

WE LEARN THE SYMBOLS OF SEMANTOGRAPHY

Dear Girls and Boys, dear Adult Friends,

The first 15 symbols of Semantography we have learned on page 18 and 19. They are old acquaintances.

The first 10 symbols are the numbers: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0

The next 5 symbols are the symbols for mathematical operations: + - x : =

This "One Writing for One World" is a new tool for mutual understanding between the peoples of this planet. You know that whatever tool you use, you must learn to handle it. Learn diligently to handle Semantography.

A writing can be best learned by writing. Take an exercise book with ruled lines and draw slowly (this is important) and neatly the symbols below. If you will hurry your lines will not be correct and the drawings will not be pleasing to the eye. Draw each symbol at least 10 times in a row.

crystal	flower	tree	bird	man	woman
earth	sky	world	sun	moon	star

PICTURES : In the actual book each symbol can be accompanied by a small picture of the real thing. This would facilitate the recognition of the symbols.

All those drawings above, picture real material THINGS. These THINGS do really exist. They are part of this universe of ours.

These THINGS perform ACTIONS. The sky consist of masses of air, which move about as wind and storm. Beyond, are the moon and the sun and all the millions and millions of stars. They too move and our earth itself is a tiny speck moving around the sun. On our earth, even a crystal grows out of a solution in beautiful geometrical harmony. We call its ACTION: to crystallise. The other THINGS pictured above are living THINGS and they perform many and varied ACTIONS. A flower flowers, a tree grows, a bird flies, sings, gathers food, cares for the young, etc. etc. And we human beings are performing many ACTIONS all the time of our life. We are in constant ACTION, even when we sleep, which itself is a complex ACTION of our body and brain.

But how can we picture all these different ACTIONS ? Every ACTION means a movement, and these symbols in this book don't move. They are still pictures. To make still pictures move, we need a cine projector and a film. Or we can use the pages of this book. Here on the margin is the picture of a man. Now take the next 20 pages between your fingers and let the pages flip. You will see the man going. The flipping of the pages acts similarly to a film in a projector. Each still picture shows the figure in an advanced position.

But we can't use this method for writing letters or books. We must find a simple symbol for ACTION and whenever we see this symbol, we shall know that it means an ACTION performed by a THING.

For a number of years I tried to find a good and simple symbol for ACTION. It should appeal not only to children, but even to scientists. Let me explain my symbol.

The geologists tell us that in ages past our earth was in a molten state. The surface had just cooled down to a flat crust. Then suddenly at one spot the earth burst and a volcano belched flames and molten stones and in a short time a cone was formed. In another spot the crust may have been moved by the molten lava underneath. Soon a mountain was thrust upwards. (Note: pictures should illustrate this)

These throwing up of volcano cones and thrusting up of mountains may have been one of the first visible ACTIONS on our young earth. And this primeval ACTION is pictured in the symbol below:



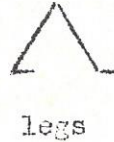
ACTION

But, mind you, this symbol shall not mean a volcano or a mountain or their actions. It should mean an ACTION IN GENERAL, ANY ACTION of any THING. Now if you look closely at this symbol you will see that it resembles the Latin letter A in the word A-C-T-I-O-N. This word is of Latin origin ACTUS a doing, and we find it in many variations in many languages, as for instance act, active, activity, actor, activate, etc. This should help us to recognise quickly the meaning of our symbol. Moreover, it is much simpler. The word A C T I O N consists of 8 straight lines and 2 curved lines, whereas our symbol consists only of 2 lines, and it should have the same meaning in all languages.

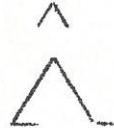
MAKING THINGS PERFORM ACTIONS

Now we are going to use our symbol for ACTION. The symbol shown below is an age-old symbol. The Egyptians used it 7000 years ago. It looks indeed like the legs

of a human being:



As such, this symbol reminds us of our ACTION symbol. Indeed, the ACTION which is visible even from far away when looking at a human being in motion, is the ACTION of his moving legs. But the symbol above indicates only the legs, the THINGS. In order to indicate the ACTION we shall put our ACTION symbol as an indicator on top of the symbol.



to leg, to go, to walk
to step, to march, to
tread, to pace, etc.etc.

