deaths. And in 1978, it did the same for Jefferson Davis, his boss, the man who headed a rebellious and – it must be said – treasonous government. So both are now great Americans.

If we look back from a far enough distance, we can see astonishing things.

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Caxton Club COUNCIL NOTES

Leora Siegel, Secretary

The Caxton Council met January 16 at the Union League Club to conduct the business of the Club.

Five individuals were presented as Caxton Club candidates by the Membership Committee, four for membership and one for reinstatement. Susan R. Hanes moved, and Caroline Szylowicz seconded, the motion, and all candidates were unanimously approved.

Olo Clark [Junior Resident] A bibliophile from an early age, Clark studied at Eton College and Oxford, where he read English literature and language. After training as an actor at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art, he met an audience member who turned out to be a bookbinder, and in his words, "a whole new fascination was born." Nominated by Susan R. Hanes and seconded by Jackie Vossler.

Margaret Cusick [Resident] As librarian of the general reading room at the Newberry, Margaret manages the circulation and service operations for the General Collections. She has a deep interest in Irish genealogy, serving as an intern with the Newberry's genealogy and local history department. Nominated by JoEllen Dickie and seconded by Will Hansen.

Nora Gabor [Junior Resident] Gabor has

been at the John T. Richardson Library at DePaul University as the rare books librarian since September 2017. In her role at DePaul, she has led instruction sessions centering on book history. She is also responsible for the care and development of the rare book collections. While earning an MLIS from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, she worked at the Newberry Library, first as a special collections library assistant and then as a senior program assistant for collections and library services. Nominated by Alice Schreyer and seconded by Jill Gage.

Larry E. Sullivan [Non-Resident] Dr. Larry Sullivan has over 40 years' experience in the valuation and collection of rare book, manuscript, print, map, and art collections and has written extensively about them. He served as the chief of the rare book and special collections division of the Library of Congress, as head librarian of the Maryland Historical Society, and library director of the New-York Historical Society. He currently is associate dean and chief librarian of the John Jay College of Criminal Justice and professor of criminal justice at the Graduate School and University Center of the City University of New York. He holds an M.S. in library science from Catholic University and a Ph.D. in history from Johns Hopkins University,

where he studied classics and medieval art and history. Nominated by Ronald Smeltzer and seconded by Mark Samuels Lasner.

Valerie Hotchkiss [Non-Resident] Reinstatement of membership endorsed by Susan Hanes and Jackie Vossler.

Publications Committee co-chair Susan Rossen reported that the University of Chicago Press is thrilled with the number of book orders so far for *Chicago by the Book* and that the book has been in every book store that she has visited. The book has been getting a good amount of attention and authors are giving media interviews including a WTTW-TV segment with Rossen, and a radio spot on 90.7 FM with Publication Committee co-chair Kim Coventry. More events around the book are planned through April.

The 125th anniversary of the Caxton Club is in 2020. Preparations are underway to acknowledge this milestone. A five-year Membership Directory for members with articles on recent highlights and Club history is being planned as a "125th Yearbook." President Arthur Frank is looking for volunteers to write articles and supervise the project. Contact him if you are interested in working on this endeavor.

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Book- and manuscript-related exhibitions: a selective list

(Note: on occasion an exhibit may be delayed or extended; it is always wise to call in advance of a visit.)

American Writers Museum, 180 N. Michigan Avenue, second floor, Chicago, 312-374-8790: **“Bob Dylan: Electric”** (Dylan’s influence on American music, literature, and culture), through April 30. **“Fredrick Douglass, Agitator”** (exploring the writer and “self-made man”), through May 31.

Art Institute of Chicago, 111 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, 312-443-3600: **“Dawoud Bey: Night Coming Tenderly, Black”** (black-and-white photographs that reimagine sites along the last stages of the Underground Railroad), Gallery 188, through April 14. **“The Mezzotints of Hamanishi Katsunori”** (forms that tie, twist, fold, or bind), Gallery 107, through March 31.

Chicago Botanic Garden, Lenhardt Library, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, 847-835-8202: **“Picturing Tropical Orchids”** (hand-colored engravings), through March 24.

Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington Street, Chicago, 312-744-6630: **“Chicago! The Play, the Movies, the Musical...the Murders”** (photographs and artifacts of Chicago from the original theater piece), Randolph lobby, through December.

Chicago History Museum, 1601 N. Clark Street, Chicago, 312-266-2077: **“Modern by Design”** (Chicago streamlines America), continuing.

Intuit Museum of Outsider Art, 756 N. Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago, 312-243-9088: **“Creative Impulse: Works by Robert Johnson and E. Nix”** (rarely exhibited works of these Chicago-based artists) through April 14.

