

FRICK FINE ARTS LIBRARY

## LIBRARY OF CONGRESS CLASSIFICATION: N

Library Guide Series, No. 34

“Qui scit ubi scientis sit, ille est proximus habenti.” -- Brunetiere\*

### Library of Congress Call Numbers in the Field of Art

All libraries assign call numbers to books so that books on the same subject are shelved together. Large university research libraries use the Library of Congress Classification Scheme (LC); public and school libraries use the Dewey Decimal System. All call number systems have three things in common: (1) they are not perfect; (2) they are arbitrary (why “N” for art and not “A”?); and (3) they change over time as our culture and history also change.

NH, for example, was developed for use by some art libraries that have chosen to classify publications on photography in the field of art, rather than in the TR classification that falls within technology. The ULS uses the older classification, TR, for materials on photography. NX was developed to encompass publications on the arts in general including literature and the performing arts in addition to the visual arts. This is where one will find many books on “performance art” and “visual culture.”

### This Brief Outline

This abbreviated outline is based on the 280-page book entitled *Classification – Class N – Fine Arts* published by the Library of Congress. The outline is meant to assist you in locating books in the rare event that the University Library System’s online catalog is unavailable. It is meant only to give you a loose conception of how books on art are classed within the LC system. Never assume you are finding all the material on an artist or an artistic media by browsing the library’s stacks.

### Books on an Artist That Worked in Several Media

Use this outline cautiously. Books on an artist who worked in several media will be classed according to the media. Take Michelangelo, for example. Books on his architectural works will be in class NA; books on his sculpture, in NB; books on his paintings, in ND.

**N General Art (divided by time periods & country)**

- N405 Collection catalogs of museums**
- N4390 Exhibitions**
- N5630 Classical art**
- N5900 Medieval art**
- N6350 Modern art**
- N6501 American art**
- N6537 Individual artists**
- N6841 France**
- N7340 China**
- N7350 Japan**
- N 8555-8580 Examination and conservation of works of art**
- N8700-9165 Art and the state; Public art**

**NA Architecture**

- 200-1613 History**
  - 260 Classical**
  - 390 Romanesque**
  - 440 Gothic**
  - 510 Renaissance**
  - 590 Baroque**
  - 625 Eighteenth century**
  - 645 Nineteenth century**
  - 680 Twentieth Century**
- 2335-2360 Competitions**
- 2400-2460 Museums and exhibitions**
- 2700-2800 Architectural design and drawing**
- 4100-8999 Special classes of buildings**
- 9000-9425 Aesthetics of cities; city planning**

**NB Sculpture**

- 60-1115 History**
- 1160-1195 Designs and technique**
- 1199 Restoration of sculptures**
- 1208-1270 Special materials**
- 1293-1310 Portrait sculpture**
- 1312 Equestrian statues**
- 1330-1648 Sculptural monuments**
- 1750-1793 Religious monuments and shrines**
- 1800-1880 Sepulchral monuments**
- 1910-1950 Special subjects**

**NC Drawing, Design, Illustration**

- 50-376 History of drawing**
- 703-725 General works**
- 730-757 Technique**
- 760-825 Special subjects**
- 930 Conservation and restoration of drawings**
- 950-996 Illustration**
- 997-1003 Commercial art**
- 1800-1855 Posters**

**ND Painting**

- 200 United States**
- 237 Individual artists**
- 461 Great Britain**
- 541 France**
- 553 Individual artists**
- 561 Germany**
- 588 Individual artists**
- 625 The Netherlands**
- 611 Italy**
- 623 Individual artists**
- 661 Belgium, Flanders**
- 673 Individual artists**
- 960 Asia**
- 1040 China**
- 1049 Individual artists**
- 1050 Japan**
- 1059 Individual artists**
- 1259 Techniques**
- 2470 Frescoes**
- 2550 Mural Painting and Mosaic**
- 2890 Manuscript Illumination**
- 3300 Individual Countries**
- 3355 Bibles**
- 3363 Book of Hours**

**NE Engraving/Printing**

- 380 Conservation and restoration of prints**
- 400 History of printmaking**
- 1000 Wood engraving and woodcuts**
- 1310 Japanese prints**
- 1400 Metal engraving**

- 1940 Etching and aquatint
- 2250 Lithography
- 2800 Printing of engravings
  
- NK** **Decorative Arts, Applied Arts, Decoration and Ornament**
  - 1135 Arts and Crafts Movement
  - 1160 Decoration and Ornament
  - 1700 Interior Decoration
  - 2900 Tapestries
  - 3700 Ceramics
  - 4620 Vases
  - 5300 Stained glass
  - 5505 Gems
  - 5750 Jade
  - 5800 Ivories and Ivory carving
  - 6400 Metalwork
  - 7000 Coins
  - 7900 Bronzes
  - 8800 Textiles
  - 9600 Woodwork
  
- NX** **The Arts in General (works dealing with two or more of the fine arts media, i.e. literature, performing arts, film and the visual arts)**
  
- SB** **Landscape architecture and gardens**
  
- TR** **Photography**
  
- Z** **Bibliography, fine printing, the book arts**

\*"The person who knows where knowledge is, as good as has it." --Brunetiere

No. 34- 05/09/01