Now let us use our ACTION indicator on top of other symbols, for instance the sun.



sun

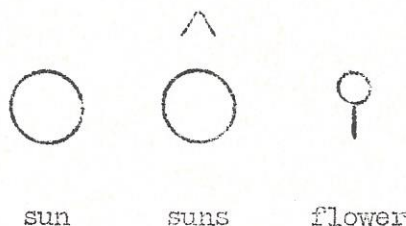


to sun

The sun performs many ACTIONS. First of all terrific heat is generated within the sun, probably by atomic reactions. At some spots great explosions occur and fiery masses are thrown hundreds of thousands of miles up. Those sunspot activities cause magnetic storms, disrupt radio communications on our earth, affects our weather and make the skies around the North and South pole glow in phantastic colours.

Furthermore, the sun turns slowly around himself, and he moves with the whole solar system (including our earth and we on it) towards the star constellation of Hercules.

But the most important ACTIONS (most important for us) is the sending out of enormous amounts of light and warmth. And this is what we mean by the ACTION word to sun. We like to sun ourselves, to feel the glorious warmth and the brilliant light. And so do the flowers. And this we can write down in our first sentence in Semantography:



This sentence in Semantography tells us more than the sentence in ordinary writing. It can be accepted even by the scientist. The suns ACTION means not only

warmth and light, but also invisible light, the ultraviolet light which performs miracles in a flower. It brings out the most gorgeous colours, the sweetest perfumes, the most enrapturing designs - how all this is done nobody knows. We all - including the botanists - can only behold in wonder the perpetual miracles going on in the gardens, the meadows, the forests and even in the deserts where there is a bit of earth and water and a tiny seed.

THE LIGHT AND THE EYE

But how do we come to know light? Well, because of our eyes. Children who have the terrible misfortune of having been born blind have never seen the sun and never know what light is. Our eye itself is even a greater miracle than a flower. It enables us to reach the farthest stars or rather it enables us to receive the light coming from the depth of the universe and in transforming it into impulses in our brain tells us of the mysteries of the universe. And here is our simple symbol for eye and its ACTION.

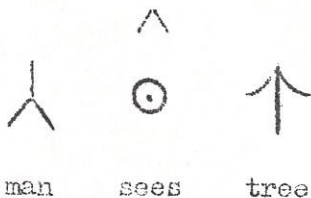


eye

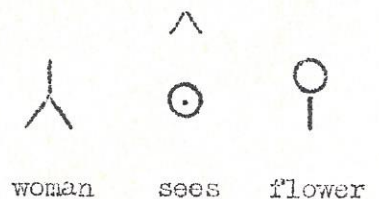


to see, to eye, to look, to glance, to observe, to notice to perceive, to behold, etc.

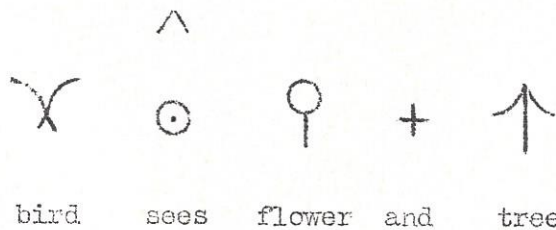
Now we can form other sentences:



man sees tree



woman sees flower



bird sees flower and tree

The last symbol sentence tells us something more, namely that birds have eyes which are built and which act in much the same way as the eyes of human beings. Yes, birds too have eyes and they can see the sun and the flowers and the trees and behold the wonders of our world.

Have you ever been up in a meadow before sunrise? Have you ever felt the awe when seeing the sky in flames and the golden rays of the sun reaching your eye? And have you ever seen and heard a tiny bird - the lark - circling high and greeting the sun in joy, jubilation and prayer to its creator? This is something which stirs

profoundly every living being.

