BACKGROUND: Normally, all works by or about an individual literary author are classed together in the same number or span of numbers in class P regardless of the number of names under which the person may be entered and regardless of any changes in the form of heading for the person. However, multiple numbers or spans of numbers may be established for those authors who write in more than one language.

The principal factors to be considered in determining the location of individual literary author numbers in class P are the language in which the author wrote, the author's nationality, and, if required, the time period during which the author was productive. The simplest situation encountered in establishing an author's number is the author who wrote in one language only and was a citizen of only one country. Authors living in the country most commonly associated with a particular language are classed with the general literature area for that language.

Authors of a country other than the one most commonly associated with the language in which they write may be classed by country in the area developed for that literature in other countries. Many literatures, however, have no geographic development, may be only partially expanded (such as literature of former colonies), or may have special locations for collections but not for individual authors. The literature of the United States is the exception to the standard arrangement of keeping the literature of a particular language together in the same subclass. No special section for United States literature exists in subclass PR, English literature. Instead, subclass PS has been reserved for literature in English of the United States.

This instruction sheet provides guidelines for classifying works by and about individual literary authors. For guidelines on classifying literary works for children, see F 615.

1. Using established literary author numbers.

   a. Searching. Search the name authority file, the LC database, the shelflist, and the P schedules to determine whether an individual literary author number has been established for the author. Search under the current heading, as well as under earlier catalog headings, pseudonyms, or other names. In name authority records, class numbers for literary authors are recorded in the 053 field.

   b. Use of established name. If a number has already been established for the author, use it. For example, for Buck, Pearl S. (Pearl Sydenstricker), 1892-1973, use the full number PS3503.U198.
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1. Using established literary author numbers.  (Continued)

   c. Name changes for authors with established numbers. If the name of an author with an existing literary author number changes significantly due to changes in cataloging rules, marital status, etc., continue to use the existing literary author number, if any, derived from the earlier form of the name.  Submit a proposal to establish the number in the appropriate P schedule, together with a see reference from the new form of name (see sec. 3, below).

   Note: The phrase “changes significantly” should be interpreted to mean that the changes affect the filing order of the name.

   d. Authors entered under more than one name.

(1) Single author using pseudonyms. Class works by or about an author who writes under several pseudonyms in the single number that has been established for that author, regardless of the name under which the work being cataloged has been entered.  Submit a proposal to establish the number in the appropriate P schedule together with see references from the pseudonym(s) (see sec. 3, below).

(2) Multiple authors using a joint pseudonym. Class works by or about authors using a joint pseudonym in the number appropriate to the joint pseudonym. Submit a proposal to establish the number in the appropriate P schedule.  If one or more of the authors also publishes literary works independently of the other(s), provide cross-references (see sec. 3, below).

2. Establishing new literary author numbers.

   a. Authors writing in one language. Class literary authors who write in only one language under the literature of the language in which the author writes or wrote, observing subarrangement by country or time period if provided.
2. Establishing new literary author numbers. (Continued)

b. Authors writing in more than one language. If an author writes in more than one language, establish a number under the literature of each language. Do not attempt to keep all the works of the author together, e.g.,

PG3476.N3 Russian-language works of Vladimir Nabokov
PS3527.A15 English-language works of Vladimir Nabokov

For special cataloging situations involving a choice among the various numbers that have been established for an author of this type, see sec. 4.a., below.

c. Authors associated with more than one country.

Note: Once a decision has been made to class an author with a particular country, this number will usually continue to be used. Do not change the number unless the original choice was clearly in error.

(1) General rule. Class a literary author with the country of citizenship, if the literature of his or her language provides for arrangement of authors by country. If the author was a citizen of several countries, prefer the country in which the author's most productive years were spent, or the country usually associated with the author by scholars in the field. If no preference can be determined, make an arbitrary selection of a country.

(2) Living authors about whom little information is known. For living authors about whom little information is known, select a country based on available information (i.e., birthplace, parentage, residences, place of publication of the work(s) being cataloged).
3. Proposing literary author numbers for inclusion in the P schedules.

a. When to propose a literary author number. Submit proposals to have individual numbers explicitly included in the P schedules for authors or works in the following categories:

- literary authors whose name changes significantly due to changes in cataloging rules, marital status, etc.. (cf. sec. 1.a., above)

- literary authors born before 1925

- literary authors who have pseudonyms, regardless of date of birth. For pseudonymous authors, make a see reference from all names not used as the basis for the literary author number.

Exception: Do not submit proposals for literary authors who use one name for works intended for children and another for works intended for adults. Also do not submit proposals for literary authors whose pseudonyms correspond to the language of the work (e.g., an author uses the name Francisco Nieves when writing in Spanish and Francis White when writing in English).

- literary authors who have joint pseudonyms, regardless of date of birth. If one or more of the authors also publishes literary works independently of the other(s), provide cross-references, e.g.,

  PS3601.L36 Alfonsi, Alice
  For works written with Marc Cerasini under the joint pseudonym Cleo Coyle see PS3603.O94.

  PS3603.O94 Coyle, Cleo
  This is a joint pseudonym of Alice Alfonsi and Marc Cerasini. For works by Alice Alfonsi alone see PS3601.L36.

- anonymous works published before 1925
3. Proposing literary author numbers for inclusion in the P schedules. (Continued)

   b. Formulating captions and see references.

