

**Semantography
Blissymbolics**
2 Vicar Street,
Coogee, Sydney
Australia

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SEMANTOGRAPHY - BLISSYMBOLICS

A new Tool for the United States Armed Forces, and the Forces of the Free World.

Attention:

To the
Commanding General,
U.S. Army Materiel Command,
Washington, D.C. 20315.
United States of America.

AMCRD-SS-P/Proposals
Reference your letter June 20 '66
signed by: Mr. Benjamin Stutsky,
Acting Chief, Support Branch
Technical Services Division
Research & Development Directorate

Gentlemen,

Please receive herewith the following papers and the accompanying comment to the submitted Disclosure Form in duplicate. However as these forms will not be available to others whom you might want to give this and the attached papers, the information given in the Disclosure Form is repeated herewith and augmented by further details. The numbers and underlined headings correspond to those in the Disclosure Form.

INVENTOR'S NAME

ADDRESS

BLISS Charles K.

No. 2 Vicar Street, COOGEE,
Sydney. New South Wales. Australia.

No Joint Inventors.

1. INVENTION/IDEA SUBMITTED FOR NATIONAL DEFENSE.

Semantography-Blissymbolics, a simple system of about 100 pictorial symbols which can be read in all languages, which can solve the problem advertised six years ago by the Office of Invention and Innovation of the United States Government and stated in detail here below, but can also be used for other defense situations as stated in the attached papers.

2. SPECIFIC FEATURES WHICH ARE BELIEVED TO BE NEW AND ADVANTAGEOUS

The National Inventor's Council (U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington D.C.) published under the heading "Invention wanted by the Armed Forces" in their November 1959 issue page 43, problem no. 1310: A SIMPLIFIED WORKING VOCABULARY APPLICABLE TO MOST FIELD LOGISTICAL SITUATIONS IN WHICH NON-ENGLISH-SPEAKING PERSONNEL WILL BE USED. To this the advertisement adds:

"PRESENT SITUATION AND REQUIREMENTS. The language barrier or more generally the inter-language communications barriers limits the effective and rapid utilization of indigenous personnel in our field supply operations. The first logical approach to such problem is to decide what must be communicated and how it is best accomplished (by spoken words, visual symbols such as markings etc.,) If we can codify and perhaps simplify the basic communication elements, it should be far easier to establish effective working relationships between logistical supervisors and indigenous personnel with whom they must work. Furthermore translations to any known language could be prepared beforehand, and tested for points of confusion.

The use of "visual symbols such as markings" is expressively found to be mentioned. Pictorial symbols as invented are ideal because the local workers (indigenous personnel) employed by the U.S. Armed Forces in Asia (Vietnam) and elsewhere are mostly illiterate. Tests have proved that my symbols are quickly understood.

3. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF HOW INVENTION/IDEA WORKS

In the attached papers a number of my symbols are shown. They can be used in a number of defense situations, some of which are mentioned here below:

- 1) The symbols can be put on boxes, crates, machinery and weapons of any kind.
cont.../

BRIEF DESCRIPTION..(cont..)

- 2) They can be typed with an adjusted typewriter (which carries the alphabet too) on all papers for logistical purposes. They can be printed, and cabled by facsimile telegram.
- 3) They can be transmitted by closed circuit television. Within the NATO forces, and in Vietnam, squadrons of airplanes may contain pilots of other nations who can't understand the English words spoken by the squadron leader. He would have before him a writing pad which is scanned by a television camera. When he gives any command he writes at the same time the appropriate short symbols on the writing pad and these are then transmitted over the television intercom to all pilots, and read by those who can't understand the English words, but can read the pictorial symbols in their own language.
- 4) The same idea of television intercommunication can be used between ships and within trenches where allied non-English speaking personnel fight together with U.S. soldiers. These non-English speaking personnel can in turn communicate with U.S. personnel.
- 5) Any text which need be translated into a number of languages can be written first in my symbols, and these are then scanned and transmitted to a computer which automatically types out the text in any programmed language.
- 6) On page 498 of my book (see attached paper) I describe a signal board which can be mounted in the trenches, on ships and on the fuselages of planes, by which communication can be carried out with the enemy, where there is no capable translator at hand. There is no doubt that the communists will learn to read these symbols because they might be able to read the messages transmitted to them.
- 7) Another unheard-of aspect of these symbols is that they contain a simple symbolic logic, which when taught in schools and elsewhere can reveal the fallacies in the insidious word propaganda of the Communists. This is even necessary within the U.S.A.

