

The Classification of Fiction into the Library of Congress Literature Schedule

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Many know by now that the Library of Congress Classification System was developed at the turn of the 19th century under the leadership of Herbert Putnam at the Library of Congress in Washington, D. C. Many know also that in succeeding years the Library of Congress Classification System has been revised and refined continually, but that problem areas remain. One of these problem areas is the classification of fiction in literature. The decision of the Library of Congress in 1968 to classify fiction in the appropriate national literature classes left the individual cataloger with the problem of completing the Library of Congress classification for many fictional works personally, since the class number supplied on Library of Congress catalog cards was incomplete.

An example of this incompleteness can be demonstrated by the book *Jubilee* by Margaret Walker, for which the Library of Congress supplies the class number PS3545.A517, leaving the individual cataloger to assign the appropriate alphanumeric combination for the title to complete the book's classification number.

The Guilford College Library was faced with this problem in a large way in 1968 as the Library was in the midst of a total reclassification effort from the Dewey to the Library of Congress System. After great consideration it was decided to place fiction works by an author into the same class as critical works about him or her. This action required that a system be developed for assigning alphanumeric symbols to complete the class number supplied

by the Library of Congress.

The only authors for which this system needed to be developed were those to whom the Library of Congress has assigned from one to five class numbers. For authors who have been assigned more than five numbers the Library of Congress, in over 99 per cent of the cases, supplies complete classification information on Library of Congress printed cards.

The initial step in developing this system was to complete an author card file listing the class number or numbers assigned to the author by the Library of Congress for all authors with fiction works in the Library. This was accomplished by a search through back issues of the *National Union Catalog*. For authors with two numbers, the class number for separate works was designated by using Table XII of the "P" Class Schedule which indicates that the first number is used. Thus if the author was assigned class numbers PR4091-4092, separate works would be under PR4091 (By title, .A5-Z). For authors with four or five numbers Table VII of the "P" Class Schedule indicates that if the initial class number ends with a 0 then separate works hold the number 2. Thus if the author was assigned class numbers PR5170-5174, separate works would be under PR5172 (By title, A-Z). If the initial number ends with the number 5, then separate works hold the number 7. Thus if the author was assigned the class numbers PR4165-4169, separate works would be under PR4167 (By title, A-Z).

Using the proper table numbers for subdivisions of individual authors of the "P" Class Schedule, the English translation of a title in another language would have the same classification number as the original work, but the number 13 would be added after the alphanumeric symbol for the title. An example would be *Candle in the Wind* by Solzhenitsyn, which in Russian is classed as PG3488.04/S8, and the English translation is PG3488.04/S813. Thus it is possible for identical works in different languages to be located together on the library shelf.

This system for assigning alphanumeric

symbols indicating title to complete the Library of Congress classification for fiction works where it is not complete on the Library of Congress printed card should enable the individual cataloger to complete this task in a minimum amount of time and in most cases with the assistance of non-professional personnel.

Initial work in compiling an author card file is time consuming, but once completed a search through the *National Union Catalog* is necessary only when a work by a new author or another work by an author with a locally-assigned class number is received by the library.

Until such time as the Library of Congress provides complete classification information for all fiction works on the Library of Congress printed cards, a system such as is in effect in the Guilford College Library will be necessary to fill the information gap.

At present, Guilford College's author card file contains class numbers for approximately 2,400 authors. The card index is arranged alphabetically, followed by the author class number in the upper left corner of the card. New entries are made when a search of the index indicates that no entries are present for that particular author. If a search of the *National Union Catalog* indicates that the Library of Congress has not assigned this author a class number, then a number is assigned locally. This number is bracketed after the author's name on the file card. Upon receipt of another work by the author, a re-check is done through the *National Union Catalog*. If the re-check reveals an author class number or numbers, this information is recorded on the file card, and earlier works are reclassified.

