 Searching East-Asia-related Archives in Springfield, Illinois: A Journey to the Mecca of Lincoln Studies

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2009年7月3－5日にオックスフォード大学で開かれたリンカーン（1809－2009）生誕200周年記念国際シンポジウム「グローバル・リンカーン」に参加したことで得た人脈を頼りに、2015年9月前半にイリノイ州スプリングフィールド市にあるアブラハム・リンカーン大統領図書館・博物館およびリンカーン関連記念施設などを10日間にわたって訪問調査した。本調査報告は、上記の諸機関、とりくに図書館に所蔵されている日本・中 国関連の代表的な図書とデジタル・アーカイブズを紹介し、東アジアにおけるリンカーン物語と価値観の伝播と受容の諸相を検証したものである。

キーワード: リンカーン（倫古龍、林肯: Abraham Lincoln）、徳川家茂（Tokugawa Iemochi）、ジョセフ・ヒコ（Joseph Heco）、松村介石（Matsumura Kaiseki）、新渡戸稲造（Nitobe Inazō）、李提摩太（Timothy Richard）、胡 適（Hu Shih）
In the first half of September 2015, I made a journey to Springfield, Illinois, to find archival materials concerning Abraham Lincoln’s (1809–1865) relations with Japan and China during his presidency, and its aftermath.

Thanks to the kind introduction of Dr. Thomas E. Schwartz (former Illinois State Historian and now Director of the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum in Iowa), I was able to work closely with Dr. James Cornelius, Lincoln Curator, Dr. Daniel Stowell, Director of the Papers of Abraham Lincoln, and Mr. Ian Hunt, Historian with the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation in Springfield, the Mecca of Lincoln Studies.

I got to know Dr. Schwartz in early July 2009 at the “Global Lincoln” conference, held at St. Catherine’s College of Oxford University to commemorate the bicentennial of Lincoln’s birth. As a co-sponsor, he was then representing the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum (ALPLM).

When I was reading my paper at the conference, I quoted a passage from Nitobe Inazō’s preface for Akiyama Yaichi’s biography The Great Man Lincoln (1933), which I translated into English as follows: “Lincoln lived in a different time and space, and therefore we cannot physically follow his steps. However, we can take him as a standard of our thought and action… If Lincoln is likened to a golden temple, we at least can become a golden needle. Marble could be a grand monument to be looked up at by all people, but it could also be used as a stone weight for making pickles. In other words, although there are differences in position and achievement between Lincoln and us, we can draw no distinction in terms of personal quality… Biographies on extraordinary men like Lincoln should not just give stimulus to young people with lofty ambitions, but should be read by all persons regardless of their occupation, age, or class.” This could be considered a classic expression of the East Asian people’s desire to embrace Lincoln’s values.

When the conference volume was published in April 2011 by Oxford University Press, the title of my paper was changed into “A Standard of Our Thought and Action: Lincoln’s Reception in East Asia,” and the reason for this, I guess, was because the two editors who hosted the conference, Professors Richard Carwardine and Jay Sexton of Oxford’s Rothermere American Institute, truly liked Nitobe’s words.

This time in Springfield, I appreciated very much the assistance of the three above-mentioned key persons, which made my research trip a fruitful one. In this research note, I would like to share some of the harvest with readers.
I Expanding Perspectives on the Times of Lincoln and His Followers:
Hints from the Lincoln Collection

During my visit, I spent much time in the reading room of the Lincoln Collection of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, since Dr. Cornelius, the Lincoln Curator, had kindly prepared almost all the materials that related to Japan and China in the collection. In addition, he provided me with some extremely important items to help me expand my perspective on Lincoln’s times. The examples are as follows.

