

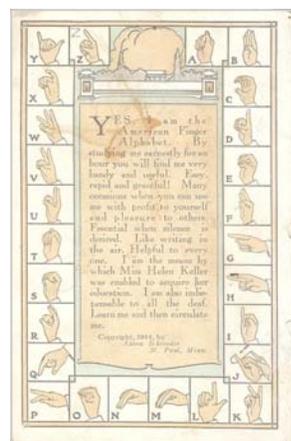
# DEAF HISTORY International

An Association for All Interested in the Study, Preservation, and Dissemination of Deaf People's History

No. 46

The DHI Newsletter

FALL 2011



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## Illustrations of Deaf-related Postcards from Around the World



Subscription Form available on page 17



# The DHI Newsletter

## DEAF HISTORY INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

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## Notes from the Editor



For nearly a quarter of century, I have been a deltiologist in my spare time. Are you interested in deltiology? At this moment most of you are probably sporting a frown and wondering "What is this editor talking about?" For your information, deltiology is the study and collection of postcards, usually with pictures. Most postcard collectors are attracted to something in particular. I have a passion for collecting vintage Deaf-related postcards from around the world. They are an important part of our Deaf history just like collecting and preserving artifacts, photographs, documents and other materials. You can find them at postcard shows, in antique stores and flea markets, and on Internet sites such as eBay. Now I hope you now understand why a selection of my own collection is displayed on the front cover of this newsletter.

Last summer I attended the 16th World Congress of the World Federation of the Deaf in Durban, South Africa. There were approximately 3,000 participants from 125 countries. I enjoyed a variety of presentations and interactions with educators, researchers, interpreters, presenters and leaders from many different backgrounds and cultures. While there, I distributed double-sided flyers about our upcoming DHI Conference 2012 and DHI membership. A number of people approached me and expressed their interest in attending our conference in Toronto, Canada next summer. I hope to see them again!

Our Planning and Organizing Committees of the DHI Conference 2012 are gradually getting busier as the event is quickly approaching. Three keynote speakers have recently been selected and confirmed. The Program Committee is currently in the process of selecting 21 out of 60 Calls for Papers that were received prior to the October 31 submission deadline. Please note that the cut-off date for Call for Video Documentaries has been extended from October 15, 2011 to January 15, 2012. The Ontario Deaf Foundation is sponsoring a contest prize award for each category of video documentary topics (see page 8 for contest prize amounts). A list of all confirmed presenters and keynote speakers will eventually be announced in our next newsletter and on our conference website at [www.dhiconference2012.ca](http://www.dhiconference2012.ca). Please browse often for the latest updates.

In our previous *DHI Newsletter* (Spring/Summer 2011, Nos. 44 & 45), there was an article about the disappointing closure of the Finnish Museum of the Deaf in Helsinki due to cutbacks from other financial sources. However, the Finnish Association of the Deaf sent me an e-mail in September to announce that its museum will amalgamate with the Finnish Labour Museum Werstas in Tampere as early as January, 2012. The Deaf community of Finland can finally breathe a sigh of relief now that a new home for its museum has been found.

### ADVERTISEMENTS

The *DHI Newsletter* welcomes advertisements for inclusion in its publication. The content of all textual advertisements should be related to the field of Deaf history and the educational purposes of the newsletter.

The rates are \$100 for a full page and \$50 for a half page. There is no charge for ready-made graphics. For further information, contact the editor.



**FOR  
FUTURE ISSUES**

**The Deaf History International Newsletter welcomes Deaf History-related submissions of news, articles and essays, book and film reviews, images and photographs, newspaper clippings, conference and workshop announcements, websites, and other readings of interest for possible inclusion.**

**Please submit them to the editor by the following deadlines:**

DHI ISSUES	SUBMISSION DEADLINE	DISTRIBUTION DATE
SPRING	March 15	April 15– 30
SUMMER	June 15	July 15 – August 15
FALL	September 15	October 15 – 31



## President's Column

By Peter Jackson (United Kingdom)

The countdown to the 8th Deaf History International Conference in Toronto, Canada next summer has really begun in earnest. By the time you receive this newsletter, the 'Early Bird' deadline of 31 October will have passed, and the Call for Papers to be presented at the conference will have also closed. Those of you who have not yet registered for this event still have time to do so before the second deadline date of 31 March 2012, after which the late registration rate will have to be paid.

The date of 31 March 2012 is also the deadline for the bids to host the DHI Conference 2018 to be received by the DHI Bureau. It is time for those seriously thinking of becoming the host to prepare the bid. Bid guidelines will be found elsewhere in this newsletter or on our website [www.dhiconference2012.ca](http://www.dhiconference2012.ca).

Deaf conferences and events do not only provide the opportunity for you to partake in their activities, but also allow you to renew old friendships, meet new friends, and broaden your horizons. However, Deaf can meet Deaf anytime, anywhere even in the most unlikely circumstances. I had to smile recently when I read the following story.

In the town of Val Petrov in the Kamyshin, Volgograd region of Russia a car driven by a 38-year-old Deaf man, with his Deaf wife as passenger, was proceeding at the correct speed down a road leading to the train station when they approached a man staggering along the sidewalk also going in the direction of the station. Suddenly, the man started to run across the road in front of the Deaf couple's car, giving them no chance to stop in time. The couple's Lada ran over the man and dragged him a few feet along the road before the car could be stopped.

Only when the couple got out of the car did they learn that the man they had run over had gone to the same Deaf school as the husband, and they had not seen him for many years. Identified by the local police as a homeless drunk, the Deaf victim was removed from underneath the car and transported to the local hospital where he lay for several weeks in a coma with serious head injuries. Apparently by the time the Deaf victim was discharged, he had also been cured of his alcoholism!

The moral of the story? Be prepared to meet another Deaf person anytime, anywhere even in surprising circumstances.

Your newsletter editor recently came up with a new idea, "A Look Back at Past DHI Conferences through Photography" for the newsletter and/or for an exhibit/display at future DHI Conferences.