Additional information: The problem stated by the National Inventor's Council begins with the words "Simplified working vocabulary", and states later that this can be accomplished by "spoken words or visual symbols". This indicates that the writer had in mind either to teach the non-English speaking personnel English, or Basic English, or Esperanto. I must therefore state that the idea of teaching people in Asia and elsewhere a foreign language will not work. In fact it does not work with the millions of boys and girls in all the high schools of the world who are forced to learn foreign languages for years. A few gifted pupils excepted, the professors and teachers of foreign languages admit utter failure everywhere. All we retain from years of schooling is a smattering only.

In my opinion the reason for this is that the mother tongue is an irresistible force. People go on babbling throughout their lives what their mothers babbled to them when they were children. In the U.S.A., in Canada, in Australia and elsewhere hundreds of thousands of people speak almost exclusively French, or German, Italian or Ukrainian etc., although their forefathers came into the country centuries ago. In the first world war, recruiting posters in the U.S.A. had to be printed in 26 different languages.

4. AGENCIES OR BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT THAT WOULD HAVE PRIMARY INTEREST

- 1) All branches of the U.S. Armed Forces, army, marines, navy and air force.
- 2) The Peace Corps which works in Asia and Africa where hundreds of languages are spoken by many millions of illiterates for whom no written alphabet has been invented. Here is One Primer for ALL Languages. Here is One Writing for One World.
- 3) The U.S.A. Information Service which operates in most countries of the world.
- 4) All U.S. government agencies which are combating the insidious communist propaganda. (see below)

5. STATUS OF INVENTION/IDEA

- a. IS IT A GENERAL IDEA REQUIRING DEVELOPMENT? NO! But special symbols or symbol combinations may have to be worked out for the special logistic or fighting situations in which the symbols have to be used.
- b. HAS IT BEEN WORKED OUT IN DETAIL? YES! I published in 1949 the first edition of 3 volumes on Semantography-Blissymbolics (Library of Congress catalog card no. 52-6555) In 1965 the new second enlarged edition in one handy volume (Library of Congress catalog card no. 65-9219) came out.

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STATUS OF INVENTION - question (b) cont...

This book is now available from the United States depository;

ACME CODE CO. INC.,
102 First Street,
H A C K E N S A C K
New Jersey 07601
U.S.A.

Retail Price \$ 12.00

Library Discount of 25%

In this book of 882 pages there are large chapters showing the application of my 100 symbol elements for all fields of communication, commerce, industry and even science. The book is being sold below cost as a contribution to mankind.

c) **HAS IT BEEN TESTED?** Yes! Educators and others have made tests with children and adults and have proved that they grasp the symbols almost instantly and are able to use the symbol elements for new combinations to express new meanings they need. I submit below the statutory declaration of Miss Maureen Bates about her amazing teaching results, and ask the reader to read it.

d) **IS IT IN USE?** The idea is used on the motor roads of the world, where warning signs written in the native languages are taken down and replaced by pictorial symbols which drivers can grasp instantly even in rain and fog, in darkness and drunkenness. Geologists and geographers use many pictorial symbols in their maps. All radio wiring diagrams and many electronic parts are expressed in pictorial symbols which technicians and scientists can read in any of their languages. Furthermore the non-pictorial symbols of 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 + - = ! ? \$ % etc. are understood in all languages. In fact, nearly 40% of the types on a normal typewriter contain such inter-linguistic symbols. My symbols will therefore come into use as the logical continuation of this process of communication **across** all languages.

e) **IS IT COMMERCIALIZED?** Yes, as far as the international symbols mentioned above, and about to be commercialized, as far as my symbols are concerned. I submit below my Sample Tourist Folder, **UNIVERSAL PICTORIAL BLISSYMBOLS FOR THE INTERNATIONAL TRAVELLER** which I worked out, because railways, business, shipping lines and airlines, hotels and motels, and business organisations dealing with tourism and travel are already introducing pictorial symbols which travellers can read in any language they speak.

f) **IS IT COVERED BY A PATENT APPLICATION?** NO! But see next paragraph.

g) **IS IT PATENTED?** I was chief of the patent and legal department of a large electronic firm, and I know that most patents are not worth the paper they are printed on. Moreover, the cost of obtaining and maintaining patents (which have a short duration only) in many countries cost a fortune. I have therefore used a much better and much longer and world-wide protection. I have registered the basic symbols, their combinations, derivations and likely deviations, in all countries of the Berne Convention, and in the United States. This covers practically the whole world, except the pirate countries such as Russia and China.

