December 15, 1937

Mr H L McClinton
N W Ayer & Son, Inc
500 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Dear Hay:

Remember, I told you that I would appeal to you soon about photostats of articles that appeared in the New York papers in connection with Lincoln and Booth! I would like to have the following:

(1) New York Sun, April 27, 1913 - quoting S H Beckwith who was one of the telegraphers in the War Department at the time of the assassination.

(2) New York Tribune, August 16, 1885 - "Narrow Escape of Lincoln".

(3) New York Times (SUN.) - in 1902 published a series of copyrighted articles by Samuel Arnold, who told about his part in the assassination. I don't know how many articles there are, but would like to have all of them.

(4) New York American and Journal, February 7, 1909 - a story on "Lincoln's Premonitions of Death in his Dreams".

(5) New York World, April 14, 1901 - "Anniversary of Lincoln's Assassination, One of the most thrilling tragedies in history!"

(6) New York Times, July 19, 1936 - Part IV, page 9 column 2, is a story headed "Booth's Travels" It is really a letter to the Times from Boston, Mass, dated July 13, 1936. It refers to the New York Times' story about Got's diary. We have a copy ~~in our files~~ of the July 12 issue in our file but can not find a line about the story. Maybe one of your sleuths could get the Times to give us the exact information.

I am very anxious to trace John Wilkes Booth during his playing years, from 1858 until the assassination. From what I can gather, he played in 1857 or '58 in Philadelphia but was a flop there; then in 1858 went to Richmond and played in stock. He was fairly successful here and then went on to Montgomery, Alabama, and New Orleans as a star.

I wondered whether the New York Public Library or some other New York Library had a dramatic collection of playbills, etc., which might give some clues to his actual whereabouts during the years in question.

Don't go to a lot of trouble about this, but your radio department may know of such a collection and can get the information for me without much bother.

I have been in bed for the past two days with a cold but I am back in the office this morning and do not believe it is going to be necessary for my friends to send flowers.

Sincerely yours,

F L BLACK

FLB:EGH