

Deaf Studies workshop

Deaf education in Europe

Past and current situation

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Contac



<https://deafstudies.eu/>



Deaf Culture, Heritage and Diversity



@deafstudies.eu

TURKOOIS



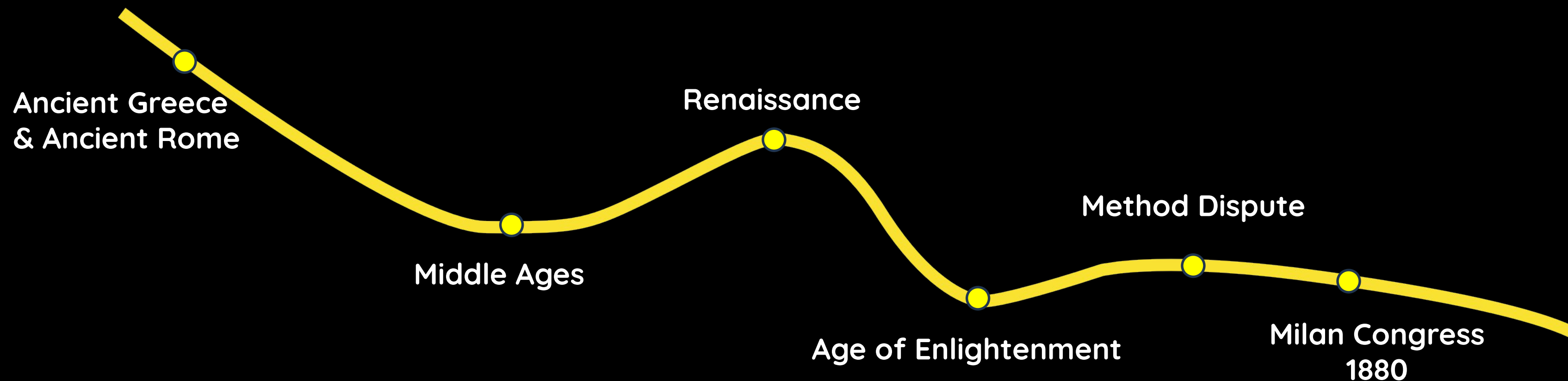
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Seit 1865 im Dienste der Gehörlosen



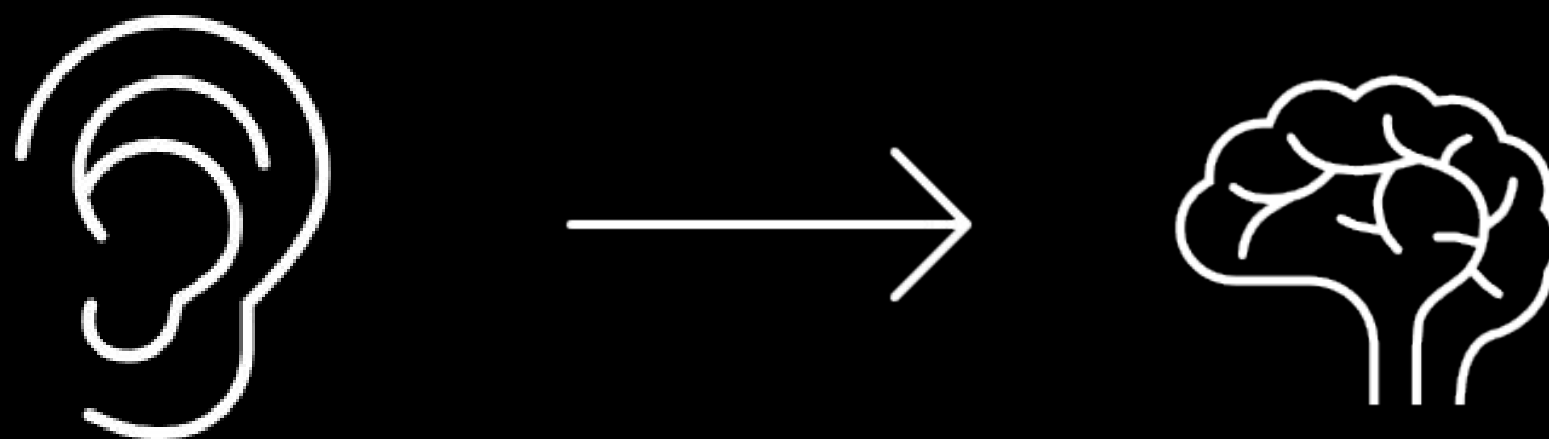
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Historical overview

