

THE INSTITUTE FOR SEMANTOGRAPHY

A Non-Profit Educational Research Organisation.

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SEMANTOGRAPHY AND PROFESSOR ELKIN

Professor A. P. Elkin is Professor of Anthropology at the University of Sydney. He is valued as an expert on the aborigines in Australia and the external territories of Papua, New Guinea. He was, therefore, my great hope with regard to the introduction of Semantography as a picture-writing for the natives in New Guinea who are divided by hundreds of languages and dialects.

But Professor Elkin happens also to be the Chairman of the Road Signs Committee of the Australian Standards Association. As I thought that my road safety symbols are the most important aspect of Semantography and the ones easiest to adopt, I have put even greater hopes in Professor Elkin.

Lastly, I hoped that Professor Elkin will take an interest in my discovery concerning the records of paleolithic man (see Semantography Series 25 "The Gap in Prehistoric History" and Semantography Series Nos. 85, 86 and 87 concerning the theory of Dr. Brock Chisholm).

I tried desperately to get in touch with Professor Elkin. When personal approaches through an intermediary and the letter printed below, failed, I tried to interest his second in command in the Department of Anthropology, Mr. H.I.P. Hogben. I visited him twice asking for an interview. In both cases he declined evading and postponing without even asking what it is all about. He had no idea about my previous approach to Professor Elkin.

From the aforementioned paragraphs it becomes clear that I consider Professor Elkin most important with regard to the adoption of my work, because he is directly interested in the 3 most important aspects of Semantography as mentioned above. I am sorry to say that all my 3 great hopes were shattered. Professor Elkin ignored my approaches and failed even to extend to me the meanest courtesy of an acknowledgment of my letter and the material sent. The fact that Professor Elkin is a church-man and that he preaches sometimes from the pulpit makes his attitude even more aggravating.

29th November 1950

Dear Professor Elkin,

A year ago, Mr. Smee of the Standard Association tried to bring about a meeting between us, but he failed to my great disappointment. Meanwhile, my work has gained recognition in Europe and in America. Professor Patrick Meredith of the University of Leeds wrote a 2000 words review, which he ends with these words:

"Semantography is such an important creative advance in language-design that the strategy of its presentation to the world merits as much care as the author has devoted to the system itself."

Now, you Professor Elkin are for me more important than a big slice of the world, and I have thought much about my strategy with regard of the presentation of my work to you. This letterhead with the pathetic lines above, show where my difficulties lie. Bertrand Russell, Lancelot Hogben, Carleton Washburne, James Hemming and other scientists have responded nobly, and I hope you will do likewise.

When I heard that you, an anthropologist, are the Chairman of the Road Signs Committee, and Road Safety Council, I thought that I have picked a winner. You will be interested in Semantography as a "picture writing" for the natives of the Pacific divided by hundreds of languages, and you will be interested in my road symbols. The Executive Body of the N.R.M.A. has studied them and wrote this:

"This Association is of the opinion that the adoption of your system of symbol writing throughout the world would contribute towards much safer traffic condition in international motoring."

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These words should suffice to invite me to a demonstration before your Road Safety Council, which meet in December. Will you invite me, or will you hurt me even more?

Yours faithfully,

Encl. No. 6

C. K. Bliss

Note: Further information about Prof. Elkin and Semantography will be found in Semantography Series No. 138.