PREFACE

Class M was created by Oscar G.T. Sonneck, first chief of the Music Division of the Library of Congress, and was one of the first schedules to be adopted in the new classification scheme the Library began developing late in the year 1900. The Music Division began to use Class M in 1902, and the first edition was published in 1904. A revised edition, also called the second edition, was published in 1917; it was reprinted twice with supplementary pages for additions and changes, first in 1957 and then in 1968. In 1978 the third edition was published as an integrated schedule that incorporated additions and changes made through June 1977. New editions were published in 1998, 2007, and 2010; each of these editions cumulated changes that were made since the previous edition was published. This 2015 edition cumulates changes made since the publication of the 2010 edition.

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/>

New or revised numbers and captions are added to the LC 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 editorial meeting of the Policy and Standards Division, new classification records are created or existing records are revised in the master classification database. 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/>

Libby Dechman, senior cataloging policy specialist in the Policy and Standards Division, is responsible for coordinating the overall intellectual and editorial content of class M and its various subclasses. Kent Griffiths and Ethel Tillman, assistant editors of classification schedules, are responsible for creating new classification records, maintaining the master database, and creating index terms for the captions.

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