Lincoln Forgeries

Italian Forgery

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection
LINCOLN IN 1853
VISIONEDROME AS
EUROPE'S CAPITAL

Emanator's Letter Has
Come to Light.

Date: September 29, 1853

Mr. Lincoln, Nov. 30—A letter purportedly written by Abraham Lincoln and regarding his view that Rome would become the capital of a United States of Europe came to light today in connection with press comment on the Pan-American Conventions in Washington.

It is dated from Springfield, Ill., in 1852 and addressed to the late Thaddeus Stevens, statesman, patriot, and once director of the Vermont observatory. It has just been published by the Historical Society of Illinois, with the permission of the government.

Referring to ancient predictions of Rome as the capital of the world, Mr. Lincoln wrote: "The present geographical position of the Eternal City points in the eye of every one the national prophecy ..."

He also notes the Roman alphabet was spread everywhere by education, which gave civilization to all territories under its sway, and that Rome was the indigenous home of the United States of Europe. The only rational unity that can admit in this, he contended, "is the only rational unity that can unite the principles of the United States of Europe at the present time." He added: "That must be a union that would be prepared and approved by every one of the Union's principles and tendencies of unbroken apostasy." He further elaborated that Rome, because the people are preponderantly Roman and because for four centuries the island belonged to Rome, Rome on the Rubicon is one of the centers of the difficulties between her and England.

Will Distribute Copies.

The letter was cited by John Gill, a descendant of Columbus, president of the Pan-American Convention in the South Carolina capital.

Lincoln's advice today is beamed from Santiago, U.S., to the Pan-American Convention in the South Carolina capital. It has just been published by the historical society of Israel.

Referring to ancient predictions of Rome as the capital of the world in making his prophecy, the great emancipator wrote: "The present geographical position of the Eternal City points in the eye of every one the national prophecy." He further elaborated that Rome, because the people are preponderantly Roman and because for four centuries the island belonged to Rome, Rome on the Rubicon is one of the centers of the difficulties between her and England.

Secure a National Capital.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

Mr. Lincoln, Nov. 30—A letter purportedly written by John Gill, a descendant of Columbus, president of the Pan-American Convention in the South Carolina capital, was addressed to the late Thaddeus Stevens, who was once director of the Vermont observatory.

It has just been published by the Historical Society of Illinois.

Referring to ancient predictions of Rome as the capital of the world in making his prophecy, the great emancipator wrote: "The present geographical position of the Eternal City points in the eye of every one the national prophecy." He further elaborated that Rome, because the people are preponderantly Roman and because for four centuries the island belonged to Rome, Rome on the Rubicon is one of the centers of the difficulties between her and England.

Prepare a National Capital.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

Lincoln Viewed
Rome as Natural
Europe Capital

Letter Written in 1853 Reveals
He Envisaged a Federation of Nations.
FEDERATED EUROPE
TRACED TO LINCOLN

Note of 1863 Found Visioning
Rome as Its Capital; Mus-
solini’s Aspirations Forecast

LETTER REVEALED IN ROME

Rome, Nov. 19 — (AP) — A letter
purportedly written by Abraham
Lincoln and envisioning the day when
Rome would become the capital of a
United States of Europe came to
light today.

It was dated from Springfield, Ill.,
in 1863, and addressed to the late
Macdonald Miller, scientist, patent
and vice director of the U.S. Patent
Office. It had just been pub-
clished by the Historical Society
of the Italian Renaissance and the
American Civil War Society.

Attaching no serious appreciation
of Rome as the capital of the world
in making his prediction, Lincoln
wrote:

"The geographical position of
the Eternal City, just as on the
eye of every man, makes it the
most glorious name. It is the
landmark of all the countries of
Europe, and the capital of the
world."

Lincoln recalled regrettably the
number of Balkans who had brought
citizenship to other countries.

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Rome was once the center of
Asia with glory and honor, as
the Roman Empire of Britain did
for Austria, and Christopher Columbus
did for Spain, as Cecil did for England."

Writing before Italy became unified
and before he was elected president,
Lincoln said that the
Italian problems ought to be
united, independent nation,
its attempts are said to embody more
the aspirations of President$
Lincoln for a united, Patriotic Italy.

Foreword (The Day)
The day should be the most
important day of the Mediterranean—
the Balkans, the Balkans and Italy—
all as well as the proceeds
of the Balkans and the
Italian states and
the French, the Austrian
and the Venetian
who should be included in the
whole of the
ancient land of Venice from
Pannonia to
Catalonia and the whole of
the Mediterranean.

The only Italian unity that one
can actually see is that,
he concluded.

"Whoever doesn’t treat it, is not
in the interest of the people, in order to
treat with the whole of
the world, the craft, the absolutist
and the mercantile speculator."

Tenth day of October
as Mediterranean United
States. Complete with
whether the people are predominantly
Italian and whether he is
naturalized and the
whole of the
Dalmatian are one of
the causes of the difficulties between
her
LETTER BY LINCOLN DISCOVERED IN ITALY

President Envisaged Rome as Capital of United States of Europe, Writing in 1853.

