

## ABSTRACTS

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### HISTORY AND POLITICS IN G. VIDAL'S NOVEL «LINCOLN»

G. Vidal's having been greatly interested in politics influenced the peculiarities of his literary activities and the genre specificity of one of his most well-known historical novels «Lincoln» (1984), which was awarded the Pulitzer Prize. In the first turn, it is a political novel, but created on the basis of numerous historical documents, letters and diaries dating back to that period. A peculiar world outlook of the author, who was very critical-minded as for the present day USA policy, influenced his perception of the past, which brought to severe criticism on behalf of many American investigators. In G. Vidal's «Lincoln», the author is concerned not so much with the spiritual life of the protagonist, as with his political biography, because his fate embodied the whole period of the national history. Lincoln is the first historical figure whom G. Vidal deeply sympathized. According to the author, the years of the Civil War were the only period of American history when the will of the individual and the interests of the nation united for the sake of the progress of society. And the artistic concept of the author is revealed through a versatile study of this character under conditions of time and the conflict situations of the Civil War. The object of depiction chosen by the author – the privileged circle of the political elite – was predetermined by a specific view on the driving forces of history. According to G. Vidal, history is a continuous struggle of higher strata of society for power, a constant collision of different world outlooks and personal ambitions. That's why all the political conflicts of the novel are entailed with moral and ethical collisions. And in solving them the author is true to himself ironically assessing participants of the events, ideals of the past and their implementation in the present day America.