



# Illustrated Book of Signs & Symbols

*By Miranda Bruce-Mitford*

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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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## Illustrated Book of Signs & Symbols By Miranda Bruce-Mitford Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

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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From [Booklist](#)

This book provides thousands of brief descriptions for symbols from all parts of the world. It begins with a historical introduction to symbols, ranging from ancient times to modern fictitious characters that reflect characteristics of ancient gods and goddesses.

The entries are grouped into four major categories: mythologies and religions; nature; people; and symbol systems (e.g., mathematical symbols, traffic signs). Each symbol is represented by a colorful photograph or painting. A short paragraph explains the origin of the symbol, as well as geographical or historical variations in meaning. For example, the entry on the Roman goddess *Minerva* discusses her Roman significance as well as her Greek counterpart, *Athena*. A clear cross-referencing system uses *see also* boxes. For example, the entry *legs*, found in the *People* section under human body and described as possibly representing the swift-footed sun, is cross-referenced to *triskele*, described as the movement of the sun. Useful are the glossary of 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-Clio, 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*

## Users Review

From reader reviews:

**Barbara Clarke:**

Here thing why this specific Illustrated Book of Signs & Symbols are different and reliable to be yours. First of all reading through a book is good nevertheless it depends in the content of the usb ports which is the content is as yummy as food or not. Illustrated Book of Signs & Symbols giving you information deeper and different ways, you can find any guide out there but there is no guide that similar with Illustrated Book of Signs & Symbols. It gives you thrill examining journey, its open up your own personal eyes about the thing which happened in the world which is might be can be happened around you. You can easily bring everywhere like in playground, café, or even in your technique home by train. Should you be having difficulties in bringing the branded book maybe the form of Illustrated Book of Signs & Symbols in e-book can be your choice.

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