

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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November 1996

Phillip Shaw Paludan on "Lincoln and the Propaganda of War and Peace"

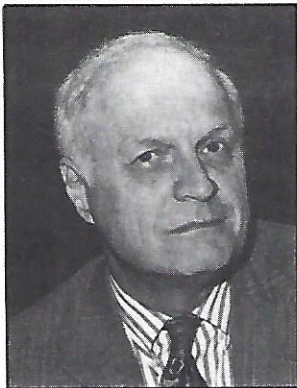
by Barbara Hughett

ONE OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S greatest qualities as president was his ability to articulate his government's aims in the Civil War in crisp and vigorous prose. "Our popular government has often been called an experiment," he told Congress on July 4, 1861. "Two points in it, our people have already settled—the successful *establishing*, and the successful *administering* of it. One still remains—its successful maintenance against a formidable internal attempt to overthrow it. . . . This issue embraces more than the fate of these United States. It presents to the whole family of man, the question, whether a constitutional republic, or a democracy . . . can or cannot, maintain its territorial integrity, against its own domestic foes."

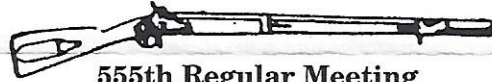
"Lincoln and the Propaganda of War and Peace" will be the topic of Phillip Shaw Paludan when he addresses The Round Table on November 8. In his lecture, Dr. Paludan will discuss how Lincoln shaped the understanding that Americans in the North had of what the Civil War was all about. With stirring words, he called forth for Northerners a picture of the issues that allowed the war to be fought and won on the most legitimate issues—emancipation and saving a union that they could agree was worth saving.

Additionally, Paludan will discuss the meaning of propaganda in a democratic society, how people like General William T. Sherman used it, and show what tools President Lincoln particularly used to advance his ideals. He will try to demonstrate that Lincoln was a propagandist in the way he defined major events in the Civil War—and that he also had performed a major service to the nation by his activities as a propagandist before the war, especially during his 1858 debates with Senator Stephen A. Douglas.

Phillip S. Paludan earned his B.A. and M.A. degrees at Occidental College, and his Ph.D. at the University of Illinois. He has been on the faculty of the University of Kansas since 1968, and has held the rank of Professor of His-



Phillip Shaw Paludan



555th Regular Meeting

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Phillip Shaw Paludan on "Lincoln and the Propaganda of War and Peace"

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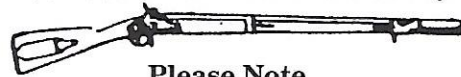
Friday, November 8, 1996

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Union League Club
65 West Jackson Boulevard

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
\$25 - The Civil War Round Table of Chicago members
\$30 - Nonmembers

Entree: Grilled Minute Sirloin Steak with
Mushroom Sauce or Catch of the Day



Please Note

Make your reservation by Wednesday, November 6, by calling Registrar Carole Le Claire at 847-698-1438. People who attend without having made a reservation will pay a \$5 walk-in charge. If you make a reservation and then find you cannot attend, please call to cancel or you will be billed for a dinner. **No last-minute orders for the Catch of the Day can be honored. The chef must have at least twenty-four hours notice.**

The Union League Club is located at the corner of Jackson Boulevard and Federal Street. Federal Street runs north and south between Dearborn and Clark Streets. Parking is available at the General Parking lot, just south of the Union League Club, at the rate of \$5 per car.

tory since 1978. Since 1995, he has been serving as Visiting Professor of History at Rutgers University. He was Visiting Professor of Modern History at University College, Dublin, Ireland, from 1978-79.

He is the author or editor of five books, including *The Presidency of Abraham Lincoln*, which won the

(continued on page 3)

☛ OCTOBER MEETING ☛

by Larry Gibbs

On October 18, at the 554th regular meeting of The Civil War Round Table, 216 members and guests heard Nevins-Freeman award recipient Dr. James M. McPherson speak on "Darling, You Should Not Have Done That: Married Soldiers in the Civil War." Dr. McPherson is the twenty-third recipient of the prestigious Nevins-Freeman Award. Recognized by many as the premier Civil War historian of our times, he is the author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning book, *Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era*. His most recent book is a brilliant collection of essays entitled *Drawn With the Sword: Reflections on the American Civil War*.

Dr. McPherson's informative and interesting presentation stressed the differences in the roles of married Civil War soldiers and their wives. To form his impressions, McPherson researched over 1000 letters from families on both sides. His speech was based on a chapter from a forthcoming book. "The male code of honor was bound up with masculinity, duty, and patriotism; these motives were not appreciated by many wives," stated McPherson. This core of male values created problems for married soldiers. The young men in the North would be disappointed if they failed their home, family, and friends. McPherson asserted, "With a binding moral obligation, Union soldiers referred to duty. On the other hand, many Southern soldiers spoke more of the honor of one's public reputation."

