

1. General rule. For collections of poetry, assign as many headings as necessary to bring out both the form and the topic(s). For single poems, assign headings as required to bring out topic(s), but assign form headings only as noted in sec. 4, below.

2. Designating the form of collections.

a. General rule. Bring out the form of a collection by assigning headings of the type **American poetry–20th century; College verse; Epic poetry;** etc., as in the first heading in the following example:

Title: Maine lines; 101 contemporary poems about Maine.
650 #0 \$a American poetry \$y 20th century.
650 #0 \$a Maine \$x Description and travel \$v Poetry.

Certain phrase headings combine both form and topical aspects into a single heading, for example, **War poetry, English.** These headings are used to designate both the form and the topic of collections, and no additional heading is usually required.

Do not use a phrase heading of this type if a more specific [*topic*]- **Poetry** heading can be formulated to designate the topic of the collection. Instead, assign the more specific heading in conjunction with a *broader, nontopical*, form heading. For example, assign the following headings to a collection of English poetry about the Atlantic Ocean:

650 #0 \$a English poetry.
651 #0 \$a Atlantic Ocean \$v Poetry.

[*not* 650 #0 \$a Sea poetry, English.]

[*not* 650 #0 \$a Sea poetry, English.
651 #0 \$a Atlantic Ocean \$v Poetry.]

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2. *Designating the form of collections.* (Continued)

b. Collections of poems by one author. As a general rule, assign form headings (a) if the form heading includes a topical aspect, for example, **Sea poetry, English; Love poetry, Cuban; War poetry, French;** etc., or (b) if it is readily apparent from a cursory examination of the work being cataloged that it comprises poems of a highly specific form and that this form is an essential point of the collection, for example, **Sonnets, American; Concrete poetry, German;** etc.

Do not assign nonspecific form headings to collections of poems by one author, for example, **American poetry; Spanish poetry.**

c. Collections of children's poems. Assign the heading **Children's poetry** or **Children's poetry, American, [English, etc.]** to collections of children's poems, whether by one author or several authors, in addition to the other required form and topical headings.

3. *Designating the topic(s) of collections by one or several authors.* Bring out identifiable topics, using one of the following types of headings:

a. [topic]-Poetry or [topic]-Juvenile poetry. Use headings of this type as the standard means of designating topics in poetry, for example, **Horses-Poetry; Washington, George, 1732-1799-Juvenile poetry; Callahan family-Poetry.**

b. Phrase headings with topical aspects. If a phrase heading has both form and topical aspects, assign only the one heading to designate both form and topic, as described in sec. 2.a, above. **Historical poetry, Political poetry, and Love poetry** are examples of such headings.

4. *Individual poems.* Bring out the topic of an individual poem by assigning headings of the type described in sec. 3, above. Assign a form heading only if it includes a topical aspect, or if the poem is of a highly specific form, for example, **War poetry, American; Humorous poetry, Chinese; Nursery rhymes, Spanish.**

Assign the heading **Children's poetry, American, [English, etc.]** to individual children's poems in addition to the required topical heading(s).

5. Limitations on assigning headings. Assign topical and form headings, especially to single poems or to collections by one author, only as they come readily to mind after a superficial review of the work being cataloged.

Do not attempt to assign a form heading to a collection of poems by one author if the form is not stated on the title page or in another prominent location.

Do not attempt to discern topics which have not been made explicit by the author or publisher, or which could be interpreted as representing value judgments.

Do not assign topical headings to single poems which deal with vague and general topics such as fate, mankind, belief, malaise, etc.

6. History and criticism.

a. General rule. For works about particular themes in poetry, assign as many headings as necessary to bring out the form (with subdivision **-History and criticism**) and the topics (normally using headings of the type [*topic*] **in literature**). *Example:*

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650 #0 $a English poetry $y 19th century $x History and  
criticism.  
650 #0 $a Mysticism in literature.
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If a heading has both form and topical aspects, assign only the single heading with the subdivision **-History and criticism**, for example, **Sea poetry-History and criticism**.

b. Poetry about individual persons or families. For criticism of poetry about particular individuals or families, including dynasties and royal houses, assign the name of the person or family with the free-floating subdivision **-In literature**, for example, **Columbus, Christopher-In literature; Lincoln family-In literature**.

c. Poetry about individual corporate bodies, places, and sacred works. For criticism of poetry about particular corporate bodies, places, or sacred works, assign the name of the entity with the free-floating subdivision **-In literature**, for example, **Jesuits-In literature; Chesapeake Bay (Md. and Va.)-In literature; Bible-In literature**.

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6. *History and criticism.* (Continued)

d. Poetry about wars and similar events. For works about the poetry of a specific war, revolution, uprising, etc., assign [*name of event*]-**Literature and the war, [revolution, uprising, etc.]** as a topical heading (cf. H 1200).

e. Single poems. For works about a single poem with a special theme, assign a heading for the poem as well as a heading for the theme. *Example:*

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600 10 $a Smith, John. $t Scenes of Ireland.  
651 #0 $a Ireland $x In literature.
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