

Hel sby-James-20050314093007

To: Julie L. Sigall
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From: James Hel sby

Comment:

The Importance of the Public Domain:

In recent years, steps have been taken to whittle away at what was once a thriving and beneficial area of copyright law. Public