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NOTES FOR THE DEMONSTRATION OF SEMANTOGRAPHY

to Mr. Charles B. Fahs

Director of Humanities, Rockefeller Foundation

Dear Mr. Fahs,

Sydney, 29th May 1952

Firstly let me thank you for your willingness to investigate the scholarly work of a man, who in his youth chose the industrial career, and who is therefore not attached professionally to a university. I have lectured however throughout my adult life in a honorary capacity, and my lectures on Semantography at the University of Sydney have created quite an enthusiasm among students and professors. A few relevant quotations will be found in the attached pamphlet THE SOCIETIES OF THE UNIVERSITIES OF SYDNEY AND SEMANTOGRAPHY. I shall furthermore refer to my 3 Books on SEMANTOGRAPHY, which have been acquired by the Rockefeller Foundation. The following paragraphs are short notes which should recall the important points of my personal talk.

My Difficulties: Semantography is practically a new idea, and new ideas look strange. Theoretically however, it is an old idea known to every philosopher, logician and mathematician, and known to be impossible to realize.

Nearly 300 years ago Locke and Leibnitz wrote their ESSAYS CONCERNING HUMAN UNDERSTANDING and found that understanding is often blocked not because of different languages only, but of using vague, ambiguous and fallacious words of the same language. Leibnitz speculated about the possibility of inventing a simple Algebra of Thought, using pictorial symbols in order "to be very agreeable to the people" and "to make our conceptions more real". In addition, such symbols (like $1 + 2 = 3$) could be read in all languages of the world and therefore this would be "of service for communication with distant nations."

Eminent scholars have agreed that I am the first man who has realized the dream of Leibnitz and Bertrand Russell has written: "Any man or men who will spend the money necessary to get your work printed will, in my opinion, be performing an important service to Mankind." Today, after nearly 10 years of work on this idea, after having spent my savings and earnings on it and on hundreds of futile approaches to men and institutions, I am at the end of my tether. Professor Oliver L. Reiser of the University of Pittsburgh extolled my work at the recent annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and termed my struggle "heroic". The Library of Congress in Washington D.C. and other libraries are collecting all my writings, mostly mimeographed. These librarians have realized that a lone scholar battles for a new world embracing idea.

I approach the Rockefeller Foundation with the appeal of Bertrand Russell and other eminent scholars and beg to perform this "important service to Mankind" by defraying the printing expenses for small books in different languages on the various practical aspects of Semantography. I am 55 years of age, and have only one ambition: to give this new tool for mutual understanding away, to make it known to humanity and to hand it over to younger minds. Mutual understanding is today a matter of life and death and

Leibnitz's idea has been realized already in a field where mutual understanding is indeed a matter of life and death: on the motor highways of the world. The pictographic symbol of a bent arrow means a CURVE in all languages of the world. Furthermore, the chemists have realized Leibnitz's idea: H_2O has a Logic and Semantics of its own, and means "water" in all languages of the world. Furthermore, the radio engineers have evolved pictographic symbols which radio mechanics in Europe, America, Asia and Africa can understand in all languages. I am an industrial research chemist and have been an executive in a radio manufacturing firm. Moreover, I went through concentration camps of dictatorial regimes in Europe and Japanese occupied China. I know what words and labels can do to men, and I have started work on this idea realizing that the most desperately needed item is a simple Logic and Semantics for teaching simple people (1) how to reason and (2) how to recognize the vague, ambiguous and fallacious propaganda of totalitarian doctrines. Furthermore, in my studies of the history of writing, I have found the proof to a fascinating theory about the origin of human warfare, advanced by Dr. Brock Chisholm, Director General of the World Health Organisation of U.N. My discovery has the support of Prof. Ashley Montagu

of Rutgers University, N.J. Dr. Chisholm, in two lectures, in Washington and New York, advocated a world-wide campaign for the establishment of a peaceful society, but his theory lacked the proof, which I have found. See page 5 and 6 of the attached pamphlet "Prof. Ashley Montagu and the third aspect of my work".

