



Semantography Series No. 168

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SEMANTOGRAPHY AND THE AUSTRALIAN
UNESCO AUTHORITIES

Before me are various newspaper articles of Sydney papers dealing with the fact that Australia spends about 85,000 £ annually on Unesco. What a big sum and what minimum of factual progress has been made by its use. The reader is asked to read this issue in conjunction with the foregoing issue no. 167 which deals with Unesco in general and my approaches to the various Director-Generals. There I quote some of the newspaper articles which appeared in Sydney papers and which castigate the activities of Unesco. Here I have the Information Circular issued by the Australian National Advisory Committee. It reports of the "activities" of Unesco which I have specified as "to talk in order to travel and to travel in order to talk". All the time they are hopping around the world to conferences and seminars and talk a bit, take in the sights, take in the surplus of their expense accounts and go back to their countries or to the headquarters in Paris in order to prepare another conference and seminar in order to travel and to talk. Just one hour ago before writing this, I heard on the radio that an international Unesco seminar is to be held in Australia on "The role of Drama in Education". And here is the list of some previous seminars and their theme as recorded in the Information Circular of the Australian Unesco Authorities. These seminars are international and the cities in which they have been held are worthwhile tourist objects. As stated before, Australia, that is the Australian taxpayers (and I am one of them) contribute £ 85,000 annually to those idle sightseeing voyages.

<u>The Topics of Unesco Seminars :</u>	<u>The Meeting Place</u>	<u>The Year</u>
Education for International Understanding	Paris	1947
Education for a World Society (Child Education)	Prague	1948
Education and the Training of Teachers	London	1948
Teaching about the United Nations	New York	1948
The Problem of Illiteracy	Rio de Janeiro	1949
Adult Education in Rural Communities	Mysore, India	1949
Education Activities in International Work Camps	Paris	1950
Methods and Techniques of Adult Education	Salzburg, Austria	1950
The Teaching of Geography for International Under-)	Montreal	1950
The Improvement of Textbooks (standing)	Brussels	1950
The Role of Libraries in Adult Education	Malmo, Sweden	1950
Primary Education	Montevideo	1950
The Teaching of History for International Under-)	Paris	1951
The Teaching of Visual Arts (standing)	Bristol	1951
Education for World Citizenship	Woudshoten, Holld.	1952
Worker's Education	Paris	1952
The Role of Museums in Education	New York	1952
The Use of Visual Aids for Fundamental Education	Sicily	1953
The Teaching of modern Languages	Ceylon	1953
Worker's Education	Paris	1953

As the Australian Unesco Information Circular from which I quote is issued in August 1953 I cannot continue the list, but the reader has seen enough to know that all those delegates coming from all over the world talked about commonplace points in education. In fact, all those titles remind me on the essays I had to write as a highschool student. I feel sure that many a highschool student would write a worthwhile essay on all these subjects which would in no way be much surpassed by the essay of a professor of education. I ask you what the hell of a revelation could be brought to the subject of "The Role of Museums in Education" or "The Role of Libraries in Education". Any teenager could write the stuff expected to be written about such a platitudious theme. And I feel sure that hundreds of thousands of pounds could be saved if those talkers would have written their essays down and mimeographed copies would have been distributed

distributed to all educators who are interested. This of course would have taken out the whole pleasure of the whole pleasure business - no travel. I forgot to tell that those 85,000 Pound which Australia spends annually are only a part spent on Unesco "activities". When an Australian delegate travels to a conference or a seminar the expense is in addition to the 85,000 £ which go to keep up the idlers at Unesco headquarters and elsewhere.

However, in 1945 when peace came and new hope for humanity and later in 1949 when I finished my 3 books I had not this cynical attitude which I have today - and which is borne out of experience. In 1949 I still believed that Unesco will take up my work, and it was natural that I approached first the Unesco people in Sydney. The man in charge of the Australian National Unesco Advisory Committee was a Mr. A.J.A. Nelson. It was in April 1949. When I entered the building which houses the Commonwealth Office of Education and Unesco I saw two posters outside with the following captions: UNESCO SEEKS YOUR HELP IN BUILDING TO-MORROW'S PEACE and CAN YOU READ? THREE QUARTERS OF THE WORLD'S PEOPLE CANNOT. This second poster goes then on to tell about all the evils coming from illiteracy.

