

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

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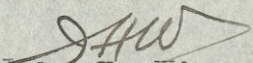
Memorandum on the Portrait of Abraham Lincoln:

About 1924, when we desired to have a copy of the portrait of Abraham Lincoln, Mr. John T. Roberts, author of the book on "Lincoln, Lawyer and Statesman", told me that the best portrait of him was the sitting one of George Healy, the Chicago painter of the '60's, who had painted nearly every famous man of his time in Europe and America. The original was said to be in the custody of Robert Todd Lincoln, then living in Washington. We wrote to Mr. Lincoln, but he declined to let a copy be made by our artist, Mr. Christian Abrahamsen. After much correspondence, however, he notified us that there was a copy of his painting in the possession of Senator Washburn in St. Paul (Senator Washburn was the son of U. S. Minister Washburn, who was Minister to France at the time of the Siege of Paris in 1870). Upon applying to Senator Washburn, through the kind mediation of Judge Homer B. Dibell, Class of 1890, we were told that the Senator would be very glad to let us make a copy, that the original hung over the desk of the Speaker of the Assembly in the capitol at St. Paul, and that our artist could come over there for that purpose any time. The portrait was taken down and Mr. Abrahamsen made a copy, which is an excellent one, and it now hangs in Lincoln Hall. However, Mr. Washburn said that Mr. Lincoln was in error,--that the Senator's copy was the original and that Robert Lincoln's was a copy of it. Of course, we have neither means nor necessity to decide upon this difference of opinion. Senator Washburn, however, insisted that his portrait was made by George Healy, and was the original, and Mr. Lincoln's



was a copy. After that time, we learned that there is a similar portrait in the Chicago Historical Society building, and also in the Newberry Library. The custodian in each of these cases claim and believe that their painting is an original by George Healy.

It thus appears that there are four identical portraits, all made by George P.A. Healy, and each owner claiming that his is the original from which the others are copied.

  
John H. Wigmore