



THE SOCIETIES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY
AND SEMANTOGRAPHY

To the Officers
of the Society as addressed
University of Sydney

Sydney June 1952

Dear Colleagues,

Professor A.G. Mitchell, who was Chairman at my first lecture on my work Semantography at the Wallace Theatre last year (sponsored by the Sydney University Extension Board) advised me that I should continue to lecture to the Societies, as I did already to the Physical Society, to the Students' Geological Society, to the Students Society of the University of Technology, etc. I approach you therefore and as an introduction I offer the following

Extracts from HONI SOIT and UNION RECORDER, etc.

"You could not forget having heard Bliss lecture on Semantography"... "If you have not heard Bliss, then you cannot afford to miss this opportunity"... "Those who know of Bliss and his work will all be there"... "Hear this vital personality"... etc, etc,

Inspired by my lectures David Donaldson, an honours graduate wrote the first article on Semantography, which was accepted but not published by the editor of HERMES 1951. The honour goes to John Brummell, Editor of the Magazine of New England University College, Armidale, who published prominently on the first pages an article written by W.A. Heaney, another honours graduate of Sydney University.

Extracts from the writings of eminent Scholars

Professor A.G. Mitchell (Sydney) "charmed and fascinated", Professor V.A. Bailey (Sydney) "deserves every encouragement by private or public means", Professor Lancelot Hogben (Birmingham) "interesting, stimulating, fascinating, ingenious", Professor G. Patrick Meredith (Leeds) "unconditional eulogy", Professor Carleton Washburne (New York) "ingenious... could be of great value", Professor Oliver L. Reiser (Pittsburgh) "Bliss's heroic work... a powerful stimulus and aid", Bertrand Russell (London) "Semantography... I think very highly of it... an important service to mankind", etc, etc.

Semantography - what is it all about ?

We learn the 3 R's and then we go on learning more R's and Arts. But the most important R is not taught in the primary and secondary schools of the world - for lack of a simple method: The Art of Reasoning. And the abstract symbols of formal, symbolic and mathematical Logic are a headache even to university students. We, the People of this Planet, who must think and reason, must draw conclusions and make decisions almost every hour of our life, we need a simple Logic and a simple Semantics for recognizing vague and ambiguous words, and the fallacies (Greek falsehoods) of dictators and demagogues, including the little ones, the dominant fathers and the cheeky sons, who know all the answers.

A 300 years-old prophecy coming true at last.

300 years ago, John Locke the philosopher and Gottfried W. Leibnitz, the mathematician-philosopher wrote their ESSAYS CONCERNING HUMAN UNDERSTANDING and Leibnitz speculated about the possibility of inventing a simple "Algebra of Thought", which should be "very popular", "very agreeable to the people", which would "guide the mind" and "give thoughts less absurd and verbal than we now have". However, he ruled out abstract mathematical symbols, and said that they must be pictorial "for rendering our conceptions more real." In addition he prophesied that such a Symbolis Universalis "would be of service

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for easy communication with distant nations."

To these speculations Locke replies: "I think your thoughts will some day be carried out, so agreeable and natural appears to me this writing." But in 1921 Ogdon and Richards wrote in THE MEANING OF MEANING that Leibnitz's speculation "still remains, where Leibnitz thus left it". He himself made no attempt to draw up any of such symbols.

Now, Professor Oliver L. Reiser wrote: "Bliss realized the ambition of the great mathematician Leibnitz" and Sir Richard Paget (London) Fellow of the Physical Society and the Institute of Physics London, wrote: "Semantography may fairly claim to be the first attempt to realize Leibnitz's idea of "small figures in the place of words...for rendering our conceptions more real."

I am an industrial research chemist

and we chemists are down-to-earth people (literally) and trained in scientific analysis. In 1941 Prof. Bodmer and Prof. Hogben wrote in THE LOOM OF LANGUAGE that one group of people, the chemists have realized Leibnitz's Symbolis Universalis in their limited field. Indeed H_2O is more meaningful than w-a-t-e-r, e-a-u, a-q-u-a, a-g-u-a, w-a-s-s-e-r, v-o-d-a, etc. and girls and boys in the high schools of the world have learned to operate the Logic and Semantics of chemical "Semantography" (Greek meaningful writing). And - as Leibnitz predicted it - H_2O has the same meaning (water) in all languages of the world. A vague meaning is indicated by another symbol, as for instance, the letter n in $(H_2O)_n$ indicates a vague amount of crystal water molecules.

