

# rara magnetica

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## tags and vocabulary used in image metadata and classification

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*explanations by christoph sander*

for images in this database, a controlled vocabulary was used in order to standardize all tags appearing in the metadata. tagging will always lead to disputable and vague decisions, as the complexity of the subjects tagged not always makes it easy to decide if a specific tag applies or not. to tackle this inherent quandary it will be laid out what was the rationale behind this vocabulary.

this vocabulary is hierarchical in nature. in most cases, parent tags were given if one or more child tags were given. e.g. if the tag 'compass' (child) applies, also the tag 'instrument' (parent) applies. this avoids tags such as 'other' and makes the set searchable to a higher degree. tags that only function as parent tag but are not assigned anywhere are put in square brackets.

the main distinction between all tags is whether they describe the content or the graphical elements and the medium of the image. content tags describe what is represented by the image while element tags describe its appearance and visual elements while medium tags entail information about its production.

all images are tagged against the thematic background of this project on magnetism and its (limited) corpus. other material deserves another vocabulary. quasi-universal vocabularies such as iconclass will not allow to ask the research questions that are underpinning this historical research

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## tags and their explanation

tag	explanation
[content]	[relating to the semantic content of the image]
<i>magnetic force</i>	content representing or dealing with the physical magnetic phenomena in general, including geomagnetic phenomena
<i>polarity</i>	representations of magnetic poles (of piece of magnet and earth)
<i>sphere of activity</i>	representations of the spatial extension of magnetic force
<i>attraction/repulsion</i>	representations of attractive and repulsive forces related to magnetism
<i>direction</i>	representations of magnets or needles aligning in north-south direction
<i>declination</i>	representations of magnets or needles deviating from north-south direction ('magnetic declination')
<i>inclination</i>	representations of magnets or needles inclining below or above the horizon ('magnetic dip')
<i>theoretical</i>	content representing or dealing with theoretical concepts not directly connected to the physical force of magnetism
<i>astronomy/astrology</i>	representations of celestial entities
<i>mineralogical taxonomy</i>	representations of taxonomy and classification in the realm of mineralogy
<i>causal explanation</i>	content representing or dealing with any attempt or idea of explaining magnetic phenomena
<i>particles</i>	causal concepts relating to physical particles, atoms, corpuscles
<i>astrological influence</i>	causal concepts relating to astrological influences, astral rays, etc.
<i>form</i>	causal concepts relating to hylemorphism or other formal principles
<i>music</i>	representations of music, harmony, and tones
<i>material</i>	content representing or dealing with the material use of magnets or magnetic force
<i>instrument</i>	representations of an instrument to detect or measure magnetic force
<i>compass</i>	representations of a magnetic compass and/or their use
<i>compendium</i>	representations of a magnetic compass included in another instrument, such as sundials or theodolites
<i>machine / gadget</i>	representations of a machine or gadget making use of magnetic force
<i>Perpetuum mobile</i>	representations of a perpetuum mobile (mechanical and magnetic)
<i>specimen</i>	representations of a specific piece of magnet
<i>practice</i>	content representing or dealing with practices
<i>related to an experiment</i>	content related to or representing experiments related to magnetic phenomena
<i>related to a calculation</i>	content related to or representing mathematical calculations or proofs
<i>analogies and symbols</i>	content representing or dealing with allegorical or symbolic interpretations of magnetism
<i>religious</i>	analogies/allegories/symbols in a religious context
<i>scientific</i>	analogies/allegories/symbols in a scientific context

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## tags and their explanation

