



PERKINS  
SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

## **Braille Bibliography - Adults**

Note: NLS order numbers following some titles are for patrons of the National Library Service network of Braille and Talking Book libraries.

### **LOUIS BRAILLE--BIOGRAPHIES**

#### ***Books***

*Triumph Over Darkness: The life of Louis Braille.* Leonard Bickel. Leicester: Ulverscroft, 1989. 337pp. (large type); Sydney, Boston: Allen & Unwin Australia, 1988. 167pp. (regular type).

NLS: This title not available.

Lively and carefully researched biography of Louis Braille, with richly detailed information about the social and political climate of the era.

This title is out of print, but many libraries have a copy.

*The Reading Fingers: Life of Louis Braille 1809-1852.* Jean Roblin. Translated from French by Ruth Mandalian. 1955. Available in print (112pp.) or braille (116pp.). \$14.

A reverential telling of the life of Louis Braille.

Available from Louis Braille Center:

320 Dayton St., Suite 125, Edmonds, WA 98020 / (425) 776-4042  
[www.louisbraillecenter.org](http://www.louisbraillecenter.org)

#### ***Plays***

*Braille: The Early Life of Louis Braille.* Lola H. Coleman & Jennings A. Coleman. Woodstock, Ill.: Dramatic Publishing, 1989. 74pp.

Begins with the childhood accident which blinded him, and ends with his invention of braille at the age of fifteen.

Appropriate for school-age and adult audiences.

Available only from Dramatic Publishing:

P.O. Box 129, Woodstock, IL 60098 / (815) 338-7170  
[www.dramaticpublishing.com](http://www.dramaticpublishing.com)

## **Websites**

*Louis Braille*. Joseph E. Sullivan.

A short biography of Braille and an explanation of the system, written by the founder of Duxbury Systems.  
[www.duxburysystems.com/braille.asp](http://www.duxburysystems.com/braille.asp)

*Louis Braille*. Royal National Institute for the Blind.

Another telling of Braille's life story. Reading level appropriate for older children and adults.  
[www.rnib.org.uk/wesupply/fctsheet/braille.htm](http://www.rnib.org.uk/wesupply/fctsheet/braille.htm)

*The History of Reading Codes for the Blind*. New York Institute for Special Education

Brief outlines of the life and work of Louis Braille and others who were instrumental in developing writing systems for the blind. Includes a lengthy excerpt from *War of the Dots* by Richard Irwin, which provides in-depth historical information on the history and development of braille and other reading systems.  
[www.nyise.org/blind/barbier2.htm](http://www.nyise.org/blind/barbier2.htm)

*How Braille Began*. Enabling Technologies.

This well researched history of braille includes copious information about the life of Louis Braille.  
[www.brailleur.com/braillehx.htm](http://www.brailleur.com/braillehx.htm)

## **HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF BRAILLE**

### **Books**

*Braille Into the Next Millennium*. Washington, D.C.: National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Friends of Libraries for Blind and Physically Handicapped Individuals in North America, 2000. 600pp.

NLS: RC50969, BR13188

This comprehensive book includes information on the origins of braille, contemporary braille codes, assistive technology, electronic distribution of braille, and speculations about future developments. Includes a section about visiting Louis Braille's birthplace in France. Single print copies are available at no cost from:

Reference Section, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, The Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20542.

[www.loc.gov/nls/](http://www.loc.gov/nls/)

*War of the Dots*. Richard B. Irwin. Louis Braille Center.

82pp. Braille only, \$10.

NLS: BR010878

This engaging essay, originally written in 1955, is an account of the long and passionate struggle to establish uniform standards for a reading code among English-speaking countries.

The print version may be difficult to find through interlibrary loan. Most of the text is available on the internet: [www.nyise.org/blind/irwin2.htm](http://www.nyise.org/blind/irwin2.htm).

Braille version may be purchased from Louis Braille Center: 320 Dayton St., Suite 125, Edmonds, WA 98020 / (425) 776-4042 [www.louisbraillecenter.org](http://www.louisbraillecenter.org)

### **Videos**

*Sight By Touch*. Falls Church, Va.: Landmark Media, 1995. VHS, 27 min. \$195.

Not available with audio description.

Tells the story of Louis Braille and his invention.

Presented by a blind actress, this video focuses on sight-impaired participants who demonstrate the value of braille as a vital tool for independence, education, literacy and opportunity. A British video with relevance to all audiences.

