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## The Most Popular President?

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## The Most Popular President? Abraham Lincoln on Bookshelves and the Web

This weekend we celebrated the birthday of Abraham Lincoln -- perhaps the most popular subject among scholars, students, and enthusiasts of the presidency. In bookstores Lincoln has no rival. Not even FDR can compare -- in the past two years 15 books have been published about Lincoln to FDR's 10, which is amazing since that span included the 60th anniversaries of D-Day and Roosevelt's historic 4th term, and anticipated the anniversary of his death in office. Lincoln is also quite popular on the web, with sites devoted to the new Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, his birthplace, home, and papers. And he is popular in the press -- perhaps no deceased former president is more frequently incorporated into our daily news.

Below, the Hauenstein Center has gathered recently written and forthcoming books about Lincoln, links to websites, and news and commentary written about Lincoln since the New Year.

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### Books:

Books written about Lincoln in the last two years:







- Cuomo, Mario M. [\*Why Lincoln Matters: Today More Than Ever.\*](#)
- Fornieri, Joseph R. [\*Abraham Lincoln's Political Faith.\*](#)
- Fornieri, Joseph R. [\*The Language of Liberty: The Political Speeches and Writings of Abraham Lincoln.\*](#)
- Epstein, Daniel Mark. [\*Lincoln and Whitman: Parallel Lives in Civil War Washington.\*](#)
- Farber, Daniel. [\*Lincoln's Constitution.\*](#)
- Guelzo, Allen C. [\*Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation: The End of Slavery in America.\*](#)
- Hambly, Barbara. [\*The Emancipator's Wife: A Novel of Mary Todd Lincoln.\*](#)
- Harris, William C. [\*Lincoln's Last Months.\*](#)
- Holzer, Harold. [\*The President Is Shot!: The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln.\*](#)
- Kauffman, Michael W. [\*American Brutus: John Wilkes Booth and the Lincoln Conspiracies.\*](#)
- Leonard, Elizabeth D. [\*Lincoln's Avengers: Justice, Revenge, and Reunion After the Civil War.\*](#)
- Perret, Geoffrey. [\*Lincoln's War: The Untold Story of America's Greatest President as Commander in Chief.\*](#)
- Steers, Edward. [\*On Trial: The Assassination of President Lincoln and the Trial of the Conspirators.\*](#)
- Tripp, C. A. [\*The Intimate World of Abraham Lincoln.\*](#)
- White Jr., Ronald C. [\*The Eloquent President: A Portrait of Lincoln Through His Words.\*](#)
- Zane, John Maxcy. [\*Lincoln: The Constitutional Lawyer.\*](#)

Books about Lincoln forthcoming in 2005:








- Mansch, Larry D. *Abraham Lincoln, President - Elect: Four Critical Months From Election to Inauguration.*  
Forthcoming in February, 2005.
- Axelrod, Alan. *Lincoln's Last Night: Abraham Lincoln, John Wilkes Booth, and the Last Thirty-Six Hours Before the Assassination.*  
Forthcoming in March, 2005.
- Trefousse, Hans L. *First Among Equals: Abraham Lincoln's Reputation During His Administration.*  
Forthcoming in April, 2005.
- Powell, J. Mark, and L. D. Meagher. *The Curse of Cain.*  
Forthcoming in April, 2005.
- Lind, Michael. *What Lincoln Believed: The Values and Convictions of America's Greatest President.*  
Forthcoming in May, 2005.
- Briggs, John Channing. *Lincoln's Speeches Reconsidered.*  
Forthcoming in July, 2005.
- Goodwin, Doris Kearns. *Master Among Men: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln.*  
Forthcoming in October, 2005.

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### Links:

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|---|---|---|
|  <a href="#">Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum</a> |  <a href="#">Abraham Lincoln Papers at the Library of Congress</a> |  <a href="#">White House: Biography of Abraham Lincoln</a> |
|  <a href="#">NPS: Abraham Lincoln Birthplace</a>                 |  <a href="#">NPS: Lincoln Home</a>                                 |  <a href="#">Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial 2009</a>         |
| <a href="#">Sheet Music about Lincoln,</a>  | <a href="#">Abraham Lincoln Historical</a>  |   |

Recent News:

-  **The real Lincoln**  
*By Justin Ewers - US News & World Report - (February 14, 2005)*  
"He was an up-by-his-bootstraps man of the frontier. Born in a log cabin, he taught himself to read and hacked his way out of the Kentucky backwoods into the national spotlight. At political rallies, posters showed him splitting rails with ax in hand. He was the prairie lawyer who would become the Great Emancipator: Honest Abe--the man who freed the slaves and won the Civil War. When an interviewer asked him about his early days, he summed it up in a phrase: 'The short and simple annals of the poor.' That's my life, and that's all you or anybody else can make of it."
- [FULL TEXT](#)
-  **Honest abe, flesh and blood**  
*US News & World Report - (February 14, 2005)*  
"To hear its backers talk, the high-tech Abraham Lincoln museum opening here this spring is designed to save the 16th president from a fate worse than death: being boring. 'Washington was embalmed while still alive and still hasn't recovered,' says Richard Norton Smith, director of the new Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. Which is why no whiz or bang has been spared: Smoke and mirrors rouse a holographic ghost of the martyred president while nine life-size replicas show him reclining by a glowing fireside or relaxing while his sons run riot. Then there are the cannons, blasting smoke from a three-dimensional film into a theater where the seats shake during battle scenes."
- [FULL TEXT](#)
-  **Was Lincoln gay?**  
*By Gerald J. Prokopowicz - Fort Wayne Journal Gazette - (February 13, 2005)*  
"As we approach the bicentennial of the birth of Abraham Lincoln, to be celebrated on Feb. 12, 2009, we are already seeing evidence of the truth of an observation made more than 50 years ago by Illinois Sen. Everett Dirksen. It is the first rule of American politics, he said, to 'get right with Lincoln.'"
- [FULL TEXT](#)
-  **Top picks among books on Lincoln, his era**  
*By Sara Gabbard - Fort Wayne Journal Gazette - (February 13, 2005)*  
"The Lincoln Museum owns more than 18,000 books relating to Abraham Lincoln and his era, so it is difficult to choose a few for a capsule review on the weekend of Lincoln's 196th birthday. (In fact, it is stated by 'people who keep track of such things' that Lincoln is second in number only to Jesus as the subject of books.)"
- [FULL TEXT](#)
-  **Lincoln birthday marked on Mall**  
*By Arlo Wagner - Washington Times - (February 13, 2005)*  
"Men dressed as Civil War soldiers and women in flowing period dresses were among the hundreds who came to the National Mall yesterday to stand beneath the towering statue of Abraham Lincoln and commemorate his 196th birthday."
- [FULL TEXT](#)
-  **Exploring Lincoln's Loves**  
*National Public Radio - (February 12, 2005)*  
"A new book, *The Intimate World of Abraham Lincoln*, examines the theory that the 16th U.S. president may have been gay."
- [FULL TEXT](#)
-  **The essential Lincoln**  
*Commentary By Paul Greenberg - Washington Times - (February 12, 2005)*

"It was enough to restore your faith in the Ivy League. There in the New Republic was one of those book reviews in which the reviewer outshines the book. The reviewer was identified as Christine Stansell, a Princeton history professor. And the book's thesis was typical of intellectual discourse in 21st century America: Abraham Lincoln was a homosexual. Why, sure. Soon we'll discover George Washington was a transvestite vegetarian -- or whatever the next sexual/intellectual/political fashion calls for."

[FULL TEXT](#)



#### **Keepsakes of Lincoln**

*By Patrick T. Reardon - Chicago Tribune - (February 10, 2005)*

"This spring, when all the talk is about the new \$115 million Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield, don't overlook the other two great institutions in the Midwest devoted to the 16th president -- the Lincoln Museum in Ft. Wayne, Ind., and the Chicago Historical Society."

[FULL TEXT](#)



#### **Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum Opens with Four-Day Public Celebration**

*Yahoo News - (February 10, 2005)*

"Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich today announced the schedule of activities for the grand opening of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, which compellingly recreates 'The Great American Story' of Abraham Lincoln's life through immersive exhibits that employ state-of-the-art technology never seen before in a presidential museum."

[FULL TEXT](#)



#### **The essential Lincoln**

*By Paul Greenberg - Fort Worth Star-Telegram - (February 10, 2005)*

"It was enough to restore your faith in the Ivy League. There in the New Republic was one of those book reviews in which the reviewer outshines the book."

[FULL TEXT](#)



#### **Plenty of "honest" bids for the Abe Fry**

*By Parija Bhatnagar - CNN - (February 09, 2005)*

"Fast-food king McDonald's ran a jokey commercial on the Super Bowl about a french fry shaped like Abraham Lincoln. Now someone is apparently bidding \$50,200 for the 'Honest Abe' fry."

[FULL TEXT](#)



#### **Lincoln's visage**

*By Steve Penhollow - Fort Wayne Journal Gazette - (February 06, 2005)*

"At any given moment, most Americans have at least one penny in a pocket or a purse. So a picture of Abraham Lincoln is rarely more than an arm's length away."

