

THE INSTITUTE FOR SEMANTOGRAPHY

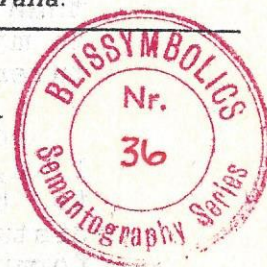
Founder and Director: C. K. BLISS.

2 Vicar Street, Geogee

Spaulley, N.S.W., Australia.

The Honorary Secretary
Physical Society
University of Sydney

8th July 1951



Dear Sir,

Your invitation to address the Physical Society about Semantography and its applications to Physics has been pleasant news and I beg you to tender my thanks to the officers and members of the Society. If a man has worked for 9 years on a new idea, and sees now that interest is coming his way, this fact compensates for all the hardships of the past.

The moment I read your letter, my mind was occupied and is still occupied with thoughts of what I want to tell you, and what may interest you. In short, I want to make a good job of it. I want that this lunch-hour address, should be more than a lecture "sandwiched" in between other lectures, and quickly forgotten. My hope is, that this address may interest other Physical Societies in other Universities.

In order to acquaint your officers with my thoughts I have duplicated this letter, so that you may hand over a copy to each officer. The trouble with me and my work is, that I am very little known and so is my work. In consequence thereof, a large audience is not likely. However, if some posters are provided for, and if an explanatory leaflet is distributed, interest in the lecture may be fostered and many students may be attracted.

For this reason, I want to show more of Semantography, than it may be expected, namely, a new mode of writing to communicate scientific thoughts and knowledge across the language barrier. I want to show that Semantics, the Theory of Meaning and Semantography could play an important part in the thinking of the physicist, even if he is not interested to communicate in a new ideography. For this reason, I propose the title

PHYSICS, SEMANTICS AND SEMANTOGRAPHY

My idea is to print an invitation which should carry a number of quotations pertaining to the matter. I would submit these quotations to you for approval, and I am even ready to help - if necessary - to have these invitations attractively printed. In short, I want to make every effort in order to secure a lasting effect of the labours, which I am ready to put into this lecture.

Two other thoughts (and hopes) are bound up with these efforts. During my work I made a study of the aspects of the picture writings of old, Chinese, Babylonian, Egyptian down to the cave paintings of paleolithic man, and I believe I have made a discovery of far-reaching consequences, something which - if properly presented - should be nothing short of a sensation. It should interest every physicist.

In my discussions with Bertrand Russell and other scientists I have refrained from mentioning this discovery. Semantography alone is such a novel idea, that I was glad to be able to convince learned men of its practicability. There was no time for my other work. But now, I have approached a few men, and the first to answer and agree with my view is Professor Ashley Montagu of Rutgers University, N.J., U.S.A. I hope therefore that the University of Sydney would be interested in it.

please turn over

The second thought should even more interest physicists. For more than 30 years I have tried to explain to groups and audiences, and to myself, the Relativity Theory. I have been a honorary science lecturer in educational halls, colleges, etc.

Now symbols have become an obsession with me. And I believe that I am, more than many people, acutely aware of the relation of a symbol to the reality it should represent. And more and more this thought disturbs me: how far was Lorentz justified in drawing up his famous formula to account for the negative result of the Michelson-Morley experiment. In this formula and its transformations the symbols t and t' stand for a variable time, a time which slows down and accelerates. He had not the slightest experimental proof that time really acts this way. Today, more than half a century later, we still have no proof for this - as far as my knowledge goes. Is then the symbol correct?

With regard to this thought and its consequences, I have not approached any learned man, and I take this opportunity to approach you and the Physical Society. May be, you might be interested to hear about this and the first idea mentioned overleaf - perhaps at a later date.

And this brings me back to the lunch-hour address. I assume that it should last half an hour with a discussion to follow up. I wish to say that the idea of Semantography, and especially its semantical aspect, is so novel, so contrary to all we have learned about language, that half an hour is usually not enough. Furthermore, a discussion leads sometimes away from the subject, if a far-fetched question is asked. I mention this in case, you might be perhaps inclined to arrange this lecture as a full hour lecture with a full-fledged discussion afterwards. However, I shall gladly co-operate with whatever arrangement you think would be best. The best Tuesday in this month would be for me the 31st of July. This is the zoning day for General Motors, and I would be free. It would also give enough time to prepare for a leaflet and its distribution.

In closing this letter I wish to say that I appreciate very much the interest you are showing in Semantography. In return, I want to do my best in delivering a worthy lecture. For me, this is a historic event, the invitation to address the Physical Society of the University of Sydney. Some great libraries have started to collect Semantographiana, items which would tell the story of the growth of this new world-embracing idea. And I think that your invitation and my lecture would be a worthy item to be included.

By a quirk of fate I entered industry instead, as I wanted, the University as a lecturer. I worked for a time in a research laboratory of the General Electric Co, and was then directed as a trouble shooter in production, in patent-litigation and then in business. Little time was left for creative thought. Now, through the generous action of the Sydney University Extension Board, and now through your kind invitation I am finding home to mother, the Alma Mater. Thanks for this.

Yours Sincerely

C.K. Bliss