Museum of Contemporary Art, 220 E. Chicago Avenue, Chicago, 312-280-2660: **“Laurie Simmons: Big Camera/Little Camera”** (four decades of the photographic work), through May 5.

Newberry Library, 60 W. Walton Street, Chicago, 312-943-9090: **“Melville: Finding America at Sea”** (the author’s interests in democracy, spirituality, morality, sexuality, etc), through April 6.

Northwestern University Transportation Library, 1970 Campus Drive, fifth floor, Evanston, 847-491-7658: **“African Aviation in the 1970s”**, ongoing. E-mail transportationlibrary@northwestern.edu to schedule an appointment.

Pritzker Military Museum and Library, 104 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, 312-374-9333: **“Lest We Forget: Sailors, Sammies, and Doughboys Over There in World War I”** (explores the experiences of those who served in the war), through March 31.

Smart Museum of Art, 5550 S. Greenwood Avenue, Chicago, 773-702-0200: **“Smart to the Core: Embodying the Self”** (various artists explore the visual construction of selfhood), through May 19.

Spudnik Press Cooperative, 1821 W. Hubbard Street, suite 302, Chicago, 312-563-0302: **“Non-Constants: Ashley Freeby & Jesse Meredith”** (work by the two artists around and through each other’s experiences), through March 16.

University of Chicago, Joseph Regenstein Library, Special Collections Research Center Exhibition Gallery, 1100 E. 57th Street, second floor, Chicago, 773-702-8705: **“The Fetus In Utero: From Mystery to Social Media”** (the uterus depicted over 500 years, from Renaissance woodcuts to modern medical images), through April 12.

Contact Bob McCamant (bmccamant@earthlink.net) if you’d like to take over the preparation of these listings.



Smart Museum/Smart to the Core
PAUL MPAGI SEPUYA, MIRROR STUDY FOR JOE

Chicago History Museum/Modern by Design



Museum of Contemporary Art/Laurie Simmons
THE LOVE DOLL/DAY 27/DAY 1/NEW IN BOX, 2010

Caxtonians Collect: Gretchen Van Dam

Interviewed by Robert McCamant

We have higher mathematics to thank for the fact that Gretchen Van Dam, head of the Federal Seventh Circuit Law Library at 219 S. Dearborn, has been and continues to be a librarian. “I intended to be a business major, but higher math defeated me.” Nonetheless, my own assessment of her is that she is a very businesslike librarian, indeed.

The story begins on the east side of Detroit, where she was the youngest of five in a proper Catholic family. Everyone attended parochial school. Her father was a school-teacher, her mother a homemaker. She became an undergraduate at the University of Michigan, studying English.

She says, “When you graduate with an English degree, there isn’t an obvious career path other than teaching, and I thought my family had enough teachers. So I ended up in the purchasing department at the university. I discovered that I really enjoyed learning the ins and outs of the contracts. So, I thought about law school.” She went to Wayne State because she could attend at night while continuing in purchasing.

She made the *Wayne Review* at the school, and Melanie Dunsing – the law librarian there – noticed that she was the only review editor who seemed to enjoy investigating citations. “You ought to consider law librarianship as a career,” Dunsing told her. “You love the research, the investigation part of working on the review.” Upon graduation, she switched to library school at Detroit College of Law. While there, she managed an internship at Solidarity House, the United Auto Workers headquarters. “I suppose it took some chutzpah to apply in my first semester of library school for the position of Government Documents Librarian.” Meanwhile, Mario Saresa, a Cuban emigre who was the director of the Detroit College law school library, “took a liking to me, and made me the government documents librarian. So, thanks to all these people, I became a law librarian.”

She stayed on at Detroit College of Law, becoming the documents reference librarian there. “I learned a lot about legal research just

by opening those boxes, putting SUDOC numbers on the documents, and helping people do searches.”

Soon she found herself wondering what the best law-librarian job was out there. “Say I wanted to be the director of the Harvard Law School law library one day. What do I need to do?” The answer seemed pretty clear: “Move out to move up.” This was also a time



of change in libraries of many kinds. The new field of “information technology” meant there would be less looking for paper records and more finding and using things electronically. Chicago Kent College of Law had a reputation at the time for being a leader in those changes.

“And then a job as head of their library’s reference services came open, so I applied for it, got it, and moved from Detroit to Chicago.” Lexis was using Chicago Kent as a beta site, exploring what could be done with law students. “Every student had his or her own Lexis password! They were breaking ground, becoming the envy of the profession,” she explained.

