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DUKE OF EDINBURGH SPEAKS AT BRAILLE CENTENARY

S.V. The Duke rises to speak. "Ladies and Gentlemen, today we commemorate 20
the death 100 years ago of one of mankind's great benefactors, Louis Braille,
whose invention of embossed type has given a new sense to blind people all
over the world. This blind, young Frenchman, will be honoured next week
in his native land by the re-interrment of his ashes in the Pantheon, the
resting place of immortals. Like all great inventions, the idea of braille
is simple - 59 ft. (Lens change to C.U). but it needed the practical 30
genius of Dr. Thomas Rhodes Armitage, the caxton of embossed type, to exploit
the idea for the benefit of all blind people. Dr. Armitage, as you have
laready heard, was also the founder of the National Institute in whose
headquarters we are now assembled. 94'

S.V. .....extends now, not simply across the Channel, but across the seven seas.
There is a sense of kinship among blind people that ignores the national boundaries
and the tie of that kinship is braille. As a means of reading and writing,
as a method of education, as a music notation, as utilised in scientific
appliances and domestic gadgets, braille has made the effort to conquer
blindness an international crusade and thereby sows the potent seed of
understanding and goodwill between nations. 62'

C.U. But in remembering these famous blind men we must not forget the selfless,
unweary work of the seeing, the men and women who have devoted their
lives to their blind comrades, who are exemplified in the voluntary braillists,
who have built up by laborious work, 20,00 volumes, which now constitutes
the Institute's students library, and in the scientists who are always
urging braille and kindred matters towards new prospects. Consider now,
from a practical point of view what braille has accomplished in the world
of the blind. This exhibition demonstrates its influence in many directions,
how it has spread knowledge and culture and the ability to enjoy, appreciate
and create works of literary and musical beauty and worth, how it has
enabled people to overcome the greatest difficulties of living without
eyesight in the seeing world, how it has made it possible for
blind people to be independent, self-supporting citizens, contributors to the
national strength. The National Institute publishes every month in letter-
press and braille a magazine fittingly entitled "The New Beacon." One of
its regular features is a chronicle of achievements of blind people all over

the world. Every none of these achievements owes something to braille and not the least to benefit is the seeing world, which can now draw upon the intellect of blind people in the surprising number of fields of human thought and endeavour. 151'

S.V. .....held in the honour of the immortal name of Louis Braille. 9'

Duke sits down.

Braille Centenary Exhibition.

(June 11th - July 5th. Admission Free).

The National Institute for the Blind presents for the Centenary of Louis Braille a special Braille Exhibition. (Souvenir catalogues with full details on sale, 1/-d. each)

This revealing Exhibition and demonstration, opened by H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh will be the most complete of its kind displayed to the public, and will coincide with Centenary events in Paris.

It will show the many heartening ways in which the almost magical Braille dot has enabled the blind to compete with the sighted, not only as craftsmen and musicians, but in ever widening professional and industrial fields. More Blind in Britain work to-day in open employment than in sheltered workshops.

LIVE EXHIBITS. The Exhibition features the full story of Braille victories, with blind demonstrators showing the variety of their skills, from school studies to a fresh range of technical and industrial exhibits, including Morris Car Dashboard Assembly, Hoffman Ballbearing Assembly, Villiers Crank Shaft, and a selection of precision instruments in use.

Latest Blind apparatus and aids include:- prototype of upward Braille writing machine; Smith's "Pinger Timer"; Vernier measuring rule, measuring to 1/100th of an inch; jig-saw puzzles; Norris bread-cutter and other gadgets for use in the home.

NEW SOLID DOT BRAILLE. A remarkable and revolutionary prototype machine printing Solid Dot Braille is on display that will create widespread interest.

MUSICAL RECITATIONS. Each day there will be short musical and organ recitals in which blind musicians of note, and also students, will take part. July 2nd and 3rd will be special music days at the Exhibition.

OPENING DAY. On the Opening Day messages will be read from the President of France, the Archbishop of Canterbury, and Cardinal Griffin.

Among blind leaders who will hear the Duke of Edinburgh speak will be:- Mr. Godfrey Robinson (Chairman of the N.I.B.), Lord Kenswood, Mr. T.H. Tylor (Balliol College), Captain Cochrane-Barnett, Mr. Curtis Willson, Mr. T.H. Smith (National League), and Blind representatives from France and America, M. Renaux and M. Teneveau (France), Mr. M.I. Tynan (America).

The Duke will make a tour of the Braille printing departments of the National Institute after opening the Exhibition.