FAVORED A UNITED NATION

President Abraham Lincoln was a firm believer in the unity of Italy. In a letter written in 1853, he expressed his desire for Rome to become the capital of a United States of Europe, envisioning a future where Italy would be a great and powerful nation.

Lincoln's letter was recently discovered in Italy. It is believed that he wrote the letter while in Washington, D.C., and it contains his thoughts on the future of Italy and Europe.

The letter begins with a description of Lincoln's ideal vision for Italy, stating that it should be a republic with a strong central government. He goes on to say that Italy should become a leading nation in Europe, with a large and powerful navy.

Lincoln also expressed his belief that Italy should be a model for other countries, stating that Italy should be a place where the arts and sciences thrive. He wrote that Italy should be a place where people can live in peace and prosperity, with a strong economy and a stable government.

Lincoln's letter was discovered in a small town in Italy, where it had been stored for many years. It is believed that the letter was written at the request of a friend of Lincoln's, who was a diplomat in Italy.

The letter has been translated into Italian and is now available for public viewing. Many historians believe that Lincoln's letter provides insight into his thoughts on the future of Italy and Europe.

The letter ends with Lincoln's prediction that Italy will one day become a great nation, with a strong and prosperous economy. He believes that Italy will be a leader in the world, with a strong military and a prosperous economy.

The letter is now available for public viewing at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.
LETTER BY LINCOLN

Discovered in Italy

President Envisioned Rome as the Capital of United States of Europe, Writing in 1853.

FAVORED A UNITED NATION

held Corse, Sully and Sardinia

Should Be Included—Thesis

Licensed to Mussolini's Alma.


The letter was dated from Springfield, III., in 1835 and addressed to the late Marshall Bell, senator, to whom it is said that the letter is addressed to Lincoln's father.

It has been published by the Historical Society of the Italian Renaissance with the permission of the government.

Referring to ancient applications of Rome for the empire in making his prediction, Lincoln wrote that: "The geographic position itself of the Eternal City justifies the name it has always borne, the name of the eternal city.

"That same glorious Rome, which was the heart of the intellectual globe, which has discovered its created, renowned educated, and adorned it morally with its indescribable law," he exclaimed.

Lincoln recalled regarding the number of Italians who had brought about his birth out of which the city has been rescued, and how the generation has passed out of Italy with glory and money, as Prince Eugene of Savoy did for Austria, so Christopher Columbus did for Spain, as Cincinnatus did for Rome, as Cincinnatus did for Rome.

"The city was the refuge of the nations of Europe and her influence and her destiny were to be equal to that of the Roman Empire.

"To Italy, he wrote, should be joined the three major islands of the Adriatic—Sardinia, Corse and Sully— as well as the Peninsulas of Crete and Sicily and the by far more important islands of Venice from the sea to the city and the whole of Dalmatia and Albania.

"Italians, Lincoln said, the Italian only that can admit to this, he could not sign without it, signed the principles of the union of Italy.

"In order to prepare, in the order of his day, a united and united States of Europe, the most tumor and in the hands of men of one nation, Germany, France, Italy, Belgium, and the United States of America, should be the only way because the people in these countries are insufficiently Italian and for two centuries the island belonged to France.

"Her views on Dalmatia are also one of the causes of the difficulties between her and Yugoslavia.

"The Italian at Venice, said D'Aghion, a descendant of Camillo Cavaliere, chairman of Italy's largest company, The Historical Society of the Italian Renaissance order that these truths be published.

"D'Aghion, a relative of Michelangelo, refused a corresponding sum of money for the sale of the previous letter to Lord Mountbatten, who wished to withdraw it from circulation in a desire to conserve the name, because the people of Yugoslavia should be in the same position as all other representatives of the reasons of Yugoslavia."
LETTER GIVES VIEWS OF LINCOLN IN 1849

Unpublished Missive Shows He Opposed Any "Submissions" by President Taylor.

LINKED TO MELLONI SCRIPT

Said to Have Bearing on Authenticity of Message Voicing Mazzini-Like Ideas.

The publication yesterday of a letter allegedly written by Abraham Lincoln in 1849 to Macedonio Melloni, Italian physiocrat, in which the future American President is represented as visualizing the day when there would be a United States of Europe, with Rome as the capital, resulted in the appearance here of another unpublished Lincoln letter, written at Springfield, Ill., July 28, 1849, to Secretary of State J. M. Clayton, then serving in President Zachary Taylor's Cabinet.

The letter was composed by the author, Dr. A. R. W. Rosenbach, because of its incriminating bearing on the authenticity of the alleged Mazzini letter, in which Lincoln is alleged as expressing the belief that the Italians, pending should be united under a single bond, with the ultimate aim in view, like that of the nations of Europe for a unified Roman Empire.

"I was aware that at that period (1849) Lincoln was interested in foreign or international politics, although it is possible he might have been," said Dr. Rosenbach.

The letter written on the paper used on the letter published from Rome, as it gives in a most concise manner Lincoln's own view of what the President's attitude should be.

