**<hand>**

Defines a distinct scribe or handwriting style.

Module

MEI.header

Attributes

* [compact](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/elements/hand.html#attributes)
* [full definition](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/elements/hand.html#attributes)
* [by class](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/elements/hand.html#attributes)
* [by module](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/elements/hand.html#attributes)

@analog(optional)Contains a reference to a field or element in another descriptive encoding system to which this MEI element is comparable. Value is plain text.

@cert(optional)Signifies the degree of certainty or precision associated with a feature. Value conforms to [data.CERTAINTY](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/data-types/data.certainty.html).

@class(optional)Contains one or more URIs which denote classification terms that apply to the entity bearing this attribute. One or more values from [data.URI](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/data-types/data.uri.html), separated by spaces.

@copyof(optional)Points to an element of which the current element is a copy. Value conforms to [data.URI](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/data-types/data.uri.html).

@corresp(optional)Used to point to other elements that correspond to this one in a generic fashion. One or more values from [data.URI](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/data-types/data.uri.html), separated by spaces.

@evidence(optional)Indicates the nature of the evidence supporting the reliability or accuracy of the intervention or interpretation. Allowed values are: "internal" *(There is evidence within the document to support the intervention.)*, "external" *(There is evidence outside the document to support the intervention.)*, "conjecture" *(The assertion has been made by the editor, cataloguer, or scholar on the basis of their expertise.)*

@follows(optional)points to one or more events in a user-defined collection that are known to be predecessors of the current element. One or more values from [data.URI](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/data-types/data.uri.html), separated by spaces.

@initial(optional)Marks this hand as the first one of the document. Value conforms to [data.BOOLEAN](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/data-types/data.boolean.html).

@label(optional)Captures text to be used to generate a label for the element to which it's attached, a "tool tip" or prefatory text, for example. Should not be used to record document content. Value is plain text.

@medium(optional)Describes the writing medium. Value is plain text.

@n(optional)Provides a number-like designation that indicates an element's position in a sequence of similar elements. May not contain space characters. Value conforms to [data.WORD](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/data-types/data.word.html).

@next(optional)Used to point to the next event(s) in a user-defined collection. One or more values from [data.URI](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/data-types/data.uri.html), separated by spaces.

@precedes(optional)Points to one or more events in a user-defined collection that are known to be successors of the current element. One or more values from [data.URI](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/data-types/data.uri.html), separated by spaces.

@prev(optional)Points to the previous event(s) in a user-defined collection. One or more values from [data.URI](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/data-types/data.uri.html), separated by spaces.

@resp(optional)Indicates the agent(s) responsible for some aspect of the text's transcription, editing, or encoding. Its value must point to one or more identifiers declared in the document header. One or more values from [data.URI](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/data-types/data.uri.html), separated by spaces.

@sameas(optional)Points to an element that is the same as the current element but is not a literal copy of the current element. One or more values from [data.URI](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/data-types/data.uri.html), separated by spaces.

@synch(optional)Points to elements that are synchronous with the current element. One or more values from [data.URI](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/data-types/data.uri.html), separated by spaces.

@translit(optional)Specifies the transliteration technique used. Value is a [NMTOKEN](https://www.w3.org/TR/xmlschema11-2/" \l "NMTOKEN" \t "_blank).

@type(optional)Designation which characterizes the element in some sense, using any convenient classification scheme or typology that employs single-token labels. One or more values of datatype NMTOKEN, separated by spaces.

@xml:base(optional)Provides a base URI reference with which applications can resolve relative URI references into absolute URI references. Value conforms to [data.URI](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/data-types/data.uri.html).

@xml:id(optional)Regularizes the naming of an element and thus facilitates building links between it and other resources. Each id attribute within a document must have a unique value. Value is a valid [xml:id](https://www.w3.org/TR/xml-id/" \t "_blank).