(1) The Congressional Papers kept in the White House during Lincoln’s Presidency

The oversized papers were moved away from the White House after Lincoln’s assassination by Lincoln’s eldest son (and the only son survived into adulthood) Robert Todd Lincoln (1843–1926) and kept in his summer home in Manchester, Vermont, and later acquired by the Library. These papers, which include Narrative of the Expedition of an American Squadron to the China Seas and Japan Performed in the Years 1852, 1853 and 1854 under the Command of Commodore M.C. Perry, United States Navy, Reports of Explorations and Surveys to ascertain the most practicable and economical route for a railroad from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean 1853–54, showed clearly President Lincoln’s strong concern about and interest in the great explorations and transformation of the world internally and externally during the mid-19th century, including the Opium War and the Arrow War with China, and the Perry expedition to Japan.

(2) Tributes of the Nations to Abraham Lincoln published by Department of State in 1867

After Lincoln’s assassination, hundreds of letters expressing sympathy were directed to American ambassadors and envoys and the United States Congress, including one from Prince Kung of Qing China to Mr. Samuel W. Williams, the representative of the American Legation in Peking1) and one

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1) In late 1860, just three days before Lincoln’s victory in the presidential election, Samuel Wells Williams, Secretary of the American legation in Beijing, submitted a letter to Secretary of State Lewis Cass, stating that a total of $400,000 taels had been paid by the Chinese government for claims on account of losses sustained by American citizens during the Arrow War. After paying the claims, “there will remain the sum of a little more than $200,000 in the hands of the United States’ authorities in China, and subject to their direction.” Williams proposed that the surplus funds be used to establish “a school of a high rank in China, where the natives of that empire can be taught the languages and science of western countries, under the tuition of competent men, with the object of making them serviceable to their own countrymen and government.”
from the Acting Minister in Yedo (Edo), A.L.C. Portman, which were put together by Secretary of State William Henry Seward (1801–72) and published as a single volume entitled *Tributes of the Nations to Abraham Lincoln*. Portman’s letter to Seward conveyed “the profound sentiments of pain” of “his Majesty the Tycoon (Shogun Tokugawa Iemochi), and his government” and “sincerest wishes for [the] speedy recovery” of the Secretary, for Seward himself was hurt during the incident. Iemochi’s message should not be seen as just a diplomatic gesture, for he had received an impressive letter from President Lincoln in 1861, in which the president apparently humbled himself and treated Iemochi as an equal.

By then, Japan had already opened the three ports of Yokohama, Nagasaki, and Hakodate, and was obliged by the Kanagawa Treaty to further open the two major cities of Edo and Osaka and the two ports of Kobe and Niigata in 1861 and 1862. Because inflation and political conflicts had intensified, Iemochi decided to negotiate with the Western powers to seek a five-year postponement with regard to the opening of these cities and ports. In response, Lincoln wrote the following sympathetic letter.

*To his Majesty the Tycoon of Japan*

Great and good friend:

I have received the letter which you have addressed to me on the subject of a desired extension of the time simulated by Treaty for the opening of certain ports and cities in Japan. The question is surrounded with many difficulties. While it is my earnest desire to consult the convenience of Your Majesty and to accede so far as I can to your reasonable wishes so kindly expressed, the interests of the United States must, nevertheless, have due consideration. Townsend Harris, Minister Resident near your Majesty, will be fully instructed as to the views of this Government, and will make them known to you at large. I do not permit myself to doubt that these views will meet with Your majesty’s approval, for they proceed not less from a just regard for the interest and prosperity of your Empire than from considerations affecting our own welfare and honor. Wishing abundant prosperity and length of years to the great State over which you preside, I pray God to have Your majesty always in His safe and holy keeping.

Written at the City of Washington this first day of August, 1861.

Your Good Friend.
(3) Two Jones’ Serialized Lincoln Biography in the *Century Magazine* of New York in late 1880s

After Lincoln’s death, Robert Todd Lincoln gathered a large collection of nearly 20,000 documents, which became the major source for Lincoln’s former private secretaries John G. Nicolay and John Hay to write Lincoln’s biography entitled *Abraham Lincoln: A History*. The Century Company acquired the rights to publish excerpts from the manuscript as serial installments from November 1886 to January 1890 before its publication as a ten-volume set in January 1890. And this may explain that why the first Japanese Lincoln biography by Matsumura Kaiseki (1859–1939) was possibly published in December 1890, for that he might have read and used the two Jones’ work in the *Century Magazine,* or at least read part of the ten-volume set. And so far, the coincidence had been a puzzle to me.

