

THE INSTITUTE FOR SEMANTOGRAPHY

A Non-Profit Institution for the Promotion of Semantics and Semantography

5 Maroubra Bay Road, Pagewood, Sydney, N.S.W., Australia

FOUNDER and DIRECTOR: C. K. BLISS, B. Sc.



SEMANTOGRAPHY SERIES NO. 117

SEMANTOGRAPHY AND PROFESSOR G. PATRICK MEREDITH

THE FIRST REVIEWER OF SEMANTOGRAPHY

Note: Dr. Peggy Volkov, editor of the London Education Journal "The New Era in School and Home" has been very kind to me and I shall refer to our correspondence in another issue of the Semantography Series. Especially gratifying was a correspondence in semantography with her children which will be incorporated in another issue. I approached her in 1950 somewhat in desperation because the Australian group of the New Education Fellowship refused me any help and would not even allow me to give a short informative talk about my work (this will be the subject of another issue later on). As the journal "The New Era" is the organ of the New Education Fellowship and as Professor Washburne and James Henning are both prominent members of this Fellowship, I have (being a member of the Fellowship myself) turned directly to headquarters seeing that the Australian fellows would not give me any help.

Dr. Volkov then agreed to have a review published in the journal and assigned the review to Professor G. Patrick Meredith of the University of Leeds. Professor Meredith has been a Professor of Physics and then changed over to Psychology. He is acknowledged as an expert in visual education and this probably prompted Dr. Volkov to give him the assignment. Here-below then is our correspondence which I reprint with the greatest gratitude to Meredith because he has given me much encouragement and in any case he has acted so very differently to many other scholars who came across my work.

Sydney 20th August 1950.

Professor Pat Meredith,
University of Leeds.

Dear Professor Meredith,

I am writing to you in the hope that you have kindly consented to review my work on "Semantography" and because I cannot assume that you should or would read the whole work. This letter will save you time.

I would like you to do what Bertrand Russell and others did. I asked him and I ask you now to give me any statement to be "translated" into Semantography. Convince yourself of the simple working of the semantics and logic of Semantography. And if you are convinced, please stress this part of my work. You would thus help this new idea tremendously, and would help to overcome the main difficulty.

The main difficulty is the usual reaction of people: "Ah, a new kind of Esperanto!" I wince and try to explain that this is the "opposite of an international language. No learning of strange new words. Then they say: "Ah, a sign language!" I wince again and say: "Look here, we chemists are not concerned that. H_2O means water in all languages. We are concerned about the semantics of our symbol writing, the meaning of H_2O (2 parts of Hydrogen and 1 part of Oxygen). And more important is the logic of chemical symbols, the conclusions and deductions we can make with them.

In a similar way do the symbols of Semantography work. Once you have been trained in them you will recognise in any speech or writing, the vague, ambiguous and fallacious words, and the logical conclusions; which may be relatively true or false. In my opinion, Semantography will bring about the Doom of the Demagogues!"

When I say this, I usually meet a complete blank. The whole thing seems too unbelievable and too good to be true. Russell grasped it immediately, and I feel sure that you will agree with him. So, please write and give me your questions. It will save you much time.

Unusually there is no time left to discuss another aspect of my work, an anthropological discovery which I made after the study of the writing of the Chinese, the Babylonians, the Egyptians and the cavemen. This discovery (when proved) will make Semantography pale into insignificance. It is contained in 46 pages, beginning with page 617.

P.S. I enclose an article and a "filmstrip" which will be tried in Pacific territories.

Yours sincerely,

C.K. Bliss

17th August, 1950

C.K. Bliss, Esq.,
The Institute for Semantography,
5 Maroubra Bay Road,
PAGEWOOD. SYDNEY.

Dear Mr. Bliss,

Thank you for your letter of 26th July. I have received your volumes of Semantography and shall have pleasure in reviewing them for the New Era. I am particularly interested since I have been working for nearly ten years on a system which I call "Semagraphics" - so like your own title. But my system is not a language but essentially a method of analysis so there is no competition between the two. And Semagraphics is nowhere near publication yet. I have, however, published a good deal on Visual Education and am sending you a packet of these under separate cover.

I will send you a copy of my review at the same time that I send it off to press so that you don't have to wait before publication, and perhaps will write you more fully at the same time.

Meanwhile my congratulations on a pioneer effort which I shall study with the greatest interest.

(Note: This package
never arrived.
Bliss)

Yours sincerely,

G. Patrick Meredith

Sydney 25th August, 1950

Professor Patrick Meredith,
Department of Psychology,
University of Leeds,
LEEDS. 2,

Dear Professor Meredith,

I received today your letter of August 17, and was overjoyed with your consent to review my work. My sincerest thanks.

Even more exciting was your "Semagraphics". If it ^{is} something on the line of my analysis, I would rejoice. Nothing would convince me more that I am on the right way, than the proof that the same idea has cropped up in more than one mind. This invariably happens when the human race is evolutionary ripe for a new idea.

