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Thomas: PORTRAIT FOR POSTERITY

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PORTRAIT FOR POSTERITY. By *Benjamin P. Thomas*. New Brunswick, N. J.: Rutgers University Press. 1947. Pp. xvii, 329. \$3.

During the years since Abraham Lincoln's death there has been published an unending stream of material dealing with the various aspects of his life. Because the casual Lincoln reader could not possibly cover all of the major Lincoln biographies, Mr. Paul M. Angle has recently compiled *The Lincoln Reader*, an anthology of Lincoln books made up of selections from sixty-five authors and so arranged and integrated as to form a continuous narrative. In *Portrait for Posterity* Mr. Thomas, a native of Illinois who has become a recognized authority on Lincoln, has written a companion book, a biography of the more important Lincoln writers based largely on their correspondence. Holland, the first Lincoln biographer, Herndon, Lincoln's law partner, Nicholay and Hay, Lincoln's secretaries, Tarbell, Weik, Barton, Beveridge and Sandburg are a few of the authors discussed. The influence of Robert Todd Lincoln upon many of Lincoln's biographers is covered in detail in a realistic and analytical passage. Many questions that have been hotly debated by Lincoln scholars, such as Lincoln's religious faith and the legitimacy of his birth, are carefully examined. As the story of each biographer is unfolded, the author's own portrait of Abraham Lincoln is sketched in the background. This is an original book that should prove of interest to both the student of Lincolniana and the occasional Lincoln reader.