

THE HIDDEN LANGUAGE OF GRAPHIC SIGNS

A common belief is that systems of writing are committed to transparency and precise records of sound. The target is the language behind such marks. Readers, not viewers, matter most, and the most effective graphs largely record sound, not meaning. But what if embellishments mattered deeply – if hidden writing, slow to produce, slow to read, played as enduring a role as more accessible graphs? What if meaningful marks did service alongside records of spoken language? This book, a compilation of essays by global authorities on these subjects, zeroes in on hidden writing and alternative systems of graphic notation. Essays by leading scholars explore forms of writing that, by their formal intricacy, deflect attention from language. The volume also examines graphs that target meaning directly, without passing through the filter of words and the medium of sound. The many examples here testify to human ingenuity and future possibilities for exploring enriched graphic communication.

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THE HIDDEN LANGUAGE OF GRAPHIC SIGNS

CRYPTIC WRITING AND MEANINGFUL MARKS

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ABBREVIATIONS

- CIL* *Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum*. 1863–. Berlin: De Gruyter.
- Esna II* Sauneron, Serge. 1963. *Esna, Vol. II: Le Temple d'Esna, Textes Nos. 1–193*. Cairo: Institut Français d'Archéologie Orientale.
- LSO* *Lateres Signati Ostienses* 1. *Testo* (1978) 2. *Tavole* (1977), edited by M. Steinby. Rome: Institutum Romanum Finlandiae.
- OCK* Oxé, August, Howard Comfort, and Philip Kenrick. 2000. *Corpus Vasorum Arretinorum: A Catalogue of the Signatures, Shapes, and Chronology of Italian Sigillata*. 2nd edn revised and enlarged. Bonn: Rudolf Habelt GMBH.

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