Presidents Portrayed in Art

Welcome to the 13th issue of the Central Illinois Teaching with Primary Sources Newsletter, a collaborative project of the Teaching with Primary Sources Programs at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville and Eastern Illinois University.

With this issue and continuing through February 2009 the theme each month will reflect primary sources from our Abraham Lincoln Calendar. You can download and print a copy of the calendar at http://www.eiu.edu/~eiutps.

Honoring our presidents through art has been a long tradition in America whether it is in a monument, painting or sculpture. President Lincoln was no exception. Shortly after Lincoln was nominated for the presidency, Chicago sculptor Leonard Volk cast the nominee's hands at the Lincoln home in Springfield, Illinois. Lincoln's right hand had become swollen after shaking the hands of countless well-wishers in his hometown. When Volk suggested that his subject hold something, Lincoln sawed off a portion of a broom stick, which is visible in the casting. http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/treasures/trm230.html


Paintings were mostly used to give esteem to our presidents. Many of the paintings were not just portraits that the president set for but were paintings that depicted his early life before the presidency, his family and even his death. In the Library's collections there are paintings of Lincoln as a rail-splitter, a family portrait and Lincoln's last moments after being shot at Ford's Theatre. You can also find similar images for President George Washington.

Beyond President Lincoln

Many times presidents are memorialized in art after their presidency has long ended. The Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C. is among the most recognized monuments, as written in the Library of Congress American Treasures Memory Exhibit the monument was dedicated in 1922. The Lincoln Memorial is one of the most popular works of American architecture. The architect Henry Bacon, won the Gold Medal of the American Institute of Architects, his profession's highest honor. This exhibit contains original sketches that show his critical role in the evolution of the design, scale, and placement of the statue created by Daniel Chester French for the building's interior. http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/treasures/trm081.html Accessed on April 7, 2008.

The other well known monument pays homage not only to Lincoln but to three other presidents. As stated in the Library of Congress Wise Guide for August of 2003 Sculptor Gutzon Borglum and more than 350 workers used dynamite to sculpt most of the 60-foot busts of Presidents George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt. Borglum began his masterwork in 1927 and it was completed...
Beyond Lincoln

by Borglum's son, Lincoln, in October 1941 (his father died in March 1941). The sculpture was intended to memorialize the birth (Washington), growth (Jefferson), preservation (Lincoln) and development (Roosevelt) of the United States. A little-known fact about Mount Rushmore is this: in 1937, a bill was introduced in Congress to add the head of Susan B. Anthony, but a rider on an appropriations bill in Congress was passed to require that funds be used to finish only those heads that had already been started. As accessed from America's Story April 15, 2008

Topic Connections

Washington As It Was: Photographs by Theodor Horydczak 1923 to 1959 http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/horydczak/index.html

The collection of Theodor Horydczak produced views of many of the grand and imposing buildings and sites traditionally associated with the nation's heritage, such as the Capitol, the Washington Monument, Arlington Cemetery, and the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials. These images were probably made for use on postcards, guidebooks, or calendars, and for other commercial purposes. As accessed on April 11, 2008.


By Popular Demand: Portraits of the Presidents and First Ladies 1789–Present http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/odmdhtml/preshome.html

In addition to posing for formal portraits, this collection contains several of the forty-one presidents appearing in military settings or informal surroundings. Popular subjects, such as images of inaugurations and the White House, are included, as are such perennial favorites as Abraham Lincoln with Sojourner Truth, Calvin Coolidge at a baseball game, Warren G. Harding with his lively dog Laddie, and Dwight D. Eisenhower with American paratroopers in England. As accessed on April 12, 2008.

Photographs from the Chicago Daily News 1902-1933 http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/ndpcco/chichihtml/cdnhome.html

With over 55,000 pictures in this collection it is not surprising to find a good number of sculptures and statues of President Lincoln. Some of the unique photographs include: sculptor Lorado Taft with his statue of Abraham Lincoln and a sculpture of Lincoln at Pana Illinois by C.J. Mulligan http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/cdn:@field(NUMBER+n007041)

Built in America http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/habs_haer/index.html

When admiring a statue or monument we don’t always think about the process that proceeds the finished product. This collection gives some insight into that process with drawings of the Lincoln Memorial, Washington Monument and the Davis Monument (a tribute to the only president of the Confederate States). Included in most sections are drawings, images mostly black and white but there are some color and a data page. The White House is also included in this collection. http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/hh:@field(DOCID+@lit(DC0402))
Lesson Plans, Activities and Resources

America’s Library
America’s Story: Dynamite Presidents [http://www.americaslibrary.gov/aa/game/rushmore_game.html]