   (1) Form of name. For new authors, use the form of name established in the LC/PCC name authority file. For authors with existing numbers, use the form of name corresponding to the Cutter number or other alphabetical arrangement in the schedule.

   Do not list the various pseudonyms or alternate forms of names in parentheses or quotation marks after the name chosen as the caption.

   (2) See references. Make a see reference from any previously authorized form of the heading if it has a different entry element, from any pseudonym(s), or from the author's real name if the number is derived from a pseudonym.

   Do not make see references from variant names that are not pseudonyms but merely foreign language renderings of the name, even if the name authority record contains such references.

   Do not make see references from forms of the same name varying in fullness but all beginning with the same, or substantially the same, entry element.

4. Special cataloging situations.

   a. Authors writing in more than one language. If an author writes in more than one language and has more than one established number, observe the following guidelines:

   (1) Translations and critical studies. Class translations and critical studies of individual works with the original works.

   (2) Collective criticism of several works. Class collective criticism of several works according to the language of the group of works studied.

   (3) General criticism and biography. Class general criticism and biography of a literary author in the one predetermined number that best represents the total literary output of the author.
4. Special cataloging situations. (Continued)

b. Fiction works in English. Class works of fiction in English according to the general rules for literary works. Do not reclassify earlier works classed in PZ unless the original cataloging is erroneous.

Note: Prior to 1980, LC classed works of fiction in English in PZ1-PZ4. This practice has been discontinued.

c. Non-literary works by literary authors. Class non-literary works by literary authors with the topic, unless a number for the work is specifically established in the literature schedules.

Exception: If the work is a collection of essays on such diverse topics that it would normally class in AC schedule, class it in the author’s literary author number instead.

5. Criticism of the works of an individual literary author. Unless other instructions are provided in the schedules, classify criticisms and commentaries of the works of an individual literary author according to the following guidelines.

a. Criticism of an individual work. Classify a criticism of a work or collection classified as a Separate work with the text of the work or collection, following the guidelines presented in F 570 and G 340. Example:

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050 00 $a PS3562.A316 $b N36 2003
100 1# $a Lahiri, Jhumpa.
245 14 $a The namesake.

050 00 $a PS3562.A316 $b N3633 2010
100 1# $a Batra, Jagdish
245 10 $a Jhumpa Lahiri’s The namesake : $b a critical study.
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Note: The Namesake is a novel and is classed as a separate work.
5. Criticism of the works of an individual literary author.

a. Criticism of an individual work. (Continued)

Note: Spoon River Anthology is a collection of poems known by its title. It is not assigned a conventional collective title and is therefore classed as a separate work (see F 633).

b. Criticism of multiple works or of a work classed as a collection. Classify a criticism of two or more literary works, or of a work classed as a collection, in the general criticism number(s) for the literary author. Examples:

[A collection of short stories with a conventional collective title. Table P-PZ40 applies. Use .A6 date, Selected works. Selections. By date]

[A criticism of Interpreter of Maladies, a collection of short stories with a conventional collective title. Table P-PZ40 applies. Use .Z5-999, Biography and criticism, General works]

[A criticism of several of Lahiri’s works. Table P-PZ40 applies. Use .Z5-999, Biography and criticism, General works]
5. Criticism of the works of an individual literary author. (Continued)

c. Criticism of literary works for children. Classify criticism of literary works for children in classes PA-PM and PQ-PT according to the guidelines in sec. 5.a-b above. Also classify in PA-PM and PQ-PT memoirs and biographies of the authors.

6. Adding literary author numbers to name authority records. Literary author numbers are included in the 053 field of name authority records. For authors who write literary works under more than one name and who have authority records for each name, an 053 field is added to each record. 053 fields are not added for the following categories of authors.

- Those whose literary number is expressed by successive Cutter numbers such as those that are generated by Table P-PZ16
- Those whose works are classified in PN
- Those whose works are classified in PZ

Note: An 053 field may be added to authority records for authors of literary works for children if the author has been assigned a literary author number in PA-PT according to sec. 5.c above. Add an 053 field for the literary author number in PA-PT only, and not for the author’s PZ number.

- Those who are established on undifferentiated name records

Examples:

053 #0 $a PS3557.R48  [single literary author Cutter]
100 1# $a Greth, Roma

053 #0 $a PK1719 $b PK1727  [span of numbers for a single author]
100 0# $a Tagore, Rabindranath, $d 1861-1941

Note: When recording a span of numbers, designate spans by giving the full class number of the beginning of the span, and the full class number of the end of the span.
Note: When an author writes in several languages and several numbers have been established in the classification scheme, add a qualifier to each classification number, using a $c subfield. Do not enclose such qualifiers in brackets or parentheses.

100 1# $a Frederick, Rawle [053 field not provided]

Note: Rawle is a Bermudian author who writes in English, and is classed in the span PR9680.B43A-Z. Since the first cutter represents his country of citizenship, his name is represented by successive cutter numbers (i.e., the second cutter is different for each of his works), and he therefore does not have a single literary author number.

053 #0 $a PS3569.E6
100 1# $a Sendak, Maurice

Note: Sendak is an author of literary works for children, and his works are classed in PZ. Biographies of Sendak and discussions of his work are classed in PS3569.E6. The 053 field provides his literary author number in PS, but an 053 is not provided for his classification number in PZ.

100 1# $a Hodgman, John [053 field not provided]

Note: Hodgman is an American comic and his works of humor are classed in PN. He does not have a literary author number and an 053 field is not added.