But the symbols of chemistry are abstract phonetic letters. Leibnitz demanded pictorial symbols even for the highbrow abstractions of educated speech. This was considered a mere philosophers speculations, impossible to realize. Now - I a chemist have analysed language and have separated the "elements of meaning". The result: Semantography.

What are the advantages of Semantography ?

Semantography is a new tool for mutual understanding across all languages and nations. We hear almost every day that mutual understanding is today a matter of life and death. And indeed, the idea of Semantography is already in operation in a field where mutual understanding is a matter of life and death (literally). On the motor highways of the world, where thousands of people are killed daily, and where there are casualties more than in any war, warning signs written in the native languages are taken down and replaced by pictographic symbols. A bent arrow  means a CURVE in all languages of the world. And whereas the word CURVE is ambiguous (right? left?), the pictographic symbol shows what is meant: a bend in the road to the right.

For nearly 300 years it was believed that an international language would be the cure for the language Babel. Today more than half a century of Esperanto, more than a quarter century of Basic English we should realize that the peoples of this planet stick to their mother-tongues, even in the most literate countries in the world. In the United States recruiting posters had to be printed in 26 different languages for Americans who speak almost exclusively French, or Italian, or Swedish, etc. etc. During world war II, something happened in England which hasn't happened since William the Conqueror came over in 1066. A Canadian battalion took over the guard of honour at St. James Palace, and the language of command was French. Those soldiers coming from Quebec and environments understood only French. I happened to be in London at that time, and I remember the stir it made in all papers. And remember - those Americans and Canadians were not newcomers in their countries. Their forefathers came to America centuries ago. In South Australia there are towns where German is the language of communication, and the people who speak it are Australians in the fourth generation. In Queensland there are Italian towns. In short: let's give up the idea of an international language. Let's instead follow the trend which has been so successful in science: symbols, independent from any language. $1 + 2 = 3$ can be read and understood in all languages. Here then are the advantages of Semantography:

Semantography is a modern picto-ideography which everyone can read in his mother-tongue. A new medium for interlinguistic communication for natives, children, boy scouts, business men, technicians and even scientists who don't understand each others language. A letter, a primer, a paper, even a poem written, typed or printed in Semantography can be read in all languages of the world.

Semantography is the new medium for scientific communication and for an international science abstract. I have done years of scientific library research, and I have felt the truth in Prof. Lanlot Hogben's words, that the "Babel of scientific publications is a social problem of the first magnitude." In my lectures at the University of Sydney

I have asked to be given any scientific meaning to be translated into Semantography. In all cases I have satisfied my listeners that the symbols of Semantography are simple and that they can do the job - the job, unheard-of before, that two scientists, two doctors, two engineers who don't know a single word of each others language, can write a letter to each other, each one reading in his mother-tongue, be it French, or Hindustani or any other language.

Semantography is at its simplest level a picture writing for three quarters of the world's population who are illiterate and divided by thousands of languages and dialects. British scientists have found in Africa that natives engulfed in superstitions, won't take to improvements even in agriculture, hygiene, etc. without the stimulus of literacy. Here is one Primer for One World. Semantography operates with about 100 symbol elements only.

Semantography is a simple Algebra of Thought. The most desperately needed items of Education are not taught in the primary and secondary schools of the world - for lack of a simple method. These items are "How to reason" and "How to recognize vague, ambiguous and fallacious words" which often wreck the family, the nation and the family of nations. THIS ADVANTAGE IS THE MOST IMPORTANT ADVANTAGE OF SEMANTOGRAPHY.