Have you captured any special moments during the conferences in 1991, 1994, 1997, 2000, 2003, 2006 and 2009? Do you have a great photograph that tells a story about a past keynote, plenary or workshop speaker? Or a photograph that captured unexpected, candid moments of people in the audience or at a dinner gala?

Please e-mail your images in high resolution digital format (e.g., jpeg) to the editor. Each photo must have a description, including some names of people and the year taken. Proper acknowledgement will be given to the sender and/or the rightful photographer.

# A New Era in Deaf Education?

By Breda Carty, RIDBC Renwick Centre, University of Newcastle, Australia

Those of us who work in Deaf history like to think we develop an instinct – not only for identifying potentially valuable information from the past, but also for recognizing when history is being made in the present. Any historians who attended the opening of the 21st International Congress on the Education of the Deaf (ICED 2010) in Vancouver, Canada, surely said to themselves, “This is an historic moment!”

As part of the Opening Ceremony, a representative of the ICED 2010 Congress Organizing Committee, Marguerite Henderson, read out a statement of principle called, “A New Era: Deaf Participation and Collaboration.” The statement rejected all the resolutions of the 1880 Milan ICED Congress, acknowledged their “detrimental effects”, and called upon all nations to “remember history and ensure that educational programs accept and respect all languages and all forms of communication.”<sup>1</sup> Although some had hoped for an apology, the statement instead used the words “sincerely regret.”



## The background

The genesis of the “New Era” statement is an interesting example of the convergence of modern politics and history. It began with the British Columbia Deaf Community approaching the ICED 2010 Congress Organizing Committee more than a year before the event, asking for a formal apology regarding Milan to be made at the Congress. As the discussions and negotiations developed, the process drew in larger organizations and stimulated international debate through social media, reflecting the powerful resonance of the Milan Congress in Deaf communities around the world. The final document was signed by representatives of the Congress Organizing Committee, the British Columbia Deaf Community, the Canadian Association of the Deaf, and the World Federation of the Deaf. It was quickly acclaimed by Deaf organizations around the world. Deaf Australia, for example, sent a letter of endorsement and congratulations two days after the statement.<sup>2</sup> The document has been incorporated into a commemorative book presented to the World Federation of the Deaf, and this book is currently traveling the world collecting thousands of signatures from supporters.

In order to understand the significance of this statement and its reception, we must look to Deaf history – or more accurately, to the interpretation of Deaf history. The Second International Congress of Teachers of Deaf-Mutes (later renamed International Congress on Education of the

Deaf) in Milan, 1880, is one of the most widely referenced events in Deaf History. A small gathering of educators (fewer than 200 and only three of whom were deaf), the vast majority from France and Italy, resolved after several days of very unscientific discussion that the “Pure Oral Method ought to be preferred” in Deaf education. It seemed a small event, but its influence has been considered profound.

Milan has been held almost solely responsible for the major shift towards oral methods that occurred in most Western deaf schools in the late 19th Century and early 20th Century. It has become the focus of Deaf communities’ dissatisfaction and outrage about the failures of their education, the oppression of their signed languages, their exclusion from professional roles, and the disempowerment of Deaf communities and individuals everywhere (e.g., Sturley, 2003).

Some historians, most notably Baynton (1996), have demonstrated that the shift to oralism was a result of more complex and widespread social change during the second half of the 19th Century, but Milan still retains great symbolic power. It has been dramatized on film (e.g., *Pictures in the Mind*, 1987) as well as being written about by historians (e.g., Lane, 1984). It has been the focus of many Deaf History courses and workshops as people analyze it for its explanatory and symbolic power. But until 2010, it had never really been comprehensively addressed by the Deaf education profession.

So when this historic moment arrived in Vancouver in 2010, it was a powerful experience on many levels. For teachers and educational administrators, it was an opportunity to make a concerted response to the shadow of Milan which has haunted Deaf education for so long. For Deaf people, it was an acknowledgement of the pain and marginalization so many have experienced through their education. For historians, it was an eloquent example of historical events being acknowledged collectively and new history happening before our eyes.

## The aftermath

Many deaf advocates and communities have greeted the “New Era” statement with excitement and hope. Just as Milan has grown to symbolize all that was wrong with Deaf education, some see this statement as an opportunity to redress these wrongs. Much discussion has ensued about what the statement means and how it can be used to create positive change.

<sup>1</sup>The full statement can be read at: <http://deafbc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2010/07/ICED-Statement-of-Principle-and-Accord-for-the-Future111.pdf>

<sup>2</sup>See: <http://www.deafau.org.au/download/iced22072010.pdf>

(Continued on page 5)

Historians may be ambivalent about according the “New Era” statement too much practical utility or interpreting it too widely. This could simply recreate some of the overgeneralizations that have happened about Milan itself. In an international context, it is easy to lose sight of the facts that the Milan Congress resolutions were implemented very unevenly, often slowly, and ultimately it was mostly European and North American countries that were affected (see, for example, Burch, 2002). The complicated trail of Milan’s influence has never fully been unraveled, but is probably not as extensive as many assume. For example, although New Zealand schools changed to oralism around the time of Milan and continued to exclude sign language until the 1970s, Australian schools remained relatively unaffected. Despite frequent references to, and experiments with, the new “articulation” methods being used in some other countries, almost all Australian schools retained some form of manual communication until the 1940s.

It may be preferable to see the “New Era” statement as having primarily symbolic importance and opening the potential for greater dialogue and understanding between educators and deaf people. We should perhaps be wary of giving it a kind of power that it cannot carry, and risking disappointment and bitterness if it does not lead to radical change.

Another possible danger of seeing the “New Era” statement as an exorcism of all evil from Deaf education is that this could blind us to the many other threats facing Deaf education around the world. Over-reliance on mainstreaming and hearing technology has the potential to isolate and disempower many deaf children, even as it can benefit others. Such reliance can pose threats to the transmission and viability of signed languages. Even countries such as Denmark, one of the pioneers of bilingual education in the 1980s, have recently sounded alarms about the status of their signed languages.<sup>3</sup> The “New Era” statement will not counter these threats, though it can make a powerful difference to Deaf education.

