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Re: 398.2, 800, Table 3A, and Table 3B Folk literature and Literature

**Relocations**

<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Topic</u>
398.2	398.7	Jokes and jests
398[.5]	002	Chapbooks
398.6	808.882	Interdisciplinary works on riddles
398.8	808.882	Interdisciplinary works on tongue twisters

The main purpose of this exhibit is to clarify the instructions about how to determine whether a work of folk literature is to be classed in 398.2 (or 398.5-398.9) or in 800. The usual division between 398.2 (or 398.5-398.9) and 800 is whether or not the work is an anonymous work from the oral tradition. However, that criterion does not always apply. For example, the 800 vs. 398.2 Manual entry states: Anonymous classics are not considered to be folk literature. This information should be also given in the schedule, not just in the Manual.

In addition to the clarification, there are new provisions for jokes, jests and tongue twisters.

**Clarifying what “Minor forms of folk literature” are**

At 398.2 is the following reference: *for minor forms of folk literature, see 398.5-398.9.* But what is meant by “minor forms,” a term that is not found in reference sources? In the

DDC it means chapbooks (398.5), riddles (398.6), rhymes and rhyming games (398.8), and proverbs (398.9). To make it clear what is classed in the 398.5-398.9 span, we have replaced the one reference by references *for riddles, see 398.6; for rhymes and rhyming games, see 398.8; for proverbs, see 398.9.*

## **Riddles**

The current notes at 398.6 and 808.882 indicate when to use 398 or 800, but the information can be made clearer. At 398.6 Riddles is the following reference: *for riddles as belles-lettres, see 808.882.* At 808.882 Anecdotes, epigrams, graffiti, jokes, quotations is the following note: class riddles as folk literature, interdisciplinary works on riddles in 398.6. But, the classifier needs to know that belles-lettres means with a known author and folk literature means with an unknown author. We have changed the wording to reflect the kind of author – “Class riddles as jokes by known authors in 808.882” and “*For anonymous riddles from the oral tradition, see 398.6.*” (Note: Because we relocated the interdisciplinary works number for riddles from 398.6 to 808.882, the type of note also had to be changed. The reason for the relocation is given in the Interdisciplinary works section below.)

The other problem with riddles is with the following reference: *For riddles as amusements, see 793.735.* What is meant by amusements, since jokes are amusements? 793.735 Riddles is a subentry of 739.73 Puzzles and puzzle games; thus, these riddles are a type of puzzle. We have changed the reference to “Class riddles as a type of puzzle similar to logic puzzles in 793.735.”

## **Tongue twisters**

Tongue twisters are mentioned in the including note at 398.8 Rhymes and rhyming games and not elsewhere; consequently, some works of known authorship are being misclassified there. Others are being classed with jokes in Table 3A and 3B under 8 Miscellaneous writings in notation 02 Anecdotes, epigrams, graffiti, jokes, quotations. Most of them fit well with jokes, e.g., *2001 Knock-knocks & Tongue Twisters* and *Ridiculous Tongue Twisters*. We propose adding tongue twisters to the list of things that can be classed in notation 02.

## **Jokes and jests**

Unlike the other forms of folk literature, jokes and jests are usually published as collections, which are known as jokebooks and jestbooks. Jokes and jests are “minor” forms of folk literature but are not one of the types in the 398.5-398.9 span in Edition 22. Thus, in DDC22 they are classed in standing room at 398.2.

The LCSH "Jestbooks" has the scope note:

"Here are entered collections of short humorous anecdotes or prose tales on topics such as cuckolded husbands, erring priests, or historical events that were popular in

Europe primarily from the fifteenth to eighteenth centuries, as well as works about such books."