These two posters greeted me with a friendly welcome and I was assured of a good reception. However, Mr. Nelson was quite unfriendly and it became clear that he considered me a crank. At that time I asked only that the Australian Unesco office should send the 2 finished books on Semantography to Unesco Paris - without giving a pro or con opinion on my work. This was indeed very little, and I felt that Mr. Nelson will do this for me. I left the two books with him and departed - not very hopeful, because Mr. Nelson's reception was quite frigid. A few weeks later I got my 2 books back with the following letter

Dear Sir,

Sydney 4th May 1949

I am returning to you by registered post under separate cover your publications (2) on Semantography which you were kind enough to leave with Mr. Nelson at this office.

Several members of the staff of this Office have read your books with interest, but I am sorry to have to tell you that it does not appear that we are able to assist you in any way, nor am I able to suggest how the Secretariat of Unesco could co-operate with you.

The question of language is one that has already engaged the attention of Unesco General Conferences, and I must say, having regard for the claims of individual national languages to be used as working languages and the claims made for "international" languages, that it is unlikely that Unesco would be in a position to promote your system of Semantography.

Yours faithfully

R.C.Mills
Director

This letter was a terrible blow for me. From 1946 to 1949 I have worked intensely for just this moment when I can present my work to the Unesco people in Sydney and now this curt reply. Indeed it took me 3 months to overcome my bitterness and to consider a new approach. I was intrigued by the signature. Professor Mills has not met me. Perhaps if I seek a personal interview with him, I might change his attitude, the more so as I do not want anything from the Unesco people in Sydney. I want only that my books should be sent to Unesco paris. I decided therefore to seek first an appointment with Mr. Nelson and to ask him to help me to an appointment with Professor Mills. I rang up Mr. Nelson. This telephone incident was another bitter blow to me. It went about as follows

"Mr. Nelson, would you be kind enough to spare a few minutes for me. There are a few questions which I want to clear up with regard to the letter I received from Prof. Mills. Please - it will take only a few minutes."

"Mr. Bliss, I am sorry. I have no time for you at present."

"Mr. Nelson, perhaps at a later date?"

"Sorry, Mr. Bliss, I am very tightly packed."

"But a few minutes only Mr. Nels.....the phone went dead. He hung up.

This I felt was very discourteous - or we might have been cut off without his fault. So I immediately rang up again. Not a minute had passed and it must have been obvious for Mr. Nelson that's me again. After a while another voice answered the phone.

"Please, I talked to Mr. Nelson. But we were interrupted. Could you give the phone to Mr. Nelson?"

"Sorry, Mr. Nelson is not in."

"But I spoke with him a minute ago. He must not be far. It's important for me."

There was a prolonged silence. I heard voices. Then the telephone went dead again.

A few weeks later, I went to the office and asked to speak with Mr. Nelson.

Needless to say that Mr. Nelson was not available for me. I asked then for someone else. I was told that nobody is there to substitute for Mr. Nelson. I asked then to see the secretary of Prof. Mills. She was quite curt too. It is completely out of the question that Prof. Mills could give me an interview. This is how a crank is treated.

A few months later, I tried again to see Mr. Nelson. Again without success. But there was one man in the office who took pity with me. He was Mr. Carroll and I had a talk with him. He was very sympathetic, but could give me no hope and could make no promises. I went away terribly downcast.

A month later I sat down to write a letter to Mr. Nelson
Dear Mr. Nelson,

14th December 1949

I regret to trouble you again, and I beg you not to dismiss this letter. I am writing to you because I believe that you have the rare wisdom to re-consider an attitude in the face of new evidence and to right a wrong done to a man and his work. I shall not be disappointed in my belief in you, so I hope.

Your letter of rejection contained only one argument, namely that Unesco, having decided on the "individual national languages to be used as working languages" and against the "international" languages, would not promote my work.

What stunned me is that this is actually my strongest argument in favour of my work. I too agree with Unesco that "international" languages (like Esperanto, Ido and even Basic English) are bound not to be learned and used by people (scientists and non-scientists). All of us use only our mother tongue as working language.

But ideographs, like $1 + 2 = 3$ can be read in any national language, and indeed international ideographs are used with increasing success in many human activities.

Semantography is not an "international language". It can only be read in the "individual national languages, used as working languages." The reaction of Unesco could not be foreseen, since a modern ideography was never proposed to Unesco.