As the long deadly conflict continued, letters from wives indicated loneliness and hardship. "Many wives pleaded with husbands to get out of the war by fair or foul means," said McPherson. To evade the conflicting obligations of soldier and husband would bring into question their manhood; many married soldiers reconciled the differences between a call to duty and a call to home with a denial of any differences.

Soldiers on both sides used the metaphorical family represented by the mother country as a defense for their patriotic spirit. In writing to their spouses in an attempt to defend their roles as soldiers, married men relied on an appeal to the motherhood of women. They emphasized family honor, since wives as well as their husbands would be dishonored if the husbands deserted or exhibited cowardice. These men often claimed that they were upholding their own manhood.

In contrasting officers with enlisted men, McPherson noted that many wives of officers could not understand why their husbands would not try to resign their commissions. In McPherson's sample, fifty-one percent of officers were married while only twenty-six percent of enlisted men were. The desertion rate was higher among married soldiers. Invasions and food shortages in the South threatened Rebel soldiers more directly, increasing their desertion rate. Given the predominately volunteer armies, the desertion rate was rather high — nine percent for Union soldiers and thirteen percent for Confederates.

Many wives supported their husbands roles as soldiers, although there is a paucity of letters from wives, probably due to the constant moving of soldiers. Most women wrote of duty, honor, and country. As the war escalated the odds of death on the battlefield increased daily. "Let others finish the war" was the prevailing

feeling among wives in 1864. However, others felt that duty and honor required the soldiers to fight to the bitter end.

When a wife stated, "Darling, you should not have done that!," she was urging her mate to return home before the war was over. Her husband responded angrily that honor was the essence of his manhood. McPherson concluded, "To the husbands, death before dishonor was not a cliché. Many wives did not believe in this credo. Instead the code of many wives was life before death. The reason that men rather than women fight is perhaps because of the different codes of honor, not simply hormonal or physical differences."

PHILLIP SHAW PALUDAN (continued from page 1) prestigious Lincoln Prize of Gettysburg College in 1995. This book was also a selection of both the Book-of-the-Month Club and the History Book Club, and received the Barondess/Lincoln Award. Paludan is a member of the Board of Directors of the Abraham Lincoln Association.

Stephen R. Wise, our September speaker, addressed the Civil War Round Table of New Orleans on October 16, on the topic of "Blockade Running During the Civil War." The group's monthly dinner meetings are held in the Faculty Dining Room at Tulane University.

Congratulations to the Baltimore Civil War Round Table on the occasion of their fourteenth anniversary. The anniversary was celebrated at the group's monthly meeting on October 8. Presentations were given by former Transportation Secretary O. James Lighthizer and Professor Edward Smith.

Gettysburg Park Ranger Joe Onofrey has been selected for the National Park Service Northeast Field Area's Freeman Tilden Award. The annual award recognizes outstanding contributions in the practice of interpretation and education by NPS employees in parks throughout the Northeast. During the past twenty months, Onofrey has revitalized Gettysburg's student education programs, bringing in new audiences, involving all park divisions and five school systems in program development, presentation, and improving community relations.

Thirty-seven members of the Abraham Lincoln Civil War Round Table of Michigan in Detroit attended our October 18 Nevins-Freeman Award dinner. The next day, former Round Table President Brooks Davis led the group on a tour which included the Lincoln exhibits at the Chicago Historical Society, the Stephen A. Douglas State Historic Site, and the Confederate Mound at Oak Woods Cemetery. They ended the day of touring with a visit to former Round Table President Dan Weinberg's Abraham Lincoln Book Shop.

Noted historian and 1980 Nevins-Freeman Award honoree Edwin C. Bearss will be a featured speaker at the Rosehill Civil War Maritime Heritage Seminar on December 7. The event is free of charge and will run from 9 am to 5 pm. For information call David Windell at 773-561-5940.