And these thoughts bring us to our symbol for light. All the stars are suns. But they are so far away that their light is very dim. The light we know comes from the nearest star, from our sun. And to become aware of it, an eye is needed. These two things symbolised in a compound symbol will give us our symbol for light.



sun

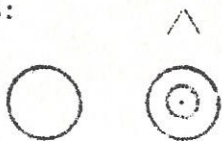


eye



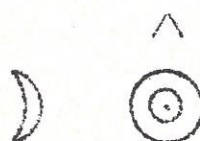
light

This symbol should satisfy even the physicist and the physiologist. Without the sun, there is no light. Without the eye, there is no light either. Now we can write sentences:



sun

shines



moon

shines

Now, you may be puzzled by the second sentence. But you will know that the light which we receive from the moon is actually reflected sunlight. And we can see the flowers, the trees and all the things on our earth, because they too reflect the light of the sun.

But there are things on our earth which produce their own light. For instance, we may make a pile of wood or coal, ignite it and have a fire:



fire

You can see the wavy outline of a flame in this symbol. Now we can form another sentence:



fire



shines

Now, you may be even more puzzled. What has the sun to do with a wood or coal fire? The answer is : very much ! Indeed if there wouldn't be a sun there never would be any wood or coal.

The tree grew up - because of the energy received from the sun. In burning a piece of wood, this energy is transformed back into heat and light. And every piece

of coal is a piece of a tree which lived millions of years back. And this brings us to our symbol for life.

THE SYMBOL FOR LIFE

Yes, the tree lives under the rays of the sun and every flower, every plant, every bird, every organism including we human beings, we live because of the energy received from the sun.

But there must be something more to make things live. After all, the sun shines on rocks and stones and minerals - but they don't live. What more is needed to make material things become alive ?

This thought worried me a great deal, when I searched for a symbol for life. What is life really ? What makes life ? To find the answer, I read a number of books written by experts on this subject, the biologists (from the Greek word bios, life) Then I studied books written by the paleontologists (Greek paleio old, onta existing things), those experts who study fossils to find out how life developed on our earth.

At last, I found the answer in a book EARLY LIFE by paleontologist Professor Raymond of Harvard University. His answer is indeed short, precise and to the point. He said: "What life is, nobody knows !"

There you have it. Nobody knows. It is one of the greatest mysteries of the universe. What symbol then should we choose ? We shall follow here Leibnitz's advice who said that we should picture invisible things "by the visible, which accompany them ?" What are the visible things, which accompany the meaning of life ?

We have learned the symbols for man and woman, or rather a male and female human being. But we need a simple symbol for an individual, regardless of sex. Here it is:



individual

It consists of 2 lines only, whereas our symbol for male human consists of 3 lines and female human consists of 4 lines. This is an advantage. The symbol above shows an upright being, standing on his or her legs with the feet pointing outward. Moreover it resembles the letter I as in I (myself) and in I-dividual (from the Latin word individuus indivisible. Indeed a living being is one entity, it cannot be divided up). In this wider sense, the term individual is applicable to any organism, and if you want, you can see in the above outline an animal standing on its hind legs, or a bird standing like a penguin or sitting, or a plant seedling, just out, its roots

growing sidewise. And all these individuals live.

Yes, I and you and all the other individuals live because of some mysterious life force of which we know nothing. But this we know that the energy supplied by the sun is necessary, is vital for life (Latin vita life). If the sun were blotted out suddenly, all individuals and all life on earth would be blotted out instantly. Within a few minutes everything would freeze to death.

So let us form our symbol for life by combining the symbol for the individual with the symbol for the sun.



sun



individual



life

Now let us form sentences:



man



lives



woman



lives



bird



lives



flower



lives

CREATION AND CREATOR

Primitive people in ages past have realised that they live because of the sun's activity. And many became sun worshippers. Even today, many people celebrate the winter solstice (22nd December) when the sun begins to rise higher and higher, awakening the flowers and trees, the birds and butterflies and indeed all life on earth.

PICTURES: As pointed out before, all symbols and all explanations can be + in the final book - accompanied by pictures. In this instance, pictures of sun worshippers, stonehenge, etc. can be chosen, to make the book more absorbing for people.