## Conclusion

One of the worst effects of the Milan Congress – possibly worse than the ill-judged resolutions themselves – was the estrangement it created between deaf and hearing educators, who had until that time worked in a kind of unequal partnership. As was evident at the 1900 Paris ICED Congress where deaf delegates were refused entry to the main event and had to meet separately (Lane, 1984), deaf and hearing people virtually stopped talking to each other about education for a long time. Maybe, if we all receive the “New Era” statement in the right spirit, we can start talking to and listening to each other again.

<sup>3</sup>See: <http://www.wfdeaf.org/news/sign-languages%e2%80%99-status-under-threat-in-denmark-and-the-netherlands>

## References:

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- Sinclair, Wayne (2010). "We Did It! The Rejection of Milan Resolutions." *The DHI Newsletter* (Summer & Fall 2010, Nos. 42 & 43): 6-12.
- Sturley, N. (2003). *Milan*. Victoria, Canada: Trafford Publishing.
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Nigel Howard of Vancouver, Canada, presenting about the significance of the “New Era” statement at the 16th World Congress of the World Federation of the Deaf in Durban, South Africa, in July 2011.



# ANNOUNCEMENT

## DHI Conference 2012 Website

The Planning and Organizing Committees of the 8th DEAF HISTORY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE and its host, the Canadian Cultural Society of the Deaf, wish to announce the official launch of the conference website at [www.dhiconference2012.ca](http://www.dhiconference2012.ca). The website is readable in two different languages, English and French, because Canada is constitutionally bilingual.

This triennial event will take place in Toronto, Canada from July 24th to 29th, 2012. The conference theme is *TELLING DEAF LIVES: Biographies and Autobiographies*.

You can now start planning and adjusting your commitments, travel itineraries and vacation to attend this most anticipated conference. Remember to register early to avoid any disappointment. Registration will be handled on a first-come, first-served basis.

Please share this announcement with your friends, colleagues and others around the world who might be interested in attending and/or presenting a paper at the conference.

8<sup>TH</sup> Deaf History  
International Conference  
Toronto, Canada July 24-29, 2012

8<sup>e</sup> Congrès international  
sur l'histoire des Sourds  
Toronto, Canada 24-29 juillet 2012

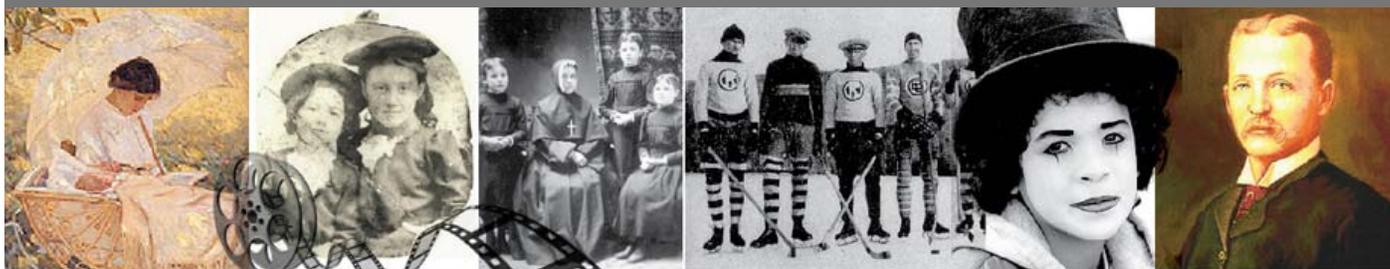
**TELLING DEAF LIVES / RÉCITS DE VIE DES SOURDS**  
Biographies and/et Autobiographies

[www.dhiconference2012.ca](http://www.dhiconference2012.ca)

# 8th Deaf History International Conference

TELLING DEAF LIVES: Biographies and Autobiographies  
Toronto, CANADA — July 24–29, 2012

www.dhiconference2012.ca



Hosted by Canadian Cultural Society of the Deaf

## CALL FOR PAPERS & VIDEO CLIP GUIDELINES

### PRESENTATION SUB-THEMES / CATEGORIES

- Deaf Pioneers (Individuals who made an important historical impact)
- Stories from the Continents (Group Histories)
- Multimedia Archives (Preservation)
- Storytelling Pedagogy (Historical Novels)
- History of Deaf Comedy
- History of De'VIA Artists

### ABSTRACT REQUIREMENTS: Written or Video

#### A) For Written Abstract Requirements

Send or email your written abstract as follows:

- Sub-theme (from the categories at the top above)
- Your presentation title
- Description of your proposed lecture (400 words)
- A short paragraph about yourself (40 words)

<b>Written Language:</b> English
<b>Programme:</b> Microsoft Word 6.0 (or later version)
<b>Paper Title:</b> Title should be centred, bold and capitalized
<b>Authors:</b> Include name, academic degrees and affiliations of all authors
<b>Length:</b> Maximum one page (including figures)
<b>Font Face / Size:</b> Times New Roman 12 point; Avoid the use of non-English language fonts

#### B) For Video Abstract Requirements

Send a video clip abstract with International Sign (maximum length of 5 minutes). In the video clip, please include:

- Sub-theme (from the categories at the top above)
- Your presentation title
- Description of your proposed presentation (maximum length of 4 minutes)
- Explanation of your background (maximum length of 1 minute)

The format of the video could be in DVD, Apple program (Photo Booth application), QuickTime (.mpg) or MOV file.

