

## Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to M. Magnat, February 5, 1896

560 1331 Connecticut Avenue, Washington, D.C. February 5th. 1896. M. Magnat. Paris, France. (16 rue des Saints Peres.) My dear friend:—

I have just returned to the United States after a long absence in order to attend a meeting of the Board of Directors of the American Association to Promote the Teaching of Speech to the Deaf, which was held at the Murray Hill Hotel in the city of New York on January thirty first. At this meeting I suggested the advisability of inviting you to visit this country and attend our Summer Meeting in July.

The Directors recognized the great value to America of the information you can give us and desire to do everything within the means of the Association to enable us to profit by your labors. They, therefore, passed a resolution refering the whole matter of your invitation to a Committee, of which I am a member, giving us full power to act. This Committee has charge of the preparation of the programme.

The Committee held a meeting in New York at which the matter was fully discussed; and the Chairman (Miss Yale) requested me to write to you upon the subject.

The Committee think it would be very desirable to have you come to America with pupils as proposed if it could possibly be managed, but the means at the command of the Association would not suffice (1) to pay your expenses both ways across the Atlantic, (2) the expenses of pupils to and from America, (3) the expense of an interpreter to interpret your remarks, and (4) the cost of translating and publishing the works you have prepared.

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561 What we are prepared to do is this:—

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(1) The Association will pay the cost of translating and publishing the works you have prepared for presentation to our members; and,

(2) Will pay your hotel expenses as our guest while at the meeting. The means of the Association limit us to these two points.

On my own account I may say, however, that I, personally, will be glad to pay your travelling expenses to and from America.

Allow me therefore on behalf of the Directors to extend to you a very cordial invitation to attend the meeting of the American Association to Promote the Teaching of Speech to the Deaf, which will be held at the Pennsylvania Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, at Mount Airy, Philadelphia, from July 1 to July 10 1896. We also invite you to present papers upon the methods of teaching speech to the deaf in use in the schools of France and upon the general education of the deaf in that country.

It would be well to forward your manuscripts as soon as possible to Miss Yale, Chairman of the Committee on the programme, so that the Committee may have plenty of time to have your manuscripts translated into English and printed in advance of the meeting.

Kindly address your reply to Miss Caroline A. Yale, Clarke Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, Northampton, Mass.

Yours very sincerely, Alexander Graham Bell of the Committee on the Programme of the American Association to Promote the Teaching of Speech to the Deaf.