

Insights into the Coretta Scott King Book Awards Seal



The symbolism used in designing the seal was centered on Dr. King's teachings and doctrines, and the purpose for which the Coretta Scott King Award was founded.

The basic circle represents continuity in movement, resolving from one idea to another. Within the circle is the image of an African American child reading a book. The five main religious symbols below the image of the child represent nonsectarianism. The superimposed pyramid symbolizes both strength and Atlanta University, the award's headquarters when the seal was designed. At the apex of the pyramid is the dove, symbolic of peace. The rays shine toward peace and brotherhood. According to Lev Mills, the five nonsectarian* symbols on the seal represent:



Star and Crescent is a symbol of Islam. Many nations with a Muslim majority display this symbol on its flags. This not a religious symbol but rather it is a national, cultural, political, military, or community symbol.



Om is a symbol of Hinduism. The written form of the word is in Sanskrit, a language of India. The sound OM is used repeatedly during meditation.



Latin Cross is a symbol of Christianity; the cross upon which Jesus died; Christian emblem or badge.



Star of David is a hexagram used as a symbol of Judaism.



Tao is a symbol of China. Pronounced "Dow," it has the design of "Yang and Yin" (Dualism); its purpose is to nourish balance in the universe.

The bronze seal denotes a Coretta Scott King Book Award author or illustrator winner; the silver denotes an author or illustrator honoree; and the green seal denotes a John Steptoe Award for New Talent recipient.

Retrieved from the Coretta Scott King Book Award website: www.olos.ala.org/csk.