(4) The Lincoln story in the Japanese and Chinese Textbooks, Biographies, and Dramas

In my article in the above-mentioned Oxford conference volume, I have highly evaluated the 1903 national textbook for moral education for upper-level pupils in elementary schools, which allotted five lessons out of a total of 28 to tell the story of Lincoln’s studying, honesty, sympathy, and personal freedoms. Considering that the contemporary Meiji Emperor’s achievements and teachings were introduced in three lessons, and the well-known eighth shogun Tokugawa Yoshimune’s merits and insights were described in just two lessons, Lincoln was apparently given more attention and space in the textbook, which reflected its editor’s open-mindedness. But now I got to know that the Lincoln story was not only adopted in the moral reader of the Meiji period, but was also included in those of the Taisho and Showa periods, and the story-telling was not restricted to the moral reader, but also through the national language textbook. The influences of these textbooks, as the Lincoln biographer Akiyama Yaichi had recalled in the preface to his 1933 work: “When I was a fourth grade pupil, I studied Lincoln’s story for first time through the (1903) textbook for moral education, which left a dramatic impression on my mind.”

The late Qing China’s reception of Lincoln was much later than that of Meiji Japan. However, there appeared several impressive publications in early republican China. Under the sponsorship of the Christian literature Society (Guang xue hui) in Shanghai led by Timothy Richard (1845–1919), the famous Welsh Baptist missionary to China, the detailed Chinese translation of Lincoln’s biography was

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published in 1920, a year after Richard's passing away. In the following year, the Chinese translation of John Drinkwater's play on Abraham Lincoln was published after the revision of Peking University Professor Hu Shih (1891–1962), who was a student of John Dewey at Columbia University and served later as Chinese Ambassador in Warshington, D.C. during the World War II. And in 1925, Lincoln's short biography was included in the Children's Historical and Geographical Readers series by the renowned Commercial Press in Shanghai.

II Confirming President Lincoln's Contacts with Japanese by Original Documents: Digitized Archives at the Papers of Abraham Lincoln

Dr. Stowell, Director and Editor of the Papers of Abraham Lincoln, has an ambitious goal, which is to locate, digitize, transcribe, annotate, and publish freely online all documents written by or to Abraham Lincoln during his entire life and career, so as to make them available to researchers everywhere in the world. I had the chance to chat with him a couple of times concerning the current state of Lincoln studies, and found some original documents relating to Joseph Heco (Hamada Hikozō, 1837–97) and Tokugawa Iemochi through his generous advice, as well as the help of his team of volunteer transcribers.

As a legendary drifter-turned-American citizen who had met three presidents—Franklin Pierce, James Buchanan, and Abraham Lincoln—Heco was known as the "father of Japanese journalism" due to his 1864 creation of Kaigai shimbun (Overseas News). Heco reported in his journal Lincoln's assassination after confirming the news with Seward, who introduced Heco to meet and shake hands with Lincoln in the White House, and promoted the ideal of American democracy expressed by Lincoln's Gettysburg Address among such high-purposed samurai as Kido Takayoshi and Itō Hirobumi of the Chōshū domain. There had been some uncertainty about the exact dates of Heco's reappointment as an Interpreter to the U.S. Consulate at Yokohama and his resignation. Now that I have been able to see the archival records, it is apparent that he was appointed on February 10th, 1862, and submitted his resignation a year later on February 24th, 1863, although he would not receive the notice approving his resignation until September 1863. By reading Heco's autobiography and biographies by others, we can understand that his service in Japan of eighteen months was during a period of great upheaval. On the one hand, anti-foreignism and societal tension rose to newly high levels, as exemplified by the Namamugi Incident and the War between England and the Satsuma domain. On the other hand, land speculation from coastal areas in Yokohama began to gain steam. It
is no wonder that Heco wished to have more time to do business rather than to remain in the
dangerous position as an American interpreter, which kept him “fully occupied,” since he was
dreaming of making a quick fortune.

