Literature: Legends and Romances   H 1795

BACKGROUND: *Descriptive catalogers are responsible for establishing uniform titles for the texts of legends and romances and personal name records for individual legendary characters; subject catalogers are responsible for establishing, as subject headings, objects or named groups of characters that are a part of a legend or romance. A single entity may be represented by both a uniform title in the name authority file, for example,* **Guillaume (Chanson de geste)** *[tagged 130], and a personal name heading for the character in the name authority file, for example,* **William of Palerne (Legendary character)** *[tagged 100]. Although both are valid for subject use, each is used for a different purpose. This instruction sheet gives guidelines for establishing subject headings for objects and named groups of legendary characters, as well as for assigning subject headings and uniform titles to texts of, and to works about, legends and romances.*

Until July 2013, headings for individual legendary characters were established as subject headings. Existing LCSH headings remain valid for use as subjects until name authority records for the characters are created and the subject authority records are cancelled. Establish RDA name headings for characters when they are needed for use as descriptive access points. Optionally, name headings may be established when the characters are needed only as subject headings. In either case, make a proposal to cancel the existing subject headings following the instructions in H 193 sec. 14.

Also make proposals to cancel phrase headings based on the heading for the character 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).*

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

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

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1. Establishing subject headings for named groups of legendary characters or legendary objects.   Establish headings for named groups of legendary characters according to the following pattern:

```
150 ## $a [name of group] (Legendary characters)
450 ## $a [alternative form of name, if any] (Legendary characters)
550 ## $w g $a Folklore [or, if appropriate, Legends]
        $z [place]
```

Code the heading as *not* subdivided geographically by selecting the **Not Subd Geog** radio button on the template in the Subject Heading Proposal System.

Examples:

```
150 ## $a Kayānids (Legendary characters)
450 ## $a Kayānians (Legendary characters)
450 ## $a Kayāniyān (Legendary characters)
550 ## $w g $a Legends $z Iran

150 ## $a Horatii (Legendary characters)
550 ## $w g $a Legends $z Rome
```

> *Legendary objects*.   Use no qualifier after headings for legendary objects, for example, **Grail**.

2. Assignment of headings.

> *Note: In carrying out the following procedures, treat headings for gods, goddesses, and mythological characters, i.e., those that are qualified (... deities) or (... mythology) in the same manner as legendary characters.*

> *a.   Texts*.   Assign to literary versions of legendary tales, whether individual or collected, and whether in prose, verse, or dramatic form, the heading designating the dominant character or motif of the tale, with the form subdivision **–Legends** or **–Romances**.   Use these subdivisions under name headings for real persons and legendary characters.   Also assign additional headings appropriate for folklore materials (cf. H 1627) or for individual works of drama, fiction, or poetry (cf. H 1780, H 1790, H 1800).

2. *Assignment of headings*.

a. Texts. *(Continued)*

Use **–Romances** under names of persons and legendary characters for the texts of medieval (i.e., pre-1501) European tales based chiefly on legends of chivalric love and adventure. (*Exception:* Use **Arthurian romances** as a form heading instead of **Arthur, King–Romances**.) In all other cases, including sagas, use **–Legends**. Also use these subdivisions for works that are clearly modern language retellings of legends and romances of medieval origin, with characters and plots that are essentially unaltered. If the modern version is changed so substantially that it is, in effect, a new work, unrecognizable as a retelling of a medieval work, use instead the standard literary form subdivisions **–Fiction**, **–Drama**, **–Poetry**, or **–Literary collections,** in accordance with the provisions of H 1780, H 1790, and H 1800.

Examples:

```
600 00 $a Yvain $c (Legendary character) $v Romances.
600 00 $a Miaoshan $c (Legendary character) $v Legends.
600 00 $a Veronica, $c Saint, $d active 1st century $v Legends.
650 #0 $a Grail $v Legends.
```

b. *History and criticism of legends and romances*. Assign form headings of the type described above, further subdivided by **–History and criticism** (or by other appropriate subdivisions used under literary form headings, such as **–Concordances** or **–Indexes**). *Examples:*

```
650 #0 $a Grail $x Legends $x History and criticism.
650 #0 $a Arthurian romances $v Indexes.
600 00 $a Arthur, $c King $x Romances $v Concordances.
```

To works about a specific legend or romance, or a specific version of a legend or romance, also assign the appropriate uniform title or name-title headings. *Example:*

Title: *Three studies of Sir Gawain and the Green Knight.*
```
630 00 $a Gawain and the Grene Knight.
600 00 $a Gawain (Legendary character) $x Romances
          $x History and criticism.
```

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2. Assignment of headings.   *(Continued)*

c. History and criticism of individual legendary characters.   To general works that focus on a specific legendary character rather than on the legend(s) or romance(s) in which the character appears, assign the heading for the character and use no literary form subdivision after the heading.   If the discussion is limited to the presence of the character in literature or art, assign the heading [*name of character*]—**In literature**, or [*name of character*]–**Art**.   The subdivisions –**In literature** and –**Art** are free-floating under names of legendary characters.

3. Examples.

    Title: *The Pied Piper of Hamlin.*
         600 00 $a Pied Piper of Hamelin $c (Legendary character)
                   $v Legends.
         650 #0 $a Legends $z Germany $z Hameln.
         651 #0 $a Hameln (Germany) $x History $v Fiction.

    Title: *Heracles and Euripidean tragedy.*
         650 #0 $a Greek drama (Tragedy) $x History and criticism.
         600 00 $a Euripides. $t Heracles.
         600 00 $a Heracles $c (Greek mythological character)$x In
                   literature.

    Title: *A natural man : the true story of John Henry.*
         600 10 $a Henry, John $c (Legendary character)