



DEAF HISTORY International

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

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The DHI Newsletter

SUMMER & FALL 2010

WE DID IT!

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A NEW ERA: Deaf Participation and Collaboration



Photo Credit: Joe McLaughlin

THE OFFICIAL SIGNERS OF THE NEW ERA ACCORD FOR THE FUTURE at the 21st International Congress on Education of the Deaf (ICED 2010) Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

From left to right: Claire Anderson of Delta, B. C. (Chair, ICED 2010 Organizing Committee), Wayne Sinclair of Surrey, B. C. (Coordinator, British Columbia Deaf Community's ICED Committee), Markku Jokinen of Helsinki, Finland (President, World Federation of the Deaf), and Doug Momotiuk of Winnipeg, Manitoba (President, Canadian Association of the Deaf).

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Subscription Form
available on page 16



The DHI Newsletter

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Notes from the Editor



Way back in 1880, the world heard “Viva la parola! (Long live speech!). This was cheered by the victorious oralists at the 2nd International Congress of Teachers of Deaf-Mutes in Milan, Italy. Several resolutions were officially passed endorsing speech and lipreading (“oralism”) and rejecting sign language and fingerspelling (“manualism”) in schools for Deaf children. One of the resolutions adopted at the Congress read: *The Convention, considering the incontestable superiority of speech over signs, (1) for restoring deaf-mutes to social life, (2) for giving them greater facility of language, declares that the method of articulation should have the preference over that of signs in the instruction and education of the deaf and dumb* [quoted in E.M. Gallaudet, “The Milan Convention,” *American Annals of the Deaf and Dumb* 26 (no. 1) (January 1881): 5-6].

Was the voting at the Milan Congress fair? No, definitely not! Here’s why. There were 256 registered at this convention. The majority of the delegates came from Italy (158) and France (67) and were proponents of oralism, outnumbering those who supported the use of sign language and fingerspelling. The other countries represented at the congress were: England (12), Germany (8), United States (6), Belgium (1), Canada (1), Norway (1), Russia (1) and Sweden (1). Of these, only two of the voting delegates were Deaf themselves (James Denison, principal of a primary department [later Kendall School] at the Columbia Institution for the Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb [now Gallaudet University] in Washington, D. C. USA, and Claudius Forestier, director/principal of an educational institution for Deaf children in Lyon, France). They voted against the resolutions. Someone wrote that this was the beginning of the darkest period in Deaf History and Deaf Education.

One hundred thirty years later at the 21st International Congress on Education of the Deaf, in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada (July 18–22, 2010), there was a thunderous applause and cheering by most of the delegates from all walks of life (a mixture of hearing and Deaf teachers, administrators, researchers, students, and others) when a statement was issued regretting and rejecting all resolutions that were passed at the 1880 Milan Congress. Please keep in mind that it is not a formal apology, but a regret and a rejection. Further information about this historic Statement of Principle and Accord for the Future with an article written by Wayne Sinclair, one of the advocates who successfully campaigned for this change will be found in the pages of this newsletter.

The 2012 DHI Conference Planning Committee is busy at work arranging for an exciting and action-packed 8th DHI Conference, which will be held in Toronto, Canada, July 24–29, 2012. Please watch for further conference details (to be released in early 2011 as they become available) in future issues of this newsletter and also on our conference website which will be launched in early 2011. Have you marked your calendar and started saving your dollars, euros, pesos, francs, marks, rupees, centavos, pounds, yens, rubles, kronor or whatever your country banknotes and coinages are called?



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

FOR FUTURE ISSUES



President's Column

By Peter Jackson (United Kingdom)

It seems like yesterday that we were at the 7th DHI Conference in Stockholm, Sweden but it has actually been over 12 months. We are already preparing for the next one at Toronto, Canada in the summer of 2012. How time really flies...

It has been a busy half-year since I took over as President with the approval of the Bureau (and the support of ex-officio members) as announced in our Communiqué dated 12 May 2010, when the previous President was no longer able to perform his duties. Much of this time has been consumed by the issue of the DHI website. Another area of concern is the need to re-visit the Bylaws and see where they needed strengthening in the light of recent events, including the loss of the President in the middle of his six-year term..

