

IHLC MS 676

**Emanuel Hertz
Collection, 1921-1937**

Manuscript Collection Inventory

Illinois History and Lincoln Collections

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Note: Unless otherwise specified, documents and other materials listed on the following pages are available for research at the Illinois Historical and Lincoln Collections, located in the Main Library of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Additional background information about the manuscript collection inventoried is recorded in the [Manuscript Collections Database \(http://www.library.illinois.edu/ihx/archon/index.php\)](http://www.library.illinois.edu/ihx/archon/index.php) under the collection title; search by the name listed at the top of the inventory to locate the corresponding collection record in the database.

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Emanuel Hertz Collection, 1921-1937.

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The following material, which initially constituted "Volume VIII" of the Library's Randall collection, was disbound so as to file the material by name in this collection. Note especially writings by Emanuel Hertz himself and by Stephen I. Gilchrist, his principal critic in the 1930s.

Hertz's Correspondence

Folder 1

Angle, Paul M., to Hertz, Apr. 2, 1935, stating that he had briefly viewed the "magnificent" collection, but had not yet consulted Gov. Henry Horner about it.

Baker, G. A., & Co. (M. Harzof), New York, to Herbert Putnam (Librarian of Congress), Oct. 6, 1931, reporting that Harzof, in letters to Edward A. Harkness and W. E. Benjamin, had suggested that they help to acquire the Herndon-Weik collection as a gift to the nation.

Barker, H. E. (dealer in Lincolniana), San Francisco, to Henry T. Rainey, seeking proof that Lincoln "took a drink whenever he wanted it, or felt that he had to do it at social functions." (an Associated Press statement on Dec. 24, 1933).

Barrett, Oliver R.

(1) Dec. 17, 1921, to Jesse Weik, expressing his "amazement over the quantity, interest and importance of your collection of Lincolnia," and expressing his interest in buying the non-legal Lincoln documents.

(2) Nov. 16, 1933, to Hertz, noting that "about eleven hundred pages" of Lincoln legal documents "which had been taken from the files of Illinois courts" should be returned to the state; that Albert J. Beveridge thoroughly used other documents in the collection; and that

"copies of the Weik material are in the Huntington Library [the Ward Hill Lamon collection].

Butler, Nicholas Murray, to Hertz, Nov. 14, 1933, stating that Columbia University's "financial stringency" made it impossible for it to buy the Herndon-Weik collection.

Dondero, George A. (member of Congress from Michigan, 1933-57) to Hertz, Jan. 4, 1936, sending him two letters which Dondero received from Stephen I. Gilchrist.

Folder 2

Gilchrist, Stephen I. In 1934, after a letter to Hertz in 1931, Gilchrist wrote at length (28 typed pages) regarding the Herndon-Weik collection when it was in Hertz's hands. Since 1928, Gilchrist had been employed as the director of the Henry B. Joy Historical Research office in Detroit, Michigan, where he collected a mass of Lincoln-related material. For the draft of his unpublished study of Nancy Hanks's legitimacy, see this library's Gilchrist collection.

What follows is a list of Gilchrist's letters in the Hertz collection:

To George A. Dondero:

- (1) Jan. 20, 1934, opposing the proposal for Congress to buy the Herndon-Weik collection.
- (2) Jan. 22, 1934, protesting "against a Lincolniana price being put upon the worthless and inept Herndon propaganda..."
- (3) Jan. 30, 1934, opposing the "attempt to expand Herndonism." Importance of Lincoln's Kalamazoo speech. Zachariah Chandler's radicalism. Criticism of "Herndonism[,] Beveridgeism... Hertzism...[and] Minorism."

To Hertz, Dec. 23, 1931, regarding Hertz's *Abraham Lincoln: A New Portrait*, Vol. II.

To Lester Markel (*New York Times*):

- (1) Feb. 28, 1934, stating that Markel and the *Times*, in publishing Hertz's "Lincoln, The Man, Emerges," in the previous Sunday's paper,

"have been made the victims of a propaganda to sell the Herndon collection.. .to the Government at fancy Lincolniana prices" and referring to "Mr. Hertz's unfounded claims for the Herndon-Weik conglomeration of hoaxes and libels."

(2) Nov. 20, 1934, taking issue with Hertz's pamphlet which discusses, and dismisses, Gilchrist's criticisms of him; and asking Merkel to send Gilchrist's letter to Hertz.

To Henry T. Rainey

(1) Jan. 30, 1934, offering to send him "some enlightening and interesting facts as to the major errors of Herndoniana" and criticizing David Rankee Barbee, Edgar Lee Masters, and others.

(2) Feb. 15, 1934, on the political uses of Lincoln. Rainey's staff acknowledged this letter on Feb. 17.

The collection also includes a clipping from the *Detroit News* on Jan. 28, 1934, based on a letter from Gilchrist to Sen. Robert J. Bulkley of Ohio, objecting to the "attempt to soak the people a quarter million dollars or so" for the Herndon-Weik collection.

Folder 3

Hertz, Emanuel.

To Abraham L. Berman, New York, Sept. 9, 1937, proposing a theatrical production about Lincoln. "We must not judge by the poor effort of John Drinkwater" who was "neither American nor acquainted with the great background which produced Lincoln."