### DEADLINES: Written / Video Clip Abstracts

<b>Abstracts</b>	<b>October 15, 2011</b>
<b>Acceptance/rejection notifications to presenters</b> <i>Presenting authors whose abstracts have been accepted <u>must</u> register for the conference.</i>	<b>December 15, 2011</b>
<b>PowerPoint and final version of notes or paper</b> <i>Your PowerPoint must be sent by the given deadline for interpreter's preparation. If there is no PowerPoint file soon after the given deadline, the lecture <u>must</u> be cancelled.</i>	<b>May 15, 2012</b>
<b>Written article / manuscript following presentation for a published conference proceedings</b> <i>Any papers received <u>after</u> the given deadline may not be included.</i>	<b>October 15, 2012</b>

### PLEASE INDICATE YOUR EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

Requests for audio-visual / technical equipment must be specified in the initial written / video clip abstract submission.

### SEND YOUR MATERIALS

- Written documents / video clips are to be sent via email.
- DVDs are to be sent via postal mail.

Dr. Anita Small  
Chair, Program Committee  
DHI CONFERENCE 2012  
c/o Deaf Culture Centre  
The Distillery Historic District  
55 Mill Street, Building 5, Suite 101  
Toronto, Ontario M5A 3C4 Canada  
EMAIL: [program@dhiconference2012.ca](mailto:program@dhiconference2012.ca)

### IMPORTANT NOTE:

All authors who wish to present their abstracts at the DHI Conference 2012 must pay the registration fee. Honorarium, travel and accommodation expenses cannot be provided for presentations.

# 8th Deaf History International Conference

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## CALL FOR VIDEO DOCUMENTARIES & GUIDELINES

The DHI Conference 2012 is introducing video documentaries to encourage historians to document Deaf life. They will be selected for exhibit and discussion.

### DOCUMENTARY TOPICS:

- “Sense of Place” (e.g., Deaf Clubs, Deaf Schools, Sports, Groups, Deaf Organizations, Communities)
- “Great Leaders”
- “Tales from Everyday Life”

### DOCUMENTARY REQUIREMENTS

<b>Topic:</b>	From the categories list in topics above.
<b>Language:</b>	Send your video documentary in the Sign Language of your country. DVDs <u>must</u> have open captions or subtitles in written English.
<b>Duration:</b>	Maximum 20-minute film. (To be presented within 10 minute discussion.) 20 minute “work in progress” or 20 minute edited version or excerpt of a longer documentary will be accepted.
<b>Format:</b>	DVD, Apple program (Photo Booth application), QuickTime (.mpg) or MOV file formatted in MPEG video for Region 1 / North America (NTSC). Please test your computer burned DVD on several makes and models of players before sending. <u>NOTE:</u> DVD+RW and DVD-RW are not accepted.
<b>Deadline:</b>	<b><u>NEW DEADLINE:</u></b> <b><u>Extended to January 15, 2012</u></b> from October 15, 2011. <b><u>Arrival no later than 6 p.m.</u></b>
<b>Acceptance / Rejection Notification to Presenters:</b>	<b><u>Extended to February 15, 2012</u></b> from December 15, 2011.
<b>Year of Production:</b>	Video Documentary completed after the year 2005 to present.
<b>Labelling:</b>	DVDs must be labelled with the title, producer’s name, length in minutes and e-mail address.
<b>Shipping methods are: Air Cargo, UPS, or Courier, First Class or Regular Mail</b>	All video documentary shipments to DHI Conference 2012 <u>must be prepaid</u> .  Packages must be clearly marked with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DHI Program Committee Address and Sender’s Return Address</li> <li>• Video Documentary Title and Running Time</li> <li>• Customs Declaration – it is your responsibility to have it cleared and approved to be sent.</li> </ul>

### **NEW DOCUMENTARY AWARDS CONTEST**

The Ontario Deaf Foundation is sponsoring a Deaf History Video Documentary Contest at the DHI Conference 2012. The purpose of this contest is to encourage interest and initiative in researching, documenting, and producing topics related to Deaf history in Deaf communities worldwide.

Contest prize amounts for each category in Documentary Topics are:

- \$500 CAD for first place
- \$300 CAD for second place
- \$150 CAD for third place

### VIDEO DOCUMENTARY ENTRY FORM

Click below to print and complete the form

[http://www.dhiconference2012.ca/documents/video\\_documentary\\_entry\\_form\\_2011-10-23.pdf](http://www.dhiconference2012.ca/documents/video_documentary_entry_form_2011-10-23.pdf)

### SEND YOUR MATERIALS

The Video Documentary Entry Form and five (5) copies of your DVD [three (3) copies for Selection Committee and two (2) copies for external media requests if accepted] plus two (2) film stills or photos for publicity purposes (e.g., program book). Digital images must be at minimum resolution of 300 dpi (EPS format).

Dr. Anita Small  
Chair, Program Committee  
DHI CONFERENCE 2012  
c/o Deaf Culture Centre  
The Distillery Historic District  
55 Mill Street, Building 5, Suite 101  
Toronto, Ontario M5A 3C4 Canada  
EMAIL: [program@dhiconference2012.ca](mailto:program@dhiconference2012.ca)

### IMPORTANT NOTE:

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# 8th Deaf History International Conference

TELLING DEAF LIVES: Biographies and Autobiographies

www.dhiconference2012.ca

Toronto, CANADA — July 24–29, 2012



Hosted by Canadian Cultural Society of the Deaf

## REGISTRATION FEES

REGISTRATION OPTIONS*	BEFORE OCTOBER 31, 2011	NOVEMBER 1, 2011 to MARCH 31, 2012	AFTER APRIL 1, 2012
COMBO — Regular	\$550.00 CAD	\$595.00 CAD	\$645.00 CAD
COMBO— Student (ages 18-25) <sup>1</sup>	\$495.00 CAD	\$550.00 CAD	\$550.00 CAD
COMBO—Senior (age 65+) <sup>2</sup>	\$495.00 CAD	\$550.00 CAD	\$550.00 CAD
COMBO-Least Developed Countries <sup>3</sup>	\$495.00 CAD	\$550.00 CAD	\$550.00 CAD

### \* Notes about Registration Fee Options:

All combo tickets include a copy of the Conference Program booklet, full access to the High Tea Reception (Official Opening), Keynote/Plenary Presentations, Workshops, Video Documentary Viewings, Session Coffee Breaks, Lunch Meals, Exhibits, Gala Dinner and Entertainment, DEAF CULTURE CENTRE, Art Gallery of Ontario, Eaton Centre, and a registration bag containing conference materials.