Semantography at its simplest level is a universal picture writing, a new medium for three quarters of the worlds population who are illiterate and split up in thousands of languages and dialects. British scientists have found in Africa that natives, engulfed in superstitions, will not take to improvements in agriculture, hygiene etc. without the stimulus of literacy. Prof. Carleton Washburne of New York, Prof. Joseph A. Lauwerys of London, and other scholars have approached UNESCO with regard to Semantography, so far without result. Meanwhile tests have been carried out in Great Britain, which show that the pupils are "absolutely fascinated" and "thrilled" with Semantography.

Semantography at the next higher level is a new medium for interlinguistic communication. I wish however to emphasize that it is an auxiliary writing only, to be used where needed. It offers the unheard-of advantage, that two people, be they businessmen, or doctors, or engineers or even scientists, who don't understand a word of each others language, can write letters to each other, each one writing and reading in his own mother-tongue. Semantography is not a new Esperanto. It is the "opposite" of it. Everyone reads it in his own familiar mother-tongue. I refer to the extensive chapters in my 3 books showing examples for illiterate farmers (pp.108, 327ff), public buildings, etc. in countries with a multilingual population (p.104), commerce and banking (p.247, 257, 263), postal communication (p.121), shipping (236), rail (p.224) and road traffic (p.357), hotels and travellers (335, 319), passports (p.342), newspapers (p.350), radio photo cables, which need no coding, decoding and translating (p.266), etc. etc.

Here is affixed paragraph 11 and 12 The Babel of Scientific Publications and A Universal Science Abstract from Semantography Series No. 43

Semantography at its highest level serves a most pressing need in scientific research. I have done years of scientific library research and present herewith in the above paragraphs (from Semantography Series No. 43, a lecture at the University of Sydney) my proposal for an inexpensive international and universal science abstract, which scientists, doctors, engineers, etc. can read in their own languages. See also my chapters on the application of Semantography for chemistry and physics (p. 368), medicine (p. 391), etc. In my respective lectures at the University of Sydney, I have shown that every scientific meaning can be expressed with the simple symbol elements, about 100 in number only.

See also the pamphlet Semantography Series No. 52 and the full text of the lecture of Professor Oliver L. Reiser (Pittsburgh) UNIFIED SYMBOLISM FOR WORLD UNDERSTANDING IN SCIENCE before the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Philadelphia. (attached) THIS ASPECT OF SEMANTOGRAPHY, AN INTERNATIONAL MEDIUM OF COMMUNICATION FOR SCIENCE, DESERVES THE INTEREST AND SUPPORT OF THE MEN OF THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION.

I shall put my work to the test, and shall ask you now to give me any meaning, and any statement to be translated into the symbols of Semantography.

Semantography, a simple Logic and Semantics for the simple People. It is clear, as Leibnitz foresaw it, that vague, and ambiguous abstractions are not "picturable" in a pictorial symbolism. This would, in his own words, "guide the mind" and "give thoughts less absurd and verbal than we now have." I shall again ask you to give me any controversial statement to be analysed with Semantography, in order to show you how the simple Logic and Semantics of Semantography works.

The Western World is locked in a life and death struggle with the non-democratic, totalitarian forces, which use fallacious words like "New Democracy", "People's Democracy", etc. to befuddle millions of follow-travellers in the free countries of the world. Recently, the Readers Digest cried out for a better word than Capitalism, better than Free Enterprise, etc. etc. I have found the answer, and I shall demonstrate it to you in a structural geometrical formula, similar to those which are already used to demonstrate how the U.N. works, how a free society is organised, which has no concentration camps and no forced

labour, etc. Girls and boys learn in the high schools of the world how to analyse chemical meanings, how to realize that the exchange of a group in a chemical structural formula may turn a health-giving chemical into a poison or an explosive. They will have no difficulty to recognize the relevant groups in a free society, and will be able to see the fallacious meanings in such words like "New Democracy" and "People's Democracy", etc. Again, I shall ask you to give me any controversial meaning to be shown in Semantography. Bertrand Russell, at his visit to Sydney did the same. Afterwards, he wrote that the men who will help Semantography to become known, will help Mankind. (see his letter in facsimile, attached).

