

D-Broerman-Bradley-20050319070002

To: Julie L. Sigall
Associate Register for Policy & International Affairs

Date: 03/19/2005

From: Bradley D Broerman

Comment:

To whom it may concern,

Currently, when copyright holders can not be found for works in order to obtain copy or derivative permission, the new work usually has to be abandoned. It can be impossible to find out if a particular work is still under copyright or not. And even when people would happily pay to use a copyrighted photo, passage, or video clip, it's often impossible (or extremely costly) to find the copyright holder. When this happens, everybody loses. Artists can't realize their creative vision, academics can't clearly communicate their ideas, and copyright holders don't get paid. Even worse, important pieces of our culture get needlessly locked away. This is a bad situation to have. There have to be clear rules that at least allow limited access to works when copyright holders can not be found. What would be better, would be if the work was opened to the public domain.

Along with thousands of others, I would encourage you to consider this problem, and work with the interested parties to update the copyright rules to cover this situation.