



Sydney 18th July 1951

H A R V A R D   U N I V E R S I T Y   a n d   S E M A N T O G R A P H Y

A   L e t t e r   t o

Dr. James B. Conant  
President of  
Harvard University  
at present in Sydney

Dear Sir,

You are the second man of Harvard University to be confronted with Semantography. The first was Professor I.A. Richards who, on hearing of my "invention" ordered immediately my work. Why?

Your crowded itinerary forbids me to approach you in person. Indeed I was resolved not to bother you at all. But all my good intentions broke down, when I read in today's Sydney Morning Herald an article titled: "ILLITERACY" OF EXPERTS, containing the essence of two of your lectures.

You spoke about the "lingua franca" to be created for teaching scientists and non-scientists about one's another's methods. You said that "chemists would move into the fields of other sciences", and I, a chemist did just this. Lastly you gave this warning:

"Science should maintain the spirit of originality of the inventors, instead of being carried forward on the momentum of what earlier inventors had achieved."

Bertrand Russell was here a year ago, examined my work and wrote, that any assistance given to it means "performing an important service to mankind". And I beg you Sir, to give me the few minutes necessary to read this letter, and the introductory quotations to my forthcoming lecture before the Physical Society of the University of Sydney. Read what Sir Richard Paget said about Leibnitz the philosopher and mathematician. Read what Leibnitz prophesied, and then read what Russell said about my work.

It was Professor I.A. Richards, who together with C.K. Ogden of Cambridge wrote in 1922 in THE MEANING OF MEANING that Leibnitz' "speculative construction... still remains where Leibnitz thus left it" - 300 years ago.

Semantography appears to be the first practical realisation of Leibnitz prophecy. Not only does it offer unheard-of advantages for science and mankind. It teaches even the non-scientist, indeed even the people of only primary school education, the scientific method, giving them a simple Semantics and a new and simple-to-handle Logic.

I have worked it out in 9 years, written a large work in 3 volumes and, but so far, no one but you has better formulated my greatest handicap, namely (see above) "Science... (is) being carried forward on the momentum of what earlier inventors had achieved." The living inventor must fight a desperate battle for recognition. Well, I am lucky, I am getting recognition, but sometimes I ask myself in desperation: "MUST MEN, WHO PIONEER NEW IDEAS, BE DEAD FIRST?"

I hope you too will take an interest in my work. Yours Sincerely  
PS. My best wishes for a safe homecoming.

C.K. Bliss