Moreover, the use of Semantography for scientific intercourse is only one of the many uses to which I have devoted large chapters. Even if scientists decide against Semantography, it may be found practicable in other fields.

But no reference to such other uses was made in your letter and it caused me great distress. Three months later (on the 7th of August) I decided to ask you for an appointment. But this telephone conversation was even more distressing. You curtly declined, because you are "too tightly packed" and when I asked for a later date, the telephone went dead. When I rang up immediately, you could not be found, and when I insisted to speak to you, the telephone went dead again.

I had to swallow my pride, I had to swallow my indignation about such discourtesy. Somehow, I excused you. Indeed my work is so novel, so "outlandish", so unusual, that I myself, during my 7 years of work on it, believed sometimes, that I will not live to see it recognized.

I could do nothing else, than continue my work and finish it half a year later. I thought it was premature to approach you so early. On the other hand I thought that Unesco was the proper body to consider my work.

In the meantime, I presented my work to scientists and received most flattering comments (see full texts attached). Professor Lancelot Hogben University of Birmingham ("fascinating, ingenious") Professor Carleton Washburne, Brooklyn College New York U.S.A. ("ingenious"). Mr. James Hemming of London ("should be developed as rapidly and as widely as possible") and others (see text).

I have decided not to approach Unesco in Paris, as long as your Unesco office is antagonistic to the idea. The best Paris headquarters would do, would be to refer the matter to you for detailed discussion. Therefore this letter.

Moreover, I decided to offer my work where the need for such a new idea is greatest. On the lowest level it is a picture writing and therefore suited to be used in illiterate countries, where there are hundreds of languages and dialects.

Such a country is India. I demonstrated my system before the official Secretary to the Indian High Commissioner in Canberra. He was so much impressed that a report was sent to the Government of India. The Ministry of Education in New Delhi is now studying the idea. It might take a long time until the government will gear itself into action, but at least they take the idea seriously.

This fact is further illustrated by the development in the U.S.A. Two great American typewriter companies have entered into a preliminary agreement with me and are now studying the proposal for a simple typewriter for the composition of my symbols.

Mr. Stuart Chase, the well-known American writer and reformer has put me in touch with the Foreign Service Institute of the State Department Washington, which I shall approach with detailed proposals in the near future. It is clear that such a simple writing readable in all the languages of Asia, Africa, etc. could be used for subcaptions in American magazines, the pictures of which would then be intelligible to those millions of people whom the United States Information Service is trying to reach in Asia, Africa, and elsewhere.

I have made further important connections in Great Britain and the United States and in due course its practicability will be firmly established. Here in Sydney, the Standards Associations and the National Road and Motorist Association (N.R.M.A.) are at present studying my proposal for road signs, etc.

An article in one of Americas foremost magazines will appear in due course. The idea is so novel that it will arouse interest everywhere. It will become a reality.

It seems to be clear to me that you, in rejecting my work have thought of it only as a working language for Unesco and its scientists and as that, you thought that it will be rejected by Unesco. The purpose of this letter is then to direct your attention to other uses. I am writing to you because I believe that you will lend a sympathetic ear in a matter which is your primary concern. And here I come to a matter of the greatest urgency for Australia.

Scarcely a month passes without a notice in the papers about attacks on Australia in the various councils of the United Nations. Hostile powers attack Australia for her neglect of the education of the natives in New Guinea. Here are only a few headlines from the Herald:

Australia Blamed

UN censures Australia on Nauru rule

Australia answers New Guinea Charges, etc. etc.

The Australian representative in the U.N. Trusteeship Council recognized that the basis of the problem is education. However, the difficulties are almost as unsurmountable as the mountain ridges which separate virtually and linguistically the natives in New Guinea and elsewhere.

The Current Affairs Bulletin of the Commonwealth Office of Education of May 9, 1949, titled New Guinea, says on pp. 273 and 274:

"They (the natives) are broken up into a large number of small village communities, rarely containing more than a few hundreds; and divided into a large number of linguistic groups, with nearly one hundred languages already counted and more to come."

"Even adjacent villages might have entirely different languages... Authority therefore has to be extended in many places almost village by village and the rate at which it can be extended is partly determined by... finding some means of communication in so many separate cases."