My Proposal to the Rockefeller Foundation. Here is my modest proposal, which could mean a "crumb" only with regard to the total costs involved. I suggest 3 small books, the first to deal with Semantography as a universal medium for interlinguistic communication for natives, for international commerce and communication, etc. etc. The second book to deal with Semantography as a new medium for interlinguistic communication in Science, and for an International Science Abstract, and the third book should deal with Semantography, the new simple Logic and Semantics for the Citizen. These books should not be text books, but should only stimulate interest in this new medium. Consequently, to have a wider effect, the three books should be made available in English, French and Spanish in order to cover the vast majority of interested readers, be they laymen or professionals.

These books could be brochures only, written according to the amount advanced by the Rockefeller Foundation for the printing expenses. I have approached publishers with the proposal of a series of booklets, the second to be published only when the first sells well. However, publishers must conduct their business on business lines, and Semantography is not yet in this class. Only the vision of men of a Foundation such as the Rockefeller Foundation can provide the funds, which are small indeed, for such a pioneering venture.

A parting word. Now, dear Mr. Fahs, that you have heard my talk and seen my demonstration I hope at least that you will agree with Professor A.G. Mitchell, Chairman at my first demonstration at the University of Sydney, who said that "we have strongly felt in Mr. Bliss a sincere devotion to an earnest purpose." I hope too that you will agree with Professor A.V. Bailey of Sydney University who said that my work "deserves every encouragement by private or public means" and I hope that you will induce the Directors of the Rockefeller Foundation to follow the appeal of Bertrand Russell and "perform an important service to Mankind" by defraying the printing expenses for the 3 booklets as suggested. These expenses are a "crumb" only considering the amounts spent by the Foundation.

However, my heart sank, when I studied the lists of people who got a grant from the Foundation. All of them are professors and/or professionally attached to a university. I have an academic degree, I have been a honorary science lecturer all my adult life, but I am not on the payroll of a university. However, here is my work, the proof that a modern scientifically constructed and simplified picto-ideography is possible. The idea is already in operation in communication on the motor roads, in engineering and science, in a limited field. Semantography will come, sooner or later, provided we do not destroy each other first, and Semantography is a new tool for mutual understanding to prevent this.

It may well be, that on returning home and reporting on my work, the result will be a refusal of the small grant I ask. In this case I wish to make my position quite clear. I am 55 years of age, and have no other ambition than to give the work away. I am ready to agree that my name should be completely obliterated from any publication. However, in my struggle to interest the scholarly world, I have become aware of a very disturbing situation. As a student, I believed that the time is gone when pioneers of new ideas had to die in bitterness and frustration. But today, after 10 years of work I see that even today, the history of new ideas is the story of tragedy for their pioneers, in spite of the fact that the lofty pronouncements for the progress of humanity are just as lofty today as they were in centuries past.

I am a factory man, trained to overcome difficulties. I have been an executive and head of the patent department of a large firm and have fought great patent battles in the patent courts of a number of countries. I know how to fight, and I have a great cause to fight for: to show to the world that pioneers of new ideas have still to go the bitter road, because their ideas are not recognized in their life-time by the men, who should have the vision to recognize their value for humanity. So far, my work has been recognized, but financial help to make it known to humanity has been refused by public institutions. I approach now the Rockefeller Foundation, a private institution with the aim to help humanity. I sincerely hope that my small request will not be refused.

C.K. Bliss
C.K. Bliss, B.Sc.

Enclosed are a number of pamphlets from my Semantography Series; the complete Series is to be found in the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.,

Sydney 23rd July 1952

Charles B. Fahs, Esq.,
Director of the Division of Humanities
and Warren Weaver, Esq.,
Director of the Division of Natural Sciences and Agriculture
THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION
49 West 49th Street, NEW YORK 20, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Fahs, dear Mr. Weaver,

With separate mail I am sending you a reprint from the Magazine of NEW ENGLAND UNIVERSITY COLLEGE Armidale, Australia, containing an article by W.A. Heaney on my work. I take this opportunity to thank you for your letters and for your interest in my work. Half a year has passed since I wrote my first letter, and so far I have received no re-assuring sign that help for this idea will be forthcoming. I am therefore writing to you, believing that you know that men who pioneer a new idea must be treated with consideration, that their letters revealing a fighting soul must be measured with an entirely different yardstick. I rely on your magnanimity and greatness of soul. Please devote your thoughts to this letter.

