

**To:** RDA Steering Committee  
**From:** Kathy Glennan, ALA Representative  
**Subject:** Additions and revisions to RDA 2.15.3, Plate Number for Music

ALA thanks the Music Working Group for this proposal to clarify the recording of plate numbers for notated music. We support the proposal, although we offer some revised wording. In addition, we observe that this proposal was based on the RDA text before the August 2016 release, which changed the phrasing throughout 2.15.3 from “music” to “notated music”.

### Revision of 2.15.3.1, *Scope*

ALA suggests rephrasing the second paragraph of this instruction to avoid the text “It sometimes also includes”. The problem is in interpreting the use of “also”. The number corresponding to the number of pages may or may not include the things laid out in the first sentence (initials, abbreviations, or words identifying a publisher). ALA’s proposed revision:

- Uses “may include” instead of “sometimes includes”, since the former phrase is used in 2.6.7.1, 2.6.9.1 and 6.16.1.1.
- Retains the phrase of “pages or plates” as this is the existing order of these terms in RDA now. The use of actual engraved plates for notated music fell out of favor before the 20<sup>th</sup> century, so most cataloguers will encounter pages rather than plates. Note also that this use of the term “plate” does not correspond with the RDA Glossary definition – in this case it really is about the production process, rather than being a leaf that “does not form part of either the preliminary or the main sequence of pages or leaves”. That being said, we have no objection to the continued use of the term “plate number”, since this is a term in common usage.

Proposed revision

*Marked-up copy (Base text, current RDA)*

#### 2.15.3.1 Scope

A **plate number for notated music**▼ is a numbering designation assigned to a notated music resource by a publisher. The number is usually printed at the bottom of each page, and sometimes also appears on the title page.

A plate number for notated music ~~sometimes includes~~ may include initials, abbreviations, or words identifying the publisher. It ~~is sometimes followed by~~ may include a number corresponding to the number of pages or plates, or a number corresponding to an individual page or plate.

### Revision of 2.15.3.3, *Recording Plate Numbers for Notated Music*

ALA observes that as currently worded, this instruction only permits recording the abbreviation that identifies the publisher if it precedes the plate number. However, the examples indicate that such abbreviations can appear before or after the plate number, or even both. This wording should be less restrictive, modeled on the proposed wording above for 2.15.3.1.

While ALA finds the existing examples quite helpful, we note that three of the four examples apply the Alternative in 2.15.1.5 (*More Than One Identifier for the Manifestation*) without making that clear. Shouldn't explanatory text be provided for these?

We fully support the addition of the first Alternative; this provides clear guidance to a perplexing situation. We suggest a slightly simplified wording below, and have again proposed using the phrase "pages or plates". In addition, we have provided two examples, the first based on OCLC #3857224 and the second on OCLC #6361593.

We are less confident about the need for the second Alternative, which addresses the situation where the ending of the plate number changes on each page of the score. This is certainly not a common situation, and we would have appreciated seeing an actual example from the Working Group. We think that the following resource may exhibit these characteristics: *Folio and 4 systems / Earle Brown* (see OCLC #19235548). Because this type of numbering is uncommon, this kind of guidance may be more appropriate for an application profile than for RDA itself. If the RSC agrees with this position, then the 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph in the scope (see above, Revision of 2.15.3.1) would need to have the final proposed clause omitted. However, we do not have a strong objection to including this second Alternative, since it does provide useful guidance. Thus, we have included it in our proposed revision below.

Proposed revision

*Marked-up copy (Base text, current RDA)*

### 2.15.3.3 Recording Plate Numbers for Notated Music

Record plate numbers for notated music. If a number is ~~preceded by~~ includes an abbreviation, word, or phrase identifying a publisher, include that abbreviation, word, or phrase as part of the number.

#### EXAMPLE

S. & B. 4081

UE 19541-UE 19543

9674 H.L.-9676 H.L.

R.10150E.-R.10155E.

### Alternatives

When recording a plate number, omit a number corresponding to the total number of pages or plates. Apply this instruction instead of or in addition to recording a plate number that includes the total number of pages or plates.

#### EXAMPLE

SH 2970

Plate number for: Autumn serenade : a modern composition for the piano / by Peter De Rose ; [arranged by D. Savino]. Plate number at bottom of each page: SH 2970-7. Number of pages: 7

30349

Plate number for: Mill doors / Norman Dello Joio. Plate number at bottom of each page: 30349-3. Pages numbered: 3-5. Actual number of pages of music: 3

When recording a plate number, omit a number corresponding to an individual page or plate. Apply this instruction instead of or in addition to recording a plate number that includes the a number for an individual of pages or plates.

#### EXAMPLE

[To be determined]

### *Clean copy*

#### 2.15.3.3 Recording Plate Numbers for Notated Music

Record plate numbers for notated music. If a number includes an abbreviation, word, or phrase identifying a publisher, include that abbreviation, word, or phrase as part of the number.

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### *Alternatives*

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#### **EXAMPLE**

SH 2970

**Plate number for:** Autumn serenade : a modern composition for the piano / by Peter De Rose ; [arranged by D. Savino]. **Plate number at bottom of each page:** SH 2970-7. **Number of pages:** 7

30349

**Plate number for:** Mill doors / Norman Dello Joio. **Plate number at bottom of each page:** 30349-3. **Pages numbered:** 3-5. **Actual number of pages of music:** 3

When recording a plate number, omit a number corresponding to an individual page or plate. Apply this instruction instead of or in addition to recording a plate number that includes the a number for an individual of pages or plates.

#### **EXAMPLE**

[To be determined]