

Triumph Out of Darkness

The Legacy of

Louis Braille

Background

Before Louis Braille was born, blind people were taught Braille. However, many were not able to read or write. In 1809, a young blind man named Louis Braille created a system for communication. Louis Braille suffered many tragedies including losing his sight. However, the future of Louis Braille's legacy is uncertain; auditory technology is replacing Braille. Fewer blind learn literacy and grammar and instead rely on the spoken word to navigate their dark world.



Thesis

In the 1800s, a young blind man named Louis Braille triumphantly created a system for communication. Louis Braille suffered many tragedies including losing his sight. However, the future of Louis Braille's legacy is uncertain; auditory technology is replacing Braille. Fewer blind learn literacy and grammar and instead rely on the spoken word to navigate their dark world.

Short Term Impact



Once the word about Braille spread, blind people wanted to use the system. In 1884 France makes Braille its official language in schools. Triumphantly, blind students were able to read and write. Blind people everywhere were finally feeling part of the world. They were finally able to get jobs. The Braille was widespread and was soon found in public places.

Heart

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Louis Braille created the groundbreaking system of Braille we recognize today. The system of raised dots gave blind people a new way to live; they could write and read like sighted people and were able to communicate with other people through letters. Louis had a hard time creating Braille and suffered many tragedies along the way.

Long Term Impact

- 1809 - The first Braille book is created. This is the first book written in Braille.
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Build Up

1809 - Louis Braille was born in Coupvray, France. He was blind from birth.

1812 - Louis Braille was sent to the Royal Institute for Blind Youth in Paris. He was one of the first blind students at the school.

1817 - Louis Braille was introduced to Braille. He was one of the first blind students to learn Braille.

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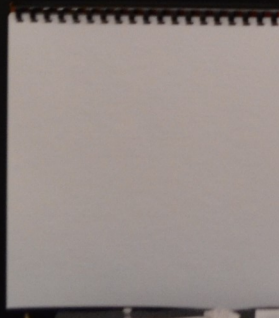
2004 - Louis Braille was introduced to Braille. He was one of the first blind students to learn Braille.

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2024 - Louis Braille was introduced to Braille. He was one of the first blind students to learn Braille.



"Access to communication in the widest sense is access to knowledge, and that is vitally important for us if we are not to go on being despised or patronized by condescending sighted people. We do not need pity, nor do we need to be reminded that we are vulnerable. We must be treated as equals — and communication is the way we can bring this about." — Louis Braille



Background

Louis Braille was born January 4, 1809, in Coupvray, France.

Before Louis Braille was born, blind people were tragically ridiculed. Valentin Haüy noticed that the blind were disrespected, so he triumphantly created the Royal Institute for Blind Children in 1784. During the tragedy of the French Revolution, Napoleon ordered blind children to be put into an asylum with other people who had disabilities.

Louis tragically became blind at the young age of three after he had an accident in his father's workshop. Due to the incident Louis would continue to struggle throughout his life.

"At the time, most blind people ended up begging on the street for a living."

LOUIS BRAILLE (1809-1852) - French teacher of the blind. Undated lithograph after a daguerreotype taken shortly after his death in 1852.



credit: The Granger Collection / Universal Images Group
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Build Up

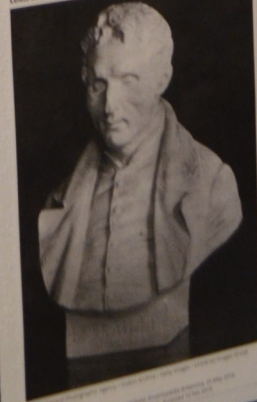
In 1819, Louis was triumphantly accepted at the Royal Institution for Blind Children.

"When Louis Braille was admitted in 1819, it was still the only school for blind children in all of France. Most sightless youngsters received no education, no training, of any kind. Because they could not see, people believed that they were mentally retarded."

When Louis stayed at the institute, he found it hard to read the big books with embossed letters.

"Louis was just beginning his third year when Charles Barbier, a retired artillery captain in the French army, visited the institute. Barbier had invented a secret military code based on dots and dashes punched into strips of cardboard. When the cardboard was turned over, the raised portions of the dots and dashes could be felt easily with fingers. Barbier called his invention nightwriting...he thought it might be useful to the blind."

Louis Braille



credit: The Granger Collection / Universal Images Group
 LOUIS BRAILLE (1809-1852) - French teacher of the blind. Undated lithograph after a daguerreotype taken shortly after his death in 1852.