I have also registered a number of variations in typewriter keyboards, carrying the small letters of the alphabet, and my line elements. This means that any symbol written, typed, printed, painted or engraved on any surface, including the keybuttons of typewriter, falls under the protection of my copyrights which extend beyond the year 2000. However, it is not my desire to make money from these rights, but to use them to prevent a new Babel of Symbols with many countries and imitators evolving their own symbols. In fact, the second name of Blissymbolics has been chosen by me, when I found that would-be imitators are already using my term of Semantography as a general term for all the Semantographies "yet to come."

My hope and dream is that the United States Government would take over the copyrights and would give the use of the symbols free to the whole world, provided the symbols are not wilfully altered, but used in the same way the world over. This would provide an unheard-of **ONE WRITING FOR ONE WORLD**. A paper, a letter, a notice, a book written, typed or printed in my symbols can be read in all languages.

h) **HAS IT BEEN DISCLOSED TO OTHER AGENCIES OR BRANCHES OF THE GOVERNMENT?**

In 1960 I answered the call **INVENTIONS WANTED BY THE ARMED FORCES** made by the National Inventor's Council (U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington) as mentioned
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5. STATUS OF INVENTION/IDEA - point (h) continued..

under heading 3 of this form, and as reported in detail in the attached Memorandum. Unfortunately, the man who handled my approach was incapable to realize the potential of my work. He agreed that the symbols can be used in the prescribed form for the various defence purposes, but pointed out that the problem as stated begins with the words A SIMPLIFIED WORKING VOCABULARY... saying that we must first find this simplified working vocabulary, and then apply the symbols to it.

This is sheer nonsense. Every logistical supervisor could write down the words and vocabulary he needs in his lists of spare parts, or weapons, or ammunition or any other war material. Similarly, every commander in the field could compile the vocabulary of all the necessary commands to be given, etc. etc. It seemed to me then that the official who wrote to me, believes either in a working vocabulary in English or Basic English, or Esperanto, which he believes could be taught to the local personnel hired by the Armed Forces, or that he found just any argument good enough to turn me down. The fact, that the whole department of the National Inventor's Council in the Department of Commerce, has been disbanded, and replaced by the Office of Inventions and Innovations in the National Bureau of Standards, is proof for me that the office which dealt with my proposal worked unsatisfactorily. I did not proceed with my application, I did not press it home, and did not protest against the illogical argument, because my poor wife was gravely ill, and died later. Now, I hope that the new officials of the new office will give me a better hearing.

The other Government Department which became interested in my work was the Air Research and Development Command of the U.S. Air Force, but as I found out, they bought my books for one purpose only: to investigate possibilities of machine translation. I have reported this approach in the paper mentioned below, but could not find out about the progress of their work. I believe that much of this research has been discontinued.

The third Government Department which became interested in my work and already shortly after the second world war in 1946 was the Headquarters United States Forces China Theatre (see the paper mentioned below and the comment).

6. DESCRIPTIVE MATERIAL

I submit herewith the following papers:

Semantography Series No. 104 Invitation by the Headquarters United States Forces China Theatre, Educational Branch, situated in Shanghai in 1946, to a lecture on my "World Writing" as I called it then. This interest grew out from the experiences of the war in China. It will be recalled that the bomber crews which bombarded Tokyo under General Doolittle could not return to their aircraft carriers too far out in the Pacific. They were ordered to continue into China, and make emergency landings there. Most of the Eastern Chinese provinces were under the Japanese heel. In order to find friendly help by the Chinese people, all American personnel had on the back on their leathertunic a big patch of white leather stitched on, and on this across their back was a plea to the Chinese people printed in Chinese characters and in English. The fact is, that different languages and dialects are spoken in different provinces of China, but literate persons can read the characters in any language spoken in China. It was this idea, which stimulated my work in China, and which drew the attention of the Headquarter situated in Shanghai. But very soon, all American service personnel left China, and later, the communists took over.