@xml:lang(optional)Identifies the language of the element's content. The values for this attribute are language 'tags' as defined in BCP 47. All language tags that make use of private use sub-tags must be documented in a corresponding language element in the MEI header whose id attribute is the same as the language tag's value. Value is a [language](https://www.w3.org/TR/xmlschema11-2/" \l "language" \t "_blank).

Member of

(hand isn't member of any model class)

Contained by

* [compact](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/elements/hand.html#containedBy)
* [by class](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/elements/hand.html#containedBy)
* [by module](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/elements/hand.html#containedBy)

[handList](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/elements/handlist.html)

May Contain

* [compact](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/elements/hand.html#mayContain)
* [by class](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/elements/hand.html#mayContain)
* [by module](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/elements/hand.html#mayContain)

textual content

MEI.edittransEditorial and transcriptional component declarations.

[abbr](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/elements/abbr.html)(abbreviation) – A generic element for 1) a shortened form of a word, including an acronym or 2) a shorthand notation.

[expan](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/elements/expan.html)(expansion) – Contains the expansion of an abbreviation.

MEI.figtableFigures and tables component declarations.

[fig](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/elements/fig.html)(figure) – Groups elements representing or containing graphic information such as an illustration or figure.

MEI.headerMetadata header component declarations.

[fingerprint](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/elements/fingerprint.html)Contains a string that uniquely identifies an item, such as those constructed by combining groups of characters transcribed from specified pages of a printed item or a file's checksum.

[watermark](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/elements/watermark.html)Contains a description of a watermark or similar device.

MEI.msDescManuscript description component declarations.

[catchwords](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/elements/catchwords.html)Describes the system used to ensure correct ordering of the quires making up an item, typically by means of annotations at the foot of the page.

[heraldry](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/elements/heraldry.html)Contains a heraldic formula or phrase, typically found as part of a blazon, coat of arms, etc.

[locus](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/elements/locus.html)Defines a location within a manuscript or manuscript component, usually as a (possibly discontinuous) sequence of folio references.

[locusGrp](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/elements/locusgrp.html)(locus group) – Groups locations which together form a distinct but discontinuous item within a manuscript or manuscript part, according to a specific foliation.

[secFolio](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/elements/secfolio.html)(second folio) – Marks the word or words taken from a fixed point in a codex (typically the beginning of the second leaf) in order to provide a unique identifier for the item.

[signatures](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/elements/signatures.html)Provides a description of the leaf or quire signatures found within a codex.

[stamp](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/elements/stamp.html)Contains a word or phrase describing an official mark indicating ownership, genuineness, validity, etc.

MEI.namesdatesNames and dates component declarations.

[bloc](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/elements/bloc.html)Contains the name of a geopolitical unit consisting of two or more nation states or countries.

[corpName](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/elements/corpname.html)(corporate name) – Identifies an organization or group of people that acts as a single entity.

[country](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/elements/country.html)Contains the name of a geopolitical unit, such as a nation, country, colony, or commonwealth, larger than or administratively superior to a region and smaller than a bloc.

[district](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/elements/district.html)Contains the name of any kind of subdivision of a settlement, such as a parish, ward, or other administrative or geographic unit.

[geogFeat](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/elements/geogfeat.html)(geographical feature name) – Contains a common noun identifying a geographical feature.

[geogName](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/elements/geogname.html)(geographic name) – The proper noun designation for a place, natural feature, or political jurisdiction.

[periodName](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/elements/periodname.html)(period name) – A label that describes a period of time, such as 'Baroque' or '3rd Style period'.

[persName](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/elements/persname.html)(personal name) – Designation for an individual, including any or all of that individual's forenames, surnames, honorific titles, and added names.

[postBox](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/elements/postbox.html)(postal box or post office box) contains a number or other identifier for some postal delivery point other than a street address.

[postCode](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/elements/postcode.html)(postal code) contains a numerical or alphanumeric code used as part of a postal address to simplify sorting or delivery of mail.