Bertrand Russell on Semantography

This eminent scholar is the foremost authority on logical symbolism and on Leibnitz. He studied my 3 books on Semantography, and asked me to show my symbols ~~for~~ some of the most controversial meanings of our time. He was so much satisfied, that he wrote afterwards that the men who will spend the money necessary to make my work known "will be performing an important service to Mankind."

Semantography has been tried out in Great Britain.

Dr. Peggy Volkov, Editor of the educational journal THE NEW ERA tried it out on her children and wrote that "they are thrilled with it". Dr. Gattegno, Reader in Mathematics of the Institute of Education, London University taught it to youngsters in international summer camps and they are "absolutely fascinated by Semantography". Mr. A.A. Bloom, Headmaster of St. George-in-the-East, a modern secondary school in London informed Dr. Volkov, that "he is going to arrange for one class at his school to work on Semantography as an ordinary school lesson for a whole term." Professor Carleton Washburne New York, grand old man of American Education, and Professor Joseph A. Lauwerys, Head of the Institute of Education London University have approached the responsible men of UNESCO, so far without any result. I have started a correspondence course on the Logic and Semantics of Semantography in the United States and I have a number of enthusiastic students, scholars among them. My mimeographed books have been bought by scholars, universities and public libraries. A number of enlightened librarians have realized that a lone scholar battles for a new world-embracing idea, and they have begun to collect all my writings, all my leaflets, all my lectures, all my brochures and books. The text of my lectures to the Physical Society, to the Students Geological Society of Sydney University and to other bodies has been acquired by the Library of Congress, Washington D.C. and the text of any lecture given to your Society will go too into this and other important libraries.

How the world and the world press react towards Semantography.

More and more articles appear in papers in different parts of the world, without my knowledge. And, as every new idea looks strange at first, let me draw a parallel to show what happens. Let us go back (disregarding historical accuracy, etc.) to the 8th century A.C. An Arabian scholar has just announced that he is going to use letters from the Sanscrit alphabet to stand for the numbers. A reporter from the ARABIAN DAILY is sent out to get the "write-up". The scholar shows him the symbols which look strange enough: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 and he shows him a "sentence" $1 + 2 = 3$. "Such a sentence", explains the scholar, "can be read in all languages of the world." The ancient reporter dashes off an article ARABIAN SCHOLAR INVENTS NEW SIGN WRITING. But he fails to explain what that scholar meant when he said: "These symbols have a logic of their own. They represent truth. Their meaning is not vague and ambiguous. I imagine a time when these symbols will be taught in all schools of the world, when science and technology, commerce and shipping and indeed the whole life of humanity will be quite unthinkable without these symbols."

These words seem quite an exaggeration to the ancient reporter in view of the fact that life in 700 A.C. went on quite beautifully without those absurd symbols. Well, in much the same way I find myself. Those who took the trouble to examine my work speak of it in the highest terms, the others, including scholars, who don't take the time to look into it, are silent. But in no case has there been any serious criticism against it. The question is now how long will it take until the schools of the world will take it up,

Prof. G. Patrick Meredith, Prof. Oliver L. Reiser and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Prof. Meredith closed his review in THE NEW ERA (London) with these words:

"Semantography is such an important creative advance in language design that the strategy of its presentation to the world merits as much care as the author has devoted to the system itself."

I was staggered. "Strategy" - a militant word. I never thought that I would have to fight for this idea, the advantages of which are so obvious. Today in my tenth year of work, I realize that Meredith knew better. At the recent Annual Meeting of the august American Association for the Advancement of Science in Philadelphia, Prof. Reiser of the University of Pittsburgh extolled my work and termed my struggle "heroic". How long then will it take until the universities and scholarly bodies of Australia will recognize that a man with a creative work to his credit lives in their midst?

Prof. Mitchell and the Student Societies of Sydney University.

When I asked this question, Prof. Mitchell said: "Go to the Students !" Indeed, he is right. Students throughout the ages have recognized and fought for new ideas. It is your privilege, but also your duty. You are the new generation. You are going to shape the things to come, and THERE IS A JOB TO BE DONE - ONLY YOU CAN DO IT. I said at my lecture in the Wallace Theatre:

"Either we find a new and simple method to teach the peoples of this planet how to reason and how to recognize the fallacies of dictators and demagogues or we shall perish through our own muddled way of speech and thought."

and Prof. Mitchell as Chairman said in his closing words:

"We have been charmed and fascinated...but I think we have also strongly felt in Mr. Bliss a sincere devotion to an earnest purpose..."

