2nd DEAF HISTORY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
October 1 - 4, 1994

Sponsored by the Center for German Sign Language located at the University of Hamburg, Gesellschaft für Gebärdensprache und Kommunikation Gehörloser, and Deaf History International (DHI), the 2nd Deaf History Conference will take place October 1-4, 1994, instead of the previously announced dates of October 8-11, 1994. According to the Hamburg planners, there will be four days devoted to "thematic half-day blocks" pertaining to the history of the Deaf. Both lecture and discussion format will be utilized. October 1: "Deaf Persons" and Deaf Communities." October 2: "Sign Languages" in the morning, DHI Business Meeting in the afternoon. October 3: "Attitudes of Hearing Persons Towards Deaf People and Sign Language" and "Deaf History as a Discipline." October 4: "Deaf Communities" and "Deaf Education." In addition, there will be concurrent showings of Deaf films as well as exhibits relating to Deaf history.

There will be lectures specifically aimed at newcomers in the area of Deaf history.

The program for this second international conference is designed to include both professional historians and the interested public. Interpreting services will be offered in German Sign Language and international signs, spoken German and English. There will be interpreters for some other Sign Languages as well, including American and French.

Registration fees are DM 150,- (for students with valid identification DM 100,-), and include participation in all public presentations which take place in conjunction with the conference. Additional information can be obtained direct by contacting

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Housing is quite limited within the conference area so early registration and housing reservations are strongly encouraged.

DHI Bylaws up for Approval

The first Business Meeting of the newly formed DHI is scheduled for Sunday afternoon, October 2, 2:30-5. One of the items on the agenda is the approval of the DHI bylaws and the election of the executive committee, which until now has been composed of a 10-member, international panel with Christian Barral of France and Jack R. Gannon of U.S.A. serving as co-chairs. The proposed bylaws were reviewed, revised (See Bylaws, p.2)
FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

"How often is DHI Newsletter published?" is the question frequently asked. This is only the second issue, the first having been published over a year ago. Much depends on submission of material, financial support, and personal time. This second issue continues to be supported by seed money kindly given by Gallaudet University Alumni Association's Laurent Clerc Cultural Fund in 1993. The Alumni Association has been so supportive that it was the very first organization to pay its DHI membership dues!

During the DHI conference in Hamburg members will have to determine the status of the newsletter as well as who the next editor is to be. In the meantime sponsorship of the next issue, devoted to the results of the 2nd DHI Conference is invited. And, do feel free to send brief items of historical relevance for possible inclusion.

Bylaws (from p. 1)

and largely approved by those committee members attending the first European Deaf History Conference in Rodez, France in 1992. DHI members receive the full text of the proposed bylaws along with this Newsletter. Comments and reactions may be submitted to Ausma Smits for possible consideration prior to the Hamburg conference. Fax: 202 651-5463. A summary of the contents is given here.

Name: Deaf History International (DHI).

Fourfold purposes: (1) Encourage the study, preservation and dissemination of Deaf people's history; (2) Hold international Deaf history conferences; (3) Encourage the holding of regional Deaf history symposiums between Deaf History International conferences; (4) Publish a Deaf History International Journal and/or Deaf History International Newsletter.

Membership: dues-paying individuals and institutions/organizations with an interest in furthering the study of Deaf people's history.

Finances: Annual dues, paid in US dollars or the equivalent, as recommended by DHI Bureau and approved during a DHI Business Meeting. DHI is to seek other financial sources of support as well. Expenditures are to be in line with a planned budget, based on DHI income.

Meetings: Whenever possible, regular Business Meetings are to be held every three years, or as otherwise recommended, preferably the day before the last Conference Day. The official languages to be the spoken and signed languages of the host country, International Sign Language, and English.

Quorum & voting: Based on dues-paying members in attendance.

DHI Bureau: Responsible for the direction of the organization between meetings and to be in charge of implementing the goals stated in the bylaws.

Composition: the majority of the nine members be Deaf persons (preferred). Of the nine no more than two are to represent a given country at the same time.

(see Bylaws, p.3)
The organizing committee under the direction of John Hay is actively planning the programme for the 2nd European Deaf History Symposium which will commence on the evening of Maundy Thursday and end in the afternoon of Easter Monday. The theme of the conference will be Deaf Achievers in History.

In addition to the usual presentation of papers, there will be a half day tour of Deaf Edinburgh covering some Deaf related historical places of interest; a full day coach tour of the Scottish Highlands and lochs, retracing the footsteps of the deaf and dumb nobleman, Lord Seaforth (1754-1815) and two cultural evenings.

The official languages of the conference during the presentation of papers, will be English, French, BSL and International Signs.

The programme of action for those who are interested in taking part as either presenters or observers, is as follows:

July 1, 1995 - Last day of receipt of abstracts of papers. Abstracts are to be either in English or in French. November 1995 - Finalized programme with costs including accommodation will be issued upon request.

Write to John A. Hay, Symposium Coordinator, 11 Osborne Terrace, Edinburgh EH12 5HG, Scotland, as soon as you can!

Do feel free to publicize this Symposium in your national and local deaf journals!

John A. Hay

BIRTH OF BRITISH DEAF HISTORY SOCIETY

1994 witnessed the formation of the British Deaf History Society, the world’s second of its kind (Sweden enjoys distinction of being the first!).

The society issued its first publication entitled Bermondsey 1792 which is an historical account on how the first public school for the deaf was formed in the Bermondsey district of London. Another book The Pictorial History of the Evolution of The British Manual Alphabet is currently prepared for release later this summer. Both publications are obtainable from Ray Lee, 288 Bedfont Lane, Feltham, Middlesex, TW14 9NU, England.

The Society conducted two workshops in Edinburgh last October and in Doncaster this May. A number of its members took part in the Festival of Deaf History which was held in the Derbyshire spa town of Buxton at the end of June.

The on-going negotiations with the London Borough Council of Hackney in honoring Thomas Braidwood (1715-1806), the Father of British Deaf Education, will be announced in a future DHI Newsletter.

John A. Hay

NEWS TIDBITS

New organizations dedicated to deaf history have emerged in Europe. Countries outside Europe have not indicated anything about their organizations in this field.

Norway: Norwegian Deaf History Museum. A project has been established to raise funds to convert a former school for the deaf into a museum.

Sweden and United Kingdom: Deaf people have established nation-wide organizations on deaf history.

Sweden: Two facsimile editions of Swedish Sign Language dictionary and the social life at a school for the deaf have been produced in Sweden.

Denmark: Deaf people have established a nation-wide organization on deaf history. The Deaf Welfare’s Historical Society has been formed in Denmark and has published a history of deaf education in Denmark 1807-1982 (Doveundervisning i Danmark by Asger Holm et al. Copenhagen: Døveforsorgens Historiske Selskab. 1983).

Yerker Andersson

Bylaws

(continued from p. 2)

Terms: the four officers, to be elected during a DHI Business Meeting, shall serve for three years, once a staggered system goes into effect. The five members-at-large, to be appointed by the DHI Bureau for three year terms.

DHI Conferences: DHI Bureau shall determine and maintain general Guidelines. The local planning Committee shall be in full charge of Conference arrangements.

Central location: (For the time being the History Department at Gallaudet University)