Explore the States: South Dakota Mount Rushmore [http://www.americaslibrary.gov/cgi-bin/page.cgi/es/sd/mount_1]


Wise Guide: Dynamite Presidents [http://www.loc.gov/wiseguide/aug03/presidents.html]
A Rite of Spring [http://www.loc.gov/wiseguide/mar04/spring.html]


Today in History:
April 20, Daniel Chester French [http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/today/apr20.html]
June 6, John Trumbull [http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/today/jun06.html#johntrumbull]
December 6, Washington Monument [http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/today/dec06.html]

Exhibitions:
Lincoln’s Hands [http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/treasures/trm230.html]
Lincoln Memorial [http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/treasures/trm081.html]
Worthy of Washington [http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/treasures/tri160.html]

What’s New at LOC.Gov

The Library of Congress Experience [http://www.loc.gov/experience/]
The Library of Congress—the largest library in the world and the oldest U.S. federal cultural institution—on Saturday, April 12, debuts an immersive, new "Library of Congress Experience," offering visitors unique historical and cultural treasures brought to life through cutting-edge interactive technology and a companion Web site.

The experience comprises a series of new ongoing exhibitions, dozens of interactive kiosks, an inspiring multimedia "overture" on the collections and programs of the Library, and a continuing online educational experience at the upcoming Web site myLOC.gov/. All exhibits are free and open to the public.

The site also enables the public to participate directly in the Experience by way of "Inspiration Across the Nation." Because the Experience celebrates and showcases the creativity and contributions of our nation’s early cultures, great minds and other founding influences, people nationwide will have the opportunity to submit to the Library their own creative works in the form of stories, poems, video, audio, photos—anything that can be transmitted in an electronic file. Select entries will be chosen to be part of the Library’s permanent collections, joining the likes of Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and other cultural and historic legends.

Detailed information on the Experience can be found at a new microsite, www.loc.gov/experience/.

Text from News from the Library accessed April 1, 2008
Test Your Knowledge...

Test Your Knowledge
Answer the questions below to learn facts about America's Presidential Monuments. All answers are found in this newsletter or newsletter links.

1. Name the sculptor that created Mount Rushmore.

2. By government mandate this structure will always be the tallest monument in Washington D.C.

3. Who are the four presidents carved into Mount Rushmore?

4. Name the architect for the Lincoln Memorial.

5. The four presidents on Mount Rushmore each represent something different name what each president represents.

6. This Chicago sculptor made a cast of Lincoln's hands on his departure from Springfield.

7. How tall is each of the presidents on Mount Rushmore?

8. The Washington National Monument Society lost funding and support while building the monument so it stood uncompleted for how many years?

9. How many years did it take to complete Mount Rushmore?

10. This memorial was dedicated in 1922.

11. How many workers were used to dynamite Mount Rushmore?

12. The architect for the Lincoln Memorial was presented with the highest honor of his profession, name the award he received.

13. Who was to be the fifth face carved into Mount Rushmore?

14. He was the sculptor of the statue of President Lincoln in the Lincoln Memorial.
### Image Sources

**Library of Congress**
- Sculpture of Abraham Lincoln standing above crouched slave wearing manacles
- Lincoln's Hands
- Lincoln Memorial. Statue of Lincoln II
- Work closes on Mt. Rushmore memorial
- Sculptor Lorado Taft sitting on a ladder next to his statue of Abraham Lincoln
- The President's wedding / [drawn] by T. de Thulstrup.
- Assassination of President McKinley

**Prints and Photographs**
- Library of Congress
- Lincoln's Hands
- American Treasures
- Library of Congress
- Lincoln Memorial. Statue of Lincoln II
- Print and Photographs
- Library of Congress
- Work closes on Mt. Rushmore memorial
- Print and Photographs
- Library of Congress
- Statues and sculpture. Andrew Jackson statue.
- Washington As It Was: Photographs by Theodore Horydczak, 1923-1959
- Library of Congress
- Sculptor Lorado Taft sitting on a ladder next to his statue of Abraham Lincoln
- Photographs from the Chicago Daily News 1902-1933
- Library of Congress
- Washington As It Was: Photographs by Theodore Horydczak, 1923-1959
- Library of Congress
- Sculptor Lorado Taft sitting on a ladder next to his statue of Abraham Lincoln
- Photographs from the Chicago Daily News 1902-1933
- Library of Congress
- The President's wedding / [drawn] by T. de Thulstrup.
- By Popular Demand: Portraits of Presidents and First Ladies 1789-Present
- Library of Congress
- Lincoln Memorial, West Potomac Park, Washington, District of Columbia, DC
- Built in America