

Gods and Mythological Figures H 1635

BACKGROUND: Until July 2013, headings for individual named gods, goddesses, and mythological figures were established in LCSH. After that date, headings for individual named gods, goddesses, and mythological figures are established as RDA name authority records. Groups of gods, goddesses, and mythological figures, and types of them, continue to be established in LCSH. The heading **God** and headings of the type **God (name of religion)** (e.g., **God (Christianity)**; **God (Greek religion)**) also continue to be established in LCSH.

This instruction sheet presents guidelines for establishing the names of groups of gods, goddesses, and mythological figures, as well as types of mythological monsters, animals, items, structures, etc. It describes the procedures for cancelling subject headings for individual named gods, goddesses, and mythological figures when name authority records have been created. It also describes the application of headings for both individual, and groups of, gods and mythological figures. For instructions on establishing and assigning headings for legendary characters see H 1795.

1. Groups of gods and goddesses.

a. Form of heading. Establish named groups of gods and goddesses in the subject authority file. Qualify the name of each group with (**[name of religion, ethnic group, etc.] deities**) as appropriate. Do not divide headings geographically. *Examples:*

```
150 ## $a Ādityas (Hindu deities)
150 ## $a Amesha Spentas (Zoroastrian deities)
150 ## $a Nymphs (Greek deities)
```

b. References. Make UF references for variant names. Optionally, UFs may be added with the name of the group in a language other than the vernacular or English if such a reference is judged to be useful.

Make a BT for **Gods** or **Goddesses**, qualified by the name of the religion, ethnic group, etc. *Examples:*

```
550 ## $w g $a Aztec goddesses
550 ## $w g $a Gods, Roman
550 ## $w g $a Goddesses, Greek
or 550 ## $w g $a Hindu goddesses
```

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1. *Groups of gods and goddesses.*

b. References. (Continued)

Where equivalences between groups of Greek and Roman gods can be determined, also add a 550 (related term) field to the record for each heading.

c. Examples.

```
150 ## $a Amesha Spentas (Zoroastrian deities)
450 ## $a Amahrāspand (Zoroastrian deities)
450 ## $a Amesha Spentas (Zoroastrian deities)
450 ## $a Ameshāspand (Zoroastrian deities)
450 ## $a Ameshāspand (Zoroastrian deities)
450 ## $a Mahrāspand (Zoroastrian deities)
550 ## $w g $a Zoroastrian gods
      [a type of divine entity]
```

```
150 ## $a Lokapālas (Buddhist deities)
450 ## $a Four Guardian Deities (Buddhist deities)
450 ## $a Four Guardian Kings (Buddhist deities)
450 ## $a Four Heavenly Kings (Buddhist deities)
550 ## $w g $a Buddhist gods
      [group of four individually named gods]
```

```
150 ## $a Muses (Greek deities)
550 ## $w g $a Goddesses, Greek
      [the nine daughters of Zeus and Mnemosyne]
```

2. *Groups of mythological figures.*

a. Form of heading. Establish named groups of mythological figures in the subject authority file. Qualify the name of each group with ([**nationality, ethnic group, etc.**] **mythology**) as appropriate. Do not divide headings geographically. *Examples:*

```
150 ## $a Argonauts (Greek mythology)
150 ## $a Furies (Roman mythology)
150 ## $a Valkyries (Norse mythology)
```

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2. *Groups of mythological figures.* (Continued)

b. References. Make UF references for variant names. Optionally, UFs may be added with the name of the group in a language other than the vernacular or English if such a reference is judged to be useful.

