

The Laurent Clerc Stamp Project

December 26, 2021 Issue: Laurent's Birthday Edition



A Big Thank You!

We wanted to give a shout out to all of you that are receiving this newsletter. And to say...thank you! If you are receiving this, it is because at some time over the last 9 months you somehow have become involved in our "A Stamp for Laurent" inquiries or know somebody that did. Now named "The Laurent Clerc Stamp Project" with the goal of getting Laurent a USPS Commemorative Stamp. And many of you have helped and offered your help. On reflection you might be wondering where we went.

Well, coming up on our 1st anniversary of the creation of The Laurent Clerc Stamp Project, the enormity of what we are undertaking is settling in. Our task is large and long-term. Our dream requires complex organization skills. So we wanted to find a way to let you know of our progress, future important dates and events happening while we have not been in contact with you.

Laurent Clerc Holt

There are many moving parts of this campaign to get Laurent his USPS Commemorative Stamp. Here is some of the progress we have been making since we communicated with you last.

Getting Ourselves Organized

- We have been developing a state-by-state database of Deaf contacts in the USA and throughout the world.
- We have contacted a sampling of these resources to understand how we might approach possible partners and supporters in the future.

Social Media Practice

- We are experimenting with different methods to show support that could be used on social media. Written petitions are old school and our media landscape allows us to reach more people.
 - **Selfies of Support (SOS):** We have been collecting them primarily from the USA and France up to now. That is Laurent's name sign.



If you are interesting in supplying one, drop me a line at:
thelaurentclercstampproject@gmail.com

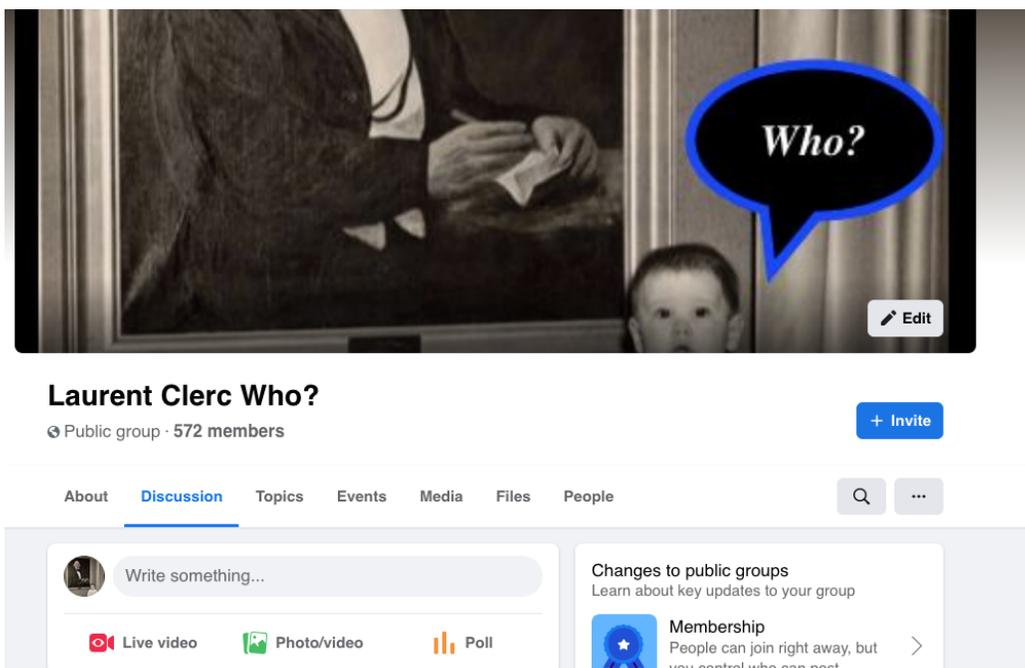
Raising Laurent's Profile

- Any attempt at getting Laurent a stamp would require tremendous support. Such support would require us to bring forth this 200+ year old historical figure into the present day consciousness of the Deaf and hearing cultures. We are continuing to work on ways to make Laurent come alive!
 - **Laurent Clerc Who?:** My favorite is our Laurent dedicated group on Facebook. It started as a place for me to do a deep dive into his history. It is becoming a place where

we can share history, thoughts and feelings about Laurent's legacy and meet some really fascinating people.

If you are interested, please come and join us at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/64625327737>



- **Student Stamp and History Project:** Any campaign must include the youngest among us. We are developing and experimenting with a module for Deaf students that focuses on Laurent's history and results in student stamp art for our eventual application. At ASD this fall, we had a question and answer history session about Laurent, to augment Deaf History classroom studies. This was followed by ASD students writing essays about Laurent and his importance to Deaf Culture. Lastly, students produced stamp art work under the supervision of an ASD art teacher and an in-house art resident. Our hope is to be able to use this model at Deaf schools throughout the country. (Student photos pending parental consent)



- **“Where In The World Is Flat Laurent”:** Visual representations are easier to relate to than words sometimes. We have been having some fun with our “Flat Laurent” experiment in the hopes that we can connect together Laurent fans, raise his profile some and possibly use him in a future social media campaign.

