

A Concise Guide to Terra Incognita Style

~ or ~

“Nag Speak for the Masses”

*Being a guide to understanding and applying proper terminology while writing
about the NAGS Society*

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Terra Incognita — The name of an adventure roleplaying game published by Grey Ghost Press. Use bold, italicized type. **TERRA INCOGNITA** (small caps) refers the theory of the Earth Unknown, a planet steeped in mystery and wonder, as yet incompletely revealed to its inhabitants.

NAGS — Acronym for the National Archæological, Geographic, and Submarine Society. The final S is for Submarine and therefore Society is a necessary appendage. NAGS (in all capitals) always refers to the collective institution and not to its individual members (compare with Nags, following). Details of import:

- ☞ National was added to render the name uninteresting, thereby attracting less attention to Society Operations. It refers to no nation in particular—the Society is, in fact, international;
- ☞ Archæological always employs the æ ligature as a stylistic affectation;
- ☞ It is Geographic not Geographical;
- ☞ Use commas following Archæological and Geographic;
- ☞ Submarine refers to the environment rather than the vehicle. Underwater craft are always called submersibles.

Nag, Nags — A member or members of the NAGS Society. Always capitalized. Not an acronym but a nickname or epithet. Nags may also be called members or Society members. Member is uncapitalized, save at the beginning of a sentence.

Society, the Society — Short for NAGS Society. Always capitalized.

GM, game master, player — The first is capitalized, the latter two not. In the core rules, the GM was female and the players male, although one does not necessarily need to follow this practice. However, everyone should feel welcome in *Terra Incognita*.

Nag Tech — Also Nag Technology, Nag Tech gadgets. The ingenious products of Gadgeteers. Expressed as two words, each capitalized. *Nota bene*: the words were previously run together; *i.e.* NagTech, but no longer. Never NAG Tech or NAGS Tech. Glitch is always capitalized.

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AOS — Short for Area of Specialty, of which there are seven: Bookworm, Gadgeteer, Hack, Hero, Green Preservationist, Red Preservationist, and Snoop. Never written AoS (although this is perhaps more appropriate).

Campus — Regional headquarters of the NAGS Society, of which there are many. Only capitalized when referring to a specific one; *i.e.* the Oslo Campus. Each AOS hosts its own college within the campus. The terminology is derived from the university model, but campuses may take on a variety of configurations, from inhabiting the attic of another institution to glass domed buildings on the sea floor.

RFA — Abbreviation for Request for Attention, a means by which the Society is asked to look into a matter. Use “an” as indefinite article, *i.e.*, an RFA.

Nag Ops, Nag Operations — The missions undergone by Nags. Two words, each capitalized. *Nota bene:* the words were previously run together, but no longer.

Archaisms — *Terra Incognita* employs a variety of affected archaisms for stylistic purposes, *viz.*:

- ☞ Ligatures — Use æ ligatures wherever required. Other ligatures (*i.e.*, œ) are possible, although we didn’t use them in the core rules. The more pedantic and pretentious, the better.
- ☞ &c. — Shorthand for *etc.* which is shorthand for *et cetera* (& stands for *et*). Never &tc., which I foolishly did in the original *NAGS Society Worldbook*.
- ☞ Foreign words — Be fastidious about italicizing and employing proper diacritical marks (*i.e.*, *outré*, *mêlée* [which, to be truthful, we didn’t italicize in the core rules]).

Multiculturalism — Though the Victorian and pulp genres have particular tropes appropriate to the time period, the NAGS Society operates both within and above such norms. Society members represent all ages, nationalities, faiths, classes, and both sexes. NPC Nags should represent this cultural panoply.

Anachronism — A certain amount of anachronism is possible due to the *avant garde* nature of the Society and its members. Words, phrases, terminology, and relationships can exist within the Society before they were generally current. Be sure to provide an explanation of such usage. The term Glitch used with Nag Tech is a good example.

Fudge — The roleplaying game system employed in *Terra Incognita*. Use bold, italicized type. *Nota bene:* *Fudge* was previously an acronym rendered in all caps, but no longer.

Fudge Terminology — Use the following guidelines when employing *Fudge* terminology.

You need not capitalize:

- ☞ trait, attribute or skill.

Always capitalize:

- ☞ the seven levels (Superb, Great, Good, Fair, Mediocre, Poor, and Terrible);
- ☞ the six attributes (Perception, Reasoning, Resolve, Strength, Dexterity, and Vigor);
- ☞ specific skill names such as Stealth or Legerdemain;
- ☞ the words Gift and Fault; and
- ☞ specific Gifts and Faults such as Perfect Timing or Animal Empathy.

Please visit the *Terra Incognita* website at www.nagsociety.com for more resources for your game.