The letter given by Dr. Rosenbach follows:

CONFIDENTIAL.

Springfield, Ill., July 28th, 1849.

Hon. J. M. Clayton,
Dear Sir:

It is with some hesitation I presume to address you this letter—and yet I wish not only you, but the whole Cabinet, and indeed the whole country, were fully apprised of the subject I have in mind. Do you consider the People while you and they are not, will excuse the apparent presumptuous. It is understood that the President at first adopted, as his position, the responsibility of the appointments, upon the respective departments, and that such a rule is adhered to and practiced upon. This course I at first thought proper; and, of course, I am not now complaining of it unless the President has, from the effect of it, on the public mind—It is true for the President the unjust and ruinous character of being a man of straw—of being used as a stick in the battle against the unanimous opinion of those officers. This fact has tended to bring upon him a responsibility greater than ten thousand signatures on a petition could bring. But the public must be brought to understand, that they are the President's appointments. He must occasionally say, or own to say that the President, to some degree, has a right to the appointments. These views were the "Roman's views" of Sen. Jackson, and we dare not disregard the lessons of experience.

Your old host

A. LINCOLN

There was a great impression on the part of Lincoln authorities here to withhold expression of opinion concerning the authenticity of the Mazzini letter until facsimile photo-dupl copies were made.

NOVEMBER 21, 1931
Bryce AF


d of the authenticity of the letter alleged to have been written by Abraham Lincoln to Macedonian

mrat Meintel, Italian scientist, in 1853, was adduced as an Associated Press dispatch from Rome to

Yeller on September 22, 1892. The dispatch was rejected by Mr. Hertz, a lawyer of the New York

New York Lawyer Also Questions

Genuineness Before No Data

Appears in Communication.

DO MY DEAR MELON!... IS CLUE

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Until they fell upon the civilized world thatepoch of deep darkness, that epoch of barbarism, wherein the glorious light of immortal, eternal Rome—fled Rome which had given civilization to the entire world, to the entire human race, to the entire human species—was forever obscured by her implacable hate, that Rome which, in my opinion, will be, in the more or less distant future, the luminous capital of the United States. It is incumbent to obstruct the normal course of the development of nations and mark the foundation of the future United States of permanent destruction.

Ford of all. In order to realize this end it is indispensable to achieve the absolute independence of Italy, because this independence is necessary for the equilibrium of the civilized world. All of the ancient nations should be completely united in one nation.

The kingdom of Lombardy, with the two Venetian, the Trebizond and Julian Provinces, should be united in the mother country without any condition. This absolute independence of the ancient land of Venice—the Adrian from those as far as Catacan without interruption, the whole length of the coast of the Adriatic Sea, which should also be in an absolutely united Italy. The only Italian unity which can be admitted is one which does not permit the trampling under foot of the united nations of the world—what the recent war for the year future the most bloody, most dreadful of wars.

Disunited has a history of almost every nation. The other, ethnical, nationalities which have been violently oppressed there, the independence which have been formed by the most barbarous people of the world—the Svean, Consta, Berhiana. As I write you last time, the Berhiana is in a state without an exception, without any contradiction, without any origin, without any description.

The previous Tuscania, the liberty of Venice-Ferrara, was first, in Austria, then in France, was in the hands of a man who has not specified the people of Venice in the same way. The saint, Columbus, entrusted that of Spain. Then the last time, it was handed back to Austria. In the Albanian, in the Albanian, in the Albanian, in the Albanian, was nothing else, the same as in the Albanian and the inhabitants of the southern part of your peninsula. When you Romans were defeated, Americans has not yet been born. Were involved, my great friend. The task is hard but one must not be discouraged if you work in aid for your children a political opposition which will have consequences.

The empire in my opinion is divided. The great division is based upon the face of the earth to make place for the birth of free and independent humanities. I mean the British Empire and the Austrian Empire, which are divided from each other, and which are divided from the triumphal march of civilization.

I am on the road to the formation of a whole race when

Sacred rights will be defended when the day of the desired event, the day of the States of the United States should be considered. Hitherto, the President, the President of the United States, should be considered as a natural and logical freedom. Going back to what I have already said, I believe that the revolutions should penetrate in the consciousness of the people without disturbing in order in which I have specified. India, Ireland, Italy, all of the countries of the world, and the barrier. The people in these countries will be the forms of impression which we had, the great and the less free, and then there would be true civilization.

Yours, AARON BELNEW.

Failed to Get Photostat Copy.

Mr. Hertz said that he had attempted to get a photostate copy of the original letter from D'Alibon, a resident of Meloni, who had once been the letter, but without success. D'Alibon had written him, Mr. Hertz said, that such a copy would appear in a book to be published in Italy, but that so far as he knew the book had not thus far appeared.

LETTER GIVES VIEWS OF LINCOLN IN 1849

Unpublished Missive Shows He Opposed Any “ Buchananisms” by President Taylor.

LINKED TO MELLONI SCRIPT

Read to Have Bearing on Authenticity of Message-Like Ideas.

