Aggregation portal of pre-Christian Art & Artifacts from the Northern Periphery of Early Medieval Europe
Thesaurus of pre-Christian Iconographic Art from the Northern Periphery of Early Medieval Europe
An Introduction to Iconography

Roelof van Straten

- Pre-iconographic
- Iconographic
- Iconographical
An Introduction to Iconography
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- Pre-iconographic
- Iconographic
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Rationale?

- Graduate student review of existing authorities
- Domain-specific authority promotes discoverability of cultural heritage resources (Patra)
- User-generated subject terms can offer descriptive terms not otherwise found in extant authorities (Strader, Trant)
- Crowd tags provide conceptual access at both higher and lower levels of specificity (Rolla)
MicroPasts

Conducting, designing and funding research into our human past.

http://micropasts.org/
Transcription of the postcard collection: Contribute

Please help us to transcribe this postcard.

The date

The message

Possible language of message | Afrikaans

Translation? (Only if you can)

Address

Transcriber’s Comments

Add any comments you have

Submit your transcription

You are working now on task 1
You have completed 13 tasks from 130
Findings

- 250 tasks
- 426 responses
- Asked to select terms from existing word list & suggest new terms
  - Conceptual areas
    - Abstract
    - Figure
    - Natural world
    - Object
    - Subject Matter
http://crowdsourced.micropasts.org/project/andvari/tasks/export
Responses

TERM SELECTION FROM VOCABULARY LIST

- Abstract: 80 (20 selected, 62.4 not selected)
- Figure: 37.6 (62.4 selected, 26.5 not selected)
- Natural World: 73.5 (26.5 selected, 73.5 not selected)
- Object: 69.2 (30.8 selected, 69.2 not selected)
- Subject Matter: 70.9 (29.1 selected, 70.9 not selected)
Challenges -- Images

Great difficulty in referring design to anything I recognise.

Would be helpful to have a means of enlarging image.

Wish I could zoom into this pic;
Challenges -- What am I describing?

This is a high, dressed stone, standing at the end of a stone wall. It is located in a grassy field, with a modern road nearby.

The stone appears smooth, unmarked from the angle of the photograph.
Discussion

- Term selection indicates usefulness of provided terminologies
- Suggested terms align with categories of iconographic description established for project
- Users maintain focus on object classification, not interpretive classification
- Focus on abstract iconographic elements -- patterns, motifs, ornamentation
Conclusions

- Crowdsourcing can be an effective approach towards authority creation and refinement
- Clear instruction necessary
- Expert review necessary
- Identifying effective workflows to integrate crowdsourcing
Next Steps

● Adding additional concepts

● Identifying equivalences between existing authorities

● Enhancing Andvari records

● Publishing concepts for public reuse


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