

Written April 1974 on the eve  
of my second voyage to Canada.

THE BETTER BLISSYMBOLS

PICTURE "ALPHABET"

Let's remember how we learn<sup>ed</sup> as little children to read and write. This method has been used successfully for thousands of years and in all languages. Let's apply it now to the pictorial Blissymbols and how they could be taught and learned in exactly the same way.

When we were about 2 years of age Mum or Dad brought home a little glossy booklet with coloured pictures and strange "letters" and a little nursery rhyme on each page. There was a big A and a small a and a colour picture of an Apple, and a little rhyme about the apple. On the next page there was a big B and a small b and the picture of a Bottle, and a little rhyme to go with it. And so on.

How many letters has the alphabet really? 26 ?? No! 52 is the answer because the big letters and the small letters are different "sound symbols" for the child.

How many "picture letters" has the Blissymbols Picture Alphabet? Just about the same: 52 "picture letters" which I call "Symbol Elements" because I am a research chemist and I know that chemists all over the world use "letter symbols" for the Elements: H for Hydrogen, O for Oxygen N for Nitrogen etc. And with these elements we can form combinations, "chemical compounds" like H<sub>2</sub>O which means water, wasser, eau, aqua, agua, voda, etc. in all languages. Hence the title of my first book reads "100 Symbol Elements to overcome Babel in Reading, Writing and Thought."

And what happens when we as children of say 3 years of age have mastered the 52 (yes fiftytwo) letters of the alphabet? We learn to combine them, and Mum or Dad brought home again little coloured glossy booklets showing the 52 letters of the alphabet combined to words. We learn to spell first the letters, then to pronounce the spelled word. This is easy in Spanish and Italian because both languages came from Latin and our alphabet is the Latin Alphabet. But it is a nightmare in English. And this causes great difficulties for many children who are dreadfully marked as "slow readers" "suffering from Dislexia" or worst "slightly mentally retarded." But the real culprits are the teachers and professors of the English language. It should be their damned duty to make English simple and logical in spelling and pronunciation. For hundreds of years great men appealed to them to do it. In vain.

And what happened when we could at last spell and pronounce the words? Suppose we are confronted with this word spelled differently as bliss or Bliss or BLISS. Neither father nor mother nor anyone of our family or friends has ever used this word. What could it mean? So you see spelling and pronunciation is only one part of learning to read and write. The most important part is to learn the meaning of the word. A board of timber this we learn quickly to understand. But we are baffled the first time when we read of a board of directors. Imagine that the large dictionaries contain half a million words, and many of these words like board <sup>have</sup> different meanings, all nicely numbered. So you see the 52 or 26 letters of the alphabet are inadequate. Their use is made useless if we don't know what the spelled word means.

Why do I call my work "Semantography"? Because of two Greek words "Semanticos" which means "significant meaning" and "Graphein" which means "to write" hence "Semantography" - "a meaningful writing" indeed so meaningful that it can do what NO alphabetical writing could ever do. MY WRITING CAN BE READ IN ANY LANGUAGE - WITHOUT TRANSLATION just like  $1 + 2 = 3$  can be read in all languages without translation.

But my Semantography can do much more than this. Children learn today in school that  $1 + 2 = 3$  is a truth, and  $1 + 2 = 4$  is a lie. And children can with my symbols too discern the truth and the lies in different statements. So you see my semantography contains not only a SEMANTICS, but also a SYMBOLIC LOGIC similar to the symbolic logic of mathematics.

But my Semantography can do even more than being a Semantics and Symbolic Logic. It contains a wonderful ethics. Today children laugh if someone suggests that the Sun is the Moon or  $2 + 2 = 5$ , but they cry bitterly if they are accused of being a swine, a pig, an ass, an idiot, a good-for-nothing. Thus my ETHICS can help them and even give them a wonderful understanding of their high destiny on earth, and all this with a "picture writing" incredible as this may seem.

But "picture writings" are old hat. The Egyptians, the Babylonians, the Indians and the Eskimos have invented their own picture writings, and the Chinese are using still one. So what's new Mr. Bliss? Your picture writing may be good for little children but surely it cannot be used for our modern sophisticated society?