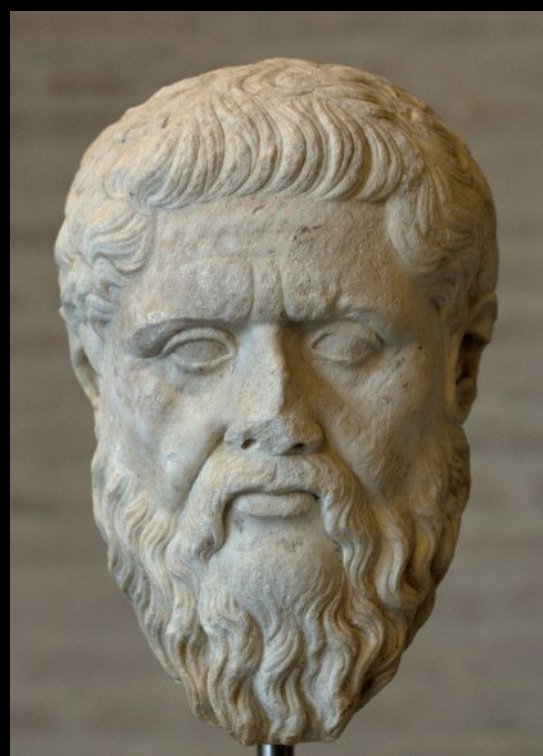


Ancient Greece & Ancient Rome

- Only **few documents** about education of Deaf people at that time exist.
- **Philosophers** discussed about the connection of the ability to speak and to think.
- **Law** made Deaf people “Non-Persons”

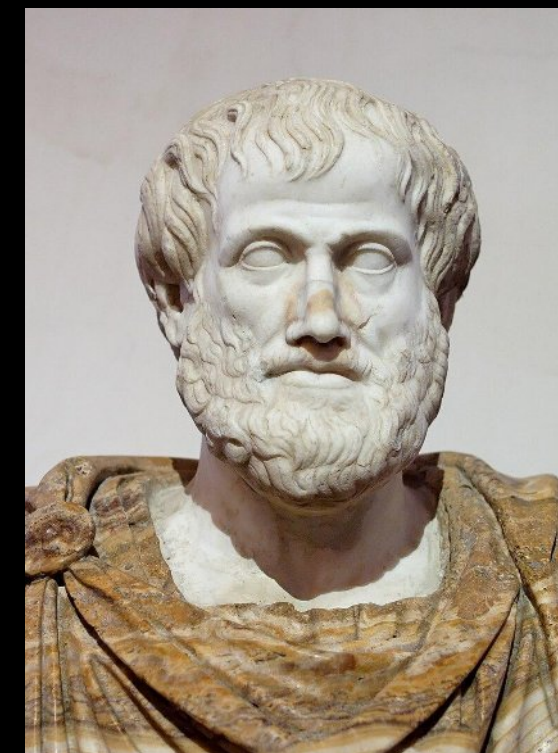


„The Deaf have no
intelligence because they
cannot express themselves”



Plato (427-347 BC)

Aristotle (384-322 BC)



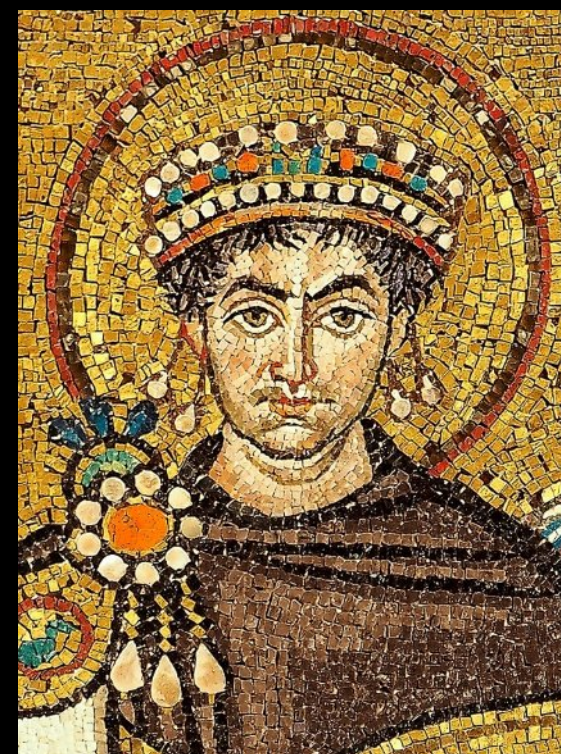
„Those who cannot hear
and cannot speak, cannot
think.”

„Those who cannot hear
therefore cannot believe”



Augustine of Hippo (354-430)

„Codex Justinianus”



Justinian I (482-565)