Below Laurent visits a Deaf History Class at ASD where they have made figures of Thomas Gallaudet and Alice Cogswell. Next, Laurent visited the Cogswell Heritage House Museum on the ASD campus. Lastly, Laurent hangs out with his namesake Laurent and they have become good buddies.



We are looking for unique and exciting ways to utilize “Flat Laurent” to raise awareness. If you have any idea please drop us a line at:

thelaurentclercstampproject@gmail.com

- **Caring for Laurent’s Legacy:** As we have moved along we realized that we must extend our care directly to Laurent and his family. What transpired was a wonderful community event and project to install a permanent perennial flower garden within Laurent and Eliza Clerc’s fenced in gravesite enclosure at the Spring Grove Cemetery in Hartford, CT. This fall a group of volunteers cleaned up the site in preparation for spring planting.
- Fundraising for the garden and its future maintenance is ongoing at: <https://gofund.me/abd20333>



- **Franco-American Laurent:** Sharing Laurent’s history and networking to advance the stamp project’s success. We had that wonderful opportunity to work on a book project chronicling Laurent and Thomas’s meeting and transition to the United States from France. Mireille Golaszewski working on the French side of the Atlantic collaborated with historians and curators from the United states to create a learning tool about Laurent and Thomas in multiple languages. On December 8, 2021 she and

RIT National Technical Institute for the Deaf
ASL-Deaf Studies Community Center Master of Science in Secondary Education - Research

A special presentation for RADSCC's 10th Anniversary and TEPee's 309th Birthday

Franco-American Partnership in Deaf Education

The authors, one French and one American, will discuss their recently published book and bilingual pedagogical materials on the legacy of the Franco-American partnership in Deaf education, highlighting milestones in the partnership.

Thursday, December 9, 2021 • 2:00–4:00 p.m. ET
 Register for this ZOOM webinar at: <https://bit.ly/3CgAi0h>

Mireille Golaszewski Christopher Kurz Joan Naturale – Moderator

BILINGUE/BILINGUAL

This event is sponsored by RADSCC, MSSE, and Joan Naturale, NTID Librarian.
 For more information contact Jeanne Behm at jbehm@rit.edu
 Free and open to the public • Interpreters have been requested

Christopher Kurz of RIT presented a webinar describing their work.

- **Building A Laurent Community:**

When we started out looking at ways to get Laurent his stamp we felt that we needed to create a community that was interested and engaged in understanding more about Laurent. We hoped that it would help propel Laurent the historical figure into the present day consciousness of the Deaf and hearing world.

As time passed and the goal of a stamp many years away, we began to understand that the journey to our desired end may be the richest part. Promoting or developing a community has brought us in touch with so many diverse and interesting people around the world that are very curious about Laurent, Thomas and their peers.

These conditions have spawned some many interesting conversations, side ideas and projects, while raising Laurent's profile, have become the fun that we look forward to everyday.

Through our Laurent Clerc Who?, visits to ASD, events and conversations with Deaf artists, authors, students, historians and just plain Laurent fans, we are making enjoyable and valuable connections. Stamp good, network great! Bad hair day, not so good.



- **Research, Research and More Research:**

Any campaign or social media juggernaut requires us to get more knowledgeable about Laurent. Or at least find those that are very Laurent smart and get them involved.

In November 2021, while researching a family relative, Francis Clerc Odgen, we discovered some rare and fantastic historical documents sitting in a folder these last 60 years. I will speak for myself, I was very excited as a budding Laurent fan to come across these documents. It has piqued my interest in historical research and helped me to gain big respect for the historians and authors producing Laurent

and Thomas literature. I hope that we will be able to give you all more exciting news as we move forward into our 2nd year of our campaign.

○ **International Partnerships:**

Any stamp campaign will be a world wide effort. To this end we are excited to work with individuals, organizations and schools across the world. Some of our favorite new friends are:

- Anne Pichard of the L'Institut National de Jeunes Sourds <https://www.injsabidjan.ci/>

P.S. See their cool virtual tour!

https://my.matterport.com/show/?m=RP2ZKMfUp5t&fbclid=IwAR1wAv_SYXcPFxPg7mgiz5pJvRmimTjXBayBtkd8lymo1aM4G3f7V6Z0eak

- Marc, Christophe and Domonique of the Association Laurent Clerc

<https://www.facebook.com/AssociationLaurentClerc/>

- Mireille Golaszewski, Inspecteur général honoraire de l'Education nationale and Secrétaire générale du Consortium L@CCES lsf-pour-tous

Getting Involved

I am sure that there are all kinds of wonderful ideas that we have not thought about. And all kinds of energetic people willing to participate.

While we are searching for you and attempting to pick your brains for ways to forward our dream you can always drop us a line to see how you can be involved.

If you are interested or want to know more about our campaign or ways you can help please email me, Laurent Clerc Holt at thelaurentclercstampproject@gmail.com

Sincerely, Laurent Clerc Holt, Editor

Jean Linderman, Editor



thelaurentclercstampproject@gmail.com

Laurent Clerc Stamp Project Sponsors



Cogswell Heritage House

THE LAURENT CLERC FAMILY