As for the Shogun Iemochi’s letter to President Lincoln requesting the postponement of the
above-mentioned two cities and two ports, it was sent by the U.S. Minister Townsend Harris from his
legation in Edo on May 8, 1861. From the sincere words in the letter as follows, one may clearly
understand the kind of unprecedented difficulties Japan was experiencing. and the Shogun’s appeal, as
indicated above, won Lincoln’s compassion.

Greeting.
I have to state to Your Majesty the President of the United States of America that since a Treaty
was concluded between my Empire and the United States the relations between the two countries
have been in steady progress of organization, and that the time approaches when much of what
is stipulated in that treaty is to go into effect. But there are several obstacles in the way of
execution of that article of the Treaty, which relates to the opening of the ports of Hiogo and
Neigata and the administration of foreign trade in the Cities of Yedo and Osacca. I therefore
desire to postpone the opening of the places above named. More particular information on this
subject will be communicated by the members of my Council for Foreign affairs Kudsi Yamato
no Kami and Ando Tsushima no Kami to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the United States.
I hope that Your Majesty animated by the friendly feeling will consent to this.
I wish (you) happiness.

III Understanding Lincoln’s Grassroots Democracy from His Formative Years:
Reflections at the Historic Linclon Sites

“Seeing is believing.” Mr. Ian Hunt, the energetic young historian with the Lincoln Library
Foundation, currently pursuing a doctorate in Lincoln studies, kindly drove me to the village and home
where Lincoln had lived and Lincoln’s tomb. Through actually visiting these sites, I was able to deepen
my understanding of Lincoln and his times, and was especially impressed by Lincoln’s rich job experience
as a boatman, surveyor, postmaster, shopkeeper, rail-splitter, and lawyer. If the six formative years as a
young aspirant in New Salem is included, Lincoln spent a total of thirty one years in the greater
Springfield area before moving on to the White House to take up his presidency in early 1861. In order to
help me grasp the spirit of Lincoln. Mr. Hunt even brought me to the Presidential Museum to take a look at the famous life-size oil painting of “Our Rail-splitter,” saying that this was the symbol of the “grassroots democracy” which helped elect Lincoln to the presidency—a view which I greatly appreciated.

To conclude, I can’t help but recalled the passage I quoted from Nitobe’s preface for Akiyama Yaichi’s Lincoln biography in my article in the Oxford conference volume as well as in the beginning of this research note. However, a few lines in the passage that appeared in the article were not included in the note, and I wish to pick up them here as ending remarks as well as a reminder to myself.

There are a few books on Lincoln by our countrymen. But to study a great man as Lincoln, is equivalent to studying Mount Tai (the great mountain near Confucius’ hometown Qufu in Shandong Province, China); that is to say, it can be approached from anywhere and observed from all sides. And the truth about Lincoln cannot be exhausted by just a few books.

During my stay in Springfield, I was informed by the three above-mentions keypersons of several important recent publications about the Civil War and Lincoln’s close friends, such as Seward: Lincoln’s Indispensable Man (2012), The Cause of All Nations: An International History of the American Civil War (2014), and Lincoln’ Springfield Neighborhood (2015). And I myself, unexpectedly, discovered such handbooks published by the National Park Service as Asian and Pacific Islanders and the Civil War, which contains information about Japanese, Chinese, Indian, and Southeastern Asian peoples who played an active role in the Navy and Army. It is true that Lincoln studies are still going on and will reach a higher level in the days to come.

