

incarceration during WWII. This podcast connects the audience to untold stories through stirring storytelling and quality production.

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Disability History Association podcast. Disability History Association. Caroline Loeffers and Kelsey Henry, Hosts. [http://dishist.org/?page\\_id=735](http://dishist.org/?page_id=735). January 2018–present; Accessed April 2021.

“But what my dissertation research focuses on is, incredibly, a disability history of the television series *The Waltons*.”<sup>1</sup> From the very first episode of this podcast, it is brought home that disability can be found everywhere, even in well-loved television shows. This was a very clever choice for a first episode of the Disability History Association’s (DHA) podcast, drawing on a show and a pastime familiar to many of us. Even without my current involvement in researching disability history, this would have piqued my interest. The DHA, a nonprofit organization, promotes disability histories and the study of disabilities broadly. It is an inclusive and international organization and welcomes everyone working on disability history no matter the time period or geographic scope. As an association, the DHA offers access to a wealth of resources, newsletters, awards and a community of historians—as well as its podcast.

The podcast itself focuses on recent work undertaken in disability history. Importantly, guests come from both inside and outside of academia, which is refreshing to see promoted and will hopefully foster some purposeful partnerships. Running since January 2018, there are now twenty-seven episodes covering a wide range of topics, regions, and time periods. Disability history is a burgeoning field, still in its infancy, yet exciting, despite, as Alice Wong states in the introduction to her masterful collection *Disability Visibility*, the fact that disabled people have always existed.<sup>2</sup> And this podcast is beginning to explore wider contexts of disability in the past, although perhaps as both the podcast and disability historians move forward we will see more on earlier time periods and wider geographies. What it does do extremely well is show that disability history doesn’t just belong to the historians or to academic tomes. Episodes encompass everything from exhibitions in museums, television and film, and accessibility in museums and universities. The importance of objects and

1 Haley Gienow-McConnell, “Disability and *The Waltons*,” Disability History Association podcast, episode 1, January 2018, [http://dishist.org/?page\\_id=735](http://dishist.org/?page_id=735).

2 Alice Wong, “Introduction,” in *Disability Visibility: First-Person Stories from the Twenty-First Century*, ed. Alice Wong (New York: Vintage Books, 2020), xxii.

material culture, which are increasingly being used to tell stories of disability and engage wider audiences, is highlighted, and will be of particular interest to public historians. It is also a joy to hear of the kindness and collegiality that shines through in many of these discussions. There are various shout-outs to, and praises sung of, archivists, librarians, archaeologists, museum staff—the list goes on. This highlighting of the importance of those not in academia proper is so significant and shows how fruitful conversations with wider partners can be.

When listening to the podcast, one thing that struck me is how conversational the pieces are, despite being about academic subjects. We begin with an introduction to the guest, before gaining a brief overview of the area they work on. And then the deep-dive into the subject matter begins. This is a really accessible way of formatting the discussion and puts the listener at ease with subject matter they might not be as familiar with. Caroline Lieffers makes a wonderful host, with insightful and relevant questions to keep the conversation flowing, as well as asking for clarification on points that wider audiences might not be familiar with. This also allows for interesting tangents and asides that would not be as welcome in the written form. Since late 2020, Lieffers has been joined by graduate student Kelsey Henry in hosting duties, bringing another fresh voice to the scene and further fostering this sense of partnership and inclusivity. It is also delightful to experience how genuinely enthusiastic Lieffers and Henry are about the topics under discussion. With an average run-time of an hour, all of this makes for an enjoyable (and educational) listening experience.

The podcast is hosted on the DHA's website, and can be streamed there. Some people might be put off that you can't easily stream it on the usual platforms, such as Spotify, but this shouldn't deter you from enjoying the wealth of material. You can also download an mp3 recording, to allow ease of listening on a platform that is more suited to you, and a pdf transcript of the discussion is also available. I listened to many of the episodes on the internet browser on my phone and it worked perfectly well—even when I was using other apps and had it running in the background. The website itself is not the most exciting, but the functionality makes up for that. Only one of the podcasts (September 2020) has any related images displayed on the website, underneath the audio player. In keeping with accessibility, both of these images have alt text to describe what is shown in them.

In a talk for HistFest 2021, the historian David Turner reminded us that disability is something that we will all experience at some point, whether directly or indirectly, and, again, that disabled people are everywhere.<sup>3</sup> A cry was raised for more disability history, both in academia and for the public. But we also need to be clearer about resources we do have already available—such as the DHA's podcast. The stories of disability told in this podcast are eye-opening, powerful and moving, as well as fascinating. An educational and important podcast, I would recommend everyone gives this a listen.

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<sup>3</sup> David Turner and Amy Kavanagh, "Disability in the Industrial Revolution: Pitmen, Politicians, Activists and Artists," online talk for HistFest 2021, April 10, 2021.