I have been invited by a number of teachers of the Australian School for Pacific Administration. I have demonstrated there my semantography at the lowest level as a picture writing for primitive natives. They have agreed that it has practical value (see text attached).

It is clear that the orthodox methods of education are inapplicable in Australia's External Territories. No one can expect that hundreds of primers should be printed in hundreds of languages. On the other something must be done to prove to the world and to the agencies of the United Nations that education is proceeding in these territories.

During the last days this urgency has received new impetus. The men who govern Indonesia have declared that Western New Guinea will be incorporated into Indonesia in the course of the coming year. It need not very much foresight to realize that soon they will claim the Australian part of New Guinea and the adjacent islands. All these territories are vital for the defence of Australia.

In the meantime, the cry for education of primitive natives has received new impetus. One should believe that giving the natives agricultural tools, seeds, livestock, etc. should be enough to raise their standard of living.

However British scientists have found out in Africa that this is not enough. Here is a passage from the book "Language in Society" by M.M. Lewis (Nelson, London 1947):

"The Advisory Committee of the Colonial Office on Mass Education in Africa (1943) says: 'So far, in the British colonies, we have acted on the assumption that people would eventually adopt improved methods of agriculture... without learning to read and write.' But all the evidence shows the futility of this assumption. Universal adult literacy is the first essential in the organisation of a community for the improvement of techniques of living..."

Facing the terrific difficulties for orthodox educational methods in the External Territories of Australia it is clear that something entirely new is needed to overcome these difficulties. The picture writing of Semantography enables the printing of ONE Primer for all the languages in the Pacific and elsewhere. If the Australian authorities would start a bold move with a new unheard-of medium, all the critic must cease and with it all the attempts under the pretext of 'neglect' etc.

Now, dear Mr. Nelson, I am coming to my conclusions. As you know I am a retired man, and I do not seek any official employment. But as long as I live, I shall work for this idea. I am going to approach all authorities in Australia. Here is a new medium which can make Australia the teacher of Asia. Wherever learned men put my work to the test, I was able to convince them of the practicability of Semantography. In the meantime, more acknowledgements will come from Great Britain and the United States, and then Unesco in Paris will not withhold acknowledgement.

It is for you now to decide. I hope that you will take up my work and that your name will be connected with this pioneering work. If you again dismiss it in the face of authoritative acknowledgement, it will not be in your favour. I await your decision and I hope that you will call me to a friendly discussion.

Yours sincerely

Of course, he did not reply, and this letter again was C.K.Bliss another futile attempt. The whole approach to the Unesco men of Sydney was a failure. I was much depressed and disheartened. I saw that nothing will be achieved from Sydney, and that I have to seek an independent approach to Unesco. After preliminary correspondence with Dr. Volkov and Dr. Wolsky (see the foregoing issue) I started my correspondence with Unesco Paris.

At the same time, I felt that I had to make again a move with the Unesco people in Sydney. If Paris shows interest then my new contacts could prove fruitful. I decided then to write to the man who is the acting director of the Commonwealth Office of Education, after I had learned that Prof. Mills does not take any active part. Here is my letter to Mr. Weeden, who is Assistant Director of the Commonwealth Office of Education in Sydney.

Dear Mr. Weeden,

18th November 1950

You may or you may not have heard about Semantography. If you are a subscriber to the leading British Educational Journal THE NEW ERA, you will find in the November issue a two/thousand word review about my work, written by Professor G. Patrick Meredith of the University of Leeds. Allow me to quote his last sentence:

"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."

After working seven years in seclusion, I started a year ago to present it to the men who count in such matters. My strategy was simple. I sat in ante chambers and annoyed the secretary by my insistence to see the chief and only the chief, and when I succeeded I faced a hostile chief.

I had to abandon this strategy out of sheer selfrespect. I took to writing letters, and realized that if I make phantastic claims for my system, I have to supply the evidence. In consequence my letters became heavy. And important men have no time to read heavy letters.

I have therefore now changed my strategy, and I am writing now one page letters at intervals and this is my first letter to you. If after a few such letters you would get interested enough in my work and invite me to a demonstration, I would be only too happy to oblige.

Yours sincerely

C.K.Bliss

There was no answer and so I wrote 2 weeks later my second letter

Dear Mr. Weeden,

2nd December 1950

Hoping that you have received my first letter of November 18, I beg to write to you again. Unfortunately the new issue of THE NEW ERA has not reached Sydney. I beg therefore - because it has a bearing on this letter - to recite Prof. Meredith last words of his review:

"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."

