



For Immediate Release
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***The Faces of Lincoln* Explores Intersection of Lincoln and Booth's Lives, Deaths**

Indianapolis—*The Faces of Lincoln* rotating exhibition continues to showcase items from the Indiana Historical Society's extensive Lincoln collections with its latest incarnation, *Lincoln's Assassination & Trial of Conspirators*. The exhibition will be featured now through March 30, 2007, on the fourth floor of the Indiana History Center, located at 450 W. Ohio St. in downtown Indianapolis.

The exhibition shows a timeline of Abraham Lincoln and John Wilkes Booth beginning with the assassination and continuing through to Lincoln's burial in Springfield, Ill., and Booth's attempted escape and death at the hands of Union soldiers. Other items in the exhibition illustrate the fates of Booth's co-conspirators in the aftermath of the national tragedy.

Booth was born in Maryland into a famous acting family and began his acting career at the age of 17. In 1859 he moved to Richmond, Va., for a season of stock, and briefly left the theater company in November 1859 to join the Richmond Grays with the sole intention of witnessing the December hanging of abolitionist John Brown. Soon after the hanging, Booth left for Richmond, where he was discharged, but continued supporting the Confederates during the Civil War.

In November 1864, Booth began working on a plot to kidnap Lincoln, and ultimately trade him for Confederate prisoners of war. Booth met with Dr. Samuel Mudd, childhood friends Samuel Arnold and Michael O'Laughlin, David Herold, George Atzerodt, and Lewis Powell. After nearly five months of intense planning, the attempt to capture the president on March 17, 1865, ended in disappointment, as Lincoln changed his plans. With the surrender of Confederate General Robert E. Lee to Union General Ulysses S. Grant, Booth grew ever more desperate for his beloved South to rise again and felt the murder of the president would be the perfect battle cry.

The IHS Lincoln collections are also highlighted in the new IHS Press publication *Abraham Lincoln Portrayed in the Collections of the Indiana Historical Society*, edited and with an introduction by Harold Holzer, a world-renowned Lincoln expert and scholar. It features more than 150 rare Lincoln images and artifact photos, including the original collodion wet-plate negative of a portrait of Abraham Lincoln that was used as the model for the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. Cost of the book is \$49.95, which is available through the Basile History Market at the Indiana History Center.

The Indiana History Center is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and all exhibitions are free and open to the public. For more details, contact the Indiana Historical Society at (317) 232-1882 or (800) 447-1830. Information on these and other IHS offerings is also available online at www.indianahistory.org.

Since 1830, the Indiana Historical Society has been Indiana's Storyteller™, connecting people to the past by collecting, preserving, interpreting and disseminating Indiana history. The independent, nonprofit organization also publishes books and periodicals; sponsors teacher workshops; provides youth, adult and family programming; assists local historical groups throughout the state; and maintains one of the world's largest collection of material on the history of Indiana and the Old Northwest. The Indiana Historical Society is one of the oldest and largest historical societies in the United States. The Society is located in the Indiana History Center at 450 West Ohio Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202. (www.indianahistory.org)

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High-resolution images of exhibition items are available upon request. For more information, contact Amy Lamb, Media Relations Manager, at (317) 232-1878 or alamb@indianahistory.org.