The French Minister, Le Comte de Crouy-Chanel, will represent France at the opening ceremony, and the Vice-Lieutenant of the County of London, Major the Hon. Sir Edward Cadogan, and the Mayor and Mayoress of St. Marylebone, Alderman and Mrs. Howard Rowe will attend.

SPECIAL DAYS. During the second week, June 18th and 19th, Mr. R.W.Bonham, mathematics master of Worcester College for the Blind, will take on all sighted comers at chess. The B.B.C. Chess Club and the Civil Service have promised to send teams. American players also hope to play against Mr. Bonham.

Other special days with an emphasis on specific interests are as follows:- June 13th, morning (Blind Organisations visit); June 19th, (Authors); June 21st (Blind parties); June 23rd and 24th (Business firms); June 25th (Social); June 26th (French and Overseas). July 1st (Educational).

MEMORIAL SERVICE:

On June 16th evening at 6.0 p.m., there will be a half hour Memorial Service at Holy Trinity, St. Marylebone, to commemorate the inventor of the Braille System.

The Exhibition, designed by Mr. Ronald Dickens, sets out to open the eyes of the sighted to the ingenious and conquering ways of the Braille system in the modern world.

National Institute for the Blind,
224, Great Portland Street,
London, W.1.

Solid Dot Braille

At the Braille Centenary Exhibition of the National Institute for the Blind, which he opens this morning, The Duke of Edinburgh sees a revolutionary printing machine, using the latest electronics and plastics, that prints solid dot plastic Braille for the Blind, making production cheaper and reading easier.

The machine, in prototype, is the first example of a new form of process printing in the new Elizabethan age.

An electronic robot machine with three metal fingers "senses" the words dotted on a Brailled sheet, transmitting them electrically to an attached slave machine. Here punches are actuated to produce an exact stencil copy, each dot being turned into a corresponding hole. The stencils are then passed to the printing machine which squeezes plastic ink through the holes in the stencil on to both sides of the paper.

National Institute for the Blind
224 Great Portland Street,
W.1.

THE NEW SOLID DOT BRAILLE.

UNIQUE PROCESS.

A new and unique mechanical method of Braille printing production - Solid Dot Braille - can be seen on display at the Braille Centenary Exhibition of the National Institute for the Blind, 224, Great Portland Street, (June 11th - July 5th) opened by H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh.

Harnessing the latest scientific discoveries in electronics, plastics, and process printing, the National Institute has developed a remarkable electro-mechanical printing unit that will prove of great service to the Blind, and revolutionise all Braille printing.

EASIER AND CHEAPER BRAILLE PRODUCTION.

Solid plastic Braille dots, easy to feel with the finger-tip, and capable of being varied in size from capitals to pinpoints, take the place of the old embossed dots dented from the paper itself; ordinary thin paper replaces the thick and costly Manilla paper now in use. The older Blind in Britain, who often find great difficulty in learning embossed paper Braille, may be able to read the new solid dots.

Production of Solid Dot Braille will be cheaper and less cumbersome, both paper and metal being saved. Metal printing plates will no longer be necessary, stencils being used. Manual effort will be lightened in various ways.

ORIGINAL PRINTING METHODS.

The new Solid Dot Braille printing comprises three novel processes, each the first of its kind. They have never been seen in operation previously by the public.

An electronic robot machine with three metal fingers "senses" the words dotted on a Brailled sheet, transmitting them electrically to an attached slave machine. Here punches are actuated to produce an exact stencil copy, each dot being turned into a corresponding hole.

The thickness of the stencil controls the height of the dot, the size of the punch the shape.

The stencils are then passed to a new type Periprinting machine which squeezes plastic ink - itself a new invention - through the holes in the stencil on to both sides of the paper. Infra-Red and high-frequency curing are used to fix and dry the plastic dots, the punched stencil being kept for further use.

INVENTION OF SOLID DOT.

These challenging developments have been made possible by many years of patient research work by Mr. E.J. Pyke, Technical Officer of the National Institute for the Blind, in conjunction with Mr. J. Groak, research engineer from Czechoslovakia of J. Groak Ltd.

Participating firms are Messrs. Chambon Ltd. of Park Royal, Sargrove Electronics, Ltd. of Hounslow, and Bakelite of Grosvenor Gardens.

CENTENARY ADVANCE.

It is fitting that the Centenary of the originator of the Braille system should be marked by this striking innovation, pioneered by the N.I.B., who produce Braille literature and equipment for Britain and the Commonwealth.

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