The publication yesterday of a letter allegedly written by Abraham Lincoln in 1845 to Macedon Limonelli, Italian physician, in which the future American President is represented as visualizing the day when there would be a United States of Rome, or the capital, resulted in the appearance here of another unpublished Lincoln letter, written by Mr. Lincoln to Mr. Lincoln, dated January 31, 1845, in which the President expressed his views on the subject of the United States of Rome, or the capital, as it would be the capital of the new United States of Rome.

Yours, AARON BELNEW.
LINCOLN LETTER 'HANDED A FORGERY'

Guy, American Historian, Says
Style and Knowledge of Italian
History Are Not Lincoln's.

HE DECIDES ITS ACCEPTANCE

Text of Alleged Document Printed
in Authentic Jounal Edited by
Director of State Archives.

By ARNALDO CORTESE

Author of the New History of Rome.

ROME, Nov. 12—The letter recently
being reported to have been written by
Abraham Lincoln from Springfield
on the late American Civil War, and
published in the latest issue of Rivista
del Risorgimento, a historical monthly,
whose purpose is to print original
material for the true history
of Italian independence,

is the end of the letter, as published
in the translation made by the
Italian patriotic Giuseppe Lievra,

and was followed by a brief
statement made by Giuseppe Magnani,

in the possession of Nino d'Albany, a
Director of the Authentic Monthly,

and the Italian statesman, Count
Camilla di Cavriani.

Authorities Argued.

The text of the letter, as printed in
Rivista del Risorgimento, was preceded by a preface by
Giuseppe Leonardo Caporale, whose
name has not previously been known
in connection with historical work.

But the following statements were made:

First, the letter was written in 1868 in a barracks
in central Italy, by Giuseppe Magnani, the
Italian statesman, Count Camilla di Cavriani.

Secondly, the letter was written in 1868 and
published by Giuseppe Magnani, the
Italian statesman, Count Camilla di Cavriani.

Thirdly, the letter was written in 1868 and
published by Giuseppe Magnani, the
Italian statesman, Count Camilla di Cavriani.

Fourth, the letter was written in 1868 and
published by Giuseppe Magnani, the
Italian statesman, Count Camilla di Cavriani.

Puyton, entitled "An History of
Disent," declared,

"It is a great pity, he said, "that
an excellent publication like Riva
stia del Risorgimento, which has made such valuable
contribution to the true knowledge of
Italian movements, should have been taken in by such a patent for

It is an even greater pity that
Professor Eugenio Casavola should have been deceived into lending the
authority of his name to a document
whose authenticity, to say the least,

is doubtful.

"That the letter is a forgery is proved
by the following considerations:

First, it never seen the origin
of this alleged letter, in fact,

published for the first time at
Rome in 1868, when he
was not yet President of the United
States, could not possess the
knowledge afterward to write such a letter.

And in Rome, I am told by my
brothers, that he was never known to
write such a letter.

Secondly, the letter is written by
Giuseppe Magnani, the Italian
statesman, Count Camilla di Cavriani.

I give as my uncontrolled opinion
that the letter is a forgery. I believe
it is written by Giuseppe Magnani,
the Italian statesman, Count Camilla di Cavriani.

Thirdly, the letter is written by
Giuseppe Magnani, the Italian
statesman, Count Camilla di Cavriani.

Fourth, the letter is written by
Giuseppe Magnani, the Italian
statesman, Count Camilla di Cavriani.

A LETTER IS CALLED FAKE

Rome, Oct. 31—A month
ago, when the letter was
published for the first time in the
Rivista del Risorgimento, the
name of Professor Giuseppe Magnani, whose
letter had not previously been known
in connection with historical
work, the following statement was
made:

"This is a letter, which the New York
Times, in a letter to the New York Times,
has reported to have been written by
Abraham Lincoln from Springfield
on the late American Civil War.

But the following statements were
made:

First, the letter was written in 1868 in a barracks
in central Italy, by Giuseppe Magnani, the
Italian statesman, Count Camilla di Cavriani.

Secondly, the letter was written in 1868 and
published by Giuseppe Magnani, the
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LINCOLN LETTER
BRANDED A FORGERY

Gay American Historian Says
Style and Knowledge of Italian
History Are Not Lincoln's.

HE DECRIES ITS ACCEPTANCE

Text of Alleged Document Printed
in Authentic Journal Edited by
Director of State Archives.

WASHINGTON, DC, August 5: The letter secret-
ly related to be have written by Abraham Lincoln...
CALLS LINCOLN LETTER ON ITALY A FORGERY

ROME, Nov. 15—Henry Nelson Gay, secretary of the Italo-American Society and Rome Historian, has described as a "forgery" a letter attributed to Abraham Lincoln in which he urged the unification of Italy and predicted that Rome would become the capital of a United States of Europe.

He claims the author of the letter was Lincoln in Italian, Gay said: "Lincoln could not have written it. Anyone who has studied Lincoln would be certain of that. I have read Lincoln's correspondence and know that he did not have enough knowledge of European affairs to have written it."

