



Semantography Series No . 361

BLISSYMBOLS FOR THE BLIND
CHILDREN OF THE WORLD

A Letter to Miss Anne Sokolow of 729 Gayley Ave, No. 208
Los Angeles Ca. 90024. who has taken a great interest in
my symbols, who has bought my books and the relevant issues
of my Semantography Series, and who has just given me the
exotig news that she is going to devote her life to those
poorest of the poor children who cannot see the gold of
the sun, the blue of the sky and the green of the land.

Dear Anne,

Thanks for your kind letter and for telling me that "I shall be designing some-
thing to help develop the perceptual and motor abilities of blind babies - quite
a departure from symbology, I know."

But it isn't. Indeed for many years I have thought of contacting the leading
educators of the blind by drawing their attention to my symbols for teaching the
blind children to perceive the things in our world, not through the lifeless let-
ters of the alphabet which they have to read in "Braille", but through the pictorial
symbols embossed on paper which they also can read with their fingertips, but in
"Bliss" What does this mean first for you and then for the blind children of the
world? Let me tell you.

It means for you that you can become another Sullivan, teaching not one Helen
Keller, but millions of them around the world. It means for you that your books
about the experiences which you have gathered by teaching them my pictorial symbols
will be read by all those educators of the blind in all their languages, but it
means also that your books for the blind will be read by the millions of blind
children - but not translated into their many languages. They will be able to read
them in any of their languages, and they will be able to correspond (with an embos-
sing device) with blind children all over the world. A child who can only speak
English can nevertheless write a letter to a child who can only speak French, and/
or other languages, and they all will be able to read the books which you will
write as author and which will find world-wide distribution.

For the children it will mean a new mode of perception unheard-of so far, and
for you it will mean to become world famous, to go on lecture tours, and to teach
other children and other teachers of the blind to write in my symbols, and to learn
also the semantics and symbolic logic which is inherent in my symbols.

Let me explain what I mean. A blind child has immense difficulties to learn the
meaningless letters of the alphabet which, put together means house in English,
haus in German, huis in Dutch, casa in Italian, beth in Hebrew (like Beth Lehem
house of bread) and so on in other languages.

Curiously however, the Hebrew letter of beth (B) will be the easiest to grasp
because the Hebrew letter for B printed thus  looks really like a house as they
are still built in the Middle East, though it means only a room for the family
with an entrance at the side, and more than often without any windows. A blind
child may soon grasp the pictorial meaning of the Hebrew letter, simply by tapping
its way around the room it is in, a kind of box with an opening at the side. Now,
not incidentally, my symbol for a room looks exactly like the Hebrew letter 
namely thus . My symbol is designed to fit the keys of a typewriter for seman-
tography, and hence it is pictorial, but also reduced to the smallest number of

But the meaning of a house will not be easy to grap for a blind child. It may ^{lines}
soon learn to find its way around the house, but it may never be able to fathom
in its mind the meaning of roof, that sloping cover over the rooms - unless some-
one lifts the child up to the roof. But see how simple the matter is in my symbols.

First comes the meaning of earth, ground which is symbolized thus . This

This meaning will be easily grasped by any blind child, because it is a pictorial presentation of the ground  it treads. Now comes the second meaning thus:  it represents two partitions, walls and when combined with the symbol for ground thus  it means now some walls or partitions built on the ground. It may mean a fence put upon the ground in the garden, but it may also mean some movable partitions which are used in movable expandable or contractable classrooms. In any case, the blind child will soon grasp its meaning by tapping its way along the fence, or the partition, or the walls of a room and writing:  But now comes the difficult meaning of a roof. This can be symbolised and explained by let the child touch a Chinese hat, or an umbrella, or the toy model of a house from which the sloping roof part can be removed to enable the child to touch the walls, and then put the roof on top of it. Hence my symbol is thus .

Once the child has grasped this it can be told that my symbol means not only a roof of a house. It means also protection which indeed the house  can give. And this my symbol will mean a house, a haus, a huis, a maison, a casa, a beth and so on in all languages of mankind.

Now once the child has grasped the "cover all" meaning of protection, we can teach it the meaning of father and mother in an utterly novel way. I shall later on give an explanation of my symbol for man  and woman . It may mean a man in trousers, and a woman in a skirt. But there is a deeper meaning which I explain in my books. The symbol for man  contains the symbol for ACTION  (a picture of the first primeval actions on our young planet, the throwing up of volcano cones). The symbol for woman  contains the symbol for CREATION . This symbol has been displayed for thousands of years on temples, shrines and churches to mean Creation and Creator. We find it even in the Great Seal of the United States. I explain that this my symbol  contained in the symbol for woman  means that woman is the Trustee of Creation: within her womb a new creature comes to life. And if we take another look on both symbols we may find a similarity with the Chinese symbols for man  and woman  but here they mean the sexual genitals and they have the same meaning also in my symbols, only in a more abstract way.

Now what is my combination symbol for parents? They both provide protection for their children. They both provide a roof over their children thus protecting them. Here then is my symbol for parents , and here for father  and here for mother . Can you show me, dear Anne, a finer and better presentation?

Now a few words about the semantics and symbolic logic of my symbols. Today a "War of Words" is waged in almost every home around the world and in all languages of mankind. Our teachers of all languages have taught us how to spell and pronounce the words which make life unhappy between parents and their children.

But they have not taught the children of the world how to recognize those words which are said to hurt, and which cannot be disproved. Here my picture writing can stop those who want to hurt, and those who want to avoid being hurt by words. Whatever can be pictured has a real meaning like a set of partitions without a roof or a house giving full protection against the wind and the rain and the snow. We can quickly come to an agreement about those two meanings.

But there are those hurting words which are NOT PICTURABLE, and which therefore have no real meaning and which therefore are said to hurt only, as for instance: "You have a skull and a brain within it, but there is no reason in it." Or "all you can think of is insincere and shameful." What can a child say against such accusations. Nothing; it can only cry, and such tears have filled oceans.

Now my dear Anne, I hope I have convinced you that my symbols are the very thing for your intentions, and I hope you will grasp what they could mean to you and to your life. I hope to hear from you and remain

Yours sincerely

C. K. Bliss