She stayed a while, doing a bit of teaching as well as reference services, but then, a job appeared at the Seventh Circuit Library, so

it was not a major move to go from Chicago Kent to her present home, where she gradually rose to the top position, in charge of all library functions at 219 S. Dearborn in Chicago, as well as the libraries in East St. Louis, Indianapolis, Madison, Milwaukee, and South Bend.

For many years, she also kept involved with academic law librarianship, teaching courses at Chicago Kent, John Marshall, Loyola, and Dominican University – which has the only full library program in the Chicago area. “Teaching is a good way to stay fresh,” she says. “The students keep you on your toes, and the schools always need to know about what developments are on the cutting edge.”

But mainly she is concerned with the needs of the 60-plus judges who have offices and courtrooms at the 219 address. “Where we were once concerned with locating books of opinions, now we’re just as likely to be providing assistance in using online sources of information. There is a wide range of interest and ability in that area among our judges. Some want to know how to find information by themselves, while others would just as soon have some help.”

She has also come to believe in the value of artifacts for their own sake. She has been working (with some of the judges!) on a museum committee at the courthouse, and the infant version

of it has already opened. There are pictures and items from the predecessor courthouse which stood across Dearborn street from the present one, plus memorabilia from what may be the most famous trial to take place in the 7th Circuit, the trial of the “Chicago Seven” (Abbie Hoffman, Jerry Rubin, David Dellinger, Tom Hayden, Rennie Davis, John Froines, and Lee Weiner) first decided in 1969, before being appealed and overturned in 1972.

The Caxton Club is but one of a number of not-for-profits in the Chicago area that she has joined, many of which support the value of items that make history real. “We’ll never make the right choices in the future if we don’t understand the successes and failures of the past,” she says.

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Bookmarks...

**Luncheon: Friday, March 8, Union League Club
 Paris Schutz on "Books That Inform Chicago Politics"**

At least two or three Caxtonians have at some point tuned into WTTW on their televisions. When they did, they may have caught the popular program *Chicago Tonight* – and seen interviews, features, or reporting by Paris Schutz. Perhaps they even dialed in to watch *Chicago Tonight* about our publication, *by the Book*. That was facilitating the conversation. At our March luncheon he appears full size in describing influential

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 available on the
 Calendar page of
 the web site.

books about Chicago politics that have had an effect on him and his reporting, as well as revealing how these classics are reflected in current events. Schutz grew up in River Forest but headed into the city to attend high school at St. Ignatius before going to Syracuse's highly regarded radio, television, and film school. His performance there won him an internship at WTTW – where he earned a spot on *Chicago Tonight* (and even co-wrote the program's theme song.) Come

**Dinner: Wednesday, March 20, Union League Club
 John Crichton on "Anton Roman, Pioneering Bookseller
 and Publisher of the American West"**

John Crichton will share with us the story of Anton Roman and his Midas touch. Coming to California from Bavaria in 1849, Roman found gold and traded that success to become one of the most prosperous booksellers in the American West. Soon he was one of its most distinguished publishers as well, releasing the early works of Bret Harte, Mark Twain, and many others who migrated to California during its formative years. Through his publications Roman promoted the resources and culture of California, taking its story east and romanticizing and mythologizing the Golden State in America's imagination. Crichton has his own Golden State bookshop, the Brick Row Book Shop in San Francisco, and is chair of the board of directors of Rare Book School. He has been the president of the Antiquarian Bookseller's Association of America and the Book Club of California and vice president of the Bibliographical Society of America.

March dinner: Union League Club, 65 W. Jackson. The evening will follow this order: Social gathering 5-6 pm; program at 6 pm; dinner follows. Program is free and open to the public. Beverages \$6-\$12. Three-course dinner: \$63. Reservations are required for either the program only or the dinner/program combination. Reservations must be received no later than NOON, Monday, March 18. Payment will be required for dinner reservations canceled after that time and no-shows. To reserve call 312-255-3710 or e-mail caxtonclub@newberry.org .

Beyond March...

APRIL LUNCHEON

As is our custom, the luncheon will be on spring break during April, but will return May 8 with a program featuring Matthew Short on digitizing dime novels.

APRIL DINNER

On April 17, at the Union League Club, Eric White, curator of rare books at Princeton University, will discuss his latest book *Editio Princeps: A History of the Gutenberg Bible*, which recently won the DeLong Book History Prize.

MAY LUNCHEON

Brother can you spare a dime... novel? They were the sensational precursors to pulp fiction, but since they were fragile and cheap they were in danger of being lost, until a couple of libraries teamed to digitize them. Matthew Short from NIU will be telling the fascinating tale!

MAY DINNER

On May 15 at the Union League Club, Lynne Marie Thomas, head, rare book and manuscript library, the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, on "Making Mr. Darcy: Cultural Context for the Regency Gentleman."