

Edna Sayers collection

RITDSA-0193

2017:048 Created by Kate MacLaren
2018:040 Created by Brie Johnson-Morris
Updated by: Ella von Holtum

September 20, 2017
September 21, 2018

Edna Sayers biographical description:

Edna Sayers obtained her undergraduate degree from Pennsylvania State University, her master's at St. Bonaventure University, and her Ph.D at State University of New York at Buffalo in 1985. From 1990 to 2010, and as professor from 1997 to 2010, Sayers worked at Gallaudet University. She worked at NTID as a visiting professor from 1989 to 1990, and before that, she was assistant professor at Middle Tennessee State University from 1985 to 1989. Sayers has also written various articles and edited various pieces on deaf literature, like *Mrs. Sigourney of Hartford: Poems and Prose on the Early American Deaf Community*, a copy of which can be found at the RIT Wallace Center.

<http://www.eesayers.net/cv/> - Edna Sayers Curriculum Vitae

<http://albert.rit.edu/record=b3184455~S3> - *Mrs. Sigourney of Hartford: poems and prose on the early American deaf community*, Edna Edith Sayers and Diana Moore, editors

<http://www.gallaudet.edu/about/history-and-traditions/thomas-hopkins-gallaudet> - Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet Biography

<http://www.gallaudet.edu/about/history-and-traditions/the-legacy-begins> - Brief timeline of events, from Gallaudet meeting Alice Cogswell to the creation of the American School for the Deaf.

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/lydia-huntley-sigourney> - Lydia Huntley Sigourney Biography

<http://www.willyconley.com/About%20Me.html> – Willy Conley

Box 1

(materials from 2018:040)

- **Folders 1-2:** Documents and letters relating to Lydia Sigourney of Hartford, poet and educator of the deaf
- **Folder 3:** Images used in *Deaf world*, ed. L. Bragg, each image is labeled with information about the photograph (envelope holds another envelope labeled photo prints)
- **Folders 4-6:** Deaf education and ASL articles
 - **Folder 4:** 1989 letter to the Gallaudet Campus Community regarding their language policy
 - Sherman Wilcox: "The Status of American Sign Language as a Foreign Language"
 - Historical, Cultural, Psychological and Educational Aspects of American Language By McCay Vernon, Ph.D. and James M. Wallrabenstein, M.A.
 - American Sign Language Literature Series: Research and Development (Samuel J. Supalla, University of Arizona and Benjamin Bahan, Boston University)

- American Sign Language Literature: Inside the Story by Benjamin J. Bahan, DawnSignPress (Deaf Studies: What's Up? Proceedings, College for Continuing Education, Gallaudet University, Washington D.C.)
- About Sign Media, Signers of Tales: The Case For Literary Status Of An Unwritten Language
- Babbling in the Manual Mode: Evidence for the Ontogeny of Language
- Sign, Gesture & Deafness In South Asian History: A Bibliography With Annotation & Excerpts
- **Folder 5:** A Linguistic Big Bang, For the first time in history, scholars are witnessing the birth of a language, a complex sign system being created by deaf children in Nicaragua. By Lawrence Osborne
- A Tight Little Island In the World of Deafness
- (2) Turn Off Your Voice! (A war of words is being waged at Gallaudet University, pitting the deaf against the deaf.)
- **Folder 6:** Mutes, Dwarfs, Difference & Death At The Ottoman Court, some observations from the 1480s onward
- Deaf History Review Volume 5, 2007
- Journal of Modern Literature, Winter 2003, Volume 26, Number 2
- Chaucer's Monogram and the "Hoccleve portrait" tradition
- Visual-Kinetic Communication in Europe Before 1600: A Survey of Sign Lexicons and Finger Alphabets Prior to the Rise of Deaf Education
- Nuevo logotipo de la C.N.S.E.
- **Folder 7:** Bilingual Poem in German and English
- **Folder 7-9:** Fiction with deaf characters that was considered for Outcasts & Angels, ed. E.S. Sayers, but not included
 - The Girl With Wings in Her Eyes
 - Silence
 - Deaf Mute, by Ricco Villanueva Siasoco
 - Email correspondence about Deaf literature
 - The Seventh Deaf Man by William J. Neidig
 - The Balsam Fir by Mary E. Wilkins Freeman
 - Dear Annie
 - Christmas Jenny
 - Preface, The Village of Waldheim
 - Deaf Mute
 - 4 short story indexes
 - Nine Ships
 - Certain Ways of Speaking With a Deaf Woman
 - The Devil's Instrument
 - The Interpretation of Dreams
 - Let Us Build a City