I have been manager of the patent department of a large electrical concern for a number of years, and extensive library research has proved to me that there has been a "first" inventor in practically every civilised country. Numerous are the examples of the same idea having been evolved independently by two and more men.

And my factory work has trained me too in this: to drop instantly a thing in favour of another thing which works better. And I am ready to discard my analysis in favour of yours at a moment's notice. Please send me anything you have, perhaps some copies of your notes. And many thanks for your publications on Visual Education, which I am expecting with great eagerness.

How exciting to be in touch with you. Indeed Mrs. Volkov knew of the right man.
I am with thanks.

(Note: He never sent anything
on Semagraphics. Bliss)

Yours sincerely,

C.K. Bliss

TELEGRAM

Professor Pat Meredith
University
Leeds (England)

Received today galley proof am overwhelmed by what you said words hopelessly inadequate to express my feelings telegraph office declined sending symbol telegram so imagine multiple big heart and arrows up up its blissful bliss alright in everlasting gratitude.

Bliss

Sydney, 10th November 1950

Professor G. Patrick Meredith
Dept. of Psychology
University of Leeds
LEEDS.

Dear Professor Meredith,

On the 1st of November the galley proof of your review arrived by ordinary mail. I was so overwhelmed and elated that I dashed to the Post Office and sent off the following telegram, which I hope you have received:

RECEIVED TODAY GALLEY PROOF AM OVERWHELMED BY WHAT YOU SAID WORDS
HOPELESSLY INADEQUATE TO EXPRESS MY FEELINGS TELEGRAPH OFFICE
DECLINED SENDING SYMBOL TELEGRAM SO IMAGINE MULTIPLE BIG HEART
AND ARROWS UP UP ITS BLISSFUL BLISS ALRIGHT IN EVERLASTING
GRATITUDE. BLISS

I feel sure that you won't feel that these words are exaggerated. Firstly, I worked for 7 years always with the sinking feeling that I will go down the grave a crank. And my friends made me feel it. Indeed an overabundance of enthusiasm and sheer dogged determination was necessary. Secondly, as nothing arrived during September and October I became very apprehensive about your judgement, and was simply afraid. And then - it came. What joy, what happiness!

You are one hundred percent right in all what you criticise. And to show you that I too felt that my "500,000 words bulldozer" is nothing for the publishers, I enclose a publishing proposal which I sent off a year ago to Butterworth and later to Max Parrish. Please note that I did not send them the manuscript, but a short explanation. But nevertheless, I did not receive from both firms one single line as an answer. I have therefore decided to organise my own publishing firm (see above). I have already started with the first booklet: Semantography for the Children of the World.

Please accept my sincerest thanks. In every book which shall ever leave the printing press your name will be mentioned in gratitude.

Yours sincerely,

C.K. Bliss

8th December, 1950

Professor G. Patrick Meredith,
Department of Psychology,
University of Leeds,

Dear Professor Meredith,

Hoping you are in receipt of my telegram and my subsequent letter, I am writing

to you today to wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May the year 1951 be a most fruitful and creative one for you, and may you be rewarded for the great help, outward and inward, which you have given me with your great review. I have asked Dr. Volkov for permission to make a reprint which I want to use when approaching the Universities and Colleges of the United States.

I wish I could know how to express my gratitude, and I suppose that I will do well by using the rules of Semantography. According to them, the words "wish, thanks, gratitude" are mere expressions of mind reactions, which shake the air only when spoken, and smudge the paper when printed. In order to take on a real meaning, they must be translated into real chemical THINGS, and physical ACTIONS. Please don't be angry with me when I tell you that I have despatched a Christmas parcel to you which should arrive somehow the same time as this letter. Please take it as a token only, from a man who will always be indebted to you.

I have read with delight that you studied my work and spent more hours than you could rationally spare. It would be impudent to ask you to spare a single minute more, but there is one thing which I beg to relate as follows:

When Thor Heyerdahl canvassed his idea and manuscript no expert would listen to him. "The Polynesians came from Peru" he cried, "they crossed the Pacific on balsa rafts." "Well, you try to cross the Pacific on a balsa raft" said the professor. And so he had no choice but to do the maddest thing in modern nautical history.

What shall I do? I cried that I have studied the picture writing of the Chinese, the Babylonians, Egyptians and Aurignacians and that I have made an anthropological discovery much more breath-taking than Heyerdahl's - but no one wants to listen. I am ready to mount a Wellsian time machine, ready to travel into the past, ready to get stuck in some strata, provided I can tell what I have seen by walkie-talkie to prove my hypothesis.