Middle Ages

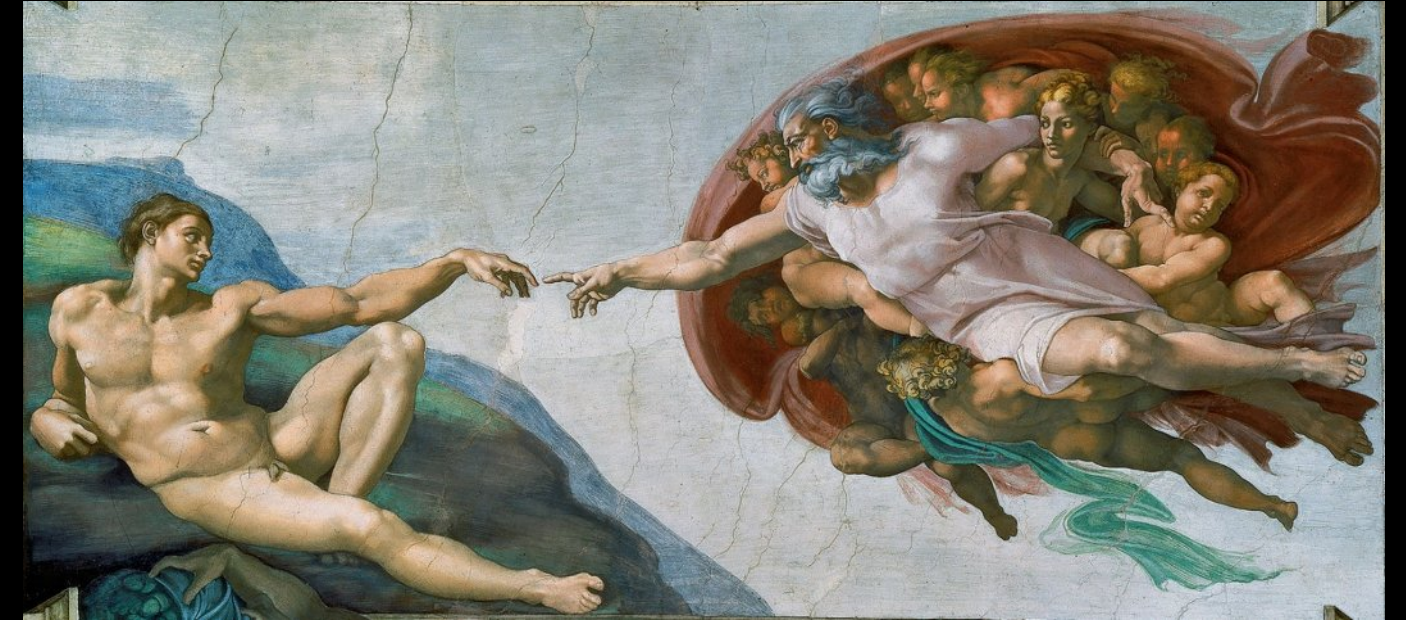


- **no education** for Deaf people
- Documents about deaf people from this period mainly deal with **miracle stories** of **religious healings**.
- The associated ideas about deafness **characterised** the **image** of deaf people and their education.

Photo: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Middle_Ages#/media/File:Cleric-Knight-Workman.jpg



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Renaissance

- efforts were made to refute Aristotle's theory
- active attempts were made to educate deaf people, sometimes incorporating sign language.

Educators developed various methods for teaching deaf students.

Photo: [https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sixtinische_Kapelle#/media/Datei:Creaci%C3%B3n de Ad%C3%A1n \(Miguel_%C3%81ngel\).jpg](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sixtinische_Kapelle#/media/Datei:Creaci%C3%B3n de Ad%C3%A1n (Miguel_%C3%81ngel).jpg)

Renaissance

Benedictine monk **Pedro Ponce de Leon** is often credited as being "the first teacher for the deaf"



Pedro Ponce de Leon (1500-1584)

Renaissance

Juan Pablo Bonet (1579-1633)



1620 - First book on a manual finger alphabet

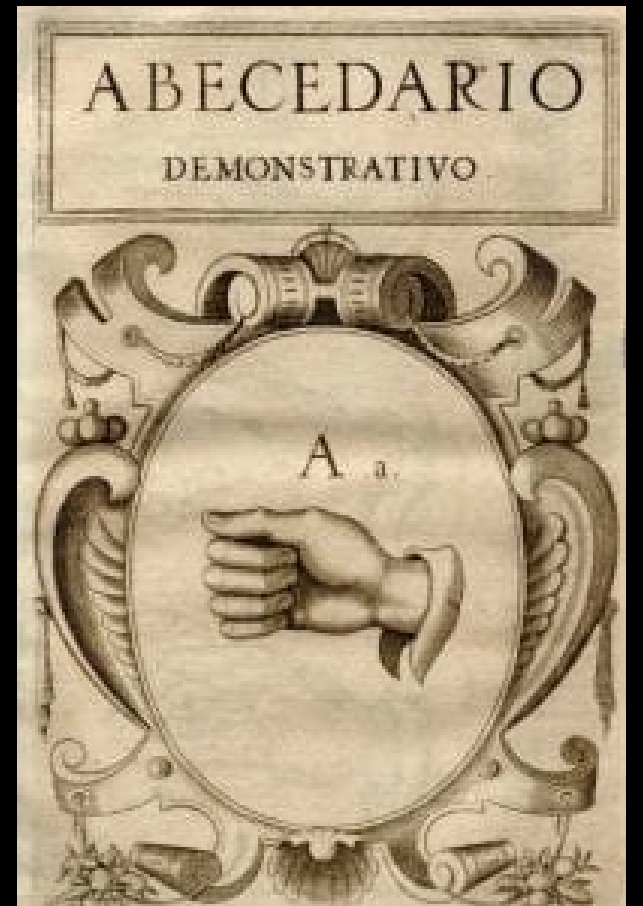
1885 - English edition → growing interest in deaf education in Europe

Bonet's method:

- Written letters → finger alphabet → articulation of sounds
- Lip-reading expected to develop naturally & without assistance

Significance:

- Early printed documentation of a finger alphabet
- **Influenced** later development of sign languages
- **Viewed signs only as a bridge to spoken language, not as an independent language**



Renaissance

First person to have invented an **oral method**:

Johann Konrad Ammann

Swiss-Dutch physician and deaf educator



Johann Konrad Ammann (1669-1724)

Renaissance

First teacher of the Deaf:

Jacob Rodrigues Pereira

oral method + sign language

France 1744



Jacob Rodrigues Pereira
(1715–1780)

Age of Enlightenment

"French Method"

Abbé de l'Épée

Sign language

French priest

teaching method:

combined gestures, writing,
fingerspelling, and signs



Abbé Charles-Michel de l'Épée
(1712-1789)

1760 and 1771: Institution Nationale des Sourds-Muets de Paris

- the **first deaf school** in the world
- Deaf schools were founded, and with the instruction in sign language, deaf people in Europe experienced
- "golden years"



Charles-Michel Abbé de l'Épée

(1712-1789)

Age of Enlightenment

Condillac (1714-1780)
philosoph

- attended de l'Épée's classes
- praised sign language and de l'Épée's method
- debates about the nature of language, including discussions around the use of sign language versus oral methods in deaf education



Étienne Bonnot de Condillac (1714-1780)

Methods Controversy

same time as de l'Épée:

→ **Samuel Heinicke**

German deaf educator

began teaching using the oral method → oral method became known as the "**German Method**"

→ controversy between **Heinicke and de l'Épée**
"**Methods Controversy**" → continues today.

Photo: <https://deafhistory.eu/index.php/component/zoo/item/samuel-heinicke-de>



Samuel Heinicke (1727-1790)



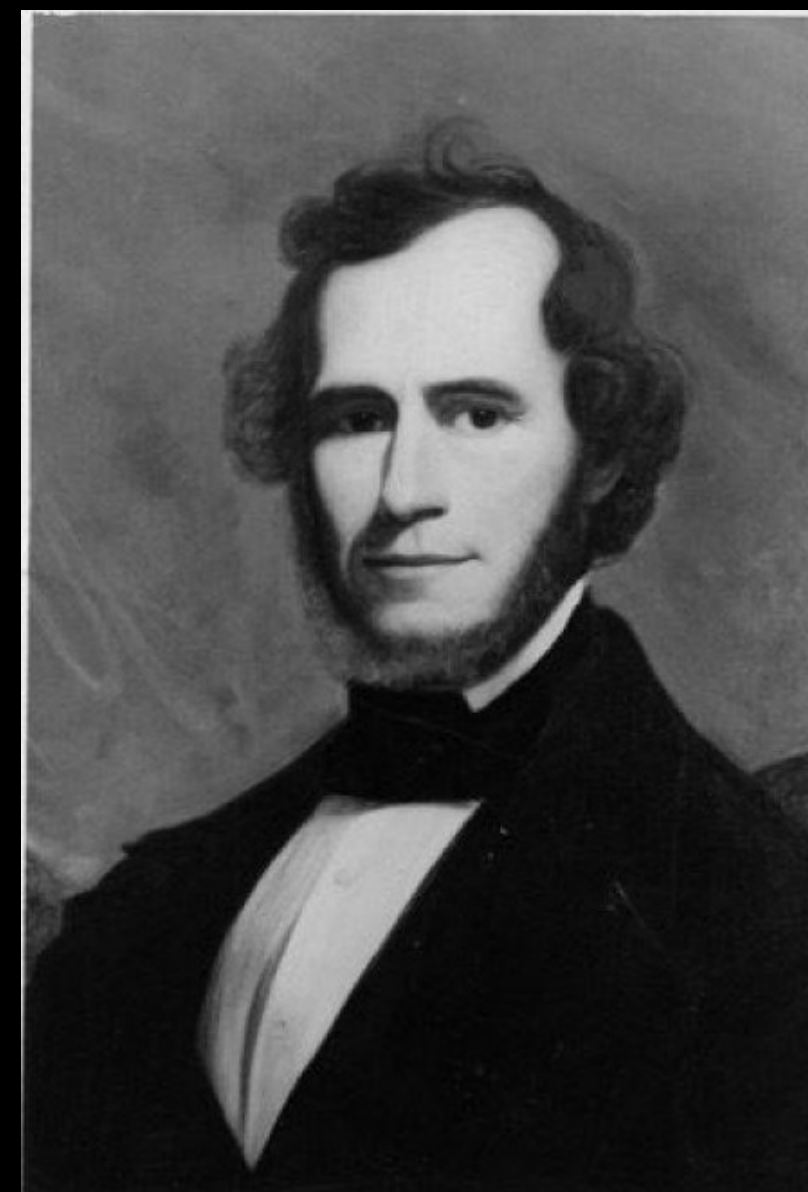
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Age of Enlightenment

Thomas Braidwood (1730–1806)

Scottish educator: a pioneer in deaf education

- founded **Braidwood's Academy for the Deaf and Dumb** = the first school of its kind in Britain.
- His methods focused on teaching deaf students to speak and lip-read: **oralism**



Thomas Braidwood (1730–1806)

France: first school for the Deaf in Paris



Photo: Wikipedia

L'Institut National de Jeunes
Sourds de Paris
(Institute for Deaf Youths,
Paris).



