

MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN PRINTING HOUSE FOR THE BLIND  
 Writing : Braille Slates, Braillewriters, and Writing Guides

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Object ID: 1992.358  
 Title: Hall Braille Writer  
 Creator: Hall, Frank, inventor  
 Description: Black enameled aluminum frame resting on four black rubber feet, stenciled in gold on steel bar above keyboard, "The Hall Braille Writer/Patent Pending"; arched aluminum bar extends backwards from the front top of the frame to the upward writing aluminum embossing head protruding through a slot in the carriage; keyboard has six black-enameled wooden keys with beveled fronts, oval black rubber space key is mounted in the middle of the keyboard, projecting above and slightly forward of the dot keys, all keys are housed in a yellow celluloid covered wooden keyboard shield bolted to the frame, with a black enameled tinfoil backplate; aluminum carriage with white hard rubber platen and smaller red rubber-covered steel paper roller, natural finish wooden platen knobs on both sides, four rolled nickel-plated steel paper storage rings bolted under carriage; toothed nickel-plated carriage release bar with angled lever on left is mounted on front of carriage; stamped into release bar, "MADE BY S.J. SEIFRIED CHICAGO, ILL. U.S.A. 7775"; carriage return bell screwed under carriage on left; tension for carriage provided by a spring-loaded pulley attached to carriage with cotton cord.

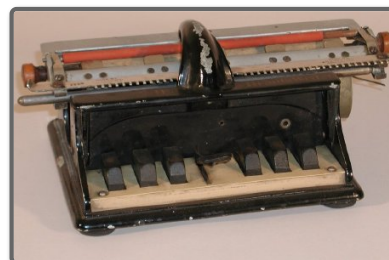
Dimensions: H-5 W-14 D-8.625 inches

Date: ca. 1910

Made by: Samuel J. Seifried

Place of Origin: Chicago, IL

Provenance: The first prototype for the Hall Braille Writer was conceived by Frank Hall, Superintendent of the Illinois School for the Blind in 1892. It was created by a local gunsmith and machinist, Gustave Seiber. Hall took the prototype to the Munson Typewriter Company in Chicago, where Superintendent T.B. Harrison and designer Samuel J. Seifried created six pilot models, delivering them to Hall on May 27th, 1892. Munson Typewriter also made an additional lot of 94 machines for Hall. Harrison and Seifried soon left Munson and began manufacturing the braillewriter full time, along with the Hall Stereotyper and later a tactile mapmaking machine. When the partnership dissolved, Samuel Seifried continued the

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Hall Braille Writer

business until his death in 1912. The Cooper Manufacturing Company took over the braillewriter. When M.B. Skinner bought Cooper in 1921, the Hall Braille Writer was re-designed and continued to be sold until Cooper sold the design, dies, and tools to the American Foundation for the Blind around 1930. AFB assembled a few additional machines from parts in stock, but at the same time was developing its own machine, the Foundation Writer.

Credit Line: Gift of Judy Dixon, 1992.358

Images courtesy of the Museum of the American Printing House for the Blind. Note: use of some materials may be restricted, please call 502-899-2364 before publishing in any format.