

# 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":  
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Paper No. 3

Sample letter to the Director Generals of Education in all States

Dear Sir,

You surely have heard of me or have seen me in the film 'Mr.Symbol Man' produced by Film Australia and the National Film Board of Canada or you have read about my work in Australian papers and magazines. I attach to this my letter the article which appeared in the October issue of the 'Reader's Digest' Australian and New Zealand Edition, titled 'The Magic Language of Charles Bliss'. This article is now appearing in millions of copies in 13 languages and in 32 countries. I attach also a xerox copy of an article which appeared in the school magazine CHALLENGE of the Department of Education of Victoria.

My symbol system, now called 'Blissymbolics' or 'Blissymbols' or simply 'Bliss' is now taught in schools for handicapped children all over the world. However, being a new idea and laid down in a voluminous book of 882 pages, and not being a compulsory part of the education of teachers of handicapped children, it is not wholly understood and properly used by symbol teachers.

This has been a source of never-ending misery for me during the last 6 years when I had to fight and fight to correct and correct many a false symbol used in this or that school in this or that country. To this comes another misery namely that I am not employed by any school or institution of learning and consequently I am drastically hampered by lack of money. And last but not least I am now over 80. But I cannot relent nor relax. The postman swamps me with many letters every day all clamoring for information and advice.












Now, the Federal Minister of Education, the Honourable Senator J.L. Carrick and the Federal Schools Commission has given me a grant under the Special Projects (Innovations) Program. The money is to be used by me for helping symbol teachers and those who want to become teachers in all the States of Australia. I have received today the first instalment from the Treasury of New South Wales and the letter states this :

"It is also pointed out that in any project involving State Schools the

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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 

arrangements to apply to the project would need to be the subject of consultation and agreement with the Director-General of Education prior to the project being commenced."

And therefore I must write to you Sir and must explain to you what I have in mind and what I want to do and must consult you and must as for your consent before I begin the Project.

I have now requested and received from the various State Departments of Education a list of all the schools where my symbols could help. These schools are defined in four different categories, namely -

1. Schools for Emotionally Disturbed Children
2. Hospital Schools
3. Schools for Intellectually Handicapped Children
4. Schools for Physically Handicapped Children

I have as a first step drafted and printed a letter to be sent to the principal of every such school in every State. The second step on which I am now working is a circular letter to all teachers, therapists, speech pathologists, nurses, and others who would want to enrol as an unpaid volunteer in a correspondence course. I would supply to them all the necessary books paid for by the grant and would conduct the correspondence course with all volunteers. My only drawback will be the great amount of work being forced upon me by enquiries and requests for information coming from all the world. However, I will do my best to help all willing symbol teachers and users in Australia.

In following the advice of the Treasurer, I am now writing to you Sir, to ask for your approval and consent to approach the principals of the special schools in your State.

Thanking you in anticipation, I am,

Yours faithfully,

*Charles Bliss*

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

- encl. 1. Article from the Australian Reader's Digest.  
2. Article from the Victorian School Magazine CHALLENGE.  
3. Sample of the Diploma to be issued to those who have successfully concluded the course.