

20 Years Deaf History International (DHI) 1991-2011

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2000-2006

I Introduction

In the last decades there were established several deaf history societies in Europe and Asia. Through Deaf Way of 1989 in Washington the idea about a greater organisation was born and the impulse was given to foundation of Deaf History International. These societies are coming from the grassroots of the deaf world by enthusiastic history bluffs, but also professional historians.

II Which Were the Roots of the Idea About a History of the Deaf Peoples?

There are several mutually interdependent sources

- A) Sign language research
- B) Anthropological research
- C) Folklore

- * Sign language and deaf group had a common history
- * Berthier who founded the first organisation by the deaf in 1836 of Paris, already had annual banquet commemorating known personalities
- * Through ages deaf people have told about their life and experience, about other deaf and happenings. There was a deaf X in Z who said Y and did C...

III Definitions

What is deaf history?

* Deaf History is an academic discipline based on books and written, but unpublished materials in archives. John V.Clerc (1993): As recently as the 1970s, deaf history did not exist (1993).

or

* The bylaws of DHI: Deaf history is the description of the deaf people's experiences through ages.

Only deaf people? What about deafened, hard of hearing, hearing that have made an impact on deaf history? What about hearing impaired without any connection to the deaf people as T.A.Edison and Cerf (father of the Internet)?

IV The Beginnings

The first Deaf History International Conference
in Washington June 20-23.1991 – the first elected board:

Co-chairs Christian Barral (France) and Jack R.Gannon (USA), secretary
Mary Malzkhun (USA) secretary, Günther List (Germany) treasurer, Igor
A.Abramov (Russia), Serge Briere (Canada), John A.Hay (Great Britain),
Harlan Lane (USA), Hans Roehl (Germany) and Ausma Smits (USA)

The second Deaf History International Conference
in Hamburg October 1-4 1994 – the second elected board:

President John A.Hay (Great Britain), Ulf Hedberg (USA) vice-president,
Ausma Smits (USA) secretary, Christian Barral (France) treasurer,
Annemieke van Brandenburg (The Netherlands), Renate Fischer
(Germany) and Jochen Muhs (Germany)

V Activities

The DHI Newsletter was first published in 1993 with Ausma Smits as editor
Other editors have been:

Renate Fischer (Germany)

Edna Sayers, former Lois Bragg (USA)

Clifton F.Carbin (Canada).

The DHI Newsletters is now published electronically as a PDF download to members.

The were DHI Conferences in the following years:

1997 Trondheim (Norway) - John A.Hay and then Ulf Hedberg as President

2000 Washington (USA) - Odd-Inge Schröder (Norway) President, Jochen Muhs Vice-President

2003 Paris (France) – Schröder and Muhs

2006 Berlin (Germany) – President Douglas Bahl (USA), Jochen Muhs (Germany) as Vice-President

2009 Stockholm (Sweden) - President Peter W.Jackson (Great Britain)

VI DHI

The purposes

- a) To encourage the study, preservation and dissemination of Deaf People's history;
- b) To hold international conferences;
- c) To encourage regional Deaf history activities; and
- d) To publish a Deaf History International Journal and/or a Deaf History International Newsletter

The next 8th Deaf History International Conference will be in Toronto, Canada July 24-29, 2012

www.dhiconference2012ca

Thank you for your attention