<sup>1</sup> Proof of student status required upon arrival. Failure to do so will result in changing your ticket to Regular Combo and you will be required to pay the difference. The difference will depend on the date of original registration payment.

<sup>2</sup> Proof of age required upon arrival. Failure to do so will result in changing your ticket to Regular Combo and you will be required to pay the difference. The difference will depend on the date of original registration payment.

<sup>3</sup> Applicable to those countries identified as Least Developed Countries (<http://www.unohrls.org/en/ldc/related/62/>). Providing false information will result in changing your ticket to Regular Combo and you will be required to pay the difference. The difference will depend on the date of original registration payment.

## CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

<b>OPTIONAL:</b> Registration does not include a published paper or electronic copy of the conference proceedings.	\$30.00 CAD (per copy)
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## GALA DINNER & ENTERTAINMENT ONLY

(Saturday, July 28, 2012 / 6:00 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.)

<b>AVAILABLE FOR NON-COMBO REGISTRANTS AFTER APRIL 1, 2012</b> (Seating availability on a first come, first served basis)	\$150.00 CAD (per person)
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Any questions about registration should be directed to:  
Joyce Lange (Chair, Registration Committee)

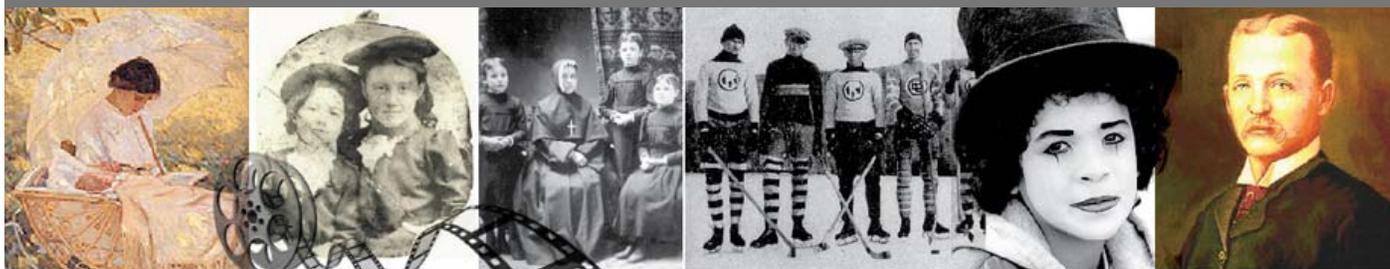
[registration@dhiconference2012.ca](mailto:registration@dhiconference2012.ca)

## 8th Deaf History International Conference

TELLING DEAF LIVES: Biographies and Autobiographies

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Hosted by Canadian Cultural Society of the Deaf

## An Invitation to Exhibit Your Company or Organization

This five-day event is a great opportunity to showcase your products and services, the organization and its staff, to all conference attendees in a prominent area of the hotel. We strongly encourage you to reserve early because all requests will be filled on a first received, first served basis.

If you are unable to come and exhibit, there is still an opportunity to promote your company/organization. Be a sponsor!

### BOOTH RESERVATION OPTIONS\*

TYPE OF EXHIBIT	BEFORE OCTOBER 31, 2011	NOVEMBER 1, 2011 to MARCH 31, 2012	AFTER APRIL 1, 2012
<b>COMMERCIAL / CORPORATE . NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATION</b> (See note below)	\$295.00 CAD	\$345.00 CAD	\$395.00 CAD
<b>NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATION / ASSOCIATION</b> (See note below)	\$145.00 CAD	\$195.00 CAD	\$245.00 CAD
<b>OPTIONAL FOR EXHIBITORS:</b> 3-Day Lunch Pass to dine with conference registrants	\$105.00 CAD for 1 exhibitor / \$210 CAD for 2 exhibitors		

**ELECTRICITY AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST — On a first come, first served basis.**

\* **NOTE:** All prices are in Canadian Dollars (CAD). Booth prices include a 10' x 10' (304.8 cm x 304.8 cm) booth with a 3' x 6' (91 cm x 183 cm) skirted table and two chairs, 2 exhibitor badge passes, a company/organization logo (gif or jpeg format) for promotional use on our DHI Conference 2012 website with an optional link to your website, listing in Program Book, and a registration bag containing conference materials. **PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE ACCESS TO OTHER CONFERENCE FUNCTIONS – EXHIBIT AREA ONLY**

### OPERATIONAL HOURS OF EXHIBITS

	TUESDAY, JULY 24	WEDNESDAY, JULY 25	THURSDAY, JULY 26	FRIDAY, JULY 27
<b>SET-UP</b>	Anytime between 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.	Anytime between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m.		
<b>DISPLAY HOURS</b>	10:15 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.			
<b>TAKE DOWN</b>				Anytime between 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Any questions about exhibits should be directed to:

Michelle Bourgeois (Chair, Exhibits Committee)

[exhibits@dhiconference2012.ca](mailto:exhibits@dhiconference2012.ca)

## 8th Deaf History International Conference

TELLING DEAF LIVES: Biographies and Autobiographies  
Toronto, CANADA — July 24–29, 2012

[www.dhiconference2012.ca](http://www.dhiconference2012.ca)