To G. A. Baker & Co., New York, Oct. 23, 1933. After "a cursory examination" of the Herndon-Weik catalog, Hertz urges that the collection be not "dispersed to the four corners of the world" but rather "consigned either to the Library of Congress or to one of the two or three outstanding great libraries of this country....Never again, in my opinion, can such a collection of contemporary opinion of Abraham Lincoln be collected as this one is, by the greatest and most reliable commentator upon Lincoln--William H. Herndon."

To Ira Friedman, New York, Nov. 28, 1933: "I am authorized by the Weik Manuscript Corporation...to notify you that the Corporation has set

aside 200 shares of capital stock which you have purchased" for \$10,000.

To Henry T. Rainey (Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives)

(1) Dec. 19, 1933, suggesting that the two Lincoln notebooks in the Herndon-Weik collection be shown to President Roosevelt.

(2) Jan. 30, 1934, opposing not only Herndon (as in his letters to Dondero) but also David Rankin Barbee.

(3) Feb. 15, 1934, on Gilchrist's "non-political" research. Also, Rainey's secretary to Gilchrist, acknowledging receipt of his letter.

Folder 4

Lores, L. F. (President, Delaware and Hudson Railroad) to Sen. David A. Reed of Pennsylvania, Oct. 17, 1932, introducing him to M. Harzof, asking Reed to introduce a bill to acquire the Herndon-Weik collection for the Library of Congress.

Markel, Lester (*New York Times*) to Hertz, notes on Mar. 7, Nov. 22, and Dec. 5, 1934, relating to Stephen I. Gilchrist's attacks on Hertz.

Milton, George F. (*Chattanooga Times*) to Rainey, Jan. 11, 18, 1934, during the period when Rainey had from the Herndon-Weik collection Lincoln's scrapbooks which Lincoln used in his debates with Douglas in 1858, as well as the Douglas notebook owned by Martin F. Douglas.

Putnam, Herbert, to G. A. Baker & Co., Oct. 26, 1931, replying to a note from Harzof on Oct. 24, stating that the Herndon-Weik collection "should certainly be in this, the National Library, in association with the papers of Abraham Lincoln deposited here by Mr. Robert T. Lincoln," but, for lack of "any government appropriation" for such a purchase "our only hope of acquiring" the collection "must rest on the possibility that some citizen" might buy it for the Library.

Folder 5

Rainey, Henry T.

(1) To Hertz, Mar. 6, May 19, Dec. 11, Dec. 20, Dec. 23, 1933; Jan. 9, Apr. 28, May 9, 1934, regarding purchase of the Herndon-Weik

collection. Also memorandum, Dec. 20, 1934, of Rainey's secretary, having received from Hertz "Lincoln's notebook during the Lincoln-Douglas debate" and Lincoln's "notebook containing Lincoln's clippings on slavery" and notes to Hertz from Ella M. Rainey (the Speaker's wife) and her secretary on returning these items to Hertz.

(2) To H. E. Van Horn (Murfreesboro, Tenn.), Jan. 22, 1934, suggesting that he write the Library of Congress regarding a photograph he wishes to sell.

Folder 6

Stanton, William S. to Rainey, Jan. 15, 1934, objecting to Herndon's genealogy of Lincoln which differs from that provided by William Dean Howell's biography.

Stewart, Lucy S., to Hertz, Oct. 21, 1937, appreciating his pamphlet on the Trent affair and dissenting from Archibald Rutledge's "Lincoln: A Southern View."

Tarbell, Ida M.

(1) To G. A. Baker & Co., Sept. 23, 1933, expressing her view that the Library of Congress acquire the Herndon-Weik collection, "the most important in existence outside of the Robert Lincoln collection."

(2) To David A. Randall, New York City, Sept. 23, 1933, similarly urging that the Library of Congress acquire the Herndon-Weik collection.

Townsend, William H., to Rainey, Dec. 28, 1933, asking about "certain unpublished letters of Abraham Lincoln which show that on occasion he took a social drink."

Weik, Jesse W., n.d., possibly a form letter: "Several autograph dealers have asked me for a catalogue of the [Herndon-Weik] collection." Weik has not complied, wanting the entire collection to go to the Library of Congress. Being unable to "get [Andrew Carnegie's] ear," Weik wishes to identify "some equally wealthy and generous man" to buy the collection and present it to the Library of Congress.

West, C. S. (?), War Department, to Henry T. Rainey, Dec. 26, 1933, referring to an article that he wrote in 1897 in which he cited Robert W. Hitt's letter to him regarding Hitt's reporting of the Lincoln-Douglas debates.

Papers of Emanuel Hertz

Folder 7

Hertz's published writings: 23 pamphlets, some duplicates (1925-29, 1936), filed in order by Monaghan number, and 3 articles, all collected from diverse sources.

Folder 8

Hertz's unpublished writings and bibliographical notes: 30 pages, mainly typescripts with interlineations. Many of these pages were paginated more than once and duplicate each other.

Folder 9

Clippings (6 articles).

Folder 10

Hertz's requests for copies (photostats) of manuscripts in the Huntington Library, mainly the Ward Hill Lamon collection.

Folder 11

Other items.