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The language of graphics

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Amsterdam, August 2002

Yuri Engelhardt

“Much careful labor has been expended in so arranging the book that a busy reader may get the gist of the matter by looking at the illustrations and reading only the titles and the sub-titles [...] under each illustration. [...]

Though the text gives much more detailed information concerning method than can possibly be put into any sub-titles, the reader who examines only the illustrations and the titles, without any reference to the text, will undoubtedly get a major portion of the vital material in the book.”

Willard C. Brinton, 1914 (in the preface to his book 'Graphic methods for presenting facts')

About the graphic representations and their captions

A visual overview of the graphic representations that are contained in this thesis can be found in the Figure Index (pages 181-187).

The figures are divided into two groups. The largest group of figures consists of those that are enclosed in a box. Such a 'boxed' figure is included as an example specimen, and its structured caption provides a standardized analysis of the figure in terms of the developed framework (see section 5.1 for a brief discussion of this analysis). This kind of caption is not so much concerned with *what* is shown in the figure, but rather with *how* it is shown.

A few figures however are not enclosed in a box. This second group of figures serves to illustrate specific points, and their captions do not contain the complete standardized analysis.

Most of the specific terms that are used in the figure captions (and throughout the thesis) can be looked up in the Glossary at the very end of the thesis.