



MAG EXHIBITION CELEBRATES LIFE AND LEGACY OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN



ROCHESTER, NY, January 20, 2009 — An exhibition that celebrates the life and legacy of our 16th president, Abraham Lincoln, opens at the Memorial Art Gallery on February 12—the 200th anniversary of his birth.

Curated by director Grant Holcomb, *Lincoln in Rochester* includes more than 40 artworks, artifacts and memorabilia from area collections including the Memorial Art Gallery, George Eastman House, Rochester Historical Society, Rochester Museum & Science Center, Seward House Museum,

Strong National Museum of Play, and University of Rochester Rare Books & Special Collections.

“Several of the works on view reveal direct connections between Lincoln and western New York,” notes Holcomb. “Douglas Gorsline’s drawings, for example, illustrate the story of a famous letter sent to Lincoln by Grace Bedell, a young Westfield, New York girl.

Acclaimed sculptor Leonard Volk grew up outside Rochester and is said to have lived here for a short period of time; his life casts of Lincoln’s face and hands were a resource for other American artists while his own monumental portrait of Lincoln in Washington Square Park remains one of the most significant outdoor sculptures in this part of the state.

Lincoln’s unique friendships with Rochester’s Frederick Douglass and Auburn’s William H. Seward (who served as his Secretary of State) are also reflected in the exhibition.”

The exhibition is possible by the Chester and Dorris Carlson Charitable Fund and presented in honor of the City of Rochester’s 175th anniversary.

Lincoln in Rochester remains on view through April 19.

MAG on the web:

<http://mag.rochester.edu>

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ABOVE: Alexander Hay Ritchie, *The First Reading of the Emancipation Proclamation Before the Cabinet* (1866). Engraving after the famous painting by Francis B. Carpenter which hangs in the U.S. Capitol. MAG, Gift of Grant Holcomb in memory of Thomas Hawks.

RIGHT: Leonard Wells Volk (1828–95), *Abraham Lincoln*. Bronze, 33” high. New Memorial Art Gallery acquisition, Maurice R. and Maxine B. Forman Fund.

