



Identifying the Printing Technique

ExLibris Abbreviations

The International Federation of Societies of Lovers of Ex Libris - F.I.S.A.E.
 (*Federation Internationale des Societes d'Amateurs d'Ex Libris*) was founded in 1953.

Over the years it has established an international standard for the labeling of bookplates that will help ex libris collectors identify the **printmaking process** used in the creation of the plate through a series of **abbreviated codes** that are often written in pencil on the reverse of the exlibris.

Intaglio printing techniques - **Original**

- C - Intaglio printing (blank); embossing
- C1 - Steel engraving
- C2 - Burin (graver or gouge) engraving, notably on copper
- C3 - Etching, including direct (brush) etching
- C4 - Dry point, including crayon manner and stipple engraving
- C5 - Aquatint
- C6 - Soft-ground or sugar etching
- C7 - Mezzotint
- C8 - Intaglio engraving on linoleum, plastic or other materials

Reproductive

- P3 - Heliogravure (manual line and tone photogravure), photogalvanography
- P4 - Commercial photogravure, rotogravure
- P10 - Etched steel printing (die-printing)

Relief printing techniques - **Original**

- X - Relief printing (blank)
- X1 - Woodcut
- X2 - Wood engraving
- X3 - Linocut
- X4 - (Chinese) stone stamp
- X5 - Relief-printed engraved or etched metal plates, notably metal cut
- X6 - Relief-printed engraving of other materials, notably plastic

Reproductive

- T - Typography, letterpress
- T1 - Linotype, monotype, indirect letterpress
- T2 - Photoxylography, facsimile wood engraving
- T3 - Commercial rubber stamp / timbre en caouchouc commercial



- P1 - Line block (cliché) with or without photography
- P2 - Half-tone, photo zincography
- Flatbed, stencil and electronic printing techniques - Original
- L1 - Auto lithography
- L2 - Autography (transfer lithography)
- L3 - Zincography
- L4 - Algraphy
- P9 - Original photograph
- S - Stencil
- S1 - Original serigraphy (silkscreen)
- S2 - Mimeography (dye stencil)
- S3 - Katazome and Kappa (oiled-paper stencil)
- CGD - Computer generated design
- P - Photographic reproduction
- P5 - Collotype
- P6 - Photolithography, process transfer lithography
- P7 - Offset, including duotone
- P8 - Serigraphic reproduction (photo silkscreen)
- CRD - Computer reproduced design
- Y - Photocopy, electrostatic screen printing

Other abbreviations

- MT - Mixed technique, used when component techniques are not known
- B - Braille
- U - Technique not listed above, including Frottage, Chinese rubbing, Cyanography and Collography
- Number preceding the technical symbols - Number of plates used
- / number after the technical symbols - Number of colors used
- / mon. - Monotype
- / col. - Hand coloured

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References: <http://www.exlibris-art.com/ex-libris-abbreviations/>

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