

T-M

TRANSPORTATION-MARKINGS

GENERAL TABLE OF CONTENTS

WITH INDEX

Brian Clearman

Mount Angel Abbey

6th Edition, 2008

With
GENERAL PREFACE
For T-M
Monograph Series

Transportation-Markings

General Table of Contents

With Index

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GENERAL PREFACE FOR
TRANSPORTATION-MARKINGS
MONOGRAPH SERIES

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GENERAL PREFACE FOR TRANSPORTATION-MARKINGS MONOGRAPH SERIES

The T-M process outlined in these studies describes and classifies safety aids that assist operators of modes of transportation; that process also includes technical and historical perspectives. However, a simple describing and classifying of safety aids can obscure what is at the core of T-M: T-M is essentially a study of symbolic behavior (see Note No. 1). Symbols and what they mean permeate the seemingly practical subject matter of T-M.

T-M weaves in and out of many disciplines and perspectives. Among established disciplines that of semiotics (see Note No. 2) may come closest to explaining the workings of T-M. Communication, design, culture (in particular, material culture), and holarchy also participate in that explanation. Engineering and technology physically undergird T-M.

T-M studies extends over a quarter-century with early classification studies spanning nearly four decades. The order of the studies has been affected by specific topics and by chronology. A more logical and integrated outline of the studies would be at variance with the historical development and listing of monographs. Such an outline can be suggested through a tripartite formulation:

Integrative Studies (General Table of Contents; Foundations; General Classification; T-M History; T-M as Communication System [projected].
Modal Studies (Marine Aids to Navigation; Traffic Control Devices; Railway Signals; Aero Nav aids; US T-M [an inter-modal study and adjunct study].
Database (Marine; Road; Rail; Aero; Composite Classification/Index).

Introductory and integrative material for T-M can be found in a variety of places in the monographs. One such place is in the Prolegomena in Part A, *Foundations* (Addenda, Segments i and ii) which offers both a starting point and a summary of that material.

Note No. 1: T-M Defined

The original T-M definition referred to individual devices: “T-M is any device that aids a mode of transportation by giving information, providing regulations, or expressing warnings.”

In an essay for *Proceedings* (Chartered Institute of Transport, UK, June 1997) that earlier device-focussed definition was prefaced by this statement: “Transportation-Markings is an integrative and wholistic study of all forms of safety aids in the realm of Transport.”

This General Preface offers a futher correction by specifying the nature of that study: T-M is a study of symbolic behavior. The apparatus for producing symbols, the resulting symbols and their meaning are at the heart of that study.

The term Safety Aids can constitute an alternate term for T-M. Yet it is a very elastic term that can prove elusive as an internet seach will quickly confirm. It remains an important term when placed in a transportation context and external to modes of transportation. Other possible alternate terms include Transport [ation] Mark [ing]s, Transport Marks, and Waymarks. An added source for information on terminology relating to T-M studies is to be found in the Appendix of *T-M Foundations* (Part A, 5th edition, 2008).

Note No. 2A Semiotics & T-M

P. Guiraud, C. Morris, T. Sebeok are important sources for semiotics in these studies. D. Sless, S. Hervey, A. Berger, W. Leeds-Hurwitz, W. Noth are other influences. However, what may be the most significant source was unknown to T-M until relatively recently: *Signs, Symbols, and Ciphers* (ET 1998) by Georges Jean, a professor of semiology and linguistics at the University of Maine (France).

Jean surveys signs and symbols of many forms in his book. His descriptive treatment includes both physical apparatus and messages. His formal semiotics is reserved to an anthological survey of Sign Theory. His chapter on “Road Signs” (Signes de Pistes in French; see Note No. 2B) includes visual, sound and electronic devices across the range of transportation modes. Quite possibly no other semiotic source comes close to his coverage. And the T-M studies bear more resemblance to Jean than any other source. Jean’s book is within the subject heading of Signs and Symbols but it is classified as Semiotics. There are seemingly few mentions of Jean in semiotic literature. Nonetheless, his work can be viewed as semiology (or semiotics). And it provides a valid approach to that subject; and an approach that can encompass T-M.