When primitive men learned to make fire, which gave them light and warmth, they realised that the sun must be a great ball of fire. And as they were able to create a little fire, they realised that SOMEONE must have created the big fire, the sun, and also all the marvels of the world. They called him CREATOR, but as mankind was divided by many languages, they invented many words for the meaning of CREATOR.

The wise men of old, the philosophers (from the Greek philos loving and sophos wise, the lovers of wisdom) studied the aspects of Creation and realised that a great harmony and beauty, a great intelligence and purpose is at work in our world. The Greek word for science is mathematike. Greek philosophers were enraptured by the har-

mony and eternal truth which they found in geometrical configurations and the mathematical relationship of lines and planes. Even today, philosophers and mathematicians say : "God is a mathematician."

The wonderful beauty and harmony which we observe in the lines and planes of a crystal shows us that even the things which are not alive are built up according to a divine harmony. The Greek philosophers were convinced that the simplicity and harmony which we find in geometrical configurations are a direct proof of the existence of a Creator.

Have you ever played with lines ? Have you ever drawn squares and pentagons and hexagons and polygons (all Greek words) and have you divided these configurations into triangles ? There is a great thrill in finding the geometrical harmonies. The scientists of old had no drawing paper. So they traced the figures in sand and studied them. Archimedes a great Greek mathematician died in 212 B.C. He was so immersed in the lines and circles before him, that he was oblivious of the fact, that the enemy had taken the town. When soldiers stormed into his room, he cried out: "Don't disturb my lines !" Alas, in ignorance and bestiality, they killed him.

PICTURES picturing the above described event, and the event described below

The boy Blaise Pascal played with lines and drew all kind of triangles. And he found all the geometrical laws governing triangles. You can do this too. Just immerse yourself in some aspect of nature and study it. The more you will penetrate into the mystery, the more will you feel elevated and enlightened. You may collect shells, those geometrical beauties of the sea, and you may become an expert in shells, even a professor. Blaise Pascal became a famous mathematician.

Which geometrical configuration is the simplest ? The triangle, because it can be formed with 3 straight lines only. And which triangle is the most harmonious one ?



the equal-sided triangle

All sides are of equal length. The lines dividing the triangle, drawn from the middle of each line, the lines standing perpendicular to the side lines, the lines indicating the force of gravity, etc. etc. all those lines meet in one central point. Moreover, the sight of this triangle is of majestic beauty. Out of a firm and horizontal base rise the lines to a pinnacle of harmony, symmetry and simplicity. This, concluded the philosophers of old, is a worthy symbol for the divine aspect of Nature.

Which other symbol would be worthy to indicate the purposeful force working in living beings ? The eye, that miraculous thing which enables us to see the universe.

Those both symbols together were used by the wise men of old to stand for the meaning of God and Creator. You can find this symbol throughout the centuries and ages in places of worship and in books of many religions. We shall use this age-old symbol in Semantography to stand for the meaning of Creator. Without the eye, it should stand for the meaning of Nature.



Creator



Nature

The eye inside the equal-sided triangle signifies the all-seeing and all-knowing Creator. However, you should take this as a symbol of the creative force which we name Creator, and not infer that God has an eye, and looks like a human being. God is in every flower, in every tree, in every living thing, and this means us too.

If we hurt ourselves and cut a wound in our flesh something amazing is happening. Mysteriously alarm bells are beginning to ring in our body. Many cells rush to the scene of the accident and try to help repair the damage. New chemical compounds are manufactured in special organs of the body, and put into the blood and lymph stream, so that the body can overcome and survive the accident. And in due course, new cells are built around the wound, which closes perfectly leaving the skin and flesh healthy again. How all this is done, we just don't know. It's miraculous.

But these miraculous happenings do not occur in a human body only. The same happens in all living organisms, including the stem of a flower and the branch of a tree. But man is the highest developed organism in our world.

We know now that all those activities are directed from one part of our body the brain. Apparently this is the centre of the creative force. And because we have a brain, we human beings can create more things than a flower or an animal can. We can create poems and symphonies, new materials and new apparatuses, which are indeed proof of the creative force working within us.

