

To: Renate Behrens, Chair, RDA Steering Committee

CC: Anne Welsh, Secretary, RDA Steering Committee

From: Jessica Grzegorski, RDA Examples Editor

Subject: Formal response to RSC/TranslationsTLO/2026/2, Proposal on adding ““scribe agent / etc.”, “scribe agent / etc. of”, “wood engraver agent / etc.” and “wood engraver agent / etc. of” as new elements to the RDA Toolkit, the corresponding new definitions to the Glossary, and the corresponding new properties to RDA Registry

The Examples Editor thanks the Technical Team Liaison Officer and all others who contributed to this follow-up proposal.

Recommendations 1.1: Adding “scribe agent / etc.” and “scribe agent / etc. of” to the Toolkit

Approve.

Recommendations 1.2: Adding “scribe agent / etc.” and “scribe agent / etc. of” to the Glossary

Approve.

Recommendation 1.3: Adding “has scribe agent / etc.” and “is scribe agent / etc. of” to the Registry

Approve.

Recommendation 2.1: Adding “wood engraver agent / etc.” and “wood engraver agent / etc. of” to the Toolkit

Partially approve.

While I approve the definitions for the proposed “wood engraver” elements, I strongly recommend assigning “printmaker agent,” etc. as the broader element in the hierarchy. I disagree that a wood engraver is a type of engraver, despite the similarities in the terms. The print expert Bamber Gascoigne notes that “there can be verbal confusion between an engraving and a wood engraving, since they share a name and use a similar tool; but the wood engraver creates a relief

block, cutting away the non-printing areas, whereas the intaglio engraver scoops out the lines which will print.”¹

The activity of an engraver results in a plate in which the image is recessed below the surface, while the activity of a wood engraver results in a block in which the image is raised. The production of an engraving is an intaglio process requiring a press with sufficient pressure to squeeze the paper (or other surface) into the inked, recessed lines to transfer the image. The production of a wood engraving is a relief printing process that is essentially the same as letterpress printing: the raised image is inked and pressed.

The proposed definitions for “wood engraver agent,” etc. clearly indicate that wood engraving is a relief process. While the current definitions for “engraver agent,” etc. are technically broad enough to accommodate “wood engraver agent,” etc. as narrower elements because the “engraver” definitions do not mention the intaglio process, it would be misleading to situate “wood engraver” as a narrower term. In addition to Gascoigne’s observations, I take into account the other authorities mentioned in the proposal that situate wood engravings with relief rather than intaglio prints. It is certainly not necessary for RDA to align with every vocabulary that we may use in resource description, but these external authorities should be taken into consideration.

Recommendation 2.2: Adding “wood engraver agent / etc.” and “wood engraver agent / etc. of” to the Glossary

Approve.

Recommendation 2.3: Adding “has wood engraver agent / etc.” and “is wood engraver agent / etc. of” to the Registry

Approve.

¹ Bamber Gascoigne, *How to Identify Prints* (Thames & Hudson, 2004), 6a.