

## PREFACE

The first edition of subclasses BL-BQ, *Religion (General). Hinduism. Judaism. Islam. Buddhism*, was published in 1927 in a volume that also included subclasses BR-BX. The second edition was published in 1962 in the same configuration. The third edition was published in 1984. A 2001 edition cumulated additions and changes that were made during the period 1984-2001. This 2008 edition cumulates additions and changes made since the publication of the 2001 edition. Many captions in the range BP1-253 (Islam) now include Arabic script in addition to the equivalent Latin script. The Library of Congress gratefully acknowledges the assistance of William Kopycki, University of Pennsylvania, John Eilts, Stanford University, and David Giovacchini, Stanford University, in providing the Arabic script for these captions. Captions for the Tripitaka and its divisions in BQ1100-3340 now include Chinese characters in addition to their Latin-script counterparts. These Chinese characters were provided by Kio T. Kanda, senior cataloger in the Regional and Cooperative Cataloging Division at the Library of Congress.

In the Library of Congress Classification schedules, classification numbers or spans of numbers that appear in parentheses are formerly valid numbers that are now obsolete. Numbers or spans that appear in angle brackets are optional numbers that have never been used at the Library of Congress but are provided for other libraries that wish to use them. In most cases, a parenthesized or angle-bracketed number is accompanied by a "see" reference directing the user to the actual number that the Library of Congress currently uses, or a note explaining Library of Congress practice.

Access to the online version of the full Library of Congress Classification is available on the World Wide Web by subscription to *Classification Web*. Details about ordering and pricing may be obtained from the Cataloging Distribution Service at:

[<http://www.loc.gov/cds/>](http://www.loc.gov/cds/)

New or revised numbers and captions are added to the L.C. Classification schedules as a result of development proposals made by the cataloging staff of the Library of Congress and cooperating institutions. Upon approval of these proposals by the weekly editorial meeting of the Cataloging Policy and Support Office, new classification records are created or existing records are revised in the master classification database. Weekly lists of newly approved or revised classification numbers and captions are posted on the World Wide Web at:

[<http://www.loc.gov/aba/cataloging/classification/weeklylists/>](http://www.loc.gov/aba/cataloging/classification/weeklylists/)

Milicent Wewerka, senior subject cataloging policy specialist in the Cataloging Policy and Support Office, is responsible for coordinating the overall intellectual and editorial content of subclasses BL-BQ. Kent Griffiths, assistant editor of classification schedules, is responsible for creating new classification records, maintaining the master database, and creating index terms for the captions.

Barbara B. Tillett, Chief  
Cataloging Policy and Support Office

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