While it is the usual practice for all members of the Bureau to communicate by e-mail, it was clear that there were issues that needed to be resolved through face-to-face meetings, and consequently, as President, I have had several meetings between August and November with Bureau members to talk through matters and exchange views. In August, Bureau Member-at-Large Jon Martin Brauti of Norway met with me at my office in Warrington, England and in September and October, I met with Member-at-Large Gordon Hay twice in Edinburgh, Scotland where incidentally the 2015 DHI Conference is to be held.

Also in September, I flew to meet Member-at-Large Corrie Tijsseling of The Netherlands at Amsterdam's Schipol airport for a three-hour meeting. Finally, on 23 November, I met with the DHI Secretary/Treasurer Edna Sayers and the DHI Newsletter editor, Clifton Carbin, in his capacity as an ex-officio member of the Bureau, at the Marriott Hotel in Cleveland, Ohio USA.

The outcome of all these discussions is that we are finally ready to proceed with the thorny issue of the DHI website, having to break off negotiations with the Minneapolis web-designer chosen by the previous President due to disagreements that could not be reconciled. The outcome also saw some agreement on the Bylaw amendments to be proposed to the next General Assembly in Toronto. These include a decision by the Bureau that the post of Vice-President remains vacant until Toronto. We are also ready to agree on procedural matters for the future election of the Bureau and for the conduct of the General Assembly, to try and avoid the problems that arose at the last one in Stockholm. Details will follow in a future newsletter.

While on the subject of the next DHI Conference in Toronto 2012, all members and national associations are reminded that the venue of the 2018 DHI Conference will be decided by the Bureau during that conference. Any association desirous of getting together a bid to hold this Conference should start thinking about it and making plans now. To refresh your memory, the previous conferences have been held at these venues: 1991 Washington D. C. USA; 1994 Hamburg, Germany; 1997 Trondheim, Norway; 2000 Washington D. C. USA; 2003 Paris, France; 2006 Berlin, Germany; and 2009 Stockholm, Sweden. Future conferences will be held at Toronto, Canada (2012), and Edinburgh, Scotland UK (2015).

While there is no reason for any country or city not to host the conference again, I think the feeling of the Bureau is that it would be good for a different country or city to host the 2018 DHI Conference.

I will close my President's report with the sad news of the death of Jochen Muhs of Germany, a former Bureau Member-at-Large and Vice-President of the DHI for 7½ years (2000–2003 [half of 3-year term], 2003–2006 and 2006–2009). An article about him appears elsewhere in this newsletter.

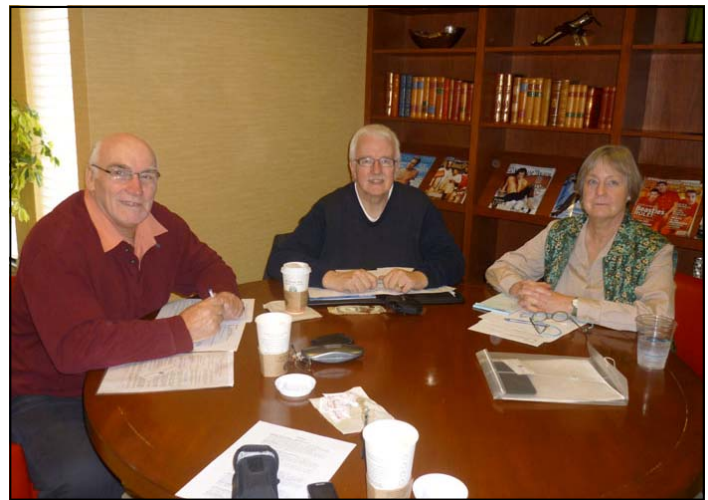


Photo credit: Maureen Jackson (United Kingdom)

Pictured at a DHI business meeting in Cleveland, Ohio USA
(From left to right): Peter Jackson (President), Clifton F. Carbin
(Editor, The DHI Newsletter) and Edna Sayers (Secretary/Treasurer)

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.

JOCHEN MUHS

4 July 1942 – 16 November 2010

by John A. Hay (United Kingdom)

Known for his insights into experiences of Deaf Germans during the Nazi regime, former DHI Vice-President Jochen Muhs passed away suddenly at his Berlin home on 16th November 2010.

It was at the 2nd DHI Conference in Hamburg in 1994 that Jochen first became interested in Deaf History. At the end of the conference, Jochen was elected to the first ever Bureau of Deaf History International which was officially constituted at that time.

