



THE BEST YEARS OF MY LIFE

Sydney 18th November 1951

Professor Oliver L. Reiser  
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This is typed without a draft.  
Kindly excuse all shortcomings.

Dear Professor Reiser,

This is to thank you firstly for bringing Semantography to the knowledge of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, in your paper UNIFIED SYMBOLISM FOR WORLD UNDERSTANDING IN SCIENCE, and secondly for agreeing to my leaflet showing samples of Semantography and carrying the appeal of Bertrand Russell, and urging financial assistance to my work and to myself to carry on. As this involves principles of ethics, etc. I beg to put my case before you and your friends, indeed before the whole world.

This is the tenth year of my work on Semantography. The 3 large volumes of my work do not carry any personal appeal for personal help. My SEMANTOGRAPHY SERIES has now reached the number 50, and again it does not contain any personal appeal. Indeed I have spent all my savings and earnings cheerfully on this world-embracing idea. But then, you find yourself at the end of your tether. The only personal appeal I have made was in my letter to you: SCIENTIFIC HUMANISM AND SEMANTOGRAPHY, of April 14, 1951. There at the end, I was overcome with emotion and I felt I can tell you all my worries. Moreover there was the name Pittsburgh, which I associated with the name Carnegie - Foundations - Help for a struggling and stragglng science pioneer.

If I would be a member of a University, I would never think of making any personal appeal. But then, with my untiring energy I would have long since got foundation help for my books, for my work and for myself. But as it is, I am an outsider and the many humiliating experiences I have had in the past, have made me believe, that this is my greatest handicap, even in this enlightened age of science, where millions are made available for science workers, provided they work in an approved institute of learning.

I may overrate the importance of my work. I may therefore be allowed to show it to you in the light as I see it. After that I shall relate some of my experiences.

Julian Huxley distinguishes 5 evolutionary stages in the communication of thought

- (1) the invention of articulate speech.
- (2) the invention of writing
- (3) the invention of printing
- (4) the invention of machine-power printing
- (5) the invention of the gramophone, the cinema, the radio, etc.

But inventions 3, 4 and 5 are only tremendous multiplication apparatuses for the dissemination of inventions 1 and 2. Soon one television program will encompass the whole earth. Little more can be done.

A real improvement in the communication of thought must therefore be made with regard to inventions 1 and 2, our speech and our writing. You have pointed to the faults and so has Sir Richard Paget in his book BABEL, in which he said that "our symbols for thought - language - are not yet set in order". Then he refers to the speculations of Leibnitz, a new Universal Symbolism, which would be understood by all Nations, being very simple and popular, and which would also contain a simple Logic and Semantics.

You and Sir Richard have now stated that I have fulfilled the prophecy of Leibnitz. For this I shall ever be grateful to you both, because it gives me the courage to carry on. I need this courage very badly, because it's going to give out. Cause: the crushing experiences I have had during the past 9 years, of which I shall tell something.

Working in seclusion on Semantography for 7 years I often hoped that the knowledge of my invention will cause something of a sensation. A Writing, simple and pictorial, which

could be read and understood in all languages without the usual translation, a Writing which would enable people of different languages to write letters to each other, a Writing in which vague, ambiguous and fallacious meanings and conclusions can be spotted at once, this I think is a greater invention than a moving picture or a flying machine.

I thought that the educators will be delighted with my work. What I experienced was the contrary. The many desperate attempts to draw the attention of the educators to my work, the indignities and humiliations I have been subjected to, the futile correspondence with Unesco headquarters and with prominent Unesco men, the refusal of any assistance from public, scientific and even private quarters, all this has convinced me that even today

MEEN WHO PIONEER UNUSUAL IDEAS OF BENEFIT TO MANKIND MUST STILL WASTE AWAY THEIR LIVES

Should it be so? Of course not. Who then is to be blamed? The "Man in the Street", the milkman, the dieselengineer, the house wife ??? They have no power to do anything for the advancement of new ideas.

Bertrand Russell realised my plight. After stating that he thinks "very highly" of my work, he made an appeal to mankind, that is, to those groups who have or control money for scientific works of this kind. Financial assistance for my work, he wrote, would be "performing an important Service to Mankind". When I read his letter I was overcome with joy. Now, all troubles are over. Today, one and a half years later, I state, that all my appeals to foundations, to scientific institutions, to official organisations and to private wealthy citizens have not brought a single cent or penny. Russell appealed to publishers to have my work printed. I have approached a number of them, asking only for an abstracting brochure. In most cases, I did not even receive a reply. And so, with most of my savings gone, I had to take on employment in order to make ends meet. Being unable to concentrate myself on any industrial responsibilities as a chemist or manager (and unwilling to do so, because my mind is filled with Semantography) I work now for more than 2 years as an ordinary labourer at General Motors in Sydney. I am 55 years of age. I am wasting away the best years of my life. I should be put to work on Semantography, on the Science Abstract.

What then do I want? I do not want recognition and praise. I do not want that my work should be printed. I do not want that efforts should be made to put it into operation. But I think, that I am the only man in the whole world, who has this idea in his brain. I should be put to work solely on Semantography. I should work it out in detail for every science. I should be given the money for food for me and my wife, for paper to type on, for stencils to duplicate it, for stamps to post it to Universities. May it there be used when I am dead. But I should not be driven into death. A little money to get me out of the factory, to let me work, as I want to work, 14 hours a day on this worldem racing idea. There are many foundations which can help me and my work.

Yours Sincerely  
C. K. Bliss

This space contains my picture which appeared in the Magazine of General Motors, Sydney and which you can find in the reprint, which forms Leaflet No. 12 Semantography Series

This space contains one wage envelop showing my weekly wages.