In the last century many great inventions have been made, much knowledge has been uncovered and man became drunk with his own powers of creation. He considered himself the master of the universe, the creator himself. But to give this idea a firm basis, he had to conclude that this world of ours, is just the product of chaos and he its master. There is no God, only chaos. Man is the creator.

We are told that the great physicist, anatomist and physiologist Herman von Helmholtz said once: "If an optician would bring me such a faulty instrument as the human eye is, I would reject it." Helmholtz lived and died in the last century, when

that false faith was started. I cannot think of any statement which would show more forcefully the fallacy which fell upon mankind than the opinion of Helmholtz about the eye. You should know that my father was an optician, my brothers were opticians and I crawled around as a baby in father's workshop and played with scratched lenses.

But you yourself will be able to realise Helmholtz error. Just think of the lens in your camera, and compare it with the living eye, an instrument which can adapt itself to different distances, which closes and opens its diaphragm automatically in relation with the light available, which repairs its own tissue when scratched, and above all, above all, which is created from a tiny cell. Just observe the stages within a chicken egg, when slowly and miraculously the eye is formed with its lens, its iris, its retina, and all its magical powers - perpetual miracle.

Yes, only a Creator could have created such miracles, and we ourselves are creatures of creation. But we are highest on the evolutionary spiral which we see in the world of ours. And apparently the creative force is concentrated within our brain. This force is invisible. Again we shall use Leibnitz's advice and picture this force by the visible thing which accompanies it, the form of the brain as encased by the upper skull.


mind
(skull outline)

This outline indicates too the brain of the higher living organisms, the birds and animals. And they too can use their brain to build nests, to find food, and care for the young and the herd. Now that man sees himself on the highest point of creation, he feels himself compelled by the creative force within him to go on to higher levels of creation. Here is the symbol sentence

 
man thinks

We have been given a brain to work out our own salvation, to remove the difficulties which beset us, to overcome them in order to create a better world. We see the work of the Creator, the harmonious co-operation of atoms and cells in living communities and it is our task to create harmonious co-operation between all human beings, who themselves are single cells of a world brain. And to overcome the difficulties of understanding which now beset the peoples of this planet, we must go on to create a medium which could be understood by all the people. Here it is this

" ONE WRITING FOR ONE WORLD "

INTERMISSION or rather FINAL CHAPTER in these first draft chapters
of
CHILDREN'S PRIMER ON SEMANTOGRAPHY

WILL SEMANTOGRAPHY SPREAD ?

This is a new idea, and every new and unusual idea looks strange at first. You may then ask, whether Semantography has a future. The answer is definitely yes ! And here is the proof.

One of the most important symbols of Semantography is the arrow an age-old symbol

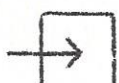


the international symbol for a direction

You can find the arrow all over the world, in every railway station, in every public building, cinema, theatre, etc. etc. And you will find the arrow in many symbols of Semantography. This new writing will spread by stages, and here is the first stage:



DOOR



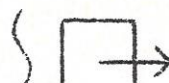
ENTRANCE



EXIT



FIRE



FIRE - EXIT

These symbols are simple and almost self-explanatory. They consist of a few lines only, and they have the same meaning in all languages. Once fire brigades, insurance companies, city councils, etc. will know about them, they will order that all public buildings anywhere in the world should carry them. In a fire, people are out of their wits. They fail to comprehend the jumble of lines in alphabetical writing. These symbols are much more vivid, and need no "translation" in our mind.

The first practical work you can do is to put up these signs in your school, induce the cinema manager to put them up in his cinema, etc. etc. Thus Semantography will spread. Then - when this book will come onto the market, I shall have organised a pen-friend exchange centre, where you can get friends of Semantography in different parts of the world. You can write to them, exchange stamps, or photos or just friendship with them. Thus Semantography will spread.

It all depends now on a publisher who has the vision seeing Semantography not only ^{as} a world-embracing idea, but that it will mean books and primers in many, many languages of the world. from which the peoples will learn the symbols of Semantography. Bertrand Russell wrote: "Any man or men who will spend the money necessary to get this work printed will, in my opinion, be performing an important service to mankind."

Will this manuscript proposal find the enlightened publisher ?

C.K. Bliss
 C.K. Bliss