As the leading Deaf authority on deaf experiences under the Third Reich and perhaps the Deaf equivalent of the late Horst Biesold, the author of *Crying Hands!*, Jochen delivered numerous presentations entitled “Deaf People under the Third Reich” outside of Germany.

At the 1st Spanish National Congress of Deaf History held in October 1995 in Granada, Jochen was an excellent sign-narrator and very competent user of International Signs, who adapted his presentations to meet the visual needs of the deaf audiences. I was privileged to get to know Jochen personally during this time as we were invited as guest speakers in the same bracket as Harlan Lane.

My wife and I were delighted to play host to Jochen and his delightful fraulein, Monika at our home for one summer weekend before they took a tour of Cornwall and Devon; later we were honoured to be guests at his house for the duration of the 2006 DHI Conference in Berlin. I also had the pleasure of travelling with him on two occasions in 2008 and 2010

as guests of the Norwegian Deaf History Society. During our frequent friendly banter regarding the Second World War, Jochen would often try to correct my politically incorrect signs for various prominent German figures, something I shall remember with affection.

The 2nd DHI Conference gave Jochen and others with the same interest the initiative to form a Deaf History Interest Group in 1996 to focus on and analyze the history of the Deaf in Germany. From this, *Kultur und Geschichte Gehörloser e.V* (KuGG) was established in 2001.

At the 3rd DHI Conference in Trondheim in 1997, he delivered a paper on Wilhelm Gottweiss and Fritz Alberghs, the leading Deaf Nazis. At the 6th DHI Conference in Berlin, a Deaf Jew, Paul Kroner (1880–1943) who was noted for his strong association with deaf sports was the subject of Muhs’ paper. This presentation helped lead to the public apology extended by the German Deaf Sports Association for its failure of recognising his outstanding services as well as for his murder at Auschwitz, and the installation of a memorial plaque on the pavement outside of Kroner’s former home. In the presence of a number deaf children.

While Jochen had not presented a paper in the United Kingdom, he acted as the contact person for *SEE HEAR!*, the BBC-tv magazine for deaf and hard of hearing viewers for its special programme entitled *Life Unworthy of Life: Experiences of Deaf People in Nazi Germany* which was broadcasted on 6th of March 2004. He was also featured on this programme sign-narrating the deeds of Fritz Alberghs among few other things.

In April 2007, Jochen, as a guest of the Swedish Deaf History Society, undertook a

Deaf People under the Third Reich lecture tour in Sweden.

His favourite historical personality was Eduard Fürstenberg, the Deaf activist who founded Germany’s first Deaf Club in Berlin in 1848. Jochen was a vigorous campaigner in re-education of Deaf Germans and amongst his outstanding achievements was the setting up of the *Ehregrab*, the grave of honour dedicated to a citizen for extraordinary services, in one of the Berlin cemeteries. This was the subject of his Norwegian tour in September 2008 as well as his paper which described Fürstenberg as a *Forgotten Deaf Giant* at the 7th DHI Conference in Stockholm last summer of 2009.

In 1963, Kennedy quoted “*Ich bin ein Berliner*”, a phrase which certainly applies to Jochen Muhs who was a man fiercely proud of his city. He enthusiastically undertook the role of tour guide of the city of Berlin to participants of the 2006 DHI Conference in more than three occasions. One of the participants of this tour, Allison Fanara (USA) remarked “*Jochen was and is one heck of a fast walker.*” This was indeed an indication of Jochen’s eagerness to show as much of his beloved home as possible to visitors.

A cultured man, Jochen had a deep abiding interest in art and firmly believed that history could not exist without art. Incidentally, his wife Monika is an artist in her own right.

The addressing of sensitive historical issues faced by deaf Germans will forever be Jochen Muhs’s legacy to Deaf History.

Profound and sincere condolences are extended to Monika and their two daughters, Claudia and Birgit.

Auf Wiedersehen! Farewell, Jochen!



Jochen Muhs (left) and John Hay (UK) outside Berlin Deaf Club, 2006



Jochen Muhs giving his presentation at the 2008 Annual General Meeting of the Norwegian Deaf History Society in Kristiansand.

Photo courtesy: Doug Bahl (USA)



Jochen Muhs as a city tour guide with a piece of the Berlin Wall

Jochen Muhs (far right) at the 2009 DHI Bureau Meeting in Stockholm, Sweden with Annemieke Van Kampen (The Netherlands), John Hay (UK), Doug Bahl (USA) and Clifton Carbin (Canada)

