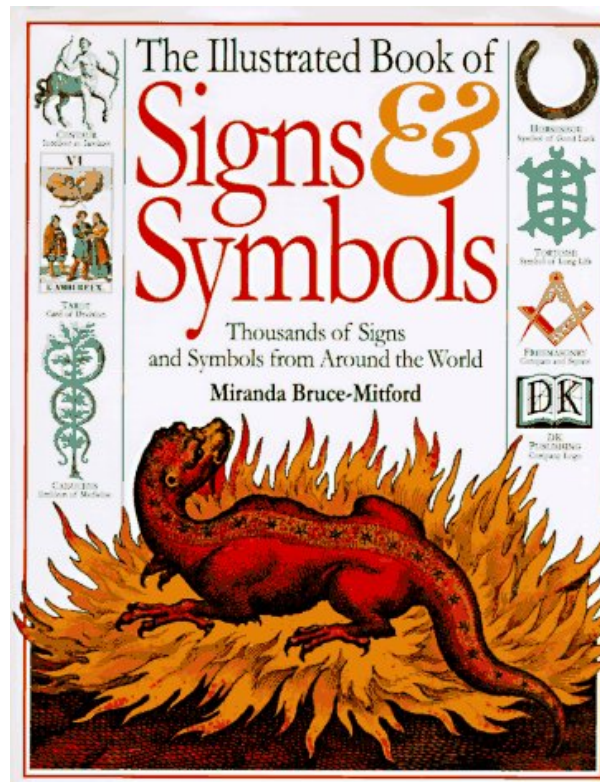
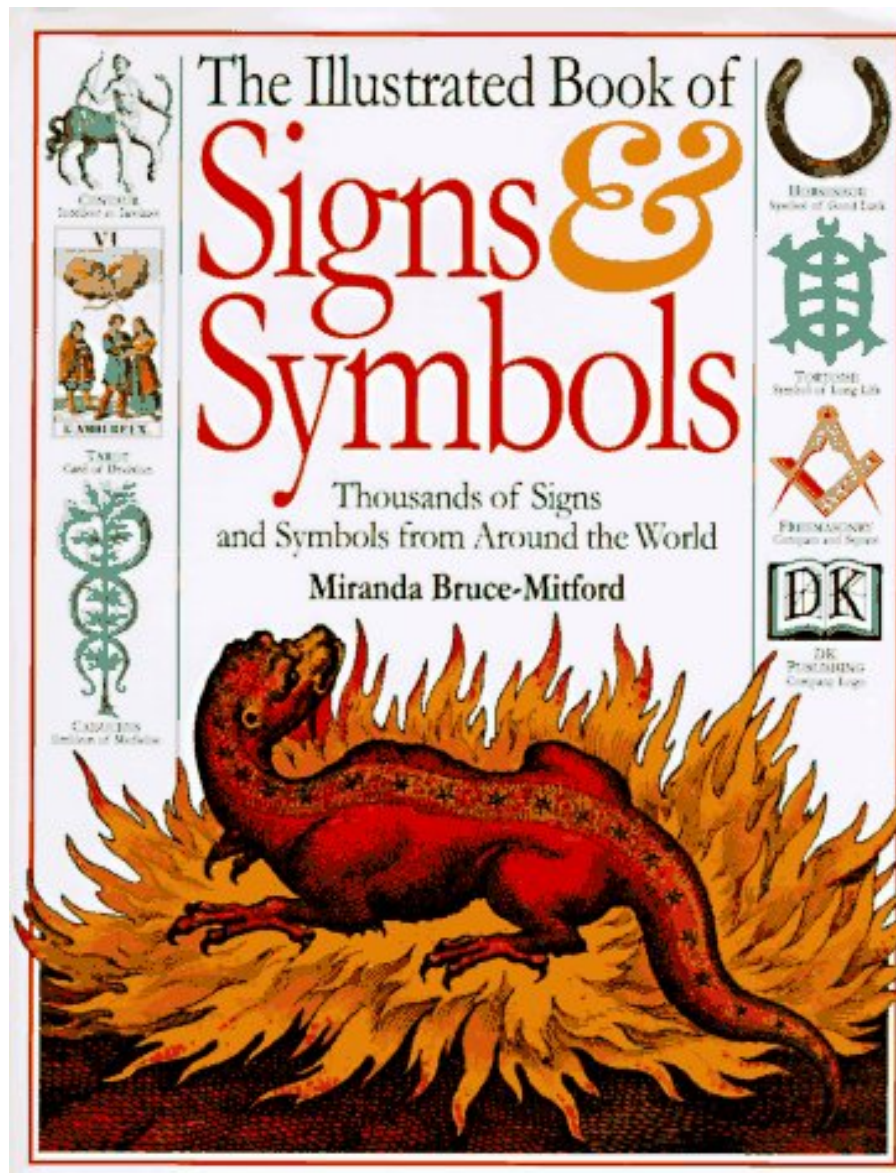