Now, you Mr. Weeden are for me more important than a big slice of the world, and I am therefore much concerned with my strategy in presenting Semantography to you. I hope too, to have your understanding for this unusual way of presentation, and for my worries.

More than one year ago, I asked for an interview with Prof. Mills. His secretary effectively blocked my way. "Put it in writing" she said. But I was authoritatively informed by others that Prof. Mills will not get my letter. It will be detailed to his lieutenants, who will deal with it, according to their view and vision. What bewildered me even more was the fact, that these lieutenants sign their letters with the name of the professor. Under these circumstances I chose not to write to Prof. Mills, but to wait a year or so, until I have gained more recognition abroad.

Even then my "strategy" worries me, and I have decided to write to you, hoping that my letter will not be detailed to someone else. But - as you are in a similar exalted position as Prof. Mills - I am not sure whether you really get my letters. I beg you therefore to send me the attached slip in which you encourage me to present Semantography to you. Even then, your signature might not be your signature. But I have to take this risk and hope for the best.

If you have a sense of humour, everything will be alright. If not, everything will be all wrong.

Yours sincerely

C.K.Bliss

Of course, neither he nor his lieutenant answered my letter and what makes it worse - they retained even my stamped envelop. It is an acknowledged procedure in the world, that if you want an acknowledgement and you don't want the recipient of your letter should pay for the stamp, that you include in your letter

a stamped and addressed envelop. Now the recipient has to use the envelop and acknowledge receipt of your letter. The alternative means the retaining of something of monetary value - something which simply is not done. And in the many instances I have used this procedure no person has retained the stamp - no person except Directors and Director Generals of Education. This is a strong accusation, but I stick to it. It's true. And even if only a secretary or another underling has done it, the worse for the office of Director and Director General of Education.

Of course, this tends to show that my letters have been treated with contempt. And in fact, this is what many have experienced who had to deal with educational administrators - contempt for the common taxpayer who dares to say something about education being not as it should be.

After a few months somehow I started to hope again. In the meantime I had corresponded with Unesco (see the foregoing issue) and Mr Guiton had advised me to get in touch with Prof. Mills. I feared that if I address a letter directly to Prof. Mills Mr. Nelson or any other underling will let me feel it for trying to by-pass him. So I addressed my letter impersonally. I referred to my personal talk with Mr. Carroll The Unesco Section without mentioning his name. Sydney 14th April 1951
Commonwealth Office of Education,
Sydney

Dear Sirs,

Less than one year ago I showed you the most favourable testimonials of Earl Russell, Professor Lancelot Hogben of Birmingham, Prof. Carleton Washburne of New York, Dr. Brose of Sydney, James Hemming of London, John Metcale of Sydney and of other scholars. I informed you too that Dr. P. Volkov, Editor of the British Educational Journal THE NEW ERA, London and a permanent member of a Unesco committee intends to propose the study of my work to Unesco Paris.

She commissioned Prof. Patrick Meredith of the University of Leeds, author and authority on visual education to make a study of Semantography. He wrote a review comprising nearly 2000 words, which review he classed as next to an eulogy, and which he closed 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." (THE NEW ERA Nov. 1950)

In consequence thereof Dr. Volkov proposed Semantography to Unesco Paris. Prof. Joseph A. Lauwerys, head of the Institute of Education, in the University of London followed suit and proposed Semantography to the Mass Communication Department. In addition he wrote a personal letter to the Director General Dr. Jaime Torres Bodet, drawing his attention to Semantography.

Prof. Carleton Washburne of New York informed me that he had a personal talk with Dr. John W. Taylor, the new Deputy Director General of Unesco, when on his way to Paris. His attention to Semantography has been drawn too.

Practically all departments of Unesco Paris have now studied Semantography and so far, there is not a single counter-argument. On the contrary. I have now received a letter from the Head of the Education Department Mr. Jean Guiton (EDC/213 253 of March 19) in which he advised me to bring the matter to the attention of Prof. R.C. Mills c/o Dept. of External Affairs, Canberra, and to discuss with the delegates to the next General Conference (June 1951 in Paris).

