

COPY ONLY OF
STATUTORY DECLARATION



I, Maureen Elaine BATES
of 7 Creer Street, RANDWICK in the State of New South
Wales do solemnly and sincerely declare as follows:

I became the secretary of Mr. C. K. Bliss, 2 Vicar Street, Coogee, N.S.W., a few months ago and gradually came to know him and about his brilliant symbol system, SEMANTOGRAPHY (Blissymbolics)

Seeing him struggle with one person to another in an effort to convince people of the true value of his symbols, I decided to, in some small way, try to help him. Finally I decided to attempt to see the producer of a locally made television series, which presented interesting items and topics from week to week in the form of a documentary. I made an appointment with the producer for the following Monday morning.

The weekend before the appointment, I studied up on all the various points of interest regarding Mr. Bliss and his work. He gave me some wooden blocks with the symbols drawn on them (which are intended to be used in teaching small children how to use Mr. Bliss' symbols) to show to the producer.

Saturday afternoon, I was looking through the book when my young brother, Gary (7 years of age) came into my room looking for something to do, as it was raining that afternoon. He noticed the wooden blocks on my table and inquisitively asked me what they were for. The night before I had shown the same symbols to an 8 year old boy and received a very bright response. However, Gary was a year younger and I thought his small amount of training in school would not be enough to be able to comprehend the meaning of these symbols. However, he was so insistent as to finding out what they were for, that I eventually decided to show him. I showed him very simple little statements, such as 'FATHER SEES MOTHER', 'MOTHER SMELLS FLOWER'.

I then proceeded to put them away, when Gary demanded that I should show him more.

WITHIN TWO HOURS he was writing sentences. He learned every small word and its symbol that any little mind (or large mind) could possibly conceive in two hours. From a simple MOTHER SEES FATHER he was writing I AM WRITING A LETTER TO YOU, FATHER. I AM HAPPY TO HEAR YOU. TODAY I SAW A DOG AND A HORSE. YESTERDAY I SAW A BIRD AND A COW. TODAY IT IS RAINING. YESTERDAY IT WAS SUNNY. A TREE IS IN THE GARDEN. TOMORROW I AM GOING TO THE ZOO.

I was thoroughly amazed to see this very quick response. Although I had faith in Mr. Bliss and his work, this amazing sight of a 7 year old boy writing what it would take him still another year of hard school training to learn in English, convinced me even more.

The best was yet to come. By Sunday afternoon he knew and used verbs and adjectives and nouns which of course are not taught until the late stages of primary school. This small boy was only in 2B. Yet through the medium of Mr. Bliss' symbols I was able to show him the difference between just (☉) meaning sight and (☉) meaning the eye and yet again (☉) to see. I then showed him the adjectives, such as (丿) manly and (丿) windy.

He went on to learn those confusing set of words such as IT (,), FROM (>), THE (<), IS (⊙), TO (>), OF (>), IN (⊙) etc.

When I asked him to make a list, showing the English word and the newly learned symbol, out of 40 words he made 13 SPELLING mistakes and NO SYMBOL mistakes.

The even better point regarding the value of this work which was discovered through both the 8 year old boy (Andy Gibb) and the 7 year old boy (Gary Bates) was that they were able to notice immediately any falsehood or fallacy in any statement written in symbols. Even their suggestions were bright and sensible. For example, Gary (7 year old) was writing the symbol for garden (1). When I checked it over I saw that he had written (x 1) and so I reprimanded him and told him to correct it. However Gary disagreed and said that there is more than one flower in a garden just as there is more than one tree (↑) in a forest (x ↑).

Therefore, Cary said, the symbol of multiplication (*) should be added. Not being able to argue with the truth I left it as it was, and when I told Mr. Bliss he also had to agree with the boy's idea.

Even the night before I spent only 5 to 10 minutes with the small boy of 8 and yet when I showed him the symbol for television (on his request) I wrote by mistake ($\odot \square \odot /$) and the boy Andy looked at it for a moment and then told me that I was wrong. I had included the mouth symbol and as Andy said, you only look and hear the television, you don't speak to it. On checking with Mr. Bliss re: the correct way of writing television, I found that Andy was absolutely right.

On the foundation of what I have written above, I think that it is unnecessary to PROVE even more, that BLISSYMBOLICS is a most valuable contribution to mankind and should be promoted until it receives the recognition and the use that it rightly deserves.

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true and by virtue of the provisions of the "Oaths Act of 1900-1953"

Subscribed and declared at Coogee
this 8th day of June
one thousand nine hundred and 66
before me

J. V. Kent, J.P.

Signed
M.E. Bates