[FULL TEXT](#)



#### **Historical Society presents many 'Faces of Lincoln'**

*By S.L. Berry - Indianapolis Star - (February 06, 2005)*

"When the Indiana Historical Society bought the original negative of an 1863 photograph of Abraham Lincoln two years ago, it acquired one of the most famous pieces of Lincoln memorabilia in the country. Shot by Alexander Gardner only 11 days before Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg Address, the photo went on to serve as the model for Daniel Chester French's Lincoln Memorial sculpture."

[FULL TEXT](#)




#### **Co-opting Lincoln's sexuality**

*By Cathy Young - Boston Globe - (January 31, 2005)*


"Was Abraham Lincoln gay? And does it matter? These questions have been the subject of heated debate in the past few weeks, thanks to a new posthumous book by the late sex researcher C.A. Tripp, 'The Intimate World of Abraham Lincoln.'"

[FULL TEXT](#)


**Bush calls Reagan mentor, Lincoln greatest**

 *By Bill Sammon - Washington Times - (January 29, 2005)*  
"President Bush considers Ronald Reagan his ideological 'mentor,' Abraham Lincoln the greatest president and Franklin D. Roosevelt a source of endless fascination, he said in a TV interview that will be aired tomorrow."


[FULL TEXT](#)

 **Overreaching limits Lincoln biography**  
*By Scott Alarik - Boston Globe - (January 23, 2005)*  
"Even more than nature itself, historians abhor a vacuum. Into the dark spaces of ancient lives they peer, often making their worst mistakes by insisting they see substance where only shadows remain. This is especially true of Abraham Lincoln, partly because there are so many shadows, but also because there has simply been more written about him than any other American."


[FULL TEXT](#)

 **A Kinsey aide makes the case for a gay Lincoln**  
*Washington Times - (January 23, 2005)*  
"The rumor that Abraham Lincoln had intimate relations with male friends is not a new view. Indeed older, more traditional historians such as Ida Tarbell, Margaret Leach, and even Carl Sandburg flirted with the idea, but never really pushed the matter to a racy conclusion. Now an associate of the sexologist, Alfred Kinsey, C.A. Tripp, has given readers his concerted attempt to move from a comprehensive data base on Lincoln to a compelling story."


[FULL TEXT](#)

 **All the President's Men**  
*By Michele Orecklin - Time Magazine - (January 17, 2005)*  
"It's not something you see in John Ford movies, but in the 1800s it was common for men--frontier-taming, campfire-building, heterosexual men--to share a bed. Mattresses were an indulgence, central heating nonexistent and, for travelers, private lodging scarce. Double bunking was so common that it rarely aroused questions of one's sexual orientation. But a book due out this week asserts that Abraham Lincoln engaged in the practice rather too often and too enthusiastically to avoid the conclusion that he was homosexual. In *The Intimate World of Abraham Lincoln* (Free Press; 295 pages) sex researcher C.A...."

[FULL TEXT](#)

 **The gay Lincoln controversy**  
*By Christopher Capozzola - Boston Globe - (January 16, 2005)*  
"Every generation, it seems, gets the Lincoln it deserves. And so C.A. Tripp's portrait of a Lincoln for the 'Queer Eye' generation should come as no surprise. In *The Intimate World of Abraham Lincoln* (Free Press), the therapist and former Kinsey sex researcher argues that Lincoln was homosexual in both thought and deed, with as many as five intimate lovers and a psychological outlook shaped by his same-sex desires. How timely to learn that the icon of the Republican Party once composed a poem about the marriage of two men. Having already provided potential talking points for Log Cabin Republicans and sketch material for 'Saturday Night Live,' Tripp cannot fail to intrigue readers. But does he have what it takes to convince them?"

[FULL TEXT](#)

 **The presidents' pitchman**  
*By Patrick T. Reardon - Chicago Tribune - (January 16, 2005)*  
"You could be forgiven, as you approach a certain second-floor office near Abraham Lincoln's Springfield home, for expecting to hear a highly charged buzz, a level of scintillating repartee worthy of the Great Emancipator himself. After all, consider who is in the room:"

[FULL TEXT](#)

 **Honestly, Abe Is Still One of All of Us**  
*By Bret Stephens - Opinion Journal - Wall Street Journal - (January 14, 2005)*  
"Sometimes one event triggers thoughts about a very different one."

So it is for me with the death last month of Susan Sontag and the publication this month of 'The Intimate World of Abraham Lincoln,' in which author C.A. Tripp argues that our 16th president was a homosexual."

[FULL TEXT](#)