Regarding the statement of the Historical Society of the Italian Renaissance that Lord Northcliffe had offered to buy the document from its present owner, Nino d'Althian, Gay said: "If Northcliffe made the offer he did it solely to call d'Altlian's bluff and get him to produce the original. My opinion is that the letter is an absolute forgery. I believe it was produced at the time of the Paris peace conference in order to influence President Wilson."

The National Historical Society of the Italian Renaissance has started an investigation of the authenticity of the letter, Prof. Eugenio Casonova, superintendent of the State Archives and president of the society, said today that he was uncertain in the letter's genuineness and he regretted the society had published it while he was out of town.

THE LATEST LINCOLN FORGERY

Chicago Daily News: Abraham Lincoln during the year 1853 was living the quiet life of a private citizen and practicing attorney in Springfield, Ill. He was in retirement from active political life. The Whig party, with which he had been identified, was falling off the political map. In this period of Lincoln's life he considered himself something of a political washout. It was in this year of 1853, however, that a letter which has just come to light in Italy is supposed to have been written. The writer who forged Lincoln's name to that letter was not an Italian but a political writer who had been cognizant of his union.

The fabricated letter pictures Lincoln envisioning a day when Rome would become the capital of a United States of Europe. In trying to imitate Lincoln's style of expression, the fabricator has him declare the leading Italian city to be "the most glorious Rome which gave civilization to all the terrestrial globe, which has discovered us, created, redeemed, educated and nourished us morally with her indestructible laws." The five verbs here employed are three or four more than Lincoln would have used. Also, the fabricator has Lincoln referring to war as "the most turbulent and fanciest of immeasurable speculations"—two or three more adjectives than Lincoln could possibly have imagined as using.

In the hour when Lincoln is represented as seeing this grandiose language he was having his hands full getting unity among the clashing elements in the Illinois political vineyard. If he could get something like harmony in Illinois he might hope for it nationally. After that, he might possibly have considered Italian political unity and the formation of a United States of Europe.

Writing letters that sound like Lincoln is no easy job. Americans have tried it and could not get away with it. The forgery was usually evident in the lapses of not in the handwriting. However, we should not discount any one who feels like imitating Lincoln's literary style. He had a hair, hard and accurate way of telling things. And back of his telling lay much thought and brooding.
PROOF IS OFFERED OF LINCOLN LETTER
Italian Paper Prints Facsimiles of Fragment of Translation and Signature on Original.

DOUBTS CALLED "PUERILE"

Professor Casanova, State Archivist,
Challenges Any One to Rebut Photographic Evidence.

March 21, 1865 (From the New York Times)

ROMA, Jan. 13.—The Rassegna Storica, the official publication of the National Italian Historical Society, today published a special edition containing an article by its editor, Professor Eugenio Casanova, who is also director of the Italian State Archives, confirming the authenticity of the disputed Lincoln letter supposed to have been addressed in 1863 from Springfield, Ill., to the Italian scientist, Macedonio Mellini. It was in this letter that, after the death of the great man, the Italian claims to Dalmatia and Corsica were upheld.

As proof of the authenticity of the letter Professor Casanova printed a photographic reproduction of the first few lines of the last page of the translated fragment of the Lincoln letter, made from a very fine photograph of a facsimile of the last page of the original letter, on which, only to the eye of very fine vision, could be seen the word "Very Truly" and the signature "Abraham Lincoln." In his article Professor Casanova, after referring to "the great claim of the transcontinental proselytes upon Lincoln's letter and mentioning some objections made to its authenticity," added that "the full knowledge of what I am talking about, I declare the abovementioned! I am an unbiased and puerile; I am evolved to speak their unanswerableness by the facsimile which I publish by the courtesy of the owner of the miraculous translation.

"I challenge any one to state that it is not Lincoln's handwriting or that it is a forgery. For the sake of my science, I will do all I can to prove the signature of Lincoln in the translation. One day I shall have no doubt as to the authenticity of the second formula."

As for the last paragraph of the above letter, Professor Casanova cited another Lincoln letter, signed "Very Truly" and "Abraham Lincoln," saying that he had asked friends of Lincoln who lived in Springfield to send him a copy of his handwriting and that he had compared it with the handwriting in the facsimile. He added that the handwriting in the facsimile was not the same as that in the second formula, and that he had met with no objection to the authenticity of the facsimile.

As for the signature, any doubts of its authenticity were set at rest in the case of the second formula, which was authenticated by Lincoln himself. In conclusion, Professor Casanova said that he had no doubt as to the authenticity of the facsimile, and that he had met with no objection to its authenticity when it was exhibited at the New York Historical Society."
ROME, May 7.—Giuseppe Leonida Capobianca, "discoverer" of a letter alleged to have been written by Abraham Lincoln in 1853 to Macedonio Melloni, Italian scientist, has been arrested on charges of forging several medieval documents. Although the Lincoln letter was not on the list of forgeries, Capobianca’s arrest has caused grave doubts concerning the authenticity of that document.

The alleged Lincoln letter became the subject of a controversy on both sides of the Atlantic last November when Capobianca, in an article in Rassegna Storica del Risorgimento, presented the text and contended it was an authentic document. The letter supported Italian claims to sovereignty over the eastern coast of the Adriatic Sea.

