



BEWARE - YOUR BLUSTER IS SHOWING

An article about Bliss' work for a newspaper of Rockhampton, Queensland, written in June 1965 by

Mr. Douglas Nixon Everingham M.B., B.S. (University of Sydney)

Bliss' note:

In 1965 I journeyed to the Whitsuntide Islands within the Barrier Reef, and I used this opportunity to visit my old friend and co-worker on Semantography Dr. D.N. Everingham in Rockhampton, Queensland where he practised as a doctor. I visited him before my cruise, and afterwards, and these two visits were for me a wonderful tonic, as I was able to renew our friendship and deepen it, so much so that today when these lines are typed in December, 1971 Douglas is the sole co-trustee of the Semantography Trust Fund and my only hope that after my death the work will be carried on by him. He showed me the draft of a short article which he intended to publish in a Rockhampton paper. I reprint it herewith to show how Douglas understands my difficulties and my fight and my plight in gaining recognition for this idea. Words cannot express my gratitude to Douglas, and just a few days ago I met him in the airport of Sydney on his way home. He is now a Member of Parliament, and in this capacity he has put a number of questions to the Ministers about the use of a number of applications of my work for postal communication, for the primitive tribes of Papua and New Guinea who are divided by hundreds of languages, for road safety signs, and for other uses. Now herebelow is his short article which I reprint, however without showing the symbols. See also his contributions in other issues of the Semantography Series as for instance: S.S. No. 164, 223, 224 and others.

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MILESTONES on the march to the Golden Age are often the gravestones of the Pioneers of Ideas. They have no Arbitration Court to award them subsidies and margins for the promise of progress they provide. "The Difference" says Charles Bliss "between a pioneer and a crank is just 12 feet. While he is 6 feet above ground he is a crank. When he has finished breaking new ground for us and the earth has broken his spirit and his body is 6 feet below the broken earth, then he is hailed as a pioneer."

Bliss, a migrant Australian trained as a chemical engineer, pioneered a 'powerful stimulus' (in the words of a U.S. professor) to breaking the Thought Barrier between peoples and small groups, even between husband and wife. He published a book which is 'an important service to mankind' in the words of leading writer-philosopher Bertrand Russell. Other first-class minds have acclaimed his work and presented it to the American Association for the Advancement of Science, to an international tourist conference and, on a more homely level, to school children who were 'fascinated'.

This tool for world and family understanding is a code of written symbols, that can be read in any language. This is nothing new: the Chinese have had that much for 5,000 years or so. But the Chinese writing has stimulated many deep thinkers before Bliss to hope for something 'better than theirs', simple, popular and pictorial, to take out the absurdities and verbiages, the clever deceptions of demagogues and over-simplifications of school-teachers: to unmask the often-hidden aim of words to confuse, betray, mislead and destroy us. This hope, expressed by pioneer mathematician Leibnitz 300 years ago, for a Universal Symbolism, an Algebra of Thought, has come true in this generation.

Interviewed in Rockhampton Mr. Bliss described his incredible fight for some sort of official help and recognition for this work acclaimed around the world. No prophet is honoured in his own country, and while the N.S.W. Motorists' Association (N.R.M.A.) long ago recommended his signs as an advance in design for traffic signs, and though the Australian National University passed his work for recommendation the United Nations, not one penny of help has come to him from official quarters. After struggling for a score of years and now approaching 70, he has long resigned himself to the fact that he is ahead of his time. But he still shows youthful enthusiasm and gratitude to anyone who will take the trouble to study his work. Most leading libraries of the English-speaking world have placed advance orders for all his publications including stencilled pamphlets. Here is a brief sample of his symbols:

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