

# The Semantography Trust Fund

A non-profit scientific educational public Institution devoted to helping handicapped and healthy Children and Adults to communicate by the use of Blissymbols (see below)

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Managing Trustee and Author of  
"Semantography":  
Charles K. Bliss, B.Sc.

School Commission Grant N7025/Q; C77/1027/Q

Paper No. 1 addressed to the Principals of Schools for Special Education in Australia. Sent off February 1978.

Dear Sir/Madam,

You may have heard about me and my logical symbols. You may have read articles about my work during the last 30 years, which have appeared in Australian and worldwide newspapers, magazines and books. Articles such as have appeared in Time magazine, and more recently in the October, 1977 Edition of the Reader's Digest, titled "The Magic Language of Charles Bliss", a copy of which I attach to this letter. You may have also seen the film "Mr. Symbol Man" made by Film Australia and the National Film Board of Canada.










Alas, it takes a long time until a new idea in education is recognised for its value to the children of the world, and it takes even a longer time until it is introduced into the schools of the world. Until this happens, the man who pioneered the idea is long dead. That I am still alive, now over 80, is a miracle. That I am able to see the fruits of my long labour during my life time is an even greater miracle.

And this is what has happened abroad, and even in some special schools in Australia. Some teachers who are dealing with speech-paralyzed, brain-damaged and even mentally retarded children have become despaired about the net result of conventional methods, seeing their helpless pupils wallowing in their own despair and the despair of their distraught parents. They heard about my logical symbols now called Blissymbols all over the world. These symbols are pictorial. They show the outline of many real things. To grasp their meaning is easy for little children who are unable to fathom the many illogical aspects of alphabetical words, their spelling, pronunciation and grammar. Little children of 3 take with enthusiasm to my symbols long before they are introduced to the alphabet.

As it is with new ideas in education, the overburdened principals and their overburdened teachers are trying to overcome the difficulties which confront them and there is simply no money available for introducing new ideas in education into the schools. In my case, I have not been able to get one single cent for myself as a salary to compensate me for all my labours and all my expenses during the foregoing 35 years. I had to earn the money for publishing my books and papers by working in

p.t.o

Here are samples of the 'picture alphabet' of "Semantography-Blissymbolics" which, in combination, form all meanings needed by mankind divided by thousands of languages

The earth  and the heaven above  form our World  The pen  (in inclined writing position) between heaven and earth  means "One Writing for One World." This is a human being  this is a human being in need (of support)  and this means "I need you and you need me"  and together the Blissymbol for human co-operation and mutual aid 



other fields.

My own difficulties have been compounded by some teachers who were at first encouraged by the good results of my symbols, which they copied from my books. But, human nature being what it is, they soon tried to invent their own symbols. But having not studied my books properly, the new symbols were illogical and ruined the logical sense of the children and retarded their mental development. This happened in Canada, and for the last 6 years I had a fight on my hands to eradicate year after year, one false symbol after another - until just a few months ago, I had to terminate the license agreement with the Blissymbolics Communication Foundation after I proved in a lecture at the University of Ottawa, the catastrophic ruination of my work to the detriment of the children mistaught.

But Australia is Pioneer Country. It was a source of never ending misery for me that I could not find recognition here. But now, thanks to the Federal Minister of Education, the Honourable Senator J.L. Carrick, and thanks to the Chief of the Schools Commission, Dr. Ken McKinnon and the Director of the Innovations Program, Mr. W. Streat, a sum has been set aside to cover the expenses for enabling me to interest the principals and the teachers in the Special Education Schools of Australia in my work for the benefit of all the handicapped crippled children of Australia. These Schools are :-

1. Schools for emotionally disturbed children
2. Hospital Schools
3. Schools for intellectually handicapped children
4. Schools for physically handicapped children.


But so far, neither I nor any interested teacher can get a single cent for our labours. It must be therefore a voluntary effort on behalf of those teachers who are willing to give their free time to study a new idea in education which, one day, will also be taught to all the healthy children of the world. Therefore, those teachers who are willing to interest themselves now in this new idea, will have acquired the new knowledge and can aspire to greater advancement in their profession.

I ask you therefore, dear Principal, to interest those teachers who you believe will be willing to give their spare time as volunteers in a new field of education. I would first send them my books paid for by the Grant which I have received from the Schools Commission, and would then organize a correspondence course with them.

In order to make it easier for you, here are <sup>2</sup>10 copies of an Invitation to Teachers, Therapists, Speech Pathologists, Nurses and other Persons working in the field of Special Education. Kindly distribute these Invitations to them and they may write to me.

Thank you for helping a new idea in education along. I am,

Yours sincerely,

*For and on behalf of the  
Semantography Trust Fund* 

Charles K. Bliss B.Sc. A.M.