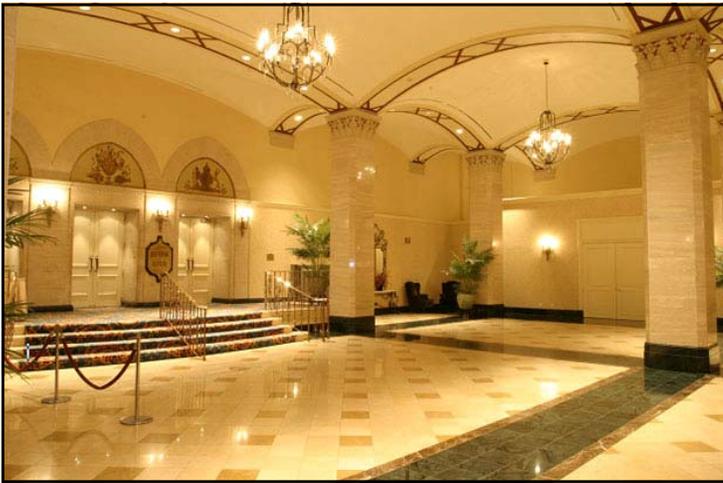


Hosted by Canadian Cultural Society of the Deaf

## **GALA DINNER AND ENTERTAINMENT**

Saturday, July 28, 2012, 6:00 p.m. — 12:30 a.m.

Attire: Semi-formal (no jeans, t-shirts, shorts or running shoes allowed)



The Gala Dinner and Entertainment will take place in the 500-seat Imperial Room on the lobby level at the Fairmont Royal York, a large and historic downtown hotel. It is a 20 minute walk from the official DHI Conference 2012 site, Westin Harbour Castle.

The evening will begin with a reception and silent auction at 6:00 p.m. in the foyer of the Imperial Room. Dinner will be served from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., followed by two live performances given by Angela Petrone Stratiy and David Burke.



**ONE WOMAN COMEDY SHOW  
ANGELA P. STRATIY**

**ASL PERFORMER & STORYTELLER  
DAVID BURKE**



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Hosted by Canadian Cultural Society of the Deaf

## PAYMENT, CANCELLATION, TRANSFER and REFUND POLICY

### REGISTRATION

- Any cancellation or changes must be requested in writing and confirmed by the Chair, Registration Committee before March 31, 2012 for 50% refund of total payment. Exception: Full refund anytime with proof that a VISA application to enter Canada has been denied. Refunds will be processed 30 days following the conference.
- There will be no refunds after April 1, 2012 (including no-shows).
- Registrations are transferable with written notice via letter, fax or e-mail for a fee of \$25.00 CAD (before March 31, 2012) or \$50.00 CAD (after April 1, 2012).

Click here to register for the conference:

<http://www.dhiconference2012.ca/english/registration.html>

### EXHIBITS

- Any cancellation or changes must be requested in writing and confirmed by the Chair, Exhibits Committee before March 31, 2012 for 50% refund of total payment. Refunds will be processed 30 days following the conference.
- There will be no refunds after April 1, 2012 (including no-shows).
- Subletting space is not permitted.

Click here to reserve a booth:

[http://www.dhiconference2012.ca/english/invitation\\_exhibit.html](http://www.dhiconference2012.ca/english/invitation_exhibit.html)

### PAYMENT OPTIONS

There are easy ways to register for the DHI Conference 2012 or reserve a booth at the conference. Payment in Canadian funds (CAD) must accompany registration or booth reservation.

- By online
- By fax
- By wire transfer
- By mail

Registration and Exhibit Reservation Forms which includes payment instructions are available from the conference website.

### LETTERS OF INVITATION (for visa purposes only)

- Should you decide to attend our DHI Conference 2012 and need a letter of invitation for visa purposes from our organizing committee, we require full payment of your registration fees before we can issue a letter to you.
- If your visa application is rejected and you provided us with proof of documentation that confirms rejection, we will immediately refund the full payment.

## HOTEL ACCOMMODATION at WESTIN HARBOUR CASTLE

Special discount rates for DHI Conference 2012 registrants are available when making reservations at this specific website:

<https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/StarGroupsWeb/booking/reservation?id=1102070392&key=EDAA5>

### DHI Bureau Seeks Bids for

## **DHI Conference in 2018**

The Deaf History International Bureau is now accepting bids to host the DHI Conference 2018.

If your organization is interested in having this conference in your home country, please contact Edna Sayers, our DHI Secretary/Treasurer, for information regarding bidding guidelines and procedures. She can be contacted at either e-mail address: [edna.sayers@hotmail.com](mailto:edna.sayers@hotmail.com)

For the record, see page 16 for a list of our past and future conferences.

## 8th Deaf History International Conference

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## AIR TRAVEL DISCOUNT



# Air Canada

has been chosen as the official airline for the 2012 Deaf History International Conference in Toronto. It has offered discounts to those interested in attending this event.

To take advantage of this discount, please visit its website ( [www.aircanada.ca](http://www.aircanada.ca) ) and enter the conference promotion code in the search panel.

### Promotion Code

- The Air Canada DHI promotion code is: **FCRTX7R1**
- This promotion code can be used for 500 passengers on Air Canada, its regional airlines and worldwide partner airlines.

### Applicable Rules

- The booking is to be made to the following city: Toronto, YYZ (ON)
- The designated travel period for the conference begins Tuesday, July 17, 2012 and ends Sunday, August 5, 2012.

# BOOK REVIEW

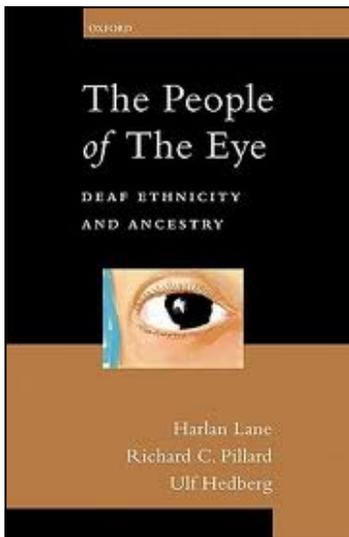
## The People of The Eye: DEAF ETHNICITY AND ANCESTRY

Harlan Lane, Richard C. Pillard and Ulf Hedberg  
Oxford University Press, Inc., New York, N.Y. (2011)  
Hardcover, 269 pages. ISBN 978-0-19-975929-3

Reviewed by Edna Edith Sayers, Willard, New York. (USA) — [www.eesayers.com](http://www.eesayers.com)

*People of the Eye* is best seen as two books in one: first, Harlan Lane's argument, made with various co-authors since at least 1996, that signing Deaf Americans constitute an ethnic group, and second, Lane's genealogical research on Deaf "clans" in New England in the 1800s, published widely and presented at conferences over the past decade or more, also with various co-authors.