Doubts concerning the authenticity of the letter were immediately raised in the United States, but shortly afterward the magazine printed an article by its editor, Professor Eugenio Casanova, superintendant of State archives, in which the letter was upheld in strong terms.

Scientists who have attacked Capobianca’s “discovery” asserted today that his arrest for forgery would end arguments in behalf of the Lincoln letter.

The “Lincoln letter” produced by Capobianca last November did not find any supporters in the United States. Henry Nelson Gay, American historian, contended that Lincoln in 1853 did not possess a knowledge of Italian politics sufficient to enable him to write such a letter, that there was no evidence that Lincoln had even heard of Macedonio Melloni, and that the style of the letter was unlike any of Lincoln’s writings.
Rome, May 17.—Government authorities and today charged to
forging medieval state documents had
been filed against Giuseppe Leonida
Capoblanco, an attorney whose name
figured in a controversy last November
over the authenticity of a letter
supposed to have been written by
Abraham Lincoln.

Capoblanco was reported to have
been arrested in Naples a month ago,
but the police there declined to dis-
cuss the case.

The attorney wrote an article in a
periodical of the National Historical
society of the Italian renaissance. In
the purported Lincoln letter, en-
visaging a united Italy, was per-
ceived to have been written by the liberator, Giuseppe Mazzini.

Both the letter and the translation
later were called forgeries by critics
the controversy involving Italian and
American historians, but the claim
that they were genuine was vigorously
supported by Professor Eugenio Cas-
anova, superintendent of the state
archives and editor of the periodical.

The letter, supposed to have been
written by Lincoln at Springfield, Ill., in 1863 and addressed to the late
Macedonia Mellon, scientist, patriot
and one time director of the Vesuvius
observatory, predicted that Rome
would become the capital of a United
States of Europe.

The document was owned by Nino
D'Althan, a descendant of Camillo
Cavour, statesman of Italy's unifica
tion. He said he had sold it to a
 cousin in Mentone, France, because
he feared it would be stolen from his
home at Mentone, near Geneva, Italy.

Signor D'Althan said he had writ-
en a book about the letter and that
even if it was off the press he would
ask his cousin for the original and
present it to Premier Mussolini.
LINC0NL NOTE ON ITALIAN EUROPE BRANDED FAKE


Oct 94, V.C.

FEDERAL Oct. 15-1853—a much dis-puted letter in which Abraham Lin-coln supposed recommending Rome as the capital of the United States of Europe—was deciphered today. In the letter, purported to have been written in 1853 to a lieutenant of Giuseppe Massini Italian liber-al, Lincoln was supposed to have opposed Italian territorial expansion.

Henry Furst, a writer of New York, has released a collection of experts on America the letter was not authentic.

Style Subtle and Reeling.

Furst substantiated the opinion of Prof. Enrico Barilli of the University of Turin, who declared the letter was spurious for a variety of reasons. They agreed the fluid, rambling style of the message was inconsistent with Lincoln's terse, matter-of-fact manner.

Their most damaging evidence was the letter's reference to "Veneza Giulia," a province which did not come into existence until 1860, seven years after the date of the message. They pointed out also that the original handwriting has been withheld from scholars.

Atmosphere Eau de Froid.

Furst was warmly applauded when he told the assembly he wished "to lay the ghost of this old fraud once and for all."

The letter, dated from Springfield, Ill, before Lincoln became President, was published first by the Historical Society of the Italian Renaissance in 1854, with the consent of the Italian government.

In the almost immediate free from skeptical students of Lincoln, and the late Henry Nelson Guy, American historian, declared it was not genuine.

Before its publication the letter was used in an effort to influence President Wilson at the Versailles peace conference to favor Italian claims in the Dalmatian coast.

The Letter.

Predicting Rome would be the capital of the United States of Europe, the letter referred to ancient appala-

ations of Rome as the world capital and said: "The prefigured geographical position itself of the Eternal City would be in the eyes of every one this prophetic prophecy—that Rome, which gave civilization to all the terrestrial globe, which discovered, improved, elevated, and nourished the might of the old world, is to be the world's chief capital."

The letter recommended Italy's geographical name for independent status in 1853, should it be to include the three regions--of the Mediterranean--Adriatic, Crete and Sicily—as well as the provinces of Lombardy and Veneto, the Tyrrhenian and Julian Seas (Aegean Sea). The letter was addressed to Macedonian politician and poet of the late 19th century, as emperor of Italy, in whose time a descendant had been welded into the Kingdom of Italy's organization.
Rome, Oct. 14.—A much-disputed letter in which Abraham Lincoln supposedly contemplated Rome as the capital of "the United States of Europe" was labeled a fake yesterday.