However, I want to go the proper way, that is not "over your heads" and therefore I am writing this letter to you.

An excellent opportunity is offered to all who have not yet seen Semantography. The Sydney University Extension Board has decided to sponsor a lecture on Semantography which will take place on Tuesday the 15th May 4 p.m. in the Wallace Theatre. I enclose a number of invitations and would be much obliged to you if you would kindly distribute these to interested persons in your departments.

You are aware that Unesco has frowned upon international languages, simply because they necessitate the learning of a second tongue. Esperanto, Ido etc. are new languages, which no one, including scientists wants to learn.

With Semantography it is different. It is, so to speak, the "opposite" of Esperanto. Everyone can go on talking, reading and writing in his familiar mother-tongue. This striking difference has been brought to the forefront by the secretary to the Sydney University Extension Board in his explanatory lines on the invitation. This difference too is the reason why Unesco Paris is favourably inclined and has not rejected Semantography.

Earl Russell, foremost authority on logical symbolism has written that any material assistance given to publications on Semantography means "performing an important service to mankind." And the knowledge of this new tool for mutual understanding among the nations of the world is spreading fast. This week I have received orders for my work from professors of Harvard University and the University of Pittsburgh. The Unesco Office in India is actively engaged in helping the important libraries in South and South East Asia to acquire a copy of my 3 volumes. I feel sure that this Australian invention will enhance her name in the world.

I enclose the title page of a proposed Children's Primer, on which you will find a few symbols of Semantography. Please read the names of its supporters, and realise the fascinating aspects. The word "fascinating" has been used by Prof. Hogben and Prof. Meredith in describing Semantography.

Would you kindly implement Earl Russell's appeal and would you send invitations of the Sydney University Extension Board to all prominent people who constitute the Unesco Co-operative Committees. In order to help you in this I would deliver to you as many invitations you need in envelopes and with stamps affixed. You would need to add the addresses only. I feel sure that you realize that I am a victim to this fascinating idea to which I have given my time and my thoughts, my earnings and my savings.

And would you kindly inform me what I should do to comply with Mr. Jean Quiton's advice and how the matter could be brought to the attention of Prof. Mills.

Awaiting your reply, I am with thanks

Yours sincerely

C.K.Bliss

There was no reply. Surely for writing such a letter, for sending printed material, I would have deserved a few words no matter how valueless. But to be treated with such contempt makes me grinding my teeth in anger even today more than seven years later.

My reference to the Unesco Cooperative Committees too has a story. Mr. Carroll was the first man to tell me that there are a number of Unesco Committees which set the course of action of Australia in Unesco activities. I asked then for the addresses of these bodies, but this was refused to me. I was told that I should write to the Unesco Section of the Commonwealth Office of Education. This I did with the result that I was not even accorded an answer. Four years went by.

Then A.J.A.Nelson was relieved of his post and became a lecturer on Adult Education in Armidale. A new man was appointed to deal with all Unesco activities. At first I believed that this new man with the name of Russell is the man who was so sympathetic to me years ago. Unfortunately this was a Mr. Carroll. Not clearly remembering the name I wrote

Mr. H.J.Russell

23th March 1955

Secretary Australian National Advisory Committee for Unesco
Sydney,

Dear Mr. Russell,

I wonder whether you are the man whom I met some years ago when Mr. Nelson was secretary. I do believe his name was Russell and you might be the man. I remember that you were most sympathetic to my work and if my assumption is right may you whether you might be inclined to interest the Advisory Committee to make a move with regard to Semantography. You might know from the press that Julian Huxley recognized the value of my work when he wrote: "Semantography provides something of real importance." You might know that I have corresponded with all Director Generals of Unesco and they and their officers have informed me time and again that it is the Australian Unesco Committee which must promote my work.

You are perhaps more than any other man in Sydney aware of the criticism which has been leveled in the whole world against Unesco. My work provides a medium for the illiterate masses of the world and as you might know Bertrand Russell and other great scholars have stressed its importance for mankind. You might know too that Mr. Nelson has kept aloof and has done nothing to promote my work.