Not easily found, but obtainable through interlibrary loan.

Can be purchased from Landmark Media, Inc.:

3450 Slade Run Dr., Falls Church, VA 22042 / 1-800-342-4336

[www.landmarkmedia.com/](http://www.landmarkmedia.com/)

### **Websites**

*About Braille - Fact Sheet*. National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

An excellent succinct presentation of braille. Explains the six-cell system of braille and includes a very brief sketch of Louis Braille's life.

<ftp://ftp.loc.gov/pub/nls/reference/facts/about.braille>

*How Braille Began*. Enabling Technologies.

Perhaps the most comprehensive and well researched presentation of the history and development of braille on the internet. Includes information about the life of Louis Braille, both as a child and adult.  
[www.brailleur.com/braillehx.htm](http://www.brailleur.com/braillehx.htm)

Braille Authority of North America  
*The Definition of Braille* section includes charts for contractions and abbreviations.  
*A Short History of the Braille Authority of North America* gives a chronology of the many competing braille codes in North America.  
[www.brailleauthority.org](http://www.brailleauthority.org)

*As I Saw It: The War of the Dots*, an expanded edition.  
Richard Irwin. 1955.  
An expanded version of Irwin's engaging 1955 essay, this is a first-hand account of the long and passionate struggle to establish uniform standards for a reading code among English-speaking countries.  
[www.nyise.org/blind/irwin2.htm](http://www.nyise.org/blind/irwin2.htm)

## **LEARNING BRAILLE**

### ***Correspondence Courses***

Hadley School for the Blind  
Offers free correspondence courses for family members of blind and severely visually impaired people. Courses cover Grade 1, Grade 2, and Nemeth mathematics code.  
The Hadley School for the Blind, 700 Elm Street, Winnetka, IL 60093-2554 USA / 1-800-323-4238  
[www.hadley-school.org](http://www.hadley-school.org)

### Library of Congress

The Library of Congress offers free courses in braille transcribing, which leads to certification as a transcriber.  
National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20542 1-800-424-8567  
[www.loc.gov/nls/bds.html](http://www.loc.gov/nls/bds.html)

## **Books**

*Braille for the Sighted.* Jane Schneider and Kathy Kifer.  
Eugene, OR: Garlic Press. 31pp. ISBN: 0-931993-95-4. \$5.95  
Short, lively, and inexpensive, this introduction to Grade I  
braille includes games and exercises. Aimed at children, but  
also suitable for adults.

Garlic Press, 1312 Jeppesen Ave., Eugene, OR 97401  
(541) 345-0063  
[www.garlicpress.com](http://www.garlicpress.com)

*Just Enough to Know Better: A Braille Primer.* Eileen P.  
Curran. Boston: National Braille Press Inc. 129pp. In large  
type and braille. \$14.

A self-instruction book designed for sighted parents of  
children who are learning braille. Covers some Grade 2,  
includes many practice exercises, flashcards and chart.  
National Braille Press  
88 St. Stephen Street, Boston, MA 02115  
(617) 266-6160 ext. 20 or (800) 548-7323  
[www.nbp.org](http://www.nbp.org)

*Handbook For Learning to Read Braille by Sight.* Leland  
Schubert. Louisville: 1966. 176pp. In regular print and  
braille. \$28.

A thorough presentation of braille, Grades 1 and 2.  
Includes numerous practice exercises.  
American Printing House for the Blind  
P.O. Box 6085, Louisville, KY 40206-0085 / (800) 223-1839  
[www.aph.org](http://www.aph.org)

## **Websites**

BRL: Braille Through Remote Learning.

This site offers a free online braille instruction program  
for teachers, parents, social workers, and current/future  
braille transcribers. The three self-paced courses include  
an introductory course which covers all Grade 2  
contractions; a transcriber's course; and specialized codes.  
The BRL program was developed with funding from the U.S.  
Department of Education's Braille Literacy Program.  
[www.brl.org](http://www.brl.org)

HotBraille

A braille letter service. The user types in the text, which  
is transcribed into braille and sent at no charge. Website  
includes quizzes, braille practice exercise, and a service  
for locating commercial vendors to transcribe braille.  
[www.hotbraille.com](http://www.hotbraille.com)

Perkins School for the Blind  
175 North Beacon Street  
Watertown, MA 02472  
617-972-7250  
[www.perkins.org](http://www.perkins.org)