

SYMBOLS

Selected Reference Books in the Gund Library

The listed books must be used in the Gund Library. To find books that you may borrow, look up SIGNS AND SYMBOLS -- DICTIONARIES and SYMBOLISM IN ART as a subject in the library's online [catalog](http://catalog.case.edu/) (<http://catalog.case.edu/>). You may also wish to search for this subject using the library's online periodical indexes found on the library's [website](#).

1000 symbols **Gen. Ref. BF/1623/.S9/S53/2002**

A comprehensive dictionary of more than 1000 symbols, their history and cross-cultural meanings.

Dent Dictionary of Symbols in Christian Art **Gen. Ref. N/7825/.S68/1994**

Includes everyday objects (clouds, water) and their symbolic meanings, as well as a visual index.

Dictionary of Subjects and Symbols in Art **Gen. Ref. N/7560/.H34/1974**

Emphasizes Christian and classical subject matter from western art of the Renaissance and later. Greek and Roman mythology, classical heroes, legends and ancient history are also included.

Dictionary of Symbols **Gen. Ref. AZ/108/.L5413/1991**

Describes the functions, meanings and histories of graphic symbols.

Dictionary of Symbols **Gen. Ref. BF/1623/.S9/C513/1971**

Best guide to symbols from many cultures and especially useful for the symbolism of common objects such as "shoes."

Dictionary of Symbols: An Illustrated Guide to Traditional Images, Icons, and Emblems

Gen. Ref. BF/1623/.S9/T7/1998

This dictionary focuses on symbols that have entered into the "mainstream of everyday life" from world-wide myth, literature, and art and is arranged alphabetically, with cross references and an index. This is best as an introduction for the general reader and less useful for research.

Dictionary of Symbols in Western Art **Gen. Ref. N/7740/.C29/1995**

Illustrated dictionary covers both Christian and mythological symbols.

Dictionary of Symbolism **Gen. Ref. BF/1623/.S9/B5313/1992**

Excellent guide to the most significant symbols from all cultures. Includes symbols from fairy tales, literature and magic with discussion of their psychological basis. Less good for common objects.

Encyclopedia of Comparative Iconography: Themes Depicted in Works of Art.

Gen. Ref. N/7565/.E52/1998/Vol. 1&2

This is a very useful and easy-to-use reference book! You can look up themes—such as death, justice, madness, patronage, plague and pestilence, sin and sinning, virgin & virginity, the zodiac, etc. Each theme has a long essay on the topic across several centuries, a list of selected works of art depicting the theme, and some suggested readings; a full page black and white illustration accompanies each essay. There are several indexes that offer you further ways to approach themes - - 1) ancient mythological and historical people, places, and concepts; 2) Judeo-Christian people, places, and concepts; 3) references of the Bible and other sacred texts; 4) other cultures, religions, and myths; 5) artists; 6) authors, literary texts, composers, filmmakers, and folktales; and 6) other names and terms. The last section is a cross-reference index you can use to relate your term (for example “fleas”) to the appropriate theme (in the case of fleas-- “sin/sinning” –who knew?).

Handbook of Symbols in Christian Art **Gen. Ref. N/8010/.S54/1975**

A useful guide to Christian symbols. Organized by categories: use the table of contents. Look under "miscellaneous objects" for common items.

Illustrated Dictionary of Symbols in Eastern and Western Art **Gen. Ref. N/7740/.H35/1994**

Explains the symbolic meanings of everyday objects from a variety of eastern and western cultures.

Outlines of Chinese Symbolism and Art Motives **Gen. Ref. N/7340/.S9/W53/1974**

Excellent aid for understanding Chinese symbols in art and culture.

Reverse Symbolism Dictionary: Symbols Listed By Subject **Gen. Ref. BF/1623/.S9/C37/1992**

Use this if you want to know the symbols/representations of an idea or concept. Its foreword offers a good explanation to help you understand symbolic representation.

In addition to printed information, you may also find some useful information on the Web. One useful site – [The Online Encyclopedia of Western Signs & Ideograms](http://www.symbols.com) (www.symbols.com)

SEE ALSO the Gund Library's guide to **MYTHOLOGY**

CAN'T FIND ANYTHING? Ask the library staff for help.