The New Books

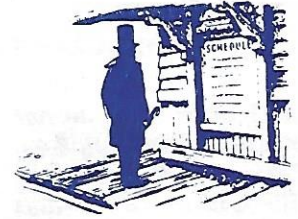
Compiled by C. Robert Douglas



- Wert, Jeffrey D. *General James Longstreet: The Confederacy's Most Controversial Soldier—A Biography*. Touchstone/Simon & Schuster. 1995. Pbk. \$15.00. Original of 1993.
- West, John C. *A Texan in Search of a Fight (Hood's Texas Brigade)*. Butternut and Blue. 1995. \$23.50. Original of 1901.
- Whan, Vorin E., Jr. *Fiasco at Fredericksburg*. Olde Soldier Books. 1995. \$25.00. Original of 1961.
- Wheeler, Richard. *A Rising Thunder—From Lincoln's Election to the Battle of Bull Run: An Eyewitness History*. Harper Collins. 1994. \$30.00.
- Whitehouse, Hugh L. *Letters from the Iron Brigade: George Washington Partridge, Jr., 1839-1863, Civil War Letters to his Sisters*. Guild Press. 1994. \$18.95.
- Wiatt, Alex L. *Confederate Chaplain William Edward Wiatt: An Anotated Diary*. H.E. Howard, Inc. 1994. \$25.00.
- Wiggins, Sarah W., ed. *The Journals of Josiah Gorgas, 1857-1878*. U. of Alabama Press. 1995. \$39.95.
- Wiley, Bell I. *The Road to Appomattox*. LSU Press. 1994. Pbk. \$9.95. Original of 1956.
- Willett, Charles E., ed. *A Union Soldier Returns South: The Civil War Letters and Diary of Alfred C. Willett, 113th Ohio Volunteer Infantry*. Overmountain Press. 1994. \$14.95.
- Williams, T. Harry. *P.G.T. Beauregard: Napoleon in Gray*. LSU Press. 1995. Pbk. \$14.95. Original of 1955.
- Willison, Charles A. *A Boy's Service with the 76th Ohio*. Blue Acorn Press. 1995. \$22.95. Original of 1908.
- Wise, Stephen R. *Gate of Hell: Campaign for Charleston Harbor, 1863*. U. of South Carolina Press. 1994. \$27.95.
- Woodward, Harold R. *Major General James Lawson Kemper C.S.A.: The Confederacy's Forgotten Son*. Rockbridge Publ. Co. 1993. \$21.95.
- Woodworth, Steven E., ed. *Leadership and Command in the American Civil War: Volume One*. Savas Woodbury Publishers. 1995. \$24.95.
- Wyckoff, Mac. *A History of the 2nd South Carolina Infantry: 1861-1865*. Sgt. Kirkland's Museum & Historical Society, Inc., Fredericksburg, VA. 1994. \$29.95.
- Younger, Edward, ed. *Inside the Confederate Government: The Diary of Robert Garlick Hill Kean*. LSU Press. Pbk. \$11.95. Original of 1957.
- Zamouski, Stanley, ed. *Our Campaigns: The Second Regiment Pennsylvania Reserve Volunteers 1861-1864 by Evan M. Woodward*. White Mane Publ. Co. \$17.99. Original of 1865.
- Zarefsky, David. *Lincoln, Douglas and Slavery*. U. of Chicago Press. 1993. Pbk. \$14.95.



BULLETIN BOARD



FUTURE MEETINGS

Regular meetings are held at the Union League Club, 65 West Jackson Boulevard, the second Friday in each month, except as noted.

November 8: Phillip Shaw Paludan on "Lincoln and the Propaganda of War and Peace"

December 13: Robert E. Lee Krick on "The Confederate Staff"

January 10: Kurt Carlson on "Patrick Cleburne"

February 21: Bruce Allardice on "Confederate Officers Corps" (***This is the third Friday.***)

March 14: Dale K. Phillips on "Benjamin Butler and the Occupation of New Orleans"

April 11: David Ruth on "The Army of Northern Virginia Matures: The Peninsular Campaign of 1862"

April 18-20: Midwest Civil War Round Table Conference, Lisle Hilton, Lisle, Illinois

April 30-May 4: Annual Battlefield Tour: Richmond

May 9: William J. Cooper on "Jefferson Davis"

June 13: Mark Grimsley on "Sherman's March to the Sea"

NEW MEMBERS

Linda Delaney, 523 Bristol Lane, Schaumburg, IL 60194, 847-310-8489

Martin Delaney, 523 Bristol Lane, Schaumburg, IL 60194, 847-310-8489

Dennis D. Dominiak, 8325 S. Karlov Avenue, Chicago, IL 60652-3121

Sydney Feuchtwanger, 161 E. Chicago Avenue #36-C, Chicago, IL 60611, 312-988-4631

Mavy Lezimis, 7647 W. Victoria Street, Chicago, IL 60631-2291, 773-775-8340

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Ernest Ricketts, 19 Windsor Drive, Oak Brook, IL 60521

Irvin Shayne, 3200 N. Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, IL 60657, 773-472-6940

Schimmelfennig Boutique

The history of The Round Table, *The Civil War Round Table: Fifty Years of Scholarship and Fellowship*, by Barbara Hughett, is available for \$30 per copy. You may purchase the book at the monthly meeting or order it from Morningside Bookshop, 260 Oak Street, Dayton, Ohio 45401 (1-800-648-9710). Add \$2.50 for postage and handling.

In addition to The Round Table history and *The Continuing Civil War*, the essays from the Fiftieth Anniversary Proceedings, the following items are available at each monthly meeting: Lapel pins, Mugs, Meeting Tapes, Civil War Buff posters and T-Shirts, CWRT T-shirts, polos, and sweatshirts.

Proceeds from the sale of these items go to support the programs of The Civil War Round Table.