[region](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/elements/region.html)Contains the name of an administrative unit such as a state, province, or county, larger than a settlement, but smaller than a country.

[settlement](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/elements/settlement.html)Contains the name of a settlement such as a city, town, or village identified as a single geopolitical or administrative unit.

[street](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/elements/street.html)full street address including any name or number identifying a building as well as the name of the street or route on which it is located.

[styleName](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/elements/stylename.html)(style name) – A label for a characteristic style of writing or performance, such as 'bebop' or 'rock-n-roll'.

MEI.ptrrefPointer and reference component declarations.

[ptr](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/elements/ptr.html)(pointer) – Defines a traversible pointer to another location, using only attributes to describe the destination.

[ref](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/elements/ref.html)(reference) – Defines a traversible reference to another location. May contain text and sub-elements that describe the destination.

MEI.sharedComponent declarations that are shared between two or more modules.

[address](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/elements/address.html)Contains a postal address, for example of a publisher, an organization, or an individual.

[annot](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/elements/annot.html)(annotation) – Provides a statement explaining the text or indicating the basis for an assertion.

[bibl](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/elements/bibl.html)(bibliographic reference) – Provides a loosely-structured bibliographic citation in which the sub-components may or may not be explicitly marked.

[biblStruct](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/elements/biblstruct.html)(structured bibliographic citation) – Contains a bibliographic citation in which bibliographic sub-elements must appear in a specified order.

[date](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/elements/date.html)A string identifying a point in time or the time period between two such points.

[dedicatee](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/elements/dedicatee.html)Entity to whom a creative work is formally offered.

[depth](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/elements/depth.html)Description of a measurement taken through a three-dimensional object.

[dim](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/elements/dim.html)(dimension) – Any single dimensional specification.

[dimensions](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/elements/dimensions.html)Information about the physical size of an entity; usually includes numerical data.

[extent](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/elements/extent.html)Used to express size in terms other than physical dimensions, such as number of pages, records, bytes, physical components, etc.

[height](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/elements/height.html)Description of the vertical size of an object.

[identifier](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/elements/identifier.html)An alpha-numeric string that establishes the identity of the described material.

[lb](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/elements/lb.html)(line beginning) – An empty formatting element that forces text to begin on a new line.

[name](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/elements/name.html)Proper noun or noun phrase.

[num](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/elements/num.html)(number) – Numeric information in any form.

[relation](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/elements/relation.html)Describes a relationship or linkage amongst entities.

[relationList](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/elements/relationlist.html)Gathers relation elements.

[rend](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/elements/rend.html)(render) – A formatting element indicating special visual rendering, e.g., bold or italicized, of a text word or phrase.

[repository](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/elements/repository.html)Institution, agency, or individual which holds a bibliographic item.

[stack](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/elements/stack.html)(stacked text) – An inline table with a single column.

[symbol](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/elements/symbol.html)A reference to a previously defined symbol.

[term](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/elements/term.html)Keyword or phrase which describes a resource.

[title](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/elements/title.html)Title of a bibliographic entity.

[width](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/elements/width.html)Description of the horizontal size of an object.

MEI.textText component declarations.

[q](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/elements/q.html)(quoted) – Contains material which is distinguished from the surrounding phrase-level text using quotation marks or a similar method. Use [quote](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/elements/quote.html) for block-level quotations.

[seg](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/elements/seg.html)(arbitrary segment) represents any segmentation of text below the "text component" level.

Remarks

The initial attribute indicates whether this is the first or main hand of the document. The medium attribute describes the writing medium, e.g., 'pencil', or the tint or type of ink, e.g. 'brown'. The resp attribute contains an ID reference to an element containing the name of the editor or transcriber responsible for identifying the hand. The characteristics of the hand, particularly those related to the quality of the writing, such as 'shaky', 'thick', etc. may be described within the content of the [hand](https://music-encoding.org/guidelines/v4/elements/hand.html) element. This element is modelled on an element in the Text Encoding Initiative (TEI) standard.