Note No. 2B Road Signs/Signes de Pistes

Road Signs may be a literal translation of Signes de Pistes but it is inadequate for the full range of subject matter of Chapter 5. G. Jean may possibly have sought a term that could encompass all forms of safety aids for transportation. His choice, Signes de Pistes, is admittedly a problem in translation. Internet searches often result in a translation of “Sign of Track” which is employed in diverse ways. That translation may not be fully adequate yet it provides a clue. A further clue to its meaning is found in the “KudoZ network” within the ProZ.com website devoted to translation assistance. One contributor states that Signe de piste “is derived from a mark on the ground or on a tree when scouts play a big outdoor game in a forest or natural area. In English we would say something like trail blazing signs or trail signs. A ‘signe de piste’ is an indication meaning ‘go’ or ‘stop’ or ‘left’ or ‘right’ or ‘look for a hidden message’ etc.”

Speculation suggests that Jean wanted an encompassing term and signes de piste with its meaning of tracks, trails and messages of directions was his choice for that term. Perhaps it is less than fully adequate yet it has more value than a specific term such as road sign. Signe de piste may be the French equivalent of Transportation-Markings. Both terms struggle to encompass a broad range of activity that lacks an established term.

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TRANSPORTATION-MARKINGS

GENERAL TABLE OF CONTENTS

WITH INDEX

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**TRANSPORTATION-MARKINGS:
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A First Study in T-M: The US, 2nd edition, 1993 (Part B, Vol I)

International Marine Aids to Navigation, 2nd edition, 1988 (Parts C & D, Vol I)

[Unified First Edition of Parts A-D, University Press of America, 1981]

International Traffic Control Devices, 2nd edition, 2004 (Part E, Volume II,
Further Studies in T-M) (1st edition, 1984)

International Railway Signals, 1991 (Part F, Vol II)

International Aero Navigation Aids, 1994 (Part G, Vol II)

T-M General Classification with Index, 2nd edition, 2004 (Part H, Vol II)
(1st edition, 1994)

Transportation-Markings Database:

Marine Aids to Navigation, 2nd edition, 2007 (Part Ii, Volume III, Additional
Studies in T-M) (1st edition, 1997)

TCDs, 2nd edition, 2008 (Part Iii, Vol III) (1st edition, 1984)

Railway Signals, 1st edition, 2000 (Part Iiii, Vol III)

Aero Nav Aids, 1st edition, 2001 (Part Iiv, Vol III)

Composite Categories Classification & Index, 1st edition, 2006 (Part Iv, Vol III)

T-M: A Historical Survey, 1750-2000, 2002 (Part J, Volume IV, Final
Studies in T-M)

Transportation-Markings as an Information and Communication System) (Part K,
Vol IV, Projected)



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[ALTERNATE TITLE: *INTERNATIONAL AERO NAVIGATION AIDS*]

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“Under classification we may include all arrangements of objects or names, which we make for saving labour in the discovery of an object. Even alphabetical indices are real classifications. No such arrangement can be of use unless it involves some correlation of circumstances, so that knowing one thing we learn another. If we merely arrange letters in the pigeon-holes of a secretaire we establish a correlation, for all letters in the first hold will be written by persons, for instance, whose names begin with A, and so on. Knowing then the initial letter of the writer’s name, we know also the place of the letter, and the labour of search is thus reduced to one twenty-sixth part of what it would be without arrangement.”

W. Stanley Jevons, *The Principles of Science: A Treatise on Logic and Scientific Method*. (Chapter XXX, Classification).

1st edition, 1874, 2nd edition, 1877
Dover edition (New York), 1958

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“We Communicate and Navigate
with a code of Logos, Symbols,
Emblems and Signs.”

Susan Yelavich, *Design for Life: Our Daily
Lives, the Space we Shape, and the Ways we
Communicate, as seen through the collections
of Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum.*
New York: Cooper-Hewitt, National Design
Museum, Smithsonian Institution: Rizzoli 1997

