Cataloguing librettos for the Music Library: guidelines

Librettos are books containing the texts of operas or musicals rather than the music. If you get one containing a blue MUSIC flyer, then remember that for the Music Library:

1. The main entry is always under the **composer**, not the author of the text. The librettist gets a 700 added entry.

2. There must always be a 240 (uniform title) containing the original title of the opera in its original language, followed by the form subfield *.|sLibretto* (add the language subfield *.|lEnglish* or *.|lFrench* etc. if you have a translation.). For example, if what you have is an English and German libretto published under the English title *The Magic Flute*, by Mozart, you need the following uniform title:

   240 10 Zauberflöte.|sLibretto.|lEnglish & German

   (note that the *original* language goes second). For more information and examples concerning uniform titles for librettos and translations, see AACR2 25.35E and F.

3. Librettos are classed at **ML50**, not at M1500 or M1503. ("M" numbers are exclusively for music scores; music books always get "ML" numbers). The first cutter is for the main entry (composer), the second cutter for the uniform title. If yours is a translation, use the Music translation table, rather than the regular book translation table, to build the second cutter (see LC Shelflisting Manual G 800, 1.i):

   ![MUSIC TRANSLATION TABLE](image)

   4. Librettos require a subject heading: 650 0 Operas|vLibrettos. or Musicals|vLibrettos.

You may come across OCLC records like the example on the next page which were created for a library classing the text at the author’s literary number. If your libretto is to go to the Music Library, then such a record must be adjusted according to the above guidelines.

If you are unsure what the original title and language of an opera is, you can search the LC authority file. LC has created name-title authority records establishing the uniform title for most well-known operas. If there is no LC authority, or you have other questions, pass the item to Alastair in the Music section.
Sample OCLC record:

Rec_Type :a  Bib_LVL :m  Enc_LVL :  Desc :a
TypeCtrl :  Entrd :020918  Dat_Tp :s  Date1 :2002
Date2 :  Ctry :enk  Lang :eng  Mod_Rec :
Source :  Illus :  Audience :  Repr :
Cont :  GovtPub :  ConfPub :0  Festschr :0
Index :0  Fiction :d  Biog :

001  ocm50652948
003  OCoLC
005  20030327141355.0
020  0573081190
040  UKM|cUKM|dUTO
082 04  822.92|221
100 1  Quilter, Peter.
245 14  The Canterville ghost :|ba magical musical comedy
      /|cbook and lyrics by Peter Quilter ; music by
      Charles Miller ; adapted from the original story by
      Oscar Wilde.
300  79 p. ;|c22 cm.
500  "Based on Oscar Wilde's stories The Canterville
    ghost and The happy prince"-Back cover.
650 0  Ghosts|vDrama.
700 1  Wilde, Oscar,|d1854-1900.|tCanterville ghost.
700 1  Wilde, Oscar,|d1854-1900.|tHappy prince.

This record is suitable for sending to the stacks under a literary number for Quilter
(although there should be an added entry for Charles Miller in any case). However, to
catalogue this title for MUSIC, the following changes are needed:

- turn the 100 into a 700
- add: 100 1  Miller, Charles.
- add: 240 10  Canterville ghost.|sLibretto
- add: 650 0  Musicals|vLibrettos.
- add call number: ML50 .M66 C36 2002

Thus:

100 1  Miller, Charles.
240 10  Canterville ghost.|sLibretto
245 14  The Canterville ghost :|ba magical musical comedy
      /|cbook and lyrics by Peter Quilter ; music by Charles Miller ; adapted from
      the original story by Oscar Wilde.
300  79 p. ;|c22 cm.
500  "Based on Oscar Wilde's stories The Canterville
    ghost and The happy prince"-Back cover.
650 0  Ghosts|vDrama.
650 0  Musicals|vLibrettos.
700 1  Quilter, Peter.
700 1  Wilde, Oscar,|d1854-1900.|tCanterville ghost.
700 1  Wilde, Oscar,|d1854-1900.|tHappy prince.

A. Boyd
Robarts Library