When a new fiction work falling into the incomplete class number category is received in the Library, a library assistant checks the author file for the class number and then assigns an alphanumeric symbol for the title by checking against the library shelf list. Alphanumeric symbols for the title are derived using the author number table of the CATALOGING SERVICE BUL-

LETIN, February 1971. If this alphanumeric number conflicts with a Library of Congress classified work then the work is reclassified into the proper order. If the individual title has a later copyright date or is a later edition than one already held by the Library, only the date of the new publication need be added to the classification number.

For English works translated into a foreign language the same alphanumeric base for title is used with the addition of the appropriate number indicating language from Table VIIIa or IXa of the "P" Class Schedule. Thus *Gone With the Wind* by Margaret Mitchell has the call number PS3525.1 972/G6 in English. In a French translation the call number would be PS3525.1 972/G63, and in a German translation PS3525.1 972/G64. Thus the translation of the title is arranged to follow the original language edition.

**Sample Entries
from the
Guilford College Author File
Supplementing the LC "P" Schedule**

- Padgett, Lewis [pseud.] See Kuttner, Henry
- Page, Elizabeth, 1889-
PS3531.A224
- Page, Thomas Nelson, 1853-1922
PS2510-18; 2514 sep. wks.
- Pagnol, Marcel, 1895-
PQ2631.A26
- Painter, William, 1540?-1594
PR2327-2328
- Palacio Valdes Armando, 1853-1938
PQ6629.A5
- Paley, Grace
PS3566.A46
- Pangborn, Edgar
PS3566.A56
- Papini, Giovanni, 1881-1956
PQ4835.A27
- Parker, Dorothy (Rothschild) 1883-1967
PS3531.A5855
- Parker, Sir Gilbert, bart, 1862-1932
PR5120-4; 5122 sep. wks.
- Parker, Louis Napoleon, 1852-1944
PR5126.P5
- Parkinson, Cyril Northcote, 1909-
PR6066.A6955
- Parks, Edd Winfield, 1906-
PS3531.A6284
- Parks, Gordon, 1912-
PS3566.A73
- Partridge, Bellamy
PS3531.A718
- Pascal, Blaise, 1623-1662
PQ1876.P3
- Pasternak, Boris Leonidovich,
1890-1960
PG3476.P27
- Patchen, Kenneth, 1911-1972
PS3531.A764
- Pater, Walter Horatio, 1839-1894
PR5130-8; 5134 sep. wks.
- Patmore, Coventry Kersey Dighton,
1823-1896
PR5140-5144; 5142 sep. wks.
- Paton, Alan
PR6031.A75
- Patton, Frances Gray
PS3531.A837
- Paul, Louis
PS3531.A853
- Paustovskii, Konstantin Georgievich,
1893-
PG3476.P29
- Paz, Octavio, 1914-
PQ7297.P285
- Peacock, Thomas Love, 1785-1866
PR5160-5164; 5162 sep. wks.
- Pearse, Padraic, 1879-1916
PR6031.E2
- Pearson, Drew, 1897-1969
PS3531.E2355
- Pearson, James Larkin, 1879-
PS3531.E24
- Peattie, Donald Culross, 1898-
PS3531.E254

*Xerographic copies of the complete file may be purchased for \$10.00 prepaid from: Guilford College Library, Greensboro, N. C. 27410

Sample Cards of Author File

PR
4002-4003 Ainsworth, William Harrison, 1805-1882.

4002 sep. wks.

Table XII

Two numbers



PR
3340-3344 Chatterton, Thomas, 1752-1770.

3342 sep. wks.

Table VII

Five numbers



PR Forsyth, Frederick, 1938-
6056 The dogs of war. New York, Viking Press [1974]
0699 408 p. 23 cm. \$7.95

PZ4.F7349 Do 3 823'.9'14 73-19103
I. Title. MARC

[PR6056.O699]
ISBN 0-670-27753-3

Library of Congress 74

One number