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Oldest school for the Deaf in Germany (Sachsen / Heinicke)



Photo: Wikipedia

Sächsische Landesschule mit
dem Förderschwerpunkt
Hören, Förderzentrum
Samuel Heinicke
(Saxon State School with a
Special Focus on Hearing,
Support Center Samuel
Heinicke)



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Vienna: Taubstummen-Institut

Joseph II - Year 1779



Foto: <https://www.geschichtewiki.wien.gv.at/Taubstummeninstitut>



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Founding of the "Taubstummeninstitut" under Maria Theresia/Joseph II:

Emperor Joseph II (1741-1790) visited Paris during his mother Maria Theresa's (1717-1780) reign and toured the **school for the deaf founded by Abbé Charles-Michel de l'Épée.**

After returning to Vienna, Joseph II commissioned Johann Friedrich Stork (1746-1823) to establish a similar institution.

Vienna: Josefsplatz



Foto <https://www.geschichtewiki.wien.gv.at/Josefsplatz>



Vienna: Josefsplatz



Emperor Joseph II removes the Bindings from the Ears and Mouth of Two Deaf-Mute Individuals

In 1779, the **Institute for the Deaf** was established (besides the Theresianum).

The relief features allegories representing the educational potential of deaf individuals:

- On the table behind the Emperor stands an inkwell with a quill.
- On the floor lies a book.
- A child holds a slate with the letter "A," and beneath it, a hand demonstrates the corresponding finger alphabet.

Nineteenth century

In 1815, the American clergyman **Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet** met his neighbour's nine-year-old deaf daughter, **Alice Cogswell**.

He observed Alice playing apart from other children, so he tried to find ways of communication and started to teach her, by writing the names of objects and drawing pictures with a stick in the dirt.

Since there were no schools for the deaf in America, Gallaudet travelled to Europe to find an appropriate educational method.

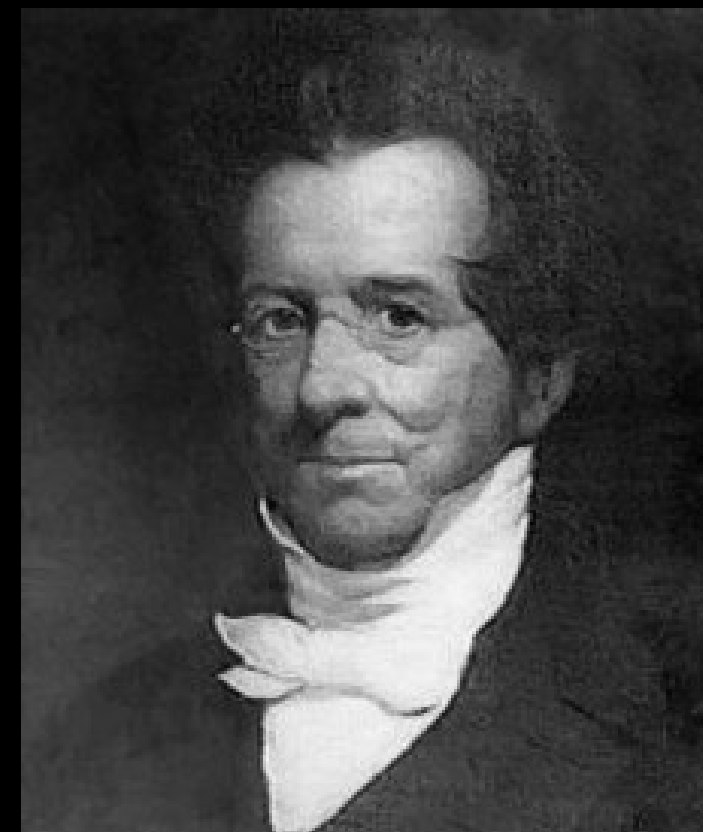


Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet (1787-1851) and **Alice Cogswell** (1805-1830)

Nineteenth century

Gallaudet went to Paris, where he met **Laurent Clerc**, a deaf teacher at the school founded by de l'Épée.

- sign language-based teaching method,
- Clerc taught Gallaudet sign language,
- Gallaudet taught him English.



Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet (1787-1851)



Laurent Clerc (1785-1869)

Nineteenth century

1817: American School for the Deaf in Hartford

The French Sign Language brought to America by Clerc:

→ mixed quickly with American sign language

→ **American Sign Language (ASL)**

strong similarities remain between French Sign Language (LSF) and ASL.



Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet (1787-1851) and **Alice Cogswell** (1805-1830)

Nineteenth century

In **1864**, Congress passed a law elevating the "Columbia Institution for the Deaf and the Blind"

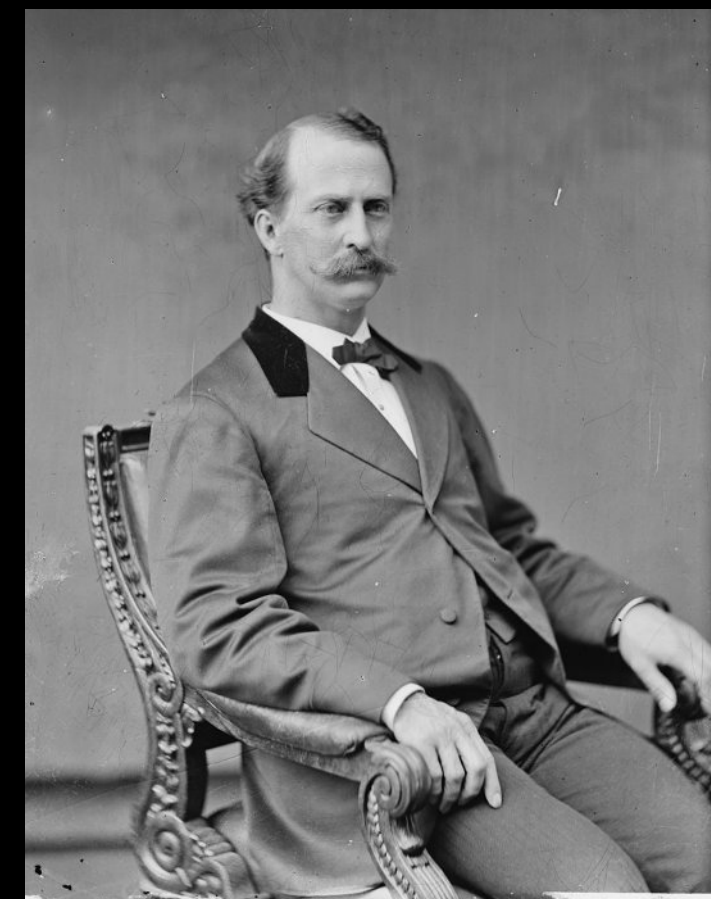
Washington: National College for the Deaf.
This was the first institution of higher education

Edward Miner Gallaudet: the son of Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet became its first president

Today → famous **Gallaudet University**, the only university in the world dedicated primarily to deaf students.

Photos: https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gallaudet_University#/media/Datei:College_Hall_Gallaudet_University.jpg

https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward_Miner_Gallaudet#/media/Datei:Edward_Miner_Gallaudet_-_Brady-Handy.jpg



Edward Miner Gallaudet
(1837-1917)



College Hall, Gallaudet University



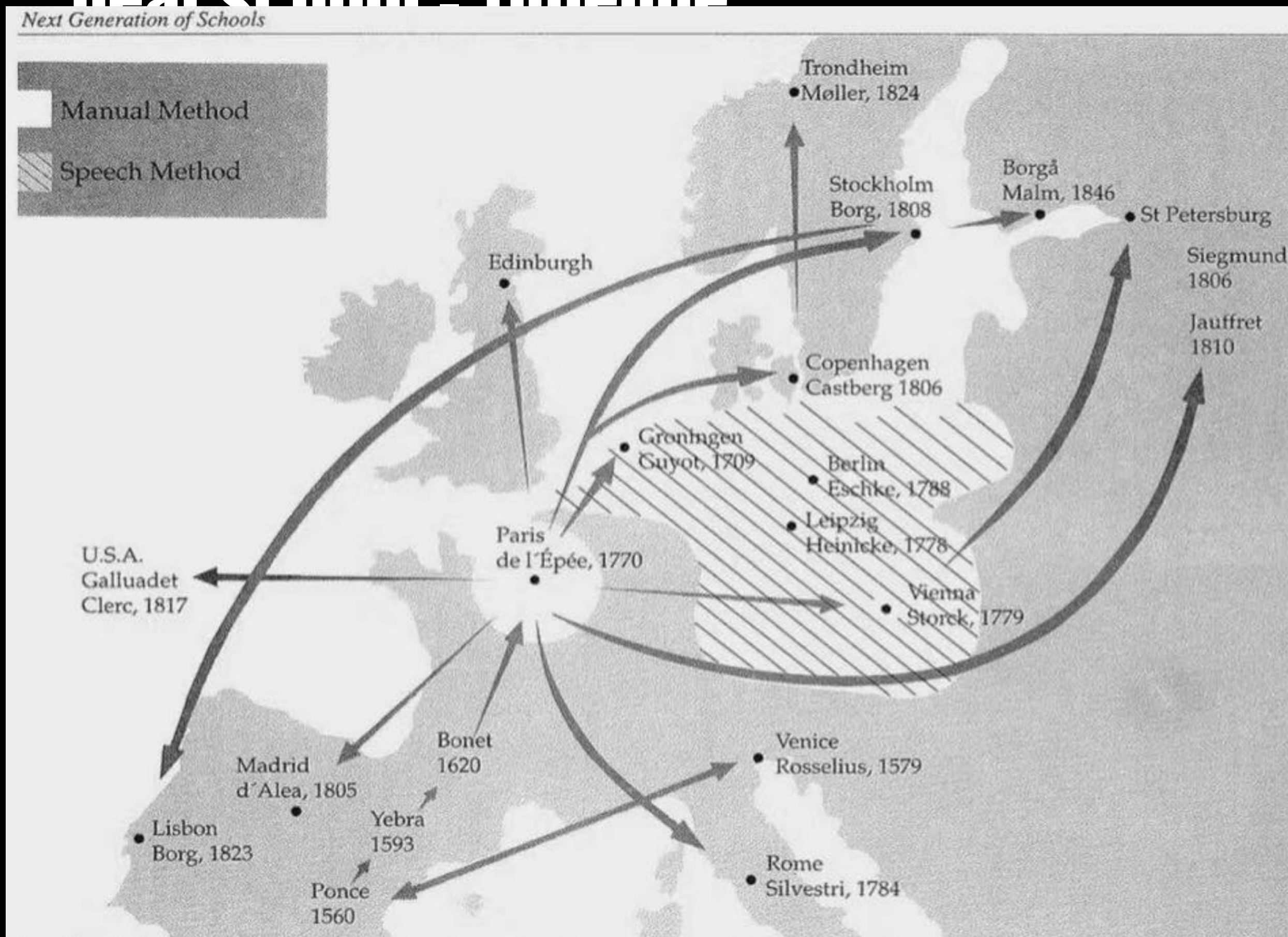
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Deaf school - Timeline



