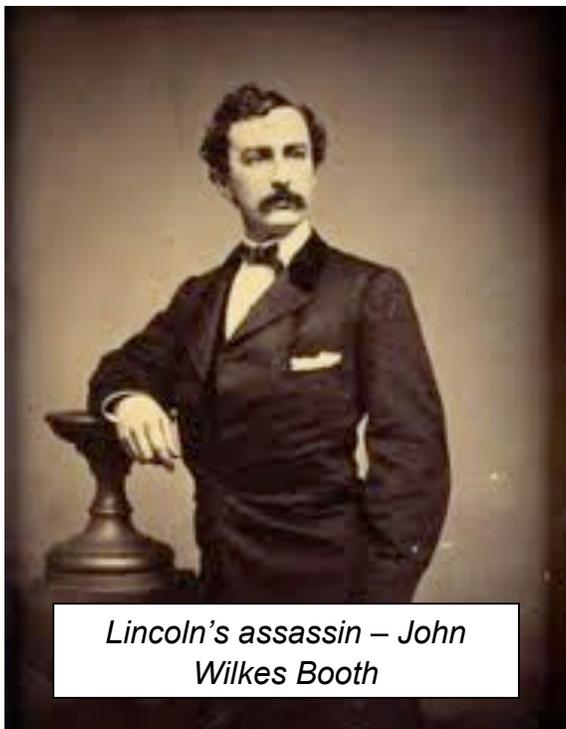


LINCOLN SCHOLAR: "WISER BOBBLEHEADS PREVAILED"

By TIM PRUDENTE
The Hanover Evening Sun
March 12, 2012

Above: John Wilkes Booth bobblehead doll stands next to the Lincoln bobblehead at the Gettysburg visitor's center book store – holding a pistol.

HANOVER, PA: Bobblehead dolls of Abraham Lincoln's killer have been removed from the bookstore at the Gettysburg Museum & Visitor Center.



*Lincoln's assassin – John
Wilkes Booth*

The bobbleheads of John Wilkes Booth drew criticism last week from some visitors and a distinguished historian who said they felt Lincoln's death should not be trivialized, nor his killer celebrated with such a souvenir.

Prominent Lincoln scholar Harold Holzer said he was glad to hear the figurines had been taken down. "One could say wiser bobbleheads prevailed," Holzer said with a chuckle. "It's inappropriate to celebrate a criminal who took the life of a great American whose memory and words are celebrated at Gettysburg."

The Evening Sun asked battlefield visitors and officials with the Gettysburg Foundation about the Booth bobbleheads Friday after receiving an anonymous complaint about them. Officials decided to take down the bobbleheads on Saturday morning, said an email from the foundation. A story about the bobbleheads was posted online Saturday afternoon and appeared in print Sunday morning, but there was no official word about the fate of

the bobbleheads until Monday.

Foundation President Joanne Hanley and Gettysburg National Military Park Superintendent Bob Kirby both agreed to remove the figurines from the shelves, the email said. But the foundation, which operates the visitor center, and the park both declined to comment further. The bookstore stocked the bobbleheads about two weeks ago. They depict Booth clutching the pistol he used to shoot Lincoln. The famous actor killed Lincoln in an effort to aid the defeated Confederacy. He then fled to a farm in northern Virginia where he was tracked down and shot to death days later by a Union soldier.

The Museum & Visitor Center bookstore is operated by the San Diego-based Event Network, Inc. and company officials have declined to comment on the bobbleheads. But a sales manager at the Kansas City-based manufacturer of the bobbleheads said that he didn't see a problem. The bobbleheads were manufactured as a gag gift for Civil War enthusiasts, said Matt Powers, of BobbleHead, LLC.

About 250 bobbleheads of John Wilkes Booth were manufactured four months ago and distributed to retailers by the Kansas City-based manufacturer. Powers wasn't concerned to hear the Booth bobbleheads were pulled from the shelves at Gettysburg.

"We've made probably over a million bobbleheads and this is the first time it ever happened," he said. "So why change course? We've done Osama bin Laden."

Holzer was contacted about the bobbleheads last week and said while he didn't support censorship, the Booth figurines were in bad taste on the Gettysburg battlefield. "It's like selling Lee Harvey Oswald stuffed dolls at the Kennedy Center.

JOHN WILKES BOOTH BOBBLEHEAD PULLED FROM ANOTHER MUSEUM

By BRANDON JONES

American History Examiner

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The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum joined the Gettysburg National Military Park by pulling the John Wilkes Booth bobblehead doll this week. The 7-inch-tall figurine depicts Booth with a drawn handgun and comes in a box that resembles the inside of Ford's Theater, where Lincoln was assassinated on April 14, 1865.

"This was the first time that we really took a hard look at having these items for sale," Lincoln museum spokesman Dave Blanchette told the [Chicago Tribune](#). "We agreed with the Gettysburg Military Park's assessment that they were not appropriate for sale," Blanchette said Wednesday. "It seems to be in bad taste. It makes light of the assassination of President Lincoln."

The Booth dolls have been very popular, 150 of the original 250 created have been sold, and more are being made in Kansas City, Missouri's BobbleHead LLC stated.