



A SIMILAR POSE with the hard lines removed. Despite the prettying, Lincoln's features are strong and his remarkable nose, as Sir William Howard Russell noted, "stands out from the face, with an inquiring, anxious air, as though it was sniffing for some good thing in the wind."

Ostendorf collection O-29

THE LAST OF THE FOUR PORTRAITS by Alexander Hesler, Springfield, Illinois, June 3, 1860. Criticized by Republican leaders for the famous "tousled hair" photograph (O-2), Hesler was asked to take some campaign pictures which would show a more handsome candidate. Lincoln was unable to go to Hesler's studio in Chicago, but he agreed to get "dressed up" for the sitting if the photographer would come to Springfield. Hesler came, and set up his camera near a large window in the old Capitol Building. It was a quiet Sunday and Hesler worked undisturbed with Lincoln. He took these four splendid poses, two of which (O-26 and O-27) sold about 10,000 copies!

The original plates were retained by George B. Ayres when he bought and sold the Hesler gallery right after the Civil War. In 1881, Ayres made some fine prints direct from the plates, at the same time producing a duplicate set of glass negatives. In 1933 the original plates were cracked in the mail. The post office paid the claim and presented the broken negatives to the Smithsonian Institution. The duplicate plates are now owned by the Chicago Historical Society.