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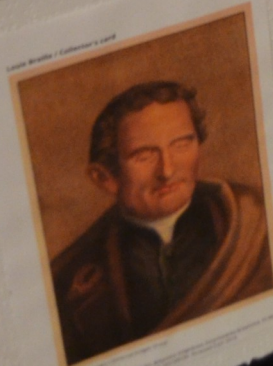
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Louis Braille / Collection's card



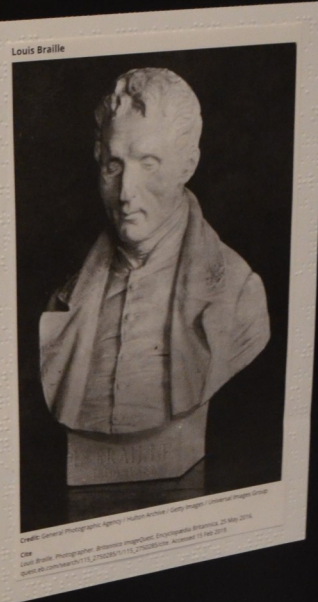
Louis found problems in his system and tried to enhance it.

"Many students became discouraged... But Louis persisted... He began to experiment on his own, using different combinations of dots and dashes, hoping to simplify Captain Barbier's system."

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Louis showed the improvements he made to Barbier.

After Louis's idea for Braille was rudely disregarded, Louis worked in secret. Louis completed his work in 1824.



Louis Braille

Copyright: Universal Photographs Agency / iStockphoto - Getty Images. Universal Images Group

File: Louis Braille, Photographer: Britanica ImageQuest, Encyclopedia Britannica, 23 May 2016. http://www.britannica.com/eb/140_1708152/1740_1708152/1740. Accessed 15 Feb 2016.

Asylum

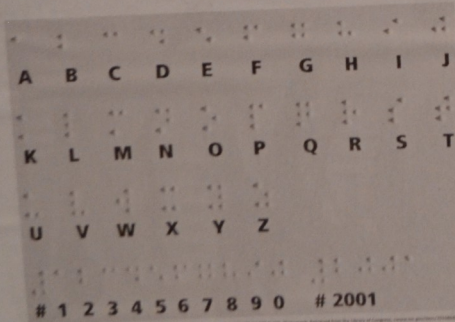
Braille

Thesis

In the 1800s, a young blind man named Louis Braille triumphantly created a system for communication. Louis Braille suffered many tragedies including losing his sight.

However, the future of Louis Braille's legacy is uncertain; auditory technology is replacing Braille. Fewer blind learn literacy and grammar and instead rely on the spoken word to navigate their dark world.

Heart



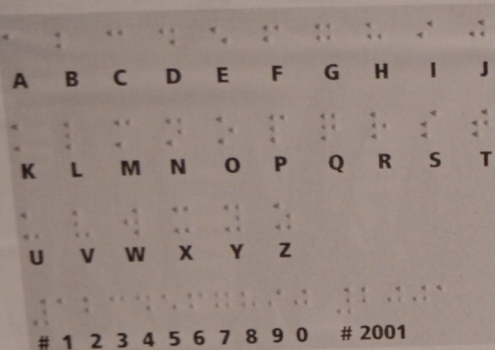
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Educational globe for the blind



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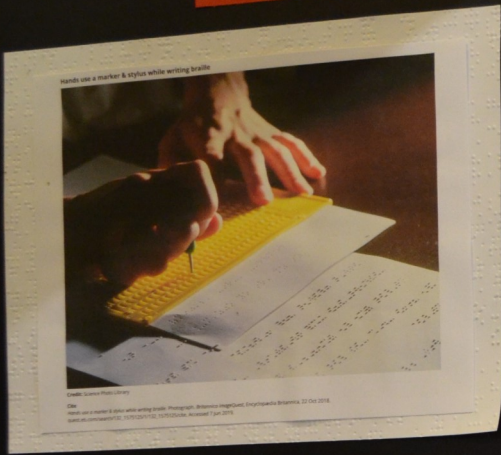
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A collection of various items including small informational cards, a yellow pom-pom, a white envelope, and other decorative elements on a dark surface with a floral pattern.

Short Term Impact



Once the word about Braille spread, many blind people wanted to use the system. In 1884 France makes Braille its official language for the blind. It soon became popular in schools. Triumphant, blind students were able to read and write like sighted children. Blind people everywhere were finally feeling part of the world. The blind were able to get jobs. The Braille system was widespread and was soon found at many public places.

In 1994 UNESCO (The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) transcribed Braille into over one hundred languages. Even though Braille was such a huge success the name Louis Braille was tragically forgotten. People knew Braille as a system and no longer a name.

