

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Tom Schwartz

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Historians Speak Oral History project

Interview # HSL-A-L-2011-024

Dr. Tom Schwartz, Illinois State Historian from 1993 to 2011 and noted Lincoln scholar, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Historians Speak* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: June 17, 2011 Location: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Dr. James Cornelius, Lincoln Curator, Abraham Lincoln Pres. Library

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Interview being
processed

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:55 + 2:11 / 1.92 + 2.18 = 4.1 hrs

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on (date).

The interviews are archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in
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Abstract

Tom Schwartz, *Historians Speak*, HSL-A-L-2011-024

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Thomas (Tom) Schwartz was born on March 30th, 1955 in Oak Park, Illinois, one of five children. He grew up in Downer's Grove, Illinois, where he attended public school. He attended the University of Illinois, and graduated in 1977 with a B.A. in History. He then did one term of graduate work at the University of Minnesota in the fall of 1977. When promised funding did not materialize, he returned to the University of Illinois to complete his graduate program.

In April of 1985 Schwartz was hired as Lincoln Curator at the Illinois State Historical Library in Springfield, having completed his graduate-level coursework and most of his dissertation. Over the next twenty-five years he built his reputation as one of the leading Lincoln scholars in the nation. In 1990 he married Cathy Irwin, and in 1993 Schwartz was named Illinois State Historian by Governor Jim Edgar. In that capacity, he supervised the Lincoln Curator and the Research and Collection Department, while also taking on a greatly expanded role which encompassed all of Illinois's history. He received his doctoral degree in 2000 from the University of Illinois.

Dr. Schwartz talks extensively about the scores of Illinois and Lincoln scholars he worked with, the evolving historiography on Abraham Lincoln, and the support they received from the Illinois State Historical Library, and later, the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Illinois and regional history; Abraham Lincoln scholarship; Abraham Lincoln historiography; Illinois State Historical Library; Illinois State Historical Society; Legal Papers of Abraham Lincoln; Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum; Abraham Lincoln Association; Herbert Hoover Presidential Library, West Branch, Iowa

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