

## **LINCOLN AS WE REMEMBER HIM: THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL - WASHINGTON, D. C. & ANNIVERSARY TRIBUTES**



The Lincoln Memorial. Wikipedia. 18 July 2008. <[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:Lincoln\\_memorial\\_at\\_dawn.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:Lincoln_memorial_at_dawn.jpg)>

### **The History**

- 1867 – Lincoln Monument Association established
- 1901 – Site selected
- 1911 – Formal authorization by Congress
- 1914 – First stone set (on Lincoln's birthday)
- 1922 – Dedication ceremony held (lead by Chief Justice William Howard Taft)

### **The Artists**

- Architect – Henry Bacon (chose a Greek temple design, differentiating the memorial from the typically Roman style of much of the rest of the monumental architecture in Washington, DC)
- Sculptor – Daniel Chester French (had to sculpt a far larger figure than the original 10 foot statue conceived at the beginning)
- Painter – Jules Guerin (did the murals on the inside of the memorial)

### **Building Materials**

- Indiana limestone
- Colorado marble

- Georgia marble (used for the statue)

### **Design**

- The Building
  - Inspired by the Temple of Zeus in Greece
  - 36 columns surrounding the central room
  - Names of the states in the Union and the Confederacy during his term in office carved above columns
  - Names of the 48 States of the Union in 1922 carved on the exterior attic walls
  - (Alaska and Hawaii included on a special plaque in 1959)
  - The words of the Gettysburg Address are carved into the south wall of the central interior room with a mural of the freeing of a slave above it
  - The words of the Second Inaugural Address are carved into the north wall of the central interior room with an allegorical mural of the union of the North and the South above it
- The Statue
  - Created from 28 blocks of marble
  - 19 feet, 9 inches tall and 19 feet wide
  - Recalls Zeus enthroned
  - Looks east over the Reflecting Pool toward the Washington Monument
  - Supports for the throne's arms consist of the Roman fasces, a symbol used by Romans to represent their strength in unity



Daniel Chester French Sculpture Inside the Lincoln Memorial. Wikipedia. 18 July 2008.  
<[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lincoln\\_Memorial](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lincoln_Memorial)>

- The dedication

**IN THIS TEMPLE  
AS IN THE HEARTS OF THE PEOPLE  
FOR WHOM HE SAVED THE UNION  
THE MEMORY OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN  
IS ENSHRINED FOREVER**

#### **Of Special Note**

- The hands on the monumental statue of Abraham Lincoln that presides over the Lincoln Memorial are often said to sign an A and an L in American Sign Language.
- In fact, Daniel Chester French – who did also do a statue of Dr. Thomas Gallaudet, founder of the first American school for the deaf – formed the hands from castings taken from the President's own hands as well as castings taken from his own hands.
- Robert Lincoln, Abraham Lincoln's only surviving son, attended the dedication in 1922.

#### **The Centennial of Lincoln's Birth**

- Lincoln's centennial was observed 13 years before the dedication of the Lincoln Memorial.
  - The federal government chose to memorialize the 16<sup>th</sup> President by placing his face on the obverse of a coin – the penny.
  - He was the first President honored with his image on currency or coin.
  - Some opponents complained about treating the President as Europeans treated royalty while others complained about choosing the lowly penny to honor the great man.
  - African Americans referred to it as "emancipation money."
  - The Lincoln penny is the first penny to bear the motto "In God We Trust," a practice first authorized by Congress a little more than a month before Lincoln's assassination.



Lincoln Centennial Penny: Obverse and Reverse. Wikipedia. 18 July 2008.  
<<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:1909-s-vdb-wheat-cent.jpg>>

- Lincoln's sesquicentennial was observed by placing an image of the Lincoln Memorial on the reverse of the penny.



Lincoln Penny: Obverse and Reverse. Wikipedia. 18 July 2008. <[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lincoln\\_Penny](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lincoln_Penny)>

- In Lincoln's bicentennial year, the obverse (heads side) of the penny will remain but the reverse (tails side) will be minted with four different images.