

June 21, 1924.

Honorable Robert Todd Lincoln,
Manchester, Vermont.

Dear Mr. Lincoln:

I learned from my friend, John T. Richards, Esq., of the Chicago Bar, in a recent conversation, that the best, if not the only, original oil portrait of your revered father, is one by the painter, George Hely, now in your possession.

This is of special interest for us here, because this School is about to move, during the next year or so into a new and handsome building, in the new city campus on Chicago Avenue, corner of Michigan Boulevard, and because it is the next part of our plan to give decorative dignity to the interior of the new building by placing on the walls the portraits of all the great or worthy names that have been connected with the history of the School.

In short, my present purpose in intruding upon you is to invite your consideration to the possibility of having a good copy made of the portrait now in your possession.

The historical connection between Abraham Lincoln and the Law School is briefly noted in Paragraph II 1 of the enclosed leaflet. Besides the circumstances of Abraham Lincoln's leadership at the Bar of Illinois, the fact of his personal relation to that class in the first year of the School, combines to give such a portrait immense inspirational value to the new generation of young

lawyers as they look upon it daily.

I hope that it is a full-length portrait.

Thomas Hoyne, son of the founder of the School, has already promised me a copy of the fine portrait of Hoyne by Hely also which is now in Thomas Hoyne's possession.

We already possess a bronze bust of Abraham Lincoln, and I believe every full-sized engraving or etching of him that has ever been made, besides numerous other items having association with him.

Can you not consider seriously the appropriateness of placing such a copy on the walls of the new School building?

I add in closing a circumstance which may recall me to your memory; namely, that some twenty-five years ago when you did us the honor to act as judge in a certain intercollegiate debate, I went to your house on the Lake Shore Drive, and brought you in a carriage to the old Central Music Hall.

Sincerely yours,

JHW-sbm

*sent circular
June 24, 1924*