The first part of the book, along with the last chapter summary, is an argument for Deaf ethnicity supported by what is basically a



survey of the literature on the Deaf-World of the mid-twentieth century. It presents ideas first advanced by various researchers in the 1970s, '80s, and early '90s, like John Vickery Van Cleve, Charlotte Baker-Shenk, Arden Neisser, John S. Schuchman, Susan Rutherford, and many more. Lane summarized these ideas in *Journey into the Deaf-World* (DawnSign Press, 1996) written with Robert Hoffmeister and Ben Bahan, and also in *A Deaf Artist in Early America: The Worlds of John Brewster Jr.* (Beacon Press, 2004). Sometimes the phrasing in *People of the Eye* is identical to that in one of these earlier

books, for example, the section on name signs on page 12 and the equivalent section of *Deaf Artist* on p. 112.

This part of the book is an excellent source, for those who need it, in locating secondary literature on the Deaf-World as it once was, because it is densely annotated with practically everything published during the 1970s and '80s, and a smattering of studies later than that. For example, if you want a quick, capsule view of the silent press without having to visit a distant archive, the endnotes tell you that the authors got their information from a 1945 essay by Thomas Ulmer, which they consulted in a deaf history reader *Deaf World*, ed. Lois Bragg (New York University Press, 2001). What you can learn about the silent press is what Lois Bragg thought it was like in 1945 when she selected the Ulmer essay to reprint in 2001. If you want to know more about the "Deaf elite," an endnote tells you that the authors' information comes from a 1976 study published in *Sign Language Studies*, so that will give you the information on the elite 35 years ago. If you want to learn more about how Deaf people "telecommunicate," the source of the authors' information is a 2002 survey published in *American Annals of the Deaf* (40), which will tell you what videophone use was like nine years ago, a lifetime in 21st-century telecommunications.

Many categorical statements give the impression that the American Deaf-World has only one view on any topic. For example, according to the authors, "Deaf theater" is exemplified by the National Theater of the Deaf (19), which many Deaf regard as ASL

theater for the hearing. Identifying deaf children who are "ASL-prone" can be done by looking at their audiograms (30), but many Deaf believe that opportunity, not decibels, is why some Deaf children sign. A majority of the members of the Deaf-World inherited their ethnicity, which they owe to a small number of shared ancestors" in New England (164-65), but many of us recognize that American Deaf are more and more people of color unrelated to these Deaf English immigrants in days of yore. If you had the impression, as I did, that the NAD (National Association of the Deaf) and I. King Jordan (the first Deaf president of Gallaudet University) were active in the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) back in 1990, you will be surprised to read that "the Deaf were not deeply involved with disabled people in lobbying for the passage" of the ADA (54). This is a view that some Deaf with short memories may indeed hold.

But what exactly is "ethnicity"? As the authors state in an endnote (n.4, p.59), "There is only partial agreement among scholars on how to define ethnicity, to enumerate its traits or to assign relative importance to each of them." This fact is, unfortunately, reflected in the book. In one place we read that "Anglo-Saxons" are the "dominant ethnicity" (163) and in another that the Deaf are being "stigmatized by the dominant ethnicity" (37), which we would assume means the hearing, not the Anglo-Saxons. Yet in another passage we read about "mainstream ethnic events such as church services" (38), where "ethnic" could mean just about anything and is left open to interpretation. In one place, the term "Deaf ethnics" clearly means "Deaf people" (52), while in another "ethnic associations of the Deaf" (15) means, for example, Black Deaf or Jewish Deaf. "Ethnic" seems to be a buzz word that's all buzz.

Ethnics or not, many of us have seen and considered the argument that Deaf people, as a minority group, may have most in common with gays and lesbians. Deaf and gays both often have parents who are different from them, both are discriminated against and even mocked by the mainstream, both tend to associate with their own kind, both want to provide role models to young people like themselves, both are proud of they are, both want the same civil rights that the mainstream has, and gay people were once considered disabled, as the Deaf often are. But the authors are very clear that the only question is, are ASL signers disabled people "beset by a genetic mutation passed on through intermarriage, or are they members of an ethnic group whose common descent, language, and culture can be traced across generations?" (165, emphasis added). In short, this first half of the book argues Deaf ethnicity as one choice out of two and it does not even mention gay and lesbian communities as an example of parallels.

The authors are refreshingly clear about their reason for arguing that the Deaf-World is really an ethnic group (instead of a unique amalgam of people with various ancestries, priorities, and political ideologies, as many of us would say). ASL users "stand to gain by traditions and laws protecting ethnic groups and ensuring that they and their languages and cultures flourish" (43). Not only that, but "when the ethnic basis of the Deaf-World is understood, Deaf leaders can expect more from other ethnicities" (55). Lane, Pillard,

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 14)

and Hedberg can dream on, but in the meantime, we need sociological studies that cast a wider net.