ILLUSTRATED BOOK OF SIGNS & SYMBOLS BY MIRANDA BRUCE-MITFORD



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From Library Journal

Signs and symbols are parts of our lives that are often unnoticed or, if noticed, are not always understood. With this lavishly illustrated book, the author looks at the essence of signs and symbols and defines many of them in brief and simple terms. Bruce-Mitford, a contributor to *The World Directory of Minorities* (Longman, 1990) and a lecturer at the British Museum, covers a wide variety of symbols, explaining their significance from cultural perspectives throughout the world views. The introductory chapter discusses the differences between signs and symbols and offers brief overviews of ancient, universal, and modern symbols. The main body of the work divides signs and symbols into major categories such as mythologies, nature, and people. Within the categories are items such as ancient deities, planets, clothing, and international signs. Very handy cross-referencing on many pages leads the reader to related symbols. A useful glossary, index, and additional reading list complete the book. For lengthier and more comprehensive coverage of signs and symbols, Carl G. Liungman's *Dictionary of Symbols* (LJ 12/91) or Hans Biedermann's *Dictionary of Symbolism* (LJ 9/1/92) will serve better, but for straightforward definitions and excellent color illustrations, this book will be quite helpful. Recommended for academic and public libraries. Elaine M. Lucas, Moline P.L., Ill.

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terms, additional reading selections, and a detailed index found at the end of the book.

The Illustrated Book of Signs & Symbols is a good basic resource for public and school libraries for readers of all ages. However, far more extensive treatment of symbols can be found in The Dictionary of Symbolism (Facts On File, 1992) and Dictionary of Symbols (ABC-Clío, 1991).

Review

>From religious symbols to modern and ancient signs alike, this covers thousands of signs and symbols used in art and communication from around the world. It's hard to categorize this book: where artists will find it handy for the initial location and research of symbols, any with a general interest in symbol origins and meaning will find this packed with important insights. -- Midwest Book Review

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This stunning illustrated guide to more than 2,000 signs and symbols covers the arts, religions, and folklore of cultures across the world.

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Visual Guide to Mysterious Signs and Symbols

By Rebecca of Amazon

Our world is filled with signs and symbols. Most recently, we have seen a surge of support for freedom with an increase in the display of the American Flag. This universally recognized symbol of freedom serves to unite Americans in a common goal. It speaks of those who died to give us freedom and gives us hope that as we see our flag flying, we are still free.

Cultures around the world have chosen signs and symbols to represent various beliefs. For some, a red rose is the symbol of love and for others a snake is a symbol of evil. In China, a snake is a symbol of wisdom. Each country has a different interpretation.

Miranda Bruce-Mitford has studied social anthropology and as a writer, she has contributed to dictionaries and encyclopedias. Now she is often a guest lecturer on art tours in Southeast Asia.

If you are looking for a book to explore the signs of symbols from East and West, The Illustrated Book of Signs & Symbols explores the origins in art, religion and folklore. The signs and symbols are grouped by category and a clear cross-referencing system helps the reader to find related signs and symbols.

This book contains information on:

Mythologies & Religions - Ancient Deities, Judaism, Christianity, Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, Ancestor & Nature Spirits and Mythical Beasts.

Nature: Sun & Moon, Earth & Sky, Precious Matter, Precious Stones, Gardens, Trees, Plants, Nature's Foods, Flowers, Sea Creatures, Insects, Reptiles & Amphibians, Mammals and Birds.

People: Sex & Fertility, Human Body, Dance & Theatre, Magic & Charms, Musical Instruments, Love & Marriage, Clothing, Jewelry, Royalty, Tools and Weapons, Death & Mourning, Architecture and Everyday Objects.

Symbol Systems: Picture Writing, Numbers, Shapes & Patterns, Color, Alchemy, Freemasonry, Divination,

Astrology, Heraldic Emblems, International Signs and Symbolic Gestures.

An Index makes looking up your favorite symbols very convenient. You will find something you will just want to know! I was especially interested in the "Rose Window" and wondered what it represented.

"The rose window, so named because of its petal like shapes of glass, represents both human aspiration for wholeness and coherence and the realization of those same desires. Rose windows first appeared in 13th-century France...."

I also wanted to look up the meanings of numbers and colors. There is just so much you will want to know and after reading this book, you will never look at symbols in the same way. They will always have meaning. It is good to know that a black cat is not unlucky in all cultures. >^..^

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