

# SYMBOLS

## A GUIDE TO RESOURCES IN THE CIA LIBRARY



### CIA LIBRARY REFERENCE BOOKS

The following are CIA Library books that are useful resources for quick information:

*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.

*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 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.

*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/O37/1992](#)

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.

## FINDING BOOKS

Use the CIA Library's [online catalog](#) to search the following SUBJECTS. You might find additional books if you search the term as a KEYWORD.

[EMBLEMS](#)

[LOGOS \(SYMBOLS\)](#)

[HERALDRY](#)

[SEMIOTICS](#)

[LOGOGRAPHY](#)

[SYMBOLISM](#)

If you are at the library, try browsing sections N/7565, BF/1623.S9 and N/7565.

*Can't find anything? Are the items you want unavailable?* Check the [OhioLINK Catalog](#) and request that books be sent to the CIA Library for your use.

## WEB RESOURCES

The [Symbols.com](#) is an online encyclopedia that contains everything about symbols, signs, flags and glyphs arranged by categories such as culture, country, religion, and more.

## STILL CAN'T FIND ANYTHING?

Ask the library staff for help or email [referencehelp@cia.edu](mailto:referencehelp@cia.edu)



[cia.edu/library](http://cia.edu/library)