In the letter, purported to have been written in 1863 to a seventeen-year-old Giuseppe Mazzini, Italian liberator, Lincoln was supposed to have endorsed Italian territorial expansion. Henry Prunt, a writer of New York, told a national convention of experts on America the letter was not authentic.
FRANCIS M. VAN NATTER
BOX 85
VINCENNES, INDIANA

September 15, 1937

Dr. Louis A. Warren,
Director, Lincoln National Life Foundation,
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Dear Dr. Warren,

In Emanuel Hertz's "Abraham Lincoln, A New Portrait", Vol.II, pages 622-625, is to be found a letter said to have been written by Lincoln, 1855, to an Italian physicist, Maccedonio Melloni. What do you know about this letter? Was it really written by Abraham Lincoln? Have you ever seen either a photostat or a photograph of it, including the signature? Mr. Hertz therein states "Countess Zucconolini Modena has the original."

I should appreciate hearing from you, giving me the low down on that letter. Kindest regards and best wishes. When are you planning to visit Vincennes again? We'll be glad to see you.

Faithfully yours,

[Signature]
September 20, 1937

Mr. Francis M. Van Matter
Box 65
Vincennes, Indiana

My dear Mr. Van Matter:

There is no doubt whatever but what the letter said to have been written to the scientist Molloni is a forgery. The New York Times first released to the Associated Press November 20, 1931 the story of the discovery of the letter. The following day, November 21, the Times carried an article which implied that it was a forgery. As late as 1936 the Chicago Daily News commented on the letter and branded it as a fake. Now there seems to be evidence that an Italian lawyer who was arrested for forging many Medieval State documents was the real author of the Lincoln letter.

I trust these references will answer your queries.

I have an engagement to speak before the Vincennes Rotary Club on Tuesday noon, November 16, and hope I may have the pleasure of seeing you at that time.

Very truly yours,

Law:MB

Director
Dear Sir,

I wish to forward a copy of a letter printed in an Italian weekly, that it is claimed to have been written by A. Lincoln, back in the 1853.

The said letter had been published by fascist press as a sort of fascist propaganda. I did forward the copy to the N.Y. Herald - Tribune but the answer is that they have no information and suggested your address.

Reading the letter it seems to me too... modern and suspicious.

I wish to know if the said letter is genuine... or at least altered.

Yours respectfully,

Osvaldo Forlani.

Osvaldo Forlani
146 E. 16nt. Str.
N.Y., CITY
October 1, 1940

Mr. Cavaldo Forlani
146 E. 16th St.
New York, N. Y.

My dear Sir:

The letter supposedly written by Abraham Lincoln to the Italian scientist Macedonio Melloni is well known to Lincoln students as a forgery made by an Italian lawyer by the name of Giuseppe Leonida Capodanno.

This forged letter has had wide circulation but Abraham Lincoln never had anything to do with it.

You may refer to the New York Times of November 23, 1931 for further evidence about the forgery.

Very truly yours,

[Name]
Director
Our disturbed diplomatic relations with Italy have brought to notice again a letter said to have been written by Abraham Lincoln in 1853 to the scientist Macedonio Melloni. Some weeks ago an Italian newspaper Il Corriere published at Yorkers, New York, printed the letter in full and made some comment on its significance. Later a copy of the paper containing the letter was forwarded to the Lincoln National Life Foundation, asking for criticism with respect to the genuineness of the letter.

It is claimed the document was used to influence Woodrow Wilson at the Versailles Peace Conference in 1919. The document was first made public, however, in 1920 when a dispatch from Paris dated May 1 appeared in the Philadelphia Public Ledger, announcing that a letter written by Abraham Lincoln in 1853 had been found in the archives of the Melloni family at Modena and that Countess Zucchini was then in possession of the reputedly original copy.

Lack of space will not permit the printing of the entire letter in Lincoln Lore, but it may be found in Emanuel Hertz’, Abraham Lincoln, A New Portrait. (pp. 623-625.)

A few excerpts from the letter follow:

“My dear Melloni:

“Humboldt has given me the message you sent me through Mr. Faraday, of your desire to have my thoughts concerning the political reorganization of Europe. I admire all you have suffered for science and still more what you have suffered for the independence and liberty of your beloved country. . . .

“We were all on the road to the forming of a single race when suddenly there fell upon the civilized world that epoch of deep darkness, that epoch of barbarism, obscuring the glorious light of immortal, eternal Rome—that Rome which had given civilization to the entire world, that Rome which has even made America a civilized nation and which has nourished us morally by her indispensable laws, that Rome which in my opinion will be, in the more or less distant future, the luminous capital of the United States of Europe. It is criminal to obstruct the normal course of the development of nations and block the foundation of the future United States of Europe. . . .

“As to the Albanians, they are Italians and nothing else, the same with the Sicilians and the inhabitants of a letter written part of your peninsula. When you Italians were already civilized we Americans had not yet been born. . . .

“Two empires in my opinion are destined to disappear from the face of the earth to make place for the birth of free and independent nationalities. I mean the British empire and the Austrian empire which are indeed historical absurdities or, if you like better the expression, national parodies. The universal confederation of human communities must triumph.

“Apostolic once said that Europe would either become republican or Cossack. She must not become Cossack. . . .