A Call to the Students and Scholars of Australia.

The philosophers of old used to say "EX ORIENTE LUX" - "From the East comes the Light". But in the East, the lights went out, and the Occident is the land of the setting sun in more than one sense. Why should not people all over the world start to say: "EX AUSTRALIS LUX" - "From the South comes the Light." If you do your part, then from Australia will come a new world-embracing idea which can transcend and unite all languages, all nations, all races, and even all religions. Reverend W.V. Rymer of Christ Church, Tenterfield, N.S.W. wrote about Semantography: "This is a work of genius."

What you can do.

You can invite me to a lecture on the application of Semantography to any scholarly activity, be it language or law, medicine or music, philosophy or poetry, sociology or semantics, rhetoric or religion. If Semantography is Leibnitz's dream of a simple "Algebra of Thought", then it must be applicable to any human thought, and it must weather your criticism or it shall wither. Considering the specialised interest of your society I offer as a suggestion the following theme:

However, I can't do it gratis any more. I am going broke answering all the letters and requests which I receive from students and scholars in different parts of the world. To be able to continue this, you got to pay me a fee, a fraction of the basic wage, less than the hall attendant would ask for the time I would have to spend on your challenging theme: 5 guineas. In doing so, you will follow Earl Russell's appeal. (see page 3)

You can find my 3 books on Semantography in the Fisher Library, in the Municipal Library, the Public Library and the Library of Parliament. But these books are written from the angle of the Graphics of Semantography. If you want to read about the Logic and Semantics of Semantography send in 10 s for a number of brochures and pamphlets, including more copies of this pamphlet for distribution to your members.

If you are not interested, send 3½ d and send back this pamphlet without any meaningless phrase "It is regretted..." A No is a No. Under no circumstances shall I allow you to condemn my writing to the flames - via dustbin and incinerator. This pamphlet when sent back, will go out to another society at another university in Australia. But I feel that I have not written to you in vain. Paul Byers in his picture story in PEOPLE describes the reaction of Sydney University Students thus: "...spellbound...thunder of applause..." You won't let a new idea down.

Yours Sincerely
C. K. Bliss
C. K. Bliss, B.Sc.

LIST OF LECTURES

proposed to the recognized Societies and Clubs of the University of Sydney in order to prove that Semantography is Leibnitz's idea of a simple "Algebra of Thought" and therefore of value in application to any human activity and thought.

<u>Name of Society</u>	<u>Title of proposed Lecture</u>
The Union	The Universities and a new Idea - Semantography
Women's Union	Women and Semantography
Student's Representative Council	A pioneering Idea for Sydney University Students
Sport's Union	Semantography and International Sport
Women's Sport's Association	Semantography and International Sport
Arts Society	Leibnitz's Idea of a Symbolis Universalis as realized in Semantography
Medical Society	Medicine, World Health and Semantography
Science Association	Semantography for an International Science Abstract which can be read in all languages.
Junior Science Association	An Opportunity for Sydney Science Students to start a world idea in Science
Engineering Undergraduates Association	Semantography the new Medium of Technology
Dental Undergraduates Association	Semantography and World Hygiene
Veterinary Society	Semantography and Veterinary Science for the Farmer
Agricultural Society	Semantography and the illiterate Native
Economics Society	Semantography and Talks on Economics
Architectural Society	Semantography and Aesthetics Architecture
Pharmaceutical Association	Semantography and an International Recept
Alpine Club	Semantography as a Medium for international Mountaineering
Animal Genetics Society	Semantography and the illiterate Farmer
Anthropological Society	Bliss's Discovery in paleolithic Records (supported by Prof. Ashley Montagu, Anthropologist of Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N.J. U.S.A.)
Archeological Society	Archeologists and Bliss's Discovery in paleolithic Records (supported by Prof. Ashley Montagu U.S.A.)
Australian Student Christian Movement	Christianity and a new Medium for it.
Biological Society	Semantography and the Meaning of Life
Bushwalkers' Club	Semantography as a Medium for Rescue Signals
Chess Club	Semantography and the Internationalisation of Chess Symbols
Chemical Society	Semantography, the "chemical" Analysis of Language