This is why I had to write a large book of 882 pages to prove that my symbol elements can be used not only for children and illiterates, but for Communication, Commerce, Industry, Science, Philosophy and even Poetry. And it contains what no writing ever invented by man contains. It contains a SEMANTICS, LOGIC AND ETHICS.













You may say "wait a moment Mr. Bliss! Your book carries the title "100 Symbol Elements! But now you are speaking of only "about" 52 elements, or "picture letters" as you are calling them now. Aren't you inconsistent?"

No, for everyone who has really studied my book, or at least the little tourist folder, it will be quite clear, that I have not added the 30 international symbols 10 of which are the numbers 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0, and 6 of which are the mathematical signs + - x ÷ = > then the exclamation and question mark ! ? the dot and comma . , These are not pictorial signs but they are already international. There are some international picture signs like the closed envelope of a letter to mean mail, the outline of the sun and moon and star, etc. So you see with the "about 52" and the 30 international signs, and what I call "auxiliary outline signs" (which we can form with more basic symbol elements) we are already to the "100 Symbol Elements."

But diehard educators have - throughout the 32 years of my struggle - posed lots and lots of arguments which I had to prove wrong, and this too accounts for the 882 pages of my book which I call a "monster." They would say that the 26 letters are still less than the 100 "letters" of my semantography. Here is my answer:












































The 26 letters of the alphabet are "geometrical letters! A vertical line | means the letter I. Two geometrical lines form L or T, the letters L and T, 3 lines form A or F and 4 lines form E. Then a round line O forms an O, etc.etc. And my symbols too are basically "geometrical letters" and I use only 10 of them.

Look what I am doing! I am arguing with you dear reader to overcome your scepticism, and I have argued for 32 years. Fifty years hence my work will be commonplace and people would not understand why I had to struggle and to suffer so much. Let me now explain that we can picture many of my "100 symbol elements" with less.

This is the international sign for mail  and this the arrow → . And this is my element of a paperpage  . And here is my simplified symbol for a posted mail letter  . This is my element of a house  . But I can picture it simpler with my symbol for earth  and roof  . Hence my element for a house  is simpler than my "auxiliary outline symbol" house  . This is my "auxiliary" symbol for a ship  . But it can be pictured simpler with the symbol for a vessel, bowl  and water  and together a vessel floating thus  .

Alas, I must finish the page, being in haste and preparing to fly to Canada.

I am offering herebelow suggestions for the "picture alphabet" and will demonstrate a simple B.E.S.T. board so that every child can combine the "picture alphabet" to thousands of meanings. The ultimate number will then be decided upon.

sun  moon  star  earth  lightning  water  fire  plant   
 tree  animal  insect  bird  fish  man  woman  person   
 mouth  eye  ear  nose  hand  arm  legs  head   
 trunk  heart  brain  male  female  arrow  pencil  paper   
 house  ship  letter  enclosure  open  room  bed  chair   
 table  bowl  cutter, knife  how many have we got? Only 43: so far and

a few more line symbols, and then of course, the numbers, mathematical signs, etc.

My dear Friends of the Bliss Team in the Ontario Crippled Children's Centre

A few weeks ago I did send you Semantography Series No. 437 titled "A Guide to the Universal Blissymbol Grammar", then you received S.S.439 the "B.E.S.T." meaning the Bliss Everingham Symbol Table without the words underneath. I am now bringing to you S.S. 440 the B.E.S.T board with the English words underneath. I do hope to find in Toronto a true Quebecoise, a native of Quebec who will give me the proper French words so that I can complete S.S.441 the B.E.S.T board with the French words. And I am presenting to you now this sheet S.S. 468 when I shall meet you and will ask you to take it home and read it so that I may have won you at least halfway for my proposal of a simple "picture alphabet table"

A SIMPLE SYMBOL TABLE BY WHICH ANY CHILD, ANY STUDENT, ANY ADULT CAN FORM THOUSANDS OF MEANINGS BY SIMPLY COMBINING THE SIMPLE "PICTURE SYMBOL ALPHABET"

And I close in the hope that you will help me to make this idea come true

Yours ever  
Charles