Semantography Series No. 52 The Leaflet on Semantography distributed to the American Association for the Advancement of Science at the occasion of the lecture of Professor Oliver L. Reiser of the University of Pittsburgh. This leaflet shows a number of my symbols and their application to various fields including physics, chemistry, medicine, psychology and philosophy.

Universal pictorial Blissymbols for the International Traveller Semantography Series No. 280 (Library of Congress Catalog Card No. 66-22141) This tourist folder was made specially for the organisations dealing with travel and tourism in America and Europe. American Hotel and Motel Organisations, Travel Agencies and Business Organisations are already spending money for the introduction of pictorial symbols, because the language barrier is the greatest handicap for travellers of all nations. This folder shows best how simple my symbols really are, and how easily the basic symbols combine to hundreds of different meanings.

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6. DESCRIPTIVE MATERIAL cont...

Semantography Series No. 70 Semantography for Aviation Purposes. In 1951, the U.S. Air Force awarded a contract to the University of Washington in Seattle for a research project conducted by Professor Stuart C. Dodd. It concerned the circumstances created by the dropping of leaflets into enemy territory for the purpose of psychological warfare. As Professor Dodd is the inventor of Model English and Tilp (a constructed abstract auxiliary language) he took a great interest in my work. In turn, I tried to interest him in an application which could be of great use for the U.S. Air Force, namely the use of my symbols to be laid on the ground, or in snow by crashlanded, or marooned personnel for the sending of messages to rescue planes circling overhead. This paper shows a number of my symbols for this purpose.

Semantography, and how it can help the U.S. Armed Forces in Vietnam and elsewhere Mr. W.J. Mitchel, President of ACME CODE COMPANY INC., of Hackensack, New Jersey, one of the largest, if not the largest United States Depository of imported books and books printed in the U.S.A. has taken upon himself to distribute my book, because he believes in the practicability of this idea, and wants to pioneer it. He is already the supplier of books for a number of libraries of the U.S. Armed Forces, and has in fact supplied the first edition of my book in 1960 to the Air Research and Development Command of the U.S. Air Force (see details under item 5 above)

He hopes to interest librarians of the U.S. Armed Forces in my book, and I have therefore written this letter in which I explain the use of my symbols for communication within a squadron which contains allied personnel who cannot speak English, as this may be the case in Vietnam or the Nato Forces in Europe. The idea is to use closed circuit television. The squadron leader has before him a writing pad, and when he conveys a command to all fliers he speaks it over the intercom and draws the appropriate symbol at the same time. This symbol appears on the television sets of all planes and is read by those pilots who can't speak English. I give some sample symbols in this letter.

Semantography Series no. 190. The U.S. Armed Forces and Semantography and Memorandum to the National Inventor's Council, Washington. This paper tells the story of my approaches, and contains also a detailed description how Semantography can be used in various defense situations.

Semantography Series No. 195. Semantography for computers, T.V. Circuits, and logistical problems of the U.S. Armed Forces. An approach made to American firms manufacturing computers, T.V. circuits and electronic equipment which can be used by the U.S. Armed Forces. Nothing came of it.

Semantography Series No. 282. Miss Maureen Bates teaches Blissymbolics. An amazing story confirming how quickly little children pick up the symbols and how quickly they discover any illogical combination of the basic symbols.

The second enlarged edition of the 3 books in one handy volume of Semantography-Blissymbolics. The book can be lent from the Library of Congress, Washington D.C. Unfortunately, I am unable to send you free copies. I had to mortgage my home and am deep in debt for paying for the printing of thousands of books, brochures, leaflets and other papers. You may obtain copies from the United States Depository ACME CODE COMPANY INC., 102 First Street, Hackensack, New Jersey 07601 (see below)

This paper is already overlong, and therefore the symbolic logic and semantics which go with the symbols cannot be explained. However, this is amply demonstrated in my book, and should there be interest within the special Government agencies, I shall submit excerpts from my writing where I show how my symbols, when used to translate communist slogans show up immediately the fallacy, vagueness, and ambiguity in these slogans. I have also found that children can learn how to translate the word propaganda of the cold war into symbols and discover for themselves their falsity.