The heading is being widely assigned to new collections of jokes with known authors—collections that are therefore not folk literature. A search in WorldCat for su:jestbooks yields 151 hits, and a search for kw:jestbooks yields 179 hits. How many of those works should be classed in 398+? It is easy to identify modern titles that have known authors and are not based on oral tradition. With earlier jestbooks, it is not easy. Collections of jokes were often attributed to a person with a reputation for being witty, such as a particular king's jester, when it is likely that that person was not the author of the jokes. Many (most?) of the jokes in such works probably did come from the oral tradition. Many of the early works in WorldCat are rare books or facsimiles of rare books and have no Dewey number. The potential literary warrant is there, but how many works like these will get Dewey numbers? Here are a few works that could be classed in 398+ and that have been given Dewey numbers, though not always in 398+:

*A Nest of Ninnies, and Other English Jestbooks of the Seventeenth Century*  
<http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/97303>

*A Hundred Merry tales, and Other English Jestbooks of the Fifteenth and Sixteenth Centuries.*  
<http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/000351631>

*A Woman's Answer Is Never to Seek: Early Modern Jestbooks, 1526-1635*  
<http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/70167484>

*Jest upon Jest: A Selection from the Jestbooks and Collections of Merry Tales Published from the Reign of Richard III to George III.*  
<http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/104666>

Jestbooks are studied in connection with drama, but then they are usually properly classed with the drama. For example:

*Better a Shrew than a Sheep: Women, Drama, and the Culture of Jest in Early Modern England*  
<http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/50279913>

Most of the works that we have found are in English. What about other languages? Is there literary warrant in other languages that we are not finding?

The subdivisions of 398.2 are currently limited to tales and lore of a specific area or of a specific ethnic group or on a specific subject. While 398.28 and 398.29 could be used for jokes and jests, they would be separated from the other forms of folk literature in 398.5 through 398.9 by 398.3-398.4 History and criticism of specific subjects of folklore. For improved structure, we have tentatively relocated jokes and jests from 398.2 to 398.7, which was last used in Edition 15 for dream books. We are tentative because we are concerned about establishing a new number for a topic that may not have quite enough

literary warrant to justify a new number. Because jokes and jests are similar types of folk literature, they are both given in the heading at 398.7, and a standard-subdivisions-are-added note is given. Jokebooks and jestbooks, which are forms of publications, not types of folk literature, are given in the class-here note. We have provided “Class jokes, jests by known authors in 808.882” at 398.7 and “*for anonymous jokes and jests from the oral tradition, see 398.7*” at 808.882 to aid in classification.

### **Interdisciplinary works on riddles, tongue twisters, jokes, jests**

Most of the riddles, tongue twisters, jokes, and jests being published today have known authors and do not belong in 398. We think it best for the interdisciplinary number to be the number where most of the material should be classed. Also, since the general if-in-doubt number for 398.2 vs. 800 is 800, we think it best if the if-in-doubt number for these materials is also in 800.

### **Chapbooks**

Chapbooks are a form of publication, like broadsides or books, and do not belong in 398. Thus, they are relocated to 002. The content of chapbooks should be classed where the content belongs: folk tales or all kinds of folk literature 398.2, nursery rhymes 398.8, anonymous classics 800, etc.

### **Adding notes at a more logical location**

Sometimes the information to class a type of folk literature in 800, not in 398, is given in the schedule but not at the location where one would expect to find it. For example, at 398.8 Rhymes and rhyming games are the following notes: "Class here minor forms of folk poetry, nursery rhymes" and "Class other forms of folk poetry with the form in 800, e.g., medieval metrical romances 808.8133." These notes mean that the only forms of folk poetry classed in either 398.2 or 398.8 are "minor"—whatever that means—presumably the kinds of rhymes and rhyming games specified at 398.8. Thus, most folk poetry is classed in 808.81, not 398.2. However, there is not a similar reference at 398.2 Folk literature. In addition, the 800 vs. 398.2 Manual entry, which states that anonymous classics are not considered to be folk literature, gives as examples the following three works of folk poetry—*Chanson de Roland* 841.1, *Cantar de mio Cid* 861.1, *Kalevala* 894.54111. We have added “*for folk poetry other than rhymes and rhyming games, see 808.81*” at 398.2, “Class here folk poetry” and “*For anonymous nursery rhymes and related rhymes and rhyming games from the oral tradition, see 398.8*” at 808.81 and Table 3B—1.

### **Folk drama**

Currently, it is not clear from the schedule whether or not folk drama is classed at 398.2. Again, the 800 vs. 398.2 Manual entry states that anonymous classics are classed in 800. Medieval mystery plays are the best example of folk drama; they are given in the class-

here note at —20516 Religious and morality plays in Table 3B. We have added “*for folk drama; see 808.82*” at 398.2, “Class here folk drama” at 808.82 and Table 3B—2.

### Proposed changes

002 The book

Including chapbooks [formerly 398.5]

Class here historical bibliography, interdisciplinary works on the book  
Class comprehensive works on historical and analytical bibliography in  
010.42

*For book publishing, see 070.5; for rare books, see 090; for social aspects of the book, see 302.232; for book arts, see 686*

• • •  
398.2

Folk literature

Folklore as literature

Standard subdivisions may be added to subdivisions of this number for any topic even if the subject of the work does not approximate the whole, e.g., 18th century folktales about elves 398.2109033

Class here fairy tales, literary appraisal and criticism of folk literature; interdisciplinary works on mythology

Jokes and jests relocated to 398.7

Class an anonymous classic or a work by a known author with the classic or work in 800, e.g., Icelandic sagas 839.63, fairy tales by Hans Christian Andersen 839.8136

*For religious mythology, see 201.3; for ~~minor forms of folk literature, see 398.5–398.9~~ riddles, see 398.6; for rhymes and rhyming games, see 398.8; for proverbs, see 398.9; for folk poetry other than rhymes and rhyming games, see 808.81; for folk drama, see 808.82*

*See Manual at 398.2; also at 398.2 vs. 201.3, 230, 270, 292–299; also at 398.2 vs. 398.3–398.4; also at 800 vs. 398.2*

> ~~398.5–398.9—Minor forms of folk literature~~

~~Class here literary appraisal and criticism~~

~~Class comprehensive works in 398.2~~

398[.5] Chapbooks

Relocated to 002

398.6 Riddles

~~Class here interdisciplinary works~~

Interdisciplinary works on riddles relocated to 808.882

Class riddles as a type of puzzle similar to logic puzzles in 793.735; class riddles as jokes by known authors in 808.882

*~~For riddles as amusements, see 793.735; for riddles as belles lettres, see 808.882~~*

*See Manual at T3A—8 + 02, T3B—802, T3B—8 + 02 vs. 398.6, 793.735*

398.7 Jokes and jests [both formerly 398.2]

Standard subdivisions are added for either or both topics in heading

Class here jokebooks, jestbooks

Class jokes and jests by known authors, interdisciplinary works on jokes and jests in 808.882

*See Manual at 800 vs. 398.2*

398.8 Rhymes and rhyming games

Standard subdivisions are added for either or both topics in heading

Including jump rope rhymes, lullabies, tongue twisters

Class here ~~minor forms of folk poetry~~, anonymous children's rhymes from the oral tradition, nursery rhymes

Interdisciplinary works on tongue twisters relocated to 808.882

Class tongue twisters by known authors in 808.882; class ~~other~~ forms of folk poetry not provided for here with the form in 800, e.g., medieval metrical romances 808.8133

See Manual at 800 vs. 398.2

398[.808 3] Young people

Do not use; class in 398.8

398.9 Proverbs

Class here folk aphorisms

Add to base number 398.9 notation 1–9 from Table 6, e.g., French proverbs 398.941

See Manual at 800 vs. 398.2

• • •  
793.735 Riddles

Class riddles as folk literature, ~~interdisciplinary works on riddles~~ in 398.6; class riddles as jokes by known authors, interdisciplinary works on riddles in 808.882

See Manual at T3A—8 + 02, T3B—802, T3B—8 + 02 vs. 398.6, 793.735

• • •  
808.81 \*Collections of poetry

Class here folk poetry

For anonymous nursery rhymes and related rhymes and rhyming games from the oral tradition, see 398.8

808.82 \*Collections of drama

Class here folk drama

*See Manual at 808.82 vs. 791.437, 791.447, 791.457, 792.9*

808.88 \*Collections of miscellaneous writings

808.882 Anecdotes, epigrams, graffiti, jokes, quotations, riddles, tongue  
twisters

Standard subdivisions are added for any or all topics in heading

Including riddles that are jokes

Class here interdisciplinary works on riddles [formerly 398.6],  
riddles as jokes by known authors; interdisciplinary works on  
tongue twisters [formerly 398.8], tongue twisters by known  
authors; jokes and jests by known authors, interdisciplinary works  
on jokes and jests

Class humor and satire in two or more literary forms, including  
both verse and prose, in 808.87; ~~class riddles as folk literature,  
interdisciplinary works on riddles in 398.6~~

*For anonymous riddles from the oral tradition, see 398.6; for  
anonymous jokes and jests from the oral tradition, see 398.7;  
for anonymous tongue twisters from the oral tradition, see  
398.8; for riddles as a type of puzzle similar to logic puzzles,  
see 793.735*

\*Add as instructed under 808.81-808.88

**Table 3A. Subdivisions for Works by or about Individual Authors**

—8           Miscellaneous writings

—81–89       Specific periods

Add to —8 notation from the period table for the specific literature in 810–890, e.g., earliest period —81; then add further as follows, but in no case add standard subdivisions:

02       Anecdotes, epigrams, graffiti, jokes, jests, quotations, riddles, tongue twisters

~~Including riddles that are jokes~~

Class anonymous riddles as folk literature,

~~interdisciplinary works on riddles from the oral~~

tradition in 398.6; class anonymous jokes and jests

from the oral tradition in 398.7; class anonymous

tongue twisters from the oral tradition in 398.8

*See Manual at T1—0207 vs. T3B—7, T3A—8 + 02,*

*T3B—802, T3B—8 + 02, T3A—8 + 07, T3B—807,*

*T3B—8 + 07; see Manual at T3A—8 + 02,*

*T3B—802, T3B—8 + 02 vs. 398.6, 793.735*

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**Table 3B. Subdivisions for Works by or about More than One Author**

—1           Poetry

Including greeting card verse

Class here folk poetry, prose poems

Class anonymous nursery rhymes and related rhymes and rhyming games from the oral tradition in 398.8

*See Manual at T3B—1*

—2           Drama

Class here closet drama, drama written in poetry, folk drama

*See Manual at T3A—2, T3B—2 vs. T3A—1, T3B—102*

—8 Miscellaneous writings

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—802 Anecdotes, epigrams, graffiti, jokes, jests, quotations, riddles, tongue twisters

Standard subdivisions are added for any or all topics in heading

~~Including riddles that are jokes~~

Class humor and satire in two or more literary forms, including both verse and prose, in —7; class anonymous riddles as folk literature, interdisciplinary works on riddles from the oral tradition in 398.6; class anonymous jokes and jests from the oral tradition in 398.7; class anonymous tongue twisters from the oral tradition in 398.8

*See Manual at T1—0207 vs. T3B—7, T3A—8 + 02, T3B—802, T3B—8 + 02, T3A—8 + 07, T3B—807, T3B—8 + 07; also at T3A—8 + 02, T3B—802, T3B—8 + 02 vs. 398.6, 793.735*

—81–89 Specific periods

Add to —8 notation from the period table for the specific literature in 810–890, e.g., earliest period —81; then add further as follows:

. . .

02 Anecdotes, epigrams, graffiti, jokes, jests, quotations, riddles, tongue twisters

Standard subdivisions are added for any or all topics in heading

~~Including riddles that are jokes~~

Class humor and satire in two or more literary forms, including both verse and prose, in —7; class anecdotes, epigrams, graffiti, jokes, quotations from specific periods in —802 if there is no applicable period table; class riddles as folk literature, interdisciplinary works on riddles from the oral tradition in 398.6; class anonymous riddles as folk literature, interdisciplinary works on riddles from the oral tradition in 398.6; class anonymous jokes and jests from the oral tradition in 398.7; class anonymous tongue twisters from the oral tradition in 398.8

*See Manual at T1—0207 vs. T3B—7, T3A—8 + 02, T3B—802, T3B—8 + 02, T3A—8 + 07, T3B—807, T3B—8 + 07; see Manual at T3A—8 + 02, T3B—802, T3B—8 + 02 vs. 398.6, 793.735*

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## Manual

T3A—8 + 02, T3B—802, T3B—8 + 02 vs. 398.6, 793.735

**Anecdotes, epigrams, graffiti, jokes, jests, quotations, riddles, tongue twisters vs. Anonymous riddles from the oral tradition as folk literature vs. Riddles as puzzles entertainment**

Use T3A—8 + 02, T3B—802, T3B—8 + 02 for interdisciplinary works on riddles and for riddles as jokes by known authors, even though they may not seem at home amid belles lettres, especially juvenile riddle jokes. Use 398.6 for anonymous riddles from the oral tradition as folk literature, which are typically anonymous, and for interdisciplinary works on riddles. Use 793.735 for riddles as a type of puzzle similar to logic puzzles puzzles for indoor entertainment.

If in doubt, prefer in the following order: riddles as jokes (T3A—8 + 02, T3B—802, T3B—8 + 02), 398.6, 793.735

## 398.2

### Folk literature

Literary forms or collections cannot be specified for folk literature in 398.2. Disregard ~~these aspects~~ this aspect in classifying, and use the most specific number available.

Use notation T1—09 from Table 1 to distinguish literary criticism of collections of tales and lore, e.g., criticism of ghost stories 398.2509 , criticism of French ghost stories 398.209440509. However, do not add notation T1—09 for individual tales or lore, e.g., literary criticism of a ghost story from France 398.2094405.

## 800 vs. 398.2

### Literature (Belles-lettres) vs. Folk literature

Folk literature is anonymous, having been handed down by word of mouth from one generation to the next. In other words, folk literature is anonymous because it comes from an oral tradition. Folk literature can be collected and retold, e.g., folk tales collected and retold by Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm; but those who collect and retell are not the authors of the literature. Use 398.2 for folk literature.

Works whose authors are unknown only because the authors chose to publish under a pseudonym are not considered to be folk literature. Use 800 for literary works by pseudonymous authors.

Anonymous classics are not considered to be folk literature. Although their authorship is unknown and many of them came from an oral tradition, such works have a recognized literary merit, ~~are almost always lengthy~~, and form part of the literary canon. Use 800 for them, e.g., *Njál's saga* 839.63, *Mort le Roi Artu (Mort Artu)* 843.1, *Mabinogion* 891.6631, *Chanson de Roland* 841.1, *Cantar de mio Cid* 861.1, *Kalevala* 894.54111. Folk literature consists of brief works in the oral tradition. Whatever literary individuality the folk literature may once have had has been lost to the anonymity that the passage of time brings. Use 398.2 for folk literature. If in doubt, prefer 800. An aid in identifying anonymous classics in European literatures is *Anonymous Classics: A List of Uniform Headings for European Literatures*, 2nd ed. revised by the IFLA Working Group on Anonymous Classics (<http://bibpurl.oclc.org/web/9557>). Not all these anonymous classics are literary; some need to be classed with subject, especially in religion.

Works by known authors, even if in a genre that is traditional for folk literature or about typical folk literary topics, are not considered to be folk literature. Use 800 for them, e.g., fairy tales by Hans Christian Andersen 839.8136, *Inner City Nursery Rhymes* by Barbara Sillars Harvey 811.54, novels by Keri Arthur about werewolves and vampires 823.92.

Some legendary or historical events or themes form the basis for original works in many literatures, periods, and forms, e.g., the search for the Holy Grail or the battle of Roland with the Saracens. Medieval works involving them are often anonymous. Class each new presentation of the event or theme with the literature, form, and period in which it was written, e.g., Mary Stewart's Merlin trilogy 823.914. Use 809.933 for works about a specific theme treated in several literatures.

If in doubt, prefer 800.