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## BLISS' WORK

may prove the greatest social innovation of modern time. It has been praised by eminent scholars. Some of its fantastic aspects are:

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### A R E C O R D I N G

for the taped Records Library of the  
National Library of Australia  
made in Canberra on the 3rd June, 1971  
by C.K.Bliss

My name is Charles K. Bliss. I am the inventor of Semantography, and the author of the books about this universal writing. I am speaking here in the National Library of Australia where I came today the 3rd June 1971 to give my thanks to the Librarians for their kindness and understanding and willingness to help this work along, which one day will help humanity to understand each other across all barriers of language. Let me tell you a little about myself and how I came to work on this idea.

I was born on the 5th September 1897 in the Babel of old Austria where 20 nationalities hated each other because they thought and spoke in different languages. Since my early boyhoods I wanted that my life should have some purpose. My father was an engineer and I wanted to become an engineer too and to invent something which could help humanity. I graduated from the University of Technology in Vienna in 1922 and went into industry as a research chemist and factory engineer. Soon I was overwhelmed by the industrial work and found no time to think of my invention for humanity.

Then in 1938 Hitler overran Austria and I was taken to the concentration camps of Germany. Now more than ever I realised that humanity needs a new idea in order to overcome the disasters caused by language. I then fled with my good wife to China and here in 1942 I found my purpose in life. I saw how the Chinese people became the largest nation on earth, though it comprises a mixture of many tribes and races who speak different languages. Their common bond was, and still is, their unique writing, a kind of picto-ideography which people of different languages could read and understand in their own languages.

I immersed myself in this idea and came across the prophecy of Professor Basil Hall Chamberlain, formerly of Tokyo University, who prophesied that "Ideographic writing will surely achieve the final victory over phonetic writing". It will unite the world.

p.t.o.



In 1946 I came to Australia with my good wife Claire. And here another world opened up to me. I saw a new country in which all the democratic liberties have created a paradise on earth. Here in this country I felt that it is worthwhile to work for a better future of mankind. In 1949 I published my book "Semantography" a simple system of pictorial symbol elements which can be typed on a typewriter of ordinary size and which can be used for all communications in commerce, industry and even science.

From the start I received the assistance of the principal librarian of the National Library Mr. White who was very much taken with my work and who bought two complete sets of all my writings. I was greatly encouraged by this act of understanding. Now 22 years later I am again here in the National Library of Australia and the very same thing is happening again. I was received today by the principal librarian Mr. A.P. Flening and by Mrs. P. Fanning, and by the other librarians, and they all showed me their kindness and understanding and their willingness to help my work along. I have expressed my desire to bequeath the copyrights of my symbols and my books to the National Library of Australia, in the sure conviction that one day my symbols and my books will be taken up by humanity and the National Library of Australia will receive royalties from the copyrights and use these royalties for the furtherance of mankind.

Now Mrs. Fanning has suggested that I record a short speech on tape, and this suggestion enables me to express my feelings of happiness. I am simply overwhelmed by the wonderful people here and I wish to thank them and through them the people of Australia who have given me and hundreds of thousands of new immigrants a new home and a new homeland. I close this talk remembering my late wife Claire who too has spent the happiest years of her life in Australia, and who joins me in spirit to say to all of you "God bless Australia now and evermore".