

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910819078503321
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Titolo	Abbé Sicard's Deaf Education : Empowering the Mute, 1785-1820 // by Emmet Kennedy
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York : , : Palgrave Macmillan US : , : Imprint : Palgrave Macmillan, , 2015
ISBN	1-137-51286-5
Edizione	[1st ed. 2015.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (XIX, 212 p.)
Classificazione	HIS013000HIS037060LAN017000
Disciplina	371.91/2092
Soggetti	Historical linguistics Language and education France—History History, Modern Sign language Europe—History Historical Linguistics Language Education History of France Modern History Sign Language European History
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Machine generated contents note: -- Introduction -- One: The Ascent to Paris -- Two: Passport through the Terror -- Three: A Refractory Priest in the Republic of Professors -- Four: Sicard and Napoleon -- Five: International Signing During the Restoration -- Conclusion -- List of Abbreviations -- Notes -- Appendices -- I. The Library of the Abbe Sicard -- II. F. Berthier's Account of Sicard's Encounter with Bonaparte -- III. Berthier's Estimation of Sicard's Signing Method.
Sommario/riassunto	Abbé Sicard was a French revolutionary priest and an innovator of French and American sign language. He enjoyed a meteoric rise from Toulouse and Bordeaux to Paris and, despite his non-conformist

tendencies, he escaped the guillotine. In fact, the revolutionaries acknowledged his position and during the Terror of 1794, they made him the director of the first school for the deaf. Later, he became a member of the first Ecole Normale, the National Institute, and the Académie Française. He is recognized today as having developed Enlightenment theories of pantomime, 'signing,' and a form of "universal language" that later spread to Russia, Spain, and America. This is the first book-length biography of Sicard published in any language since 1873, despite Sicard's international renown. This thoughtful, engaging work explores French and American sign language and deaf studies set against the backdrop of the French Revolution and Napoleon.
