

## Folklore and Folk Literature F 590

**BACKGROUND:** *Folklore is defined as those items of culture that are learned orally, by imitation, or by observation, including beliefs, narratives (tales, legends, proverbs, etc.), folk medicine, and other aspects of the expressive performance and communication involved in the oral tradition. Works on folklore and folk literature are classed in GR or in P depending on the type of material. Certain material which may be called folklore is classed in schedules other than GR or P. This instruction sheet provides guidelines for classing these works.*

*For guidelines on the assignment of subject headings to works of or about folklore and folk literature, see H 1627.*

### 1. Literature.

**a. General rule.** Class works on folklore and folk literature, including collections and criticism of folk literature, in GR.

**b. Folk tales, legends, fairy tales, etc.** Class collections and criticism of folk tales, legends (except legends of medieval European origin), fairy tales, and children's folklore (nursery rhymes, jump rope rhymes, etc.) for adult audiences, in GR.

*Note: In addition to medieval European legends, there are certain folk literature collections that have become a part of the specific national literary canon and certain classics of folk literature that are regarded as literature and classed as such in the P schedule, e.g., PL787.K6, **Konjaku monogatari** in Japanese literature; PT7262.5M63-633, **Möðruvallabók** in Old Norse literature; and PK3741.S86, **Śukasaptati** in Sanskrit literature.*

**c. Genres of folk literature.** Class works limited to texts and/or criticism of folk drama, folk poetry, ballads, lyrics of folk songs, fables, proverbs, riddles, jokes, or toasts in the appropriate areas of the P schedules.

**d. Works by literary authors.** Class works that resemble folk literature, but are created or adapted by individual literary authors with the author's works in P, e.g. PQ1877, Charles Perrault's fairy tales. Take care to determine that the work is the author's creation and not merely folk literature that a compiler collected and recorded.

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### 1. *Literature.* (Continued)

*e. Works intended for children.* Class single folk tales and legends or collections of folk tales and legends intended for children in PZ.

*f. Works of the native peoples of North, South, and Central America.* Class collections and criticism of the folklore and folk literature of the native peoples of North, South, and Central America in E-F. Class the folk literature of other native peoples as any other literature.

2. *Folk dance.* Class works on folk dance in GV.

3. *Folk music.* Class publications of folk music in M1627-M1853. Class works about folk music in ML3544-ML3776. Class texts of folk songs without the music in P.

4. *Folk customs and material culture.* Class works on customs and material culture of individual groups with the specific ethnic group (see F 587) or geographic area in the D, E, or F schedules (usually in the class number for social life and customs). Class works on customs and material culture of folk societies and native peoples collectively or by geographic area in GN (Ethnology). Class works on certain specific customs and items or material culture, e.g., marriage customs, costumes, festivals, etc., in GT (Manners and customs).

5. *Folk art.* Class works on folk art in N.