SYMBOLS
A GUIDE TO RESOURCES IN THE GUND LIBRARY

GUND LIBRARY REFERENCE BOOKS
The following are Gund Library books that are useful resources for quick information:

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

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

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.

Describes the functions, meanings and histories of graphic symbols.

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 and 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.

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

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

Excellent aid for understanding Chinese symbols in art and culture.

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.
FINDING BOOKS
Use the Gund Library's online catalog to search the following SUBJECTS. You might find additional books if you search the term as a KEYWORD.

- EMBLEMS
- HERALDRY
- LOGOGRAPHY
- LOGOS (SYMBOLS)
- SEMIOTICS
- SYMBOLISM

Can't find anything? Are the items you want unavailable? Check the OhioLINK Catalog and request that books be sent to the Gund Library for your use.

WEB RESOURCES
The Online Encyclopedia of Westerns Signs & Ideograms is a useful resource that contains more than 1,600 articles about 2,500 Western signs, arranged into 54 groups according to their graphic characteristics. This site gives you several ways to search for symbol information. You can use the “Graphic Index” to search for the meaning or history of a sign or the “Word Index” to find a sign with a certain meaning.

STILL CAN’T FIND ANYTHING?
Ask the library staff for help or email referencehelp@cia.edu.

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