This hypothesis is contained in the last forty-six pages of volume 3, and I have now condensed it into twelve pages. Even then I would not bother you, but you are a Psychologist and Hogben is a Biologist, and you both hold the clue to my hypothesis. I am now going to send a duplicate to you and Hogben, begging you both that you should take, say, twenty minutes to read it through. It has nothing to do with Semantography. As the old story goes, "give the devil a finger and he wants the whole hand". But I feel sure that you will forgive me once you read these few pages, and grasp a most fascinating hypothesis which might cause an uproar when it becomes known.

You said in a previous letter that you are going to send me some of your work on visual education. I am, of course, tremendously interested, but I don't want you to take more time, and I will make a search in the Public Library. I regret that your Semagraphics is not yet printed. Would you not consider the idea to dash it off on typed stencils, so to make it available to Universities, and to avoid the long-winded way via the publisher. I know that duplicated works are used very much in United States Universities. And now the paper comes to an end so let me again wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

In everlasting gratitude,

Yours sincerely,

C.K. Bliss

9th January, 1951

C.K. Bliss, Esq., B.Sc.,
5 Maroubra Bay Road,
Pagewood,
SYDNEY. N.S.W. AUSTRALIA.

Dear Mr. Bliss,

I have been meaning to write to you again ever since last summer, but had an extremely heavy term last term so please forgive the long delay. I want you to know how touched and grateful my wife and I were on receiving your really generous Christmas parcel. It was quite undeserved but no less welcome on that

account, and I must thank you very sincerely.

Your cable too was very gratifying and I am glad that you found my review of Semantography so encouraging, especially as I set out merely to be honest and not flattering. I hope very much that you will go ahead and publish the essentials of Semantography so that the public may become acquainted with it.

I am glad that you reminded me in your letter that I promised to send you some of my papers on visual education. I am now putting these together and will send them off as soon as possible. They don't amount to anything very systematic. This is not because I have not got a system, but because, as you will know, one hesitates to publish an account of a system until one is sure it is complete. In visual education caution is particularly necessary because of the vast commercial interests ready to exploit any new idea.

I hope you will keep me informed of the progress of your work and whatever I can do here to make it better known I will certainly do.

Good luck to you and warmest greetings.

Yours very sincerely,

Pat Meredith

Sydney 15th January, 1951

Professor G. Patrick Meredith,
Department of Psychology,
University of Leeds,

Dear Professor Meredith,

I hope you are in receipt of my letter and my small Xmas parcel and I hope that you are not cross with me, because of this little token of my gratitude. I hope that you and your family have spent delightful holidays and I wish you all the best for the New Year.

You have been so kind and benevolent to me, that I dare to ask you for a little favour. In my last letter, I have made allusions to Thor Heyerdahl, who had to cross the Pacific on a Balsa raft to make his theory known. My theory too refers to the past, but I have no Wellsian time machine available to prove it.

I have condensed it into 12 pages, which should make quick reading. Please read it, tell me your opinion, and if it is favourable, hand this over to your colleague, the anthropologist of Leeds University. I intend to publish this short account, because I believe the interest in all parts of the world would be great. You will agree with me, that any new theory, which might stop human madness and war, is worthy of consideration.

Awaiting your comment, I remain with renewed thanks

Yours sincerely,

Encl.
Pamphlet No. 25
The Gap in prehistoric History

C.K. Bliss

25th May, 1951

Dear Prof. Meredith,

I sincerely hope that this letter will find you and your family in good health and good spirit. I realise too, that the "foodshortage" in Britain must not be as bad as the newspapers make it. Otherwise you would have availed yourself of my offer to send you regular food parcels.

Enclosed is the first proof, that a University as a body takes notice of my work. Another leaflet shows you my most pressing wish, the printing of a Children's Primer. However, all my hopes with regard to Unesco have vanished. Lancelot Hogben is right, when he wrote in "From Cave Painting to Comic Strip" that Unesco has become a comic synonym of Fiasco.

Do you know anyone, or any institution, a University Press, a Publisher, or a Visual Education Institution, who could provide the money for this Children's Primer? Please look around among the people you know, and help. As for me - the situation is quite desperate. I am going to the dogs, as every man who pioneers a new idea has to.

You must have received my pamphlet No. 25 "The Gap in "prehistoric History". Meanwhile I have received word from Prof. Ashley Montagu of Rutgers University U.S.A. He agrees with me 100 %. What is your opinion?

Yours sincerely,

C.K. Bliss

PS. On the Children's Primer Leaflet you will find your name twice.

Encl. Leaflet No. 13 and 15
Lecture Invitation
David Jones Food Parcel List

I enclose 5 leaflets with the Children's Primer Title Page, so that you may be able to approach some publisher, press, or institution.

I am sorry to say that G. Patrick Meredith expressed no opinion as to Pamphlet 25 and did not approach any publisher with regard to my work. In fact this letter ended our correspondence. Later on I became embittered because the result of Meredith's Review was nil. No teacher responded. My notes to Meredith's review which are incorporated in Semantography Series No. 40 reflect my disappointment.