Long Term Impact

"...10 percent of blind children in the United States learn to read Braille, even though Braille literacy is associated with better job outcomes for adults."

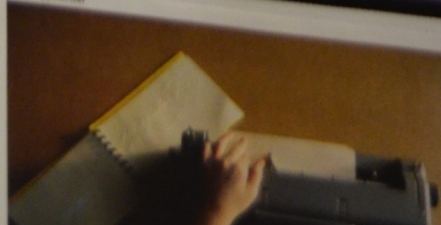
1892- The first Braille typewriter is invented. This is the first technological advancement made to Braille.

1951- The Perkins Brailier becomes the image of the blind community and Braille writing. The Perkins Brailier is a typewriter still used by the blind.

1971- The first Braille embosser was created and it is now possible to print in Braille.

1982- The popular VersaBraille, a refreshable Braille display, was released.

Braille typewriter



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Source: Sarah "Tape to Making Braille Books, They May One Day Find a Career of Braille" The New York Times, The New York Times, 27 Apr. 2016. www.nytimes.com/2016/04/27/us/politics/braille-books.html

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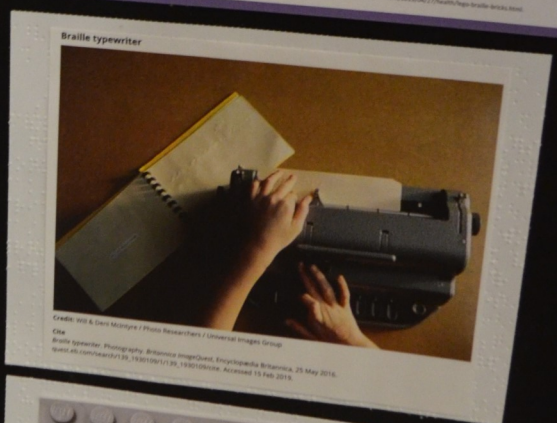
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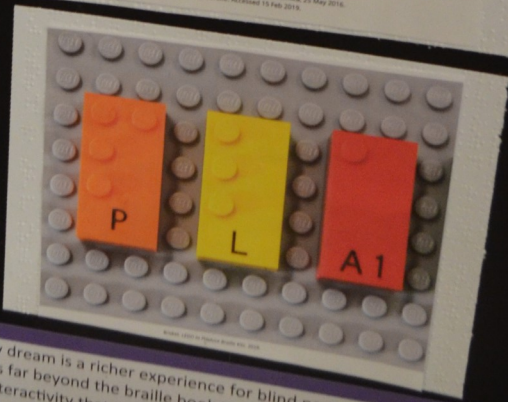
2017- The Dot Watch is put on the market as the world's first Braille smartwatch, and costs \$290.

2019- Lego announces Braille building blocks meant to combat the Braille literacy crisis by making learning Braille easier and more fun for kids.

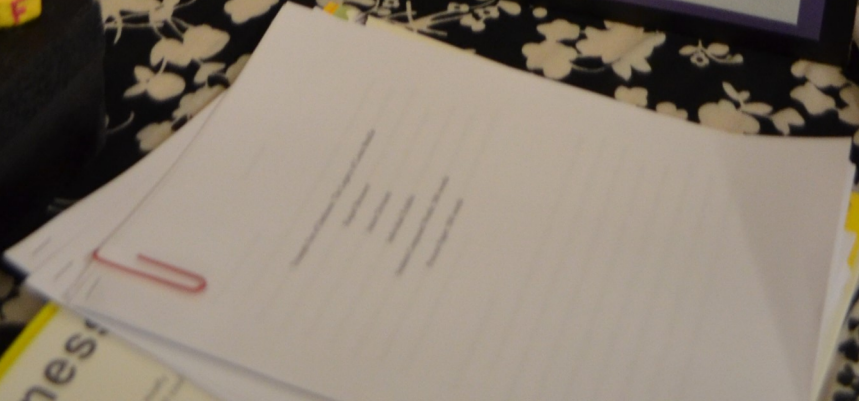


Braille typewriter

Credit: W3 & David Mouton / Photo Researchers / Universal Image Group
Giz
@gizmag.com Photography: @braillemagazine, @braillebooks Braille, 23 May 2016.
https://doi.org/10.1002/br.1487



"...my dream is a richer experience for blind people, one that goes far beyond the braille book to encompass the kind of interactivity that sighted computer users now take for granted."-Sile O'Modhrain (The Holy Braille)



DBL Braille
 Knowledge you can
MOV
 On

Monkey business!
 Amazing apes
 Gorilla
 Capuchin monkey
 Mini monkeys

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