I address you too Mr. Weaver, because I see from your letterhead that you are the Director of the Division of Natural Sciences and Agriculture. I can prove that my work is of great importance for the natural sciences and above all - for agriculture - the cry for more food. Professor O.L. Reiser extolled my work at the recent annual meeting of the AAAS. He termed my struggle "heroic", said that I have "realized the ambition of the great mathematician Leibnitz" and stated that my work "provides a powerful stimulus and aid" to the Point Four Program, the active help to the backward areas and peoples of the world. I am therefore sending to you Mr. Weaver a similar array of material, marking in red the important things for you.

I am writing to you both today, because I feel that the fate of a great idea hangs in the balance. A little help from the all powerful Rockefeller Foundation may provide that "powerful stimulus and aid" to the development of the idea and of the backward areas, may hinder the exploit of the peoples of these areas by the communists, which in turn has great repercussions to the safety of America and the other free countries of the world. Prof. Washburne of New York and Prof. Lauwerys of London have already approached the men of UNESCO on behalf of my work, but UNESCO is sorely devoid of something of which the Rockefeller Foundation has plentiful: money. As the article BLISS AND SEMANTOGRAPHY by Albert Norman, featured on the editorial page of The Christian Science Monitor (May 17), shows, the knowledge of my work and its great advantages is gaining momentum. A rejection of help by the Rockefeller Foundation will reflect on the wisdom of the men who made the decision. What's going to happen then?

I have all the prerequisites for a grant, yet I have all the chances not to get it. In particular

- (1) I have a university degree.
- (2) I have worked on scientific research in a research laboratory of the General Electric Co and in the industry where I was employed as Director of the Patent Department.
- (3) I have lectured in a honorary capacity in colleges and evening classes throughout my adult life and lately at the University of Sydney.
- (4) I have solved a great problem known to every mathematician, logician and philosopher of the last 300 years and known to be impossible to realize.
- (5) I have written 3 books about it, (acquired by your library).
- (6) I have accumulated eulogistic testimonials by scholars of world repute.
- (7) I have received invitations to lecture in the U.S.A. by a number of university men, and Mr. Handley of Boston a lecture manager of repute is so much fascinated by the advantages of my work that he has started to interest the colleges and universities of the Eastern States "without personal profit".
- (8) Scholars, students and journalists have lectured and written about my work.

And yet, and yet, all this seems not to be enough to achieve my aim: to pass it on to younger minds before I pass out. I am 55 years of age, and that I could achieve all this, is only due to the fact that, as a factory man, I have learned to overcome all difficulties. I have achieved success, but I have spent on this my savings. I need financial help in order to pass on my work to others.

At a time, I believed that my handicap is that I am an "outsider", not on the payroll of a university. Indeed, a glance at the list of those who have received a Rockefeller grant shows an array of professor after professor. Today, I have realized that even this might not help. As Director of the Patent Department of a large electrical concern, I have done years of research in the history of new ideas and inventions and have found that, with few exceptions, it is the history of tragedy of the geniuses, scholars and inventors, who in their life time could not gain recognition, least of all help. They were condemned to die in bitterness and frustration.

Is this still the case, or have foundations been formed to prevent those tragedies? Your answer will be the answer, at least in my special case. What I now ask is that the Rockefeller Foundation shall provide the means to enable me to present my work in lectures and discussions in the United States. You may withhold recognition, but you may declare that the most favourable testimonials of world authorities warrants that the universities and colleges of the U.S.A. shall learn about it and test it in a direct challenge in the lecture theatre. Such an action, giving me the money for a visit to the U.S.A., would alleviate all my bitter feelings and would indeed make me praise the institution of foundations.

The opposite - a rejection, would indeed turn my feelings and my actions. I shall employ the same indefatigable determination to a much higher case, to prove that the geniuses, the men on whose brains the progress of mankind depends, are still condemned by the judges of the day, whose very duty is to recognize men ahead of their time. The lay jury, the assises, the Geschworenen have been established to protect God's most unfortunate children. But God's most blessed children are not protected. If my appeal to the highest officers of the Rockefeller Foundation fails, I shall approach the President, Congress and the People of America. I shall fight for a high cause "A Jury for the Genius". I shall find sponsors. But these desperate thoughts may all be unnecessary. In writing to you such a daring letter, I have the faith in your magnanimity and greatness of soul.

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