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ン受容の研究—新聞雑誌・公文書・伝記・教科書などを素材に」による研究成果の一部である。
① Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library


③ Cover of The Global Lincoln

④ Narrative of Perry’s Expedition to Japan. Courtesy of ALPLM

⑤ Explorations for a Railroad Route from the Mississippi River to the Pacific. Courtesy of ALPLM

⑥ Tributes of the Nations to Abraham Lincoln, 1867. Courtesy of ALPLM
CHINA.

Prince Kung to Mr. Williams.

[Translation.]

JULY 8, 1865, (Tungchi, 4th year intercalary, 5th moon, 17th day.)

Prince Kung, chief secretary of state for foreign affairs, hereupon sends, in reply:

I had the honor yesterday to receive your excellency’s communication informing me that the President of the United States had been removed by death, an announcement that inexpressibly shocked and startled me. But, as you add that on the same day the Vice-President succeeded to the position without any disturbance, and the assassin had been arrested, so that the affairs of government were going on quietly as usual, I hope that these considerations will alleviate your grief at the event, and you will be able to attend to public business.

I shall be pleased to embody the particulars connected with this event in a memorial to his Majesty, and thereby evince the cordial relations which now exist between our countries, which is the purpose of sending the present reply.

His Excellency S. W. Williams,
Chargé d’Affaires of the United States, in China.

JAPAN.

Mr. Portman to Mr. Seward.

[No. 40.] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES IN JAPAN.

Yedo, July 5, 1865.

SIR: Late in the evening of the 3d instant, the day of the arrival of the mail at Kanagawa, I received a message from the Gorōgio to the effect that several officers of rank wished to visit me on this day. I was accordingly waited on by the governors for foreign affairs with a numerous suite, who, in the name of his Majesty the Tycoon, and his government, came to request me to convey to the President and yourself the sentiments of profound pain with which they had learned the assassination of Mr. Lincoln and the attack on yourself, and also their sincerest wishes for your speedy recovery. I assured

7 Prince Kung’s Letter of Condolence for death of Lincoln to Mr. Williams. Courtesy of ALPLM

8 Portman’s letter to Mr. Seward conveying Shogun Iemochi’s condolence for death of Lincoln. Courtesy of ALPLM


11. The first Japanese Lincoln biography by Matsumura Kaiseki (1859–1939); its earliest version in 1890 was published by Maruzen shōsha shoten.

13 The detailed Chinese translation of Lincoln’s biography from the Christian literature Society (Guang xue hui) in Shanghai in 1920. Courtesy of ALPLM

14 The picture of Timothy Richard in the translated biography. Courtesy of ALPLM

15 *Abraham Lincoln: A Play* by John Drinkwater. Courtesy of ALPLM

16 The Chinese translation of John Drinkwater’s play on Abraham Lincoln. Courtesy of ALPLM

17 Lincoln’s short biography from Commercial Press in Shanghai in 1925. Courtesy of ALPLM
Joseph Heco’s Letter of Appointment. NARA.
Appointment of Joseph Heco as Interpreter for the United States Consulate at Kanagawa, Japan, 10 February 1862, Volume 8, p. 295, Entry 774: Appointment Records, Commissions, Miscellaneous Permanent and Temporary Presidential Commissions, 1789-1972, General Records of the Department of State, Record Group 59, National Archives at College Park, MD. Courtesy of ALPLM.

Joseph Heco’s Letter of Resignation. NARA
Joseph Heco to Abraham Lincoln, 24 February 1863, Kanagawa, Japan consulate, Volume 1, Entry 85: Consular Correspondence, 1785-1906, Despatches from Consular Officers, 1789-1906, General Records of the Department of State, Record Group 59, National Archives at College Park, MD. Courtesy of ALPLM.
The Lincoln Home is a National Historic Site in Springfield.

Lincoln’s Tomb.

The office of Lincoln Library Foundation is the old railway station.
Lincoln worked as a surveyor in New Salem.

The oil painting "Our Rail-splitter" in the Presidential Museum. Courtesy of ALPLM

The cartoon, entitled "The Split-Tail Democracy," was first published in the Rail-Splitter, July 21, 1860. Courtesy of ALPLM.