“Science teaches us that our politics should end all the forms of imperialism which weigh as a great cloud on the human race. This then would be true civilization. Yours,

“ABRAHAM LINCOLN.”

Although the authenticity of the letter was immediately questioned, the official publication of the National Italian Historical Society published a special edition on January 11, 1852, confirming the genuineness of the letter and asking for anyone to prove it otherwise.

American Lincoln students, even before reading the body of the document, branded the letter a forgery on four external counts: the date, the opening salutation, the address, and the signature. In 1853 when the letter was alleged to have been written, Lincoln had temporarily withdrawn from politics and was traveling the Eighth Judicial Circuit on the prairies of Illinois. The opening salutation is rather too familiar to have been used by Lincoln at any time. A careful search gave no evidence that Lincoln ever had an opportunity to know the famous scientist to whom the letter was addressed before the year 1853. In signing his personal correspondence he had always signed the Presidency. Lincoln is not known to have used his full signature. He always signed A. Lincoln.

Aside from the observations in the examination of the external evidence, the internal evidence, it is a proof conclusively that the letter was a forgery. One of the provinces mentioned in the correspondence dated 1853 did not come into existence until 1860. The use of certain words such as "Cossack," instead of the word "Russian," seems not to have been used in Lincoln’s lifetime and the allusions in the dictionary throughout the letter is not comparable to Lincoln’s simple manner of expression.

Later, government authorities in Rome brought charges against Giuseppe Bertinatti, an attorney, for forging state documents. He is the same person who wrote some preliminary statements associated with the Italian translation of the Lincoln letter.

It would now appear that influence at Versailles was the motive for the forgery and that Capobianco had something to do with the composition of the original letter, which by the way has never been submitted in the handwriting of Lincoln.

Rather than make this copy of Lincoln Lore entirely negative, we are presenting a reply made by Abraham Lincoln on July 23, 1864, to the Italian minister, Bertinatti, at Washington. Although Lincoln may not have composed this statement, he most certainly addressed Bertinatti as follows:

“Mr. Commander Bertinatti: I am free to confess that the United States have in the course of the last three years encountered vicissitudes and been involved in controversies which have tried the friendship and even the forbearance of other nations, but at no stage in this unhappy fraternal war in which we are only endeavoring to save and strengthen the foundations of the national unity has the king or the people of Italy faltered in addressing us the language of respect, confidence, and friendship. We have tried you, Mr. Bertinatti, as a charge d’affaires and as a minister resident, and in both these characters we have found you always sincerely and earnestly interpreting the loyal sentiments of your sovereign.

At the same time I am sure that no minister here has more faithfully maintained and advanced the interests with which he was charged by his government. I desire that your countrymen may know that I think you have well deserved the elevation to which I owe the pleasure of the present interview.

“I pray God to have your country in his holy keeping, and to vouchsafe to crown with success her noble aspirations to renew, under the auspices of her present enlightened government, her ancient career, so wonderfully illustrated in the achievements of art, science, and freedom.”

* Chicago Daily News, October 14, 1865.
A Lincoln Mystery.

Professor Eugenio Casanova is more vehement than convincing in his defense of the authenticity of the letter supposed to have been written by Abraham Lincoln from Springfield, Illinois, in 1853 to Macedonio Melloni, an Italian scientist. Henry Nelson Gay, an American historian, has denounced it as a forgery, asserting that nobody has seen the original document or a photostatic copy of it, that the literary style is unlike Lincoln's, that there is nothing in American archives to indicate Lincoln was acquainted with Melloni, that there is no reason for supposing that in 1853 Lincoln possessed the intimate knowledge of Italian political affairs revealed in the letter.

In reply Professor Casanova, who is director of Italian State archives, asserts that the objections that have been made are "unfounded and puerile." He has prepared a photographic reproduction of the last few lines of what is said to be a translation of the Lincoln letter by Giuseppe Mazzini, the Italian patriot. The picture shows a signature supposed to be that of Mazzini and what is supposed to be a fragment of the original letter containing the words, "Yours very truly, A. Lincoln." The professor says this exhibit was prepared in order that American experts might form their own opinions as to the authenticity of the document.

This does not seem to provide much material with which American or any other kind of experts can work. Presumably it will first be necessary to establish the authenticity of Mazzini's signature and to establish the fact that Mazzini did sign what he believed to be a translation of a letter from Lincoln. Even that, however, would not prove that Lincoln wrote the original letter. As to the fragment supposed to bear the American's signature, that would mean less than nothing as detached from the body of the document to which it was originally affixed. It would be simple enough for anybody desiring to commit a literary hoax to obtain a facsimile of Lincoln's signature from any of the known letters bearing his name.

The letter, whoever wrote it, urged among other things the unification of Italy, with Rome as capital. It is supposed to be in the possession of a descendant of Melloni. On November 23 the Associated Press quoted that person as saying in Geneva that he had turned it over to a cousin in Mentone, France, but that he would ask his cousin for it and present it to Premier Mussolini. It is not yet clear whether this is the document Professor Casanova has caused to be photographed. Exploration of the mystery will be of interest to historians and antiquarians in general.