DEAF
CULTURE,
HERITAGE AND
DIVERSITY

Deaf school - Timeline

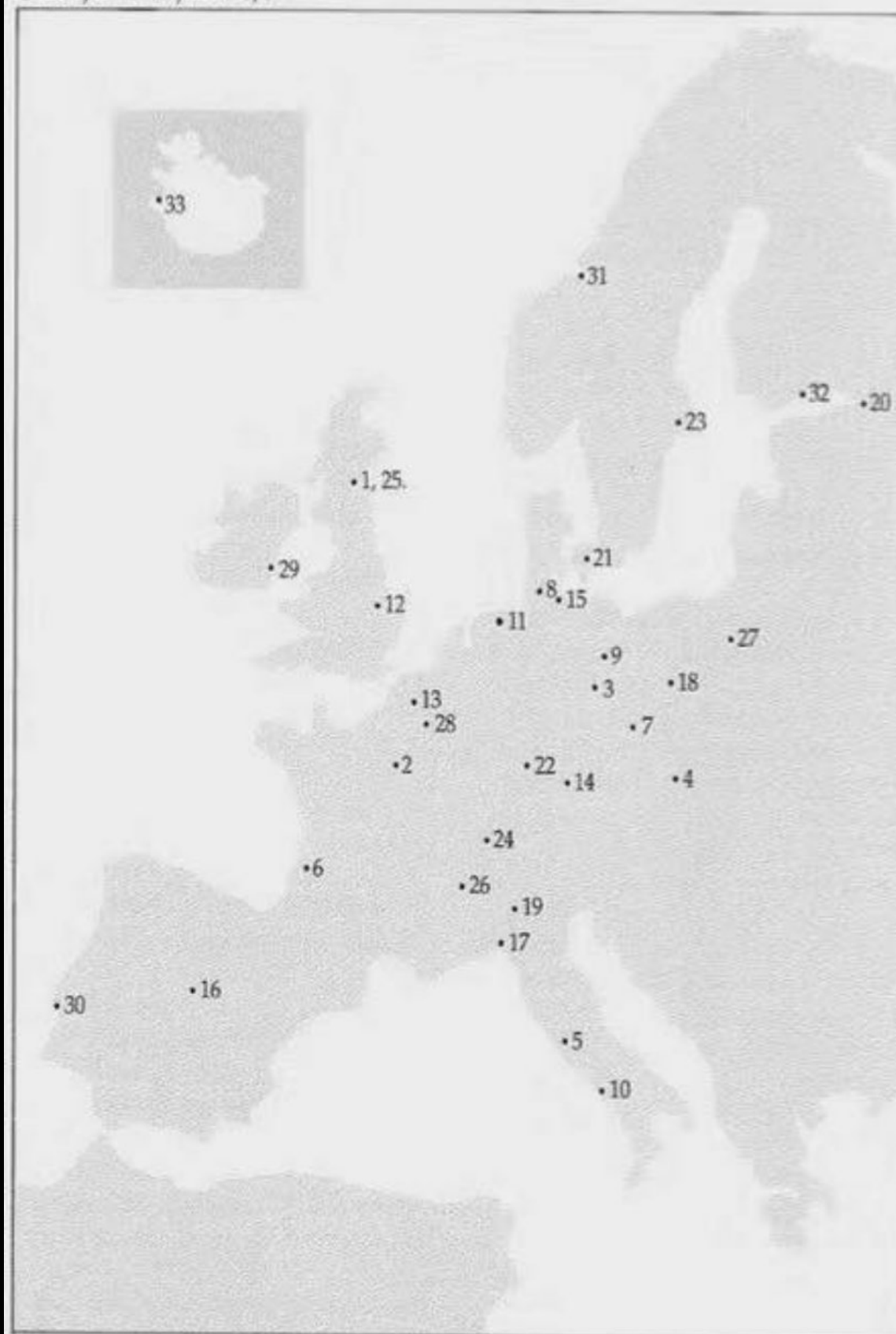


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THE HISTORY OF DEAF PEOPLE

Schools for the Deaf in Europe



Some schools for the deaf established between 1760 and c. 1860

1. Scotland. Edinburgh 1760. Founder, Thomas Braidwood.
2. France. Paris 1770. Founder, Abbé de l'Épée.
3. Germany. Leipzig 1778. Founder, Samuel Heinicke.
4. Austria. Vienna 1779. Founder, Storck.
5. Italy. Rome 1784. Founder, Silvestri.
6. France. Bordeaux 1786. Founder, Sicard.
7. Czechoslovakia. Prague 1786. Founder, Berger.
8. Germany. Schleswig-Holstein 1787.
9. Germany. Berlin 1788. Founder, Eschke.
10. Italy. Naples 1789. Founder, Cozzolino.
11. Holland. Groeningen 1790. Founder, Guyot.
12. England. London 1792. Founder, John Townsend.
13. Belgium. Tournai 1793. (Closed soon after).
14. Germany. Munich 1798. Founder, Ernsdorfer.
15. Germany. Kiel 1799. Founder, Pfingsten.
16. Spain. Madrid 1800. Founder, Josep d'Aléa. Became a public school in 1814.
17. Italy. Genoa 1801. Founder, Assarotti.
18. Poland. Breslau (now Wrocław) 1804. Founder, Bürgel.
19. Italy. Milan 1805. Founder, Eyrand.
20. Russia. St. Petersburg 1806. Founder,

- Siegmund.
21. Denmark. Copenhagen 1806. Founder, Castberg.
 22. Germany. Gmünd, Württemberg 1807.
 23. Sweden. Stockholm 1808. Founder, Pär Aron Borg.
 24. Switzerland. Zurich 1809. Founder, Scherr.
 25. Scotland. Edinburgh 1810. Founder, de Lys.
 26. Switzerland. Moudon 1811.
 27. Poland. Warsaw 1817. Founder, Falkowsky.
 28. Belgium. Lüttich 1817.
 29. Ireland. Dublin 1819.
 30. Portugal. Lisbon 1824. Founder, Pär Aron Borg.
 31. Norway. Trondheim 1824. Founder, Andreas Møller.
 32. Finland. Borgå 1846. Founder, Malm.
 33. Iceland. Reykjavik 1867. Founder, Séra Páll Pálsson.

Schools for the deaf were also founded outside Europe, for example in Hartford, Connecticut (U.S.A.) in 1817 by Gallaudet and Clerc and in Calcutta, India in 1828 by the Englishman, Nicolls.



Methods Controversy

“So, the great impetus of deaf education and emancipation, which had spread through France between 1770 and 1820, continued its triumphant march in the United States, where it had an impact until 1870. [...] But then—and this is the turning point in history—everything reversed, everything turned against sign language, against its use by and for the deaf, and within twenty years, the work of an entire century was undone.”
(Oliver Sacks 49)

For nearly 200 years, an oralist countermovement had developed among parents and teachers of the deaf. “What happened to the deaf and their sign language was actually part of a general (and, if you will, political) movement of that time: the Victorian trend toward suppression and conformity, toward intolerance of minorities and their customs, whether religious, linguistic, or ethnic.”
(Sacks 49)

Milan Conference 1880

The Milan Congress marked the beginning of the spread →

Oralism in deaf schools in
Europe and the United States



Deaf Education in Europe today



Types of schools across Europe

- Different school types within each country & region
- THREE overarching models:

a)

“Schools for the deaf”

Language of instruction:
mainly Sign language



b)

**Specialised schools with
mixed language of
instruction**

(sign language, spoken
language, lip reading)

c)

**Inclusive/integrative
approaches**
students attend ‘regular’
schools with support

Trend towards Inclusive Education

-> Indicative of societal, scientific, and educational changes that have influenced the perception and support of deaf people in society



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Approaches across Europe

- Differing approaches within each country & region
- THREE overarching models:

a)

Sign Language

(viewed as an essential part of deaf culture and identity)



b)

Bimodal-Bilingual

Pedagogy

(both languages are learned simultaneously)

c)

Oralism/ Spoken Language



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Thank you!



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Resources

Dotter, F./Jarmer, H./Huber, L. (2019): Die Relikte von Oralismus und Behindertendiskriminierung in Österreich. In: Schmidt, M./Werner, A. (Hg.): Zwischen Fremdbestimmung und Autonomie. Neue Impulse zur Gehörlosengeschichte in Deutschland, Österreich und der Schweiz. Bielefeld: transcript, S. 371-421. (title of the article: „The relicts of oralism and discrimination against disabled people“, title of the book: „Between heteronomy and autonomy. New impulses for the history of the deaf in Germany, Austria and Switzerland“)

Monaghan, L. (2016): Deaf Education History. Milan 1880. In: In: Gertz, G./Boudreault, P. (Hg.): The Sage Deaf Studies Encyclopedia. Los Angeles: SAGE, S. 173-177.

Nieves, B. (2016): Deaf Education History. Pre-1880. In: Gertz, G./Boudreault, P. (Hg.): The Sage Deaf Studies Encyclopedia. Los Angeles: SAGE, S. 182-186.

