



SEMANTOGRAPHY SERIES No. 50

Sydney 1951

PROFESSORS AND STUDENTS
of the
UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

WRITE ABOUT BLISS'S LECTURES ON SEMANTOGRAPHY

The Address of Professor A.G. Mitchell, Chairman of the first lecture on SEMANTOGRAPHY given on the 15th of May 1951 in the Wallace Theatre of Sydney University. (see Semantography Series No.14)
Opening Address

"Mr. C.K. Bliss is an Austrian by birth and an industrial chemist by profession. He has become the victim of an idea which consumes his energy and time and on the propagation of which he is spending his own substance. His system of Semantography aims at improving the means of communication among men. That is a very high purpose.

Mr. Bliss has asked for the opportunity of presenting his ideas before a University audience. The Extension Board does not close its attention to new ideas just because they are unfamiliar, but it will not sponsor anything which it does not consider deserving of a serious hearing. Satisfied that Mr. Bliss has something of interest to say the Board has gladly given him these facilities for putting his ideas before a University audience."

Closing Address

"Mr. Bliss need not have expressed any diffidence about his ability to capture and hold the interest of his audience. He has transmitted his own enthusiasm for his system. I think we should say of it that it is at the least ingenious, inventive and resourceful. It may be articulated and set working like a highly complex machine. And we have at least been charmed and fascinated by the intricacy and ingenuity of his system. But I think we have also strongly felt in Mr. Bliss a sincere devotion to an earnest purpose to which he brings a thoughtful mind and a varied experience and knowledge.

Having heard his closing appeal you will realize that he is not merely interested in informing and charming audiences in the lecture theatre. He wants to generate and spread the knowledge of his system. If any of you feel that you would like to respond to his appeal he will be happy to hear from you.

Professor V.A. Bailey, Professor of Experimental Physics, Sydney University, wrote to the author:

"After learning something of your ideas on Semantics and of your project for developing a system of Universal Ideography I feel that your efforts deserve every encouragement by private or public means.

It is very probable that a perfected system like yours would be of great value to scientists in communicating their ideas and information internationally at little expense or trouble."

please turn over

After the lecture in the Wallace Theatre and the Lecture to the Physical Society of Sydney University (see Semantography Series No. 36, 37 and 38), the Students Geological Society invited Bliss to a lecture and the following notices were printed in the two official students weeklies:

UNION RECORDER:

ADDRESS ON SEMANTOGRAPHY

A lunch-hour address will be given on "Semantography for Geologists" on Monday, October 15, at 1.10 p.m. sharp, in the Main Lecture Theatre, Department of Geology, by Mr. C.K. Bliss, the author of Semantography. This address will be of interest to all students. If you have not yet heard Mr. Bliss, then you can not afford to miss this opportunity; those who know of Mr. Bliss and his work need no coaxing, they will all be there.

HONI SOIT:

LUNCH-HOUR LECTURE ON SEMANTOGRAPHY

You'll never regret, you couldn't forget having heard Mr. C.K. Bliss lecture on "Semantography" next Monday at 1.10 p.m. sharp in the Main Lecture Theatre Department of Geology (just at top of the Union steps). This speaker has something to say and it's worth hearing. So, don't be dull, brighten up and hear this vital personality.

After the lecture "Semantography for Geologists" (see Semantography Series No. 43 and 44) the following report appeared in

UNION RECORDER:

ADDRESS ON "SEMANTOGRAPHY FOR GEOLOGISTS"

On Monday, October 15, before an audience of seventy members and visitors, Mr. C.K. Bliss gave an address on "Semantography for Geologists". The address was given in the Large Geology Lecture Theatre during the lunch-hour.

Mr. Bliss, who graduated in Mineralogy in Vienna, recognized the great difficulty scientists of different nationalities and languages encountered when communicating with each other. This even applied to so-called "international" words of Latin and Greek extraction which had become confused because of the habit of attaching national endings. Pronunciation was another barrier.

However, there did exist many scientific and other signs and symbols which were recognized the world over. In this field chemistry had made greatest progress, but other examples included radio engineers and road signs. Semantography, invented by Mr. Bliss, was a continuation and expansion of these methods. It entailed the complete abandonment of phonetic writing for interlinguistic communication only. Instead, an ideographic writing independent of any language was to be used. Symbols were thus evolved to represent matter, action and thought and on the basis of these symbols special symbols for any purpose were derived.

As well as attaining its primary purpose of being used for interlinguistic communication, Mr. Bliss forecast that the system would be of great educational value to students in promoting systematic thought and aiding memory.

Mr. Bliss, whose energetic and forceful yet humorous delivery delighted the audience illustrated his address with slides from his book SEMANTOGRAPHY, and with many varied examples, geological and otherwise.

Note: Bliss did not graduate in Mineralogy, but in Technical Chemistry, which included Mineralogy. Bliss gave a series of talks on Mineralogy when a student. (see Semantography Series No. 58.)

Announcement: Inspired by these lectures on Semantography, students wrote articles on Semantography (David Donaldson and W.A. Hoaney) which will be incorporated in the Semantography Series.