SUMMARY AND COURSE OF POSSIBLE ACTIONS

Before I come to the end of my paper, let me tell you that I was a soldier in the first world war, then I got a university degree in chemical engineering, and later became an industrial executive, dealing mainly with inventions and patents of new ideas in the electronic field.

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Moreover, I am an avid reader of American magazines, and hence know a great deal about your troubles. What actions should or could you take now with regard to this idea?

Action 1. To answer the question: What is the most important item of military science? Weapons? Yes! But sometimes bare fists alone can score a victory, provided they are there at the right time and the right place. In other words: Communication. No platoon can go into action, no gun can be fired, no ship can be steered, no plane can be flown without the most important military tool: Communication.

Many wars have been confined to tribes and nations speaking the same language. But now, most military conflicts know no boundaries of states and languages. Communication becomes the most desperately item needed. Every platoon, every airplane cannot have a translator. A new way to overcome the language barrier is needed.

Action 2. To answer the question: Can English, Basic English, Esperanto, or other languages be taught in crash courses? A smattering can be achieved, but nothing more, in spite of "language laboratories" and other gadgets.

Action 3. Can signs and markings be used as stated in 1959 in the problem no. 1310 "Invention needed by the Armed Forces." Yes, but only when the signs and markings are pictorial, and if a system is available to express everything needed. The system is here gentlemen, and I am still alive (though 69) to instruct in the use of it for military purposes.

Action 4. How to overcome the first hurdle of any new idea? Every new idea looks like a crackpot idea at first. The employee is afraid to bother the boss, and the boss is afraid to bother the higher boss. Some courage is needed somewhere, until some boss says "Let's get into it!"

Action 5. How to overcome the next logical hurdle? Every employee no matter how high in rank is afraid of failure, or worse, accusation of waste by some senators. The usual way to overcome this is to go to an expert, a professor of a university. The logical step would be to approach a professor of language. If you think of this, please throw all my papers right into the dustbin. It will save you a lot of trouble. Why? See the next paragraph.

Action 6. To answer the question: which human invention is the most important one? It is articulate language, the only tool to communicate and co-operate with our fellowmen. And every engineer knows that every tool must be constantly improved. But not the engineers of languages, the teachers and professors, who guard jealously every irregularity, every idiocy of grammar, spelling pronunciation. Why do they reject Esperanto, and every logical simplification of linguistic communication? Because if mankind would have one international language tens of thousands of language teachers will be out of a job, that's why!

Action 7. Giving a "contract" to a university. Still, every department of every university is hungry for money from the U.S. Treasury via the Armed Forces. They will agree to start a great "research" program whether or not pictorial symbols can be used, understood, communicated, etc. etc. It will cost you hundreds of thousands of dollars, and will get you nowhere, or rather back to this paper, and to the next action.

Action 8. Allow me to prove to you that I can express every meaning needed in military warfare, or in combatting communist slogans and arguments of the American Vietnicks and Beatnicks. Invite me to Washington and put me under the severest "crossfire" of counter-arguments. I shall win, because I have withstood this test in many a lecture I gave to students at Sydney Universities and elsewhere. I have travelled extensively, and have been in America and I don't want to travel any more. I am 69. But I shall come, if you provide the means for coming to you. Any transport plane, any army cot, any army ration will do. I still am a soldier and fighter, and I have gone through the severest prisons on earth, the German concentrations camps. Here is a picture from the dustjacket of my book, which proves to you that the communists have realized that my work is a danger to them.

Action 9. If all my exhortations fail, please do this at least. You are buying tens of thousands of books for the libraries of the Armed Forces. Acquire a few hundred of my books and distribute them to your libraries, in the hope that some bright young officer will take up the idea. I shall be grateful to you, because I have mortgaged my home and am deep in debt for the printing of thousands of my books, brochures and pamphlets, and you can order the book through my American distributor,

Mr. Wm. J. Mitchel, President
ACME CODE COMPANY INC.,
102 First Street, HACKENSACK, New Jersey 07601.
Yours sincerely C.K. Bliss
C.K. Bliss