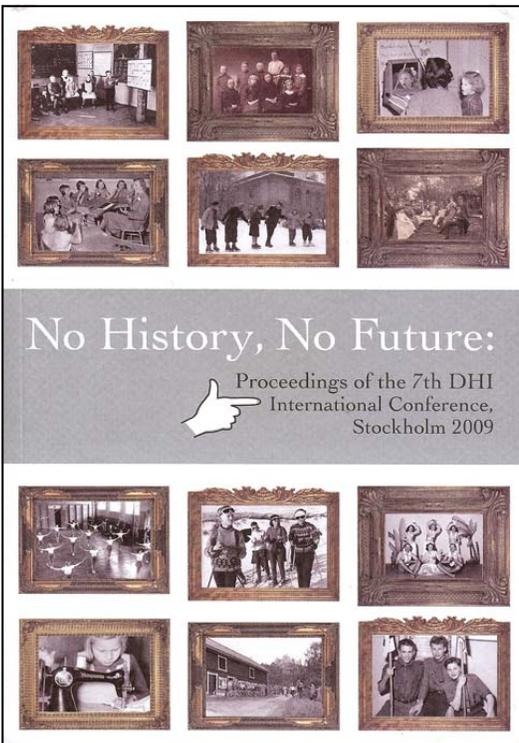
The second half of *People of the Eye* is a collection of Harlan Lane's genealogical research into Deaf families in New England in the 1700s and 1800s which he had earlier written up with various co-authors and published in various places. For example, the section called "the Curtis-Rowe Clan" on pages 151-160 reprints, with a few minor changes, "Nancy Rowe and George Curtis: Deaf Lives in Maine 150 Years Ago," *Sign Language Studies* 7.2 (2007): 152-166. This is a wonderful article that many readers will remember well because of its excerpts of letters from and to this Deaf couple and their families. Another example is Chapter 5, "The Brown Family of Henniker, NH," and Chapter 6, "Martha's Vineyard" which together reprint, with little discernible change, the essay "Origins of the American Deaf World" in *Sign Language Studies* n.s. 1.1 (2000): 17-44 by Lane along with Richard C. Pillard, and Mary French, as well as in *The Deaf History Reader*, John Vickery Van Cleve, ed. (Gallaudet University Press, 2007), and yet once again in, *The Signs of Language Revisited*, Karen Emmorey and Harlan Lane, eds. (Erlbaum, 2009). Readers who do not have access to back issues *Sign Language Studies* or either of these other books will be glad to have this material reprinted, although newcomers to this research are advised that they may find the articles a bit more reader-friendly than the present book.

In these chapters, as in the previously published articles, we find Lane's trademark use of primary sources: letters, U.S. census reports, records of various Deaf association meetings in the 1800s,

and so on. The lengthy quotations from this material are fascinating. In the family letters mentioned above, for example, we can see that family finances, health issues, and gossip are the major interests of these people, and that what we think of today as Deaf issues are almost unmentioned. There are references to "the Asylum" (now the American School for the Deaf) and in one passage a writer says "What a blessing it is to converse with such a large number of deaf and dumb relatives!" (157). But if the authors had not identified each Deaf person named with a D subscript (for example, Ann<sub>D</sub>), readers today would scarcely guess that these people were Deaf. This fact alone undercuts the book's claim for Deaf ethnicity, at least as the authors characterize it. This said, there is a great deal in this second half of *People of the Eye* to suggest to other Deaf historians potential topics for further research.

Harlan Lane's *When the Mind Hears* (1984) can be regarded as having founded the discipline of Deaf history, and Lane has been active in DHI since its founding. He is also to be thanked for his activism for Deaf rights, primarily in *The Mask of Benevolence* (1992), a book that many of us will credit with having raised our consciousness. *People of the Eye* continues both his activism and his historiography, without getting "off message" with any attempt to incorporate more recent research, such as that of Paddy Ladd whose work incidentally throws some monkey wrenches into Lane's neat categories. Caught out of time, *People of the Eye*, which includes such a large bibliography of both secondary and primary sources, does not even mention Lane's own prior publications of this same material on these same important topics.

## Proceedings of the 7th Deaf History International Conference (Stockholm, Sweden — August 4 to 8, 2009) NOW AVAILABLE FOR SALE



Hosted by the Swedish Deaf History Society, the 7th Deaf History International Conference took place in Stockholm, Sweden from August 4th to 8th, 2009.

The conference proceedings, with 272 pages, contain 26 papers by different presenters from around the world. This soft cover book is divided into four areas: Deaf Education, Deaf Research, Deaf World and Biographies, plus colorful photographs of the event, statistics of participants and their countries, and group photos. It was edited by Tomas Hedberg of the Swedish Deaf History Society.

This special and exclusive edition, printed by Dixia, Solna (2011) / ISBN: 978-91-979728-0-2, is limited to 300 copies. It costs 450 SEK (in Swedish Crowns) including VAT. Postage will be added, 164 SEK in Europe and 194 SEK elsewhere. Full payment required before the book can be shipped.

To order your copy TODAY, please contact Carl Magnus Lindgren of the Swedish Deaf History Society by e-mail to: [carlmagnus.lindgren@sdrf.se](mailto:carlmagnus.lindgren@sdrf.se)

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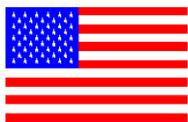
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# DHI CONFERENCES: Past and Future



## **First-Ever International Conference on Deaf History**

Washington, D.C., USA / June 20–23, 1991



## **Second DHI Conference**

Hamburg, Germany / October 8–11, 1994



## **Third DHI Conference**

Trondheim, Norway / September 10–14, 1997



## **Fourth DHI Conference**

Washington, D.C., USA / June 27–30, 2000



## **Fifth DHI Conference**

Paris, France / June 30–July 4, 2003



## **Sixth DHI Conference**

Berlin, Germany / July 31–August 4, 2006



## **Seventh DHI Conference**

Stockholm, Sweden / August 4–8, 2009



## **Eighth DHI Conference**

Toronto, Canada / July 24–29, 2012



## **Ninth DHI Conference**

Edinburgh, Scotland UK / TBA, 2015

### **2012 DHI Conference Theme**

TELLING DEAF LIVES: Biographies and Autobiographies

### **2015 DHI Conference Theme**

Deaf Sporting Heritage

# JOIN DHI TODAY

Membership in the Deaf History International (DHI) is open to anyone interested in the study, preservation and dissemination of Deaf people's history.

Membership includes subscription to *The DHI Newsletter*.

## — Membership Form —

Dues for DHI membership are payable in US funds only.

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*(For those who have never been a member before)*

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