

DAY 24 | Motif: Scrabble Game

TITLE | “Deaf Gain II”

MEDIA | Canson Cold Press, Watercolor, Micro Pen

SIZE | 8 x 10

By Kim Anderson

#FEBCHALLENGE19

Here we go again! Can you imagine the world today without the television and internet? Yes, again . . . thanks to two notable Deaf inventors, Wladislav Zeitlin and Vinton Cerf, the world gained immensely from their invention of the television and internet. This again is known as Deaf Gain. If not for the invention of the television which eventually led towards the invention of computers and then the internet with apps and so on, the modern game of scrabble, known as “words with friends” would not have been possible. The inventor of television, Wladislav Zeitlin, a Deaf German Jewish scientist and inventor, was born Deaf and at 17 years old he made significant technological advances that lead to an influential breakthrough in inventing the television. In 1922, he attended the prominent Israelite Institute for the Deaf. In his words he imagined “vision broadcasting analogous to sound broadcasting.” His name has yet to rightfully appear among the prominent inventors of television. Unfortunately there is a very sad story about him during a dark part of our history: Wladislav was deported to Auschwitz on July 19, 1942. His train convoy number 7 arrived on July 21, 1942. It carried one thousand Jews and only seventeen survived. He died in Auschwitz at the age of 35. [Source: Deaf Gain: Chapter 15 by Mark Zaurov]. The inventor of the internet, Vinton Cerf known as Vint Cerf has been Deaf since birth, and is recognized as the “Father of the Internet,” sharing this title with TCP/IP co-inventor Bob Kahn. Due to his frustrations with communicating with researchers, he developed the internet to solve the communication problem. He joined Gallaudet University’s Board of Trustees in 1997, the world’s only university designed to be barrier-free for Deaf students. [Source: <https://dhhcouncil.wisconsin.gov/dhhfiles/pdf/Cerf.pdf>]