Make a BT for **Mythology**, qualified by the name of the religion, ethnic group, etc.
Examples:

```
550 ## $w g $a Abenaki mythology
550 ## $w g $a Buddhist mythology
550 ## $w g $a Gods, Roman
or 550 ## $w g $a Mythology, Japanese
```

If the group belongs to a broader general category of mythological beings (e.g., **Monsters**), make A BT for the category.

c. Examples.

```
150 ## $a Ba Xian (Taoist mythology)
450 ## $a Eight Immortals (Taoist mythology)
550 ## $w g $a Taoist mythology
      [group of eight individually named mythological figures]
```

```
150 ## $a Harpies (Greek mythology)
450 ## $a Harpyiae (Greek mythology)
550 ## $w g $a Monsters
550 ## $w g $a Mythology, Greek
      [winged beasts, the number of which is unknown]
```

```
150 ## $a Gorgons (Greek mythology)
550 ## $w g $a Mythology, Greek
      [group of three three sisters]
```

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3. *Types of mythological monsters, animals, etc.*

a. Form of heading. Establish types of mythological monsters, animals, etc., in the subject authority file. Qualify the heading if necessary to remove ambiguity or elucidate the term or phrase (cf. H 357). If adding a qualifier, prefer the form (**[nationality, ethnic group, etc.] mythology**). *Examples:*

```
150 ## $a Basilisks (Mythical animals)
150 ## $a Leopard men
```

Treat individual mythological items, structures, etc., in the same way. *Example:*

```
150 ## $a Augean stables (Greek mythology)
150 ## $a Golden bough (Roman mythology)
```

b. References. Make UF references for variant names. Optionally, UFs may be added with the name of the group in a language other than the vernacular or English if such a reference is judged to be useful.

Make one or more BTs for the broader category to which the heading belongs.

c. Examples.

```
150 ## $a Fauns (Roman mythology)
550 ## $w g $a Animals, Mythical
550 ## $w g $a Mythology, Roman
      [beasts that are part man and part goat]
```

```
150 ## $a Unicorns
550 ## $w g $a Animals, Mythical
      [beasts that resemble horses with horns growing from their foreheads]
```

```
150 ## $a Yeti
450 ## $a Abominable snowman
550 ## $w a $a Monsters $z Himalaya Mountains
      [man-sized, ape-like creatures of the Himalayas]
```

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4. Existing LC subject headings for individual gods, goddesses, and mythological figures. Existing LC subject headings for individual gods, goddesses, and mythological figures remain valid for use as subjects until name authority records for the characters are created and the subject authority records are cancelled. Follow the instructions below when creating a new name authority record for an individual god or goddess.

a. Name heading needed for use as a descriptive access point. Create a name authority record according to the instructions in RDA and the LC-PCC Policy Statements. Search LCSH to determine whether the heading has been established there, and if it has, submit a proposal to cancel the heading, following the instructions in H 193 sec. 14.

Note: Catalogers in PCC libraries who do not submit SACO proposals should make a name authority record and then request the Policy, [Training, and Cooperative Programs](#) Division (policy@loc.gov) to create a proposal to cancel the subject heading.

b. Heading needed for subject use only. Optionally, an RDA name authority record may be created even if the heading is needed only for use as a subject heading. Create a name authority record according to the instructions in RDA and the LC-PCC Policy Statements. Submit a proposal to cancel the existing subject heading, following the instructions in H 193 sec. 14.

c. Phrase headings based on headings for individual gods, goddesses, and mythological figures. Make proposals to cancel phrase headings based on the heading for the god, goddess, or mythological figure when the phrase will be replaced by a **[heading]—[free-floating subdivision]** combination, unless the heading is needed for hierarchy (i.e., is a BT for another heading). Example:

```
150 ## $a Demeter (Greek deity)
682 ## $i This authority record has been deleted because the subject
      heading is covered by an identical name heading $0
      (DLC)no2104024166
```

```
150 ## $a Demeter (Greek deity) in literature
682 ## $a This authority record has been deleted because the heading
      is replaced by the heading $a Demeter (Greek deity)—in
      literature, $i a heading for which a subject authority record
      is not made because it uses a free-floating subdivision.
```

*Make proposals to revise phrase headings based on the heading for the god, goddess, or mythological figure when the phrase will be replaced by a **[heading]—[subdivision]** combination in which the subdivision is not free-floating.*

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5. *Assignment of headings.*

a. General. See H 1795 sec. 2.

b. Free-floating subdivisions from H 1110. Free-floating subdivisions used under names of persons established in the name authority file (H 1110) may not be used under headings for gods, goddesses, or mythological figures. Subdivisions from H 1110 that are needed for use under an individual heading may be editorially established under the specific heading.