tag	explanation
<i>political</i>	analogies/allegories/symbols in a political context
[elements]	[relating to the textual and graphical elements in the image]
<i>text</i>	the image contains textual elements
<i>letters</i>	the textual elements contain single letters
<i>numbers</i>	the textual elements contain numbers
<i>symbols</i>	the textual elements contain symbols excluding letters and numbers (e.g. astrological symbols or mathematical notations)
<i>words</i>	the textual elements contain words
<i>phrases</i>	the textual elements contain phrases of more than one word
<i>sentences</i>	the textual elements contain full grammatical sentences
<i>abstract elements</i>	the image contains abstract visual elements
<i>geometrical forms</i>	abstract elements include geometrical forms, such as circles, lines, rectangles
<i>arrows</i>	abstract elements include arrows (both symbolic and material, such as compass needles)
<i>musical notation</i>	abstract elements include musical notation
<i>tabular shapes</i>	abstract elements include tables or its visual components, such as rows and columns
<i>taxonomic shapes</i>	abstract elements include taxonomic features, such as tree-diagram structures
<i>concrete elements</i>	the image contains concrete visual elements, such as physical objects or persons
<i>physical objects</i>	concrete elements include physical objects
<i>persons or human body</i>	concrete elements include natural or mythological persons, or non-personal depictions of human bodies or parts thereof
<i>scene</i>	concrete elements are arranged as a scene, depicting an event, situation, or place
<i>topographical structures</i>	concrete elements include structures to encode topological information such as maps
<i>plasticity</i>	the image uses visual effects to create the impression of plasticity and volume
<i>light/shadow</i>	visual effects include light and shadow (e.g. 'chiaroscuro')
<i>3d and perspective</i>	visual effects include the use of perspectivity and/or show objects as three-dimensional
<i>paratext</i>	the image has a paratext situating it in the context of the book
<i>caption</i>	the paratext is a caption for the image
<i>creator signature</i>	the image contains information about its creator, such as artist signatures
[medium]	[relating to the medium of the image]
[position]	[relating to the layout position of the image]

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## tags and their explanation

tag	explanation
<i>integrated in the layout</i>	the image is part of the mise-en-page
<i>part of a set</i>	the image is part of a group of images appearing close to each other on the same page
<i>compound of images</i>	the image is a group of individual (but inseparable) images appearing close to each other on the same page
<i>in the margin</i>	the image is placed in the margin of the page, i.e. next to the text
<i>title page/frontispiece</i>	the image is or is part of the title page or frontispiece
<i>separate sheet</i>	the image appears on a separate sheet of different dimension as the pages surrounding it or added in the back or at a different place of the work
<i>separate page</i>	the image appears on a separate page without text outside the image excluding paratext(s)
<i>interactive</i>	the image has material parts or features that make it interactive
<i>volvelle</i>	the image is a volvelle consisting of movable parts
<i>cut out template</i>	the image is meant to be cut out and used by the reader
<i>[production technique]</i>	[relating to the technique(s) to create of the image]
<i>woodcut</i>	the image is produced as woodcut print from a woodblock
<i>intaglio</i>	the image is produced from an engraved or etched metal plate
<i>drawing</i>	the image is a drawing
<i>painting</i>	the image is a painting
<i>movable types</i>	The image is produced by using only movable types/components
<i>[work]</i>	[tags relating to the work that contains the image]
<i>alchemy</i>	the work deals with alchemy
<i>architecture</i>	the work deals with architecture
<i>Aristotle</i>	the work closely relates to the Corpus Aristotelicum or Aristotelian ideas
<i>astrology</i>	the work deals with astrology
<i>Copernicanism</i>	the work deals with Copernicanism, both critique and approval
<i>correspondence</i>	the work contains letters
<i>cosmology</i>	the work deals with cosmology
<i>emblems</i>	the work deals with emblems
<i>encyclopedia</i>	the work can be seen as an encyclopedia
<i>geography</i>	the work deals with geography
<i>geomagnetism</i>	the work deals with geomagnetism
<i>handbook</i>	the work can be seen as a handbook
<i>instruments</i>	the work deals with instruments
<i>Jesuits</i>	the work is authored by a Jesuit
<i>lapidary</i>	the work can be seen as or contains a lapidary

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## tags and their explanation

### tag

*literature and poetry*

*magnetism science*

*maps*

*mathematics*

*medicine*

*mining*

*natural history*

*natural magic*

*natural philosophy*

*navigation*

*new edition*

*opera omnia*

*Paracelsianism*

*reprint/reissue*

*scholastic commentary*

*sympathy and antipathy*

*theology*

*translation*

*university disputation*

### explanation

the work deals with or is literature and poetry

the work deals with magnetism science, i.e. a dedicated investigation of magnetic phenomena

the work deals with or is a map

the work deals with mathematics

the work deals with medicine

the work deals with mining

the work deals with natural history

the work deals with natural magic

the work deals with natural philosophy

the work deals with navigation

the work is a new edition and has been published before

the work is part of a opera omnia edition

the work deals with Paracelsianism

the work is a reprint/reissue and has been published before

the work can be seen as a scholastic commentary

the work deals with sympathy and antipathy

the work deals with theology

the work is a translation and has been published before

the work is a university disputation