Chemical Engineering Society	Semantography, the Invention of a chemical Engineer
Chinese Students' Society	Chinese Script, the Inspiration for Semantography
Christian Science Organization	BLISS AND SEMANTOGRAPHY, the Article by Albert Norman in The Christian Science Monitor May 17, 1952
Circolo Universitario Italiano	Professor Peano of Torino, his Latino Sine Flexione and Semantography
Classical Society	Semantography and the Teaching of classical Thought
Dental Alumni Society	An international Medium for Dental Science
Der Verein	Semantography, Wortdeutung und Wortpropaganda (in deutscher Sprache)
Dramatic Society	Should a Lecture be dull or dramatic ? (Listen to Bliss lecturing on Semantography)
Engineering Club	Semantography, a Challenge to the Engineer
Evangelical Union	Semantography and the Babel of Religions
Film Group	Semantography as a Medium for Subtitles (with a showing of films made by Bliss)
Film Society	Semantography, Film and Film Critique (with a showing of films made by Bliss)
Geographical Society	Semantography, a new Medium for the Geographer
Geological Association of the University of Sydney	Semantography and Geology Symbols
Guide Club	Semantography, its Logic and Semantics as an antidote to domestic quarrels.
History Club	The Semantics of Semantography, a new Tool for the Examination of Historic Records
International Co-operation Society	My Correspondence and Experience with UNESCO, the United Nations Organisation, and other Bodies.
International Club	Semantography the new international Medium
Jazz Club	Jazz, Cacophony or Symphony and that miscreant the Music Critic. (An application of Semantography)
Jewish Student's Union	The Logic and Semantics of Semantography as an international Medium against Antisemitism
Junior Medical Guild of St. Luke	Semantography, the new Medium for International Medicine
Kabelrol of the University of Sydney	The Meaning of Creator and Creation in Semantography
Labour Club	Semantography and the semantic Fallacy of the Battle-cry: Capitalism v. Socialism
Musical Society	My Life as a Musician, the Inspiration which lead from the international Symbols of Music to Semantography.
Newman Association of Catholic Graduates	Symbols, acceptable to Believers and Unbelievers
Newman Society	Religious Dissension, a Result of Semantic Confusion in the interpretation of the Scriptures

Pauline Group	A structural formula for Religion
Photographic Society	Photos can lie. Photography, the new Weapon of dictatorial Propaganda.
Physical Society	The symbols used in the Relativity Theory, critically examined with Leibnitz's Symbolis Universalis.
Political Science Association	Semantography and Political Science.
Pro-Musica Society	The Semantics of the Music Critic.
Psychological Society	The Verbalisations of modern Psychology.
Rover Scout Crew	Semantography, the international Correspondence Medium of Scouts.
Social Studies Association	Semantography and social Studies
Société Française	Semantography, the new "Lingua Franca"
Speleological Society	Symbols for cave charting and cave exploration.
Students' Geological Society	The Progress of Semantography since the last Lecture before the Students' Geological Society
Sydney Association of University Teachers	Semantography, the new tool for Teaching the most important R : the Art of Reasoning.
Sydney University Players	Should a Lecturer be an Actor or should he only read his paper. (Listen to Bliss lecturing)
Sydney University Women Graduates Association	A new Tool to end the War of Words within the Family.
Voluntary Aid Detachment	An international Medium for Red Cross Ambulances.
The University Women's Group	Applying a new Logic to domestic Quarrels.
Sydney University Settlement	
Sydney University Regiment	A new international Medium for United Nations Forces and for ground symbols to aircraft overhead.
University Club	What happens to the scholarly work of a man, who is not on the staff of a University ? The Story of Semantography from 1942 - 1952.