



Ostendorf collection Restored O-24

THE ORIGINAL PHOTOGRAPH RESTORED

HIS FEATURES "PRETTIED" with India ink, Lincoln is almost unrecognizable. The lines in his face are painted out; the chin is built up; the aquiline nose is remodeled; the cheekbone is lowered; the hair is artistically combed; the eyelids are lifted; and even the famous mole is subdued. The original photograph, possibly taken at Springfield in May, 1860, is nearly obliterated by the artist's ink "improvements."

This profile portrait (O-24) was probably taken by William Marsh of Springfield at the written request of Colonel William L. Bramhall, who had met Lincoln three months earlier at a special dinner on the day of the Cooper Union speech, February 27, 1860. "The photograph came even sooner than I expected," recorded Bramhall. "I determined to have struck at my own expense a campaign medal bearing the likeness of the party choice."

The removal of the heavy India-ink lines and the strengthening of the original sepia tones has restored the portrait almost to its original appearance.