I shall be obliged if you would kindly inform me about your attitude. It is true I am not a Director of This and That and therefore I have been subjected in the past to humiliation as far as Mr. Nelson and Unesco Committee is concerned. I think that such an attitude should not be maintained because I am preparing to publish my own magazine in the near future. I shall then have at last a voice to protest in public and should have no difficulty to find quotations from great scholars with regard to Unesco. "Unesco", said Prof. Hogben, "a comic synonym to Fiasco." "Unesco," wrote the Editor of the Sydney Morning Herald, "a costly talking shop and a mediocre one at that." "Unesco," said Dr. Torres Bodet, "bureaucrats writing to bureaucrats" and so on.

What is your attitude towards my work Mr. Russell? I am

Yours faithfully

C.K.Bliss

The attitude was the wastepaper basket. No reply. Five months later I formulated the following letter:

Dear Mr. Russell,

8th August 1955

My letter of March 8 has remained unanswered. I would be much obliged if you would inform me whether you have received it or not. I cannot assume that you have deliberately ignored my letter. Should this be the case I shall protest to your superiors.

I am fully informed about everything which has been done here for Unesco and so far I am the only man in Australia who has produced something really new, something which Unesco and the whole world can use and will use in the future.

future. I do not deserve the treatment which has been meted out to me in the past and I shall go, if necessary, to Canberra to make my protest heard, if you and the Advisory Committee maintain their attitude towards my work which has received the highest praise from some of the greatest scholarly authorities in the world.

Awaiting your reply I am

Yours faithfully

C.K. Bliss

Then I was gripped with one of those fits of depression, of seeing any such approach as hopeless and futile. They had not answered any of my letters in the past. Even if they would have answered, it would have been something similar to the letters from Unesco Paris. So sorry. So I let it go again. I did not send off the letter.

Then a Unesco Information Circular got into my hands which for the first time told of the Australian Unesco Committees and mentioned them all. I looked through the list and realized that those men and women would do nothing for my work. Here is the list. Their titles in themselves indicate the futile fiddling around with commonplace activities in which there is no place for a work like mine

List of the Australian Unesco Committees (1955)

The Committee for Drama, Theatre and Literature
 The Committee for Education
 The Committee for Films
 The Committee for Libraries
 The Committee for Museums
 The Committee for Music
 The Committee for the Natural Sciences
 The Committee for the Press
 The Committee for Radio
 The Committee for Social Sciences
 The Committee for Visual Arts

The only Committees which I could approach are the Committees for Education, and the Committee for Social Sciences. The Committee for Education comprised the following institutions:

1. Australian Broadcasting Commission
2. Australian Council for Educational Research
3. Australian Council for School Organisation
4. Australian Teachers Federation
5. Australian Vice-Chancellors Committee
6. Commonwealth Department of Health
7. Headmasters Conference of Non-State Schools
8. Headmistresses Association of Australia
9. National Union of Australian University Students.
10. New Education Fellowship
11. State Directors of Education
12. Workers' Educational Association

Now it is a common fact that committees are used for shifting responsibility for any new project. Until a motion is made individuals had to be approached. Even then the motion is usually not carried. I had made strenuous efforts in the past with regard to members of the institutions no. 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, in fact with all relevant institutions and some of their most prominent members. Some of the correspondence is incorporated in the Semantography Series. The result in every case was nil.

The list of the Committee for Visual Arts include the Art Galleries and Museums Association, the Artists Association, the Water Colour Institute, and similar bodies far removed from the scope of my work.

When I had the list before me (which was so stubbornly refused to me) I decided to write a letter of protest to all of them. It would be wasting paper to reprint this letter of protest. In the end I realised that the committees would do nothing.

The Committee for Social Sciences comprised only the names of professors. I had spoken and corresponded with a number of them - with no result whatever. Moreover, in Semantography Series No. 181 I tell a most interesting story which concerns not only the professors in the committee mentioned above, but all professors of all Australian universities. With the letterhead of the Semantography Publishing Co. and written and signed by my typist as secretary of the Publishing Company, I informed every professor in Australia (nearly 300) that they can have gratis the brochure on Semantography which was the theme of Professor O.L. Reiser's address to the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The brochure written by an American professor contained also a thesis on the electronic brains, semantics and cybernetics. All to be had gratis for study. Just for the asking.

Only 5 professors in Australia asked for the gratis brochure. Five out of three hundred - the cream of Australian scholarship. And none of them was from any faculty directly interested in the paper by Prof. Reiser. One interested professor was an obstetrician. And this concludes the sorry story of the Australian Unesco Authorities.