- Johnson & Boswell in Scotland, Part 6
- Heart of the Woods by Isabel Adams

Box 2

- **Folder 1:** Fiction with deaf characters that was considered for *Outcasts & Angels*, ed. E.S. Sayers, but not included (continued)
 - Heart of the Woods by Isabel Adams
- **Folder 2:** Articles about deaf literary characters
 - Deaf studies in the English Curriculum By Robert F. Panara
- **Folder 3:** Fiction with characters who are: deafened, or hard of hearing
 - Deaf, Dumb, and Blind (deafened in WWI) by E.M. Eddy, Jr.
(materials from 2017:048)
- **Folder 4:** William C. Stokoe, Jr. Papers, [1948-1957]
 - 1 copy of "On Ohthere's Steobord," by William C. Stokoe, Jr., an offprint from *Speculum – A Journal of Mediaeval Studies*, April 1957
 - 1 copy of "The Sources of Sir Launfal: Lanval and Graelent," by William C. Stokoe, Jr., as reprinted from the *Publications of the Modern Language Association of America*, June 1948
 - 1 copy of "The Double Problem of *Sir Degare*," by William C. Stokoe, Jr., as reprinted from the *Publications of the Modern Language Association of America*, June 1955
- **Folder 5:** Correspondence between the Connecticut Historical Society and Louis M. Balfour, 1987-1993.
 - Louis M. Balfour: researcher in history of deaf education.
 - October 1991: Connecticut Historical Society mounted an exhibition on Lydia Sigourney. The historical society and Balfour shared each other's information, research, and findings on Sigourney, Gallaudet, Alice Cogswell and her father, the American School for the Deaf, and other related topics.
 - Includes October 1991 news article on the exhibition.
 - November 1, 1991: Balfour typed and sent a poem (an address on behalf of Abduil Rahhman, the Moorish Prince) written by Gallaudet, along with a eulogy delivered by Mr. Robert Patterson on the 93rd anniversary of Gallaudet's birth, both of which are included in the correspondence.
 - Letter, dated February 3, 1817, and signed L. Huntely, included after February 28, 1992 letter to Louis Balfour from Gary E. Wait, Head Catalogue Librarian of the Connecticut Historical Society.
 - June 10, 1992: Letter from Wait states that a new exhibition is going up about miniature and small children's books from 1800-1850, one of which is an explanation of the manual alphabet. An image of the cover, in actual size, is included.

- **Folder 6:** Correspondence between the Connecticut Historical Society and Louis M. Balfour, 1994-1999
 - Continued conversation on research about Lydia Sigourney and related topics/people between Gary E. Wait of the Connecticut Historical Society and Louis Balfour.
 - First letter, dated March 16, 1994, in the folder indicates that Balfour's health is declining.
- **Folder 7:** 1 Poster advertising the "Rochester Summer Research Training Institute with Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Scientists and Their Mentors"
 - Hosted by the University of Rochester and RIT/NTID on June 11-13, 2017

Box 3-4

- 24 VHS Tapes
 - *American Culture: The Deaf Perspective – Program #2: Deaf Folklore*
 - *Kasper – Deafway II – July 9, 2002*
 - *Pentimento & My Dream – Deafway II – July 9, 2002*
 - *Black & Deaf in America – Deafway II – July 10, 2002*
 - August 2002 – Deaf Way II
 - *My Third Eye*
 - 58 min color sound signed
 - ©1973 Gallaudet University
 - Washington D.C.
 - *Fifteen Strings of Cash – Deafway II – July 11, 2002*
 - *White Frost Falls – Deafway II – July 11, 2002*
 - *Theo & Vincent – Deafway II – July 9, 2002*
 - *An Evening of Storytelling – Deafway II – July 9, 2002 – Day 1 of 3*
 - *A Celebration of the Senses – Deafway II – July 9, 2002*
 - *An Evening of Storytelling – Deafway II – July 11, 2002 – Day 3 of 3*
 - Deaf Way II – Gallaudet University – *Storytelling & Kasper* [4 copies]
 - *Goya – Deafway II – July 10, 2002*
 - *Hanna – Deafway II, July 10, 2002*
 - *Falling on Hearing Eyes – Deaf Way II – Gallaudet University*
 - *Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs – Deafway II – July 11, 2002*
 - *Theo & Vincent – Deaf Way II – Gallaudet University*
 - *An Evening of Storytelling – Deafway II – July 10, 2002 – Day 2 of 3*
 - *A Celebration of the Senses – Deafway II – Gallaudet University*
 - *Falling on Hearing Eyes – Deafway II – July 10, 2002*