



Report to the 2nd conference in Heidelberg from June 4th - 6th 2004

„Ways to understand Deaf Culture“

Apart from Germany came participants from Holland, Switzerland and Austria. Six referents, all deaf, from Germany and other countries have presented their lectures to approx. 180 people about the different ways to get closer understanding for the deaf culture.

Simon Kollien, a German psychologist and a lecturer at the University in Hamburg reported about the actual research about the deaf culture in Germany and other countries. He is convinced of the fact that culture science is of great importance for further study of Deaf culture.

Catherine Tangelou, a teacher since 30 years in a deaf school in Athen/Greece, explained the importance of the sign language theatre, and how the young people learned to find their identity as deaf people through the sign language theatre.

Helmut Vogel, educational scientist from Hamburg gave a retrospective view about the life within the deaf community in Germany from 19th century on till today in order to understand the deaf culture from the background of the deaf history.

Dr. Chrissostomos Papaspyrou, a sign language researcher from Athen/Greece, since two years working at Hamburgs university explained the connections between 'language', 'culture' and 'civilisation'. The deaf people created themselves their typical culture and stayed in all times in connection within the roots of the own culture.

In the afternoon, a special guest, Dr. Paddy Ladd, an university lecturer at Bristol/Great Britain presented a summary overview of his latest book „Understanding Deaf Culture - In Search of Deafhood“. He explained the connections between the colonisation and de-colonisation of the deaf communities. These new aspects and the new term “Deafhood“ impressed very much the participants as to being acquainted with those important inside news.

Satu Worseck, a teacher, born in Finland, living in Hamburg, talked about the deaf community and culture in Finland. There are the deaf people rather seen as sign language users (not as deaf persons because of the negative association with the term „deaf“.)

We have shared and experienced a deeper knowledge about the deaf culture and became more aware of its values within our lives.

More over three exhibitions were presented on this occasion:

Pictures/paintings of Albert Fischer alias Fise. The famous Fischer died last winter and has been honoured for his work and life. His paintings are all in beautiful colours (many of them with typical motives: signing fishes, men with long noses.) We will not forget his strong believe in the „deaf art“. For the laudatio of Gertrud Mally in English language see our homepage www.kugg.de.

Paintings from Dieter Fricke (Flörsheim, near of Mainz) and Ulrich Braig (Stuttgart) were additionally presented.

Helmut Vogel prepared a special exhibition about Carl Wilke, a famous deaf-teacher, and in correlation to it the 19th-Century-Art.

The 2nd conference has been organized in cooperation with the Sign language school „SehenVerstehen“ and the Deaf Association, both in Heidelberg. For additional information with many pictures and abstracts of the referents in English see our homepage.

The election results for the KuGG-board for the next three years:

Helmut Vogel (chairman)

Herbert Christ (vice chairman)

Jana Schwager (finances)

Jochen Muhs and Ege Karar (further board member) were elected.

The 3rd conference will be held in June 3rd - 5th 2005 in Bonn, the former capital. The reason: 60 years after the capitulation and liberation of the Nazi-power at May 8th 1945. The relevant informations will be published in deaf magazines and in our homepage www.kugg.de

Helmut Vogel - Chairman of the association „Kultur und Geschichte Gehörloser e.V.“
(Culture and History of Deaf People in Germany)

Contact: info@kugg.de
Fax: 049 - 40 - 65 59 26 10