Over 40 years ago, I read an article in Antique Magazine by a young man. It was about Lincoln in art and it intrigued me. We began corresponding and, as President of the Lincoln Group of Boston, invited him to speak at Endicott College in Beverly, MA. So, Harold Holzer came with Edith Holzer and thus began our enduring friendship and collaboration. We served on Lincoln related boards together, wrote together, spoke at conferences together – too many to name. One of his first major books, with Mark E. Neely, Jr. and Gabor Boritt – The Lincoln Image, was completed in my law office conference room in Providence. There would be many books by Harold – over 50 now and still counting.

From Cooper Union to Lincoln and the press (which received the Lincoln prize) to the interregnum between Lincoln’s election and inauguration, Harold has evolved into the pre-eminent Abraham Lincoln and Civil War scholar of our or any age.

Imaginative, articulate, brilliant, he has carved a place in the Lincoln story.
He is a capable administrator – whose skills have been honed on Capitol Hill, public television, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, he has served as President of the Lincoln Group of New York, co-founded with me and other like-minded souls – The Lincoln Forum, co-chaired the United States Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, chaired the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Foundation and serves on the board of The Ulysses S. Grant Association and Presidential Library,

Through his works, speeches, op-ed pieces, and interviews, Harold has given us an appreciation for Lincoln’s character and leadership, not to mention the unique personal and political skills he used to secure freedom for all in our nation.

We live in a time when the political Lincoln might be difficult to appreciate, a time in which partisanship is rampant and at the same time widely denigrated. But Lincoln’s presidency, as Harold demonstrates, political ruthlessness can be used to advance the highest ideals of our country.

So, who better than Harold Holzer, to be our first lecturer in what we hope will be a long series of such presentations.