WORK NUMBER IN (MC) O LITERATURE

(TECHNICAL NOTE 22)

Abbreviations used :

    (AD) = Alphabetical Device   (IN)   = Isolate Number

    (CD) = Chronological Device   (MC) = Main Class

    (IAN) = Indo-Arabic Numeral

When CC was designed in 1925, Roman capitals were used only for (MC) and for isolates in Time facet. The existence of zones and sectors in any array, viewed from the notational plane, was noticed only in 1935. Their existence is being exploited in recent years. As a result of this, CC has till now prescribed

rules for constructing work numbers in (MC) O in (IAN) only. This rule involved the work of making a chronological list of all the works of an author. It is now realised that the work number can be got by (AD). This releases Sector 1 of Zone 2 for use. This sector can be used to denote groups of works of an author such as lyrics, sonnets, comedies, tragedies, detective fiction, scientific fiction, and so on. The (IN) for such groups are to be got by enumeration.

Use of alphabetical characteristic for one sector and of quality characteristic for another sector in the same array is no doubt exposed to the risk of cross classification. But this risk can be avoided by the rule that the subdivisions in Zone 2 should stop short of reaching a particular work. This safeguard has been already used in other contexts. In fact, lyrics, sonnets etc are only Quasi Isolates.

The only possible objection to the use of (AD) in constructing work number is that the (AD) will not give the chronological arrangement of works. Against this, the following arguments may be given.

1 Even in the original rules of 1925, the difficulties of arranging works of an author chronologically was felt. Therefore provision was made for arranging the works in any arbitrary sequence. (See Rule 041, Sec 1).

2 Further, the advantage of arranging the works of an author chronologically is more than outweighed by the ease provided by (AD) to the user in picking out any work.

In arranging the authors themselves by (CD), we are guided by the fact that a particular form of literature in a particular language occurs all through many centuries. Mixing up the author as (AD) would do, will be irritating to user. For, the works of twentieth century author and those of a first century author would get mixed up. The linguistic quality, the poetic practice, and the social setting of the authors separated by centuries will be different. Therefore, (CD) is preferable to (AD) from the point of view of user. On the other hand, the works of a single author will range only over a short period of years normally not exceeding fifty years.

Examples :

O-,2J64,H	Shakespeare :	Hamlet
O-,2J64,M	,, :	Macbeth
O-,2J64,ME	,, :	Measure to measure
O-,2J64,MER	,, :	Merchant of Venice
O-,2J64,MERR •	,, :	Merry wives of Windsor
O-,2 64,T	,, :	Tempest
O-,2J64,TW	,, :	Twelfth Night
O-,2J64,5:g	Bradley's tragedies of Shakespeare	
O-,2J64, 6	Historical plays of Shakespeare	
O-,2J64,8/:g	On folio editions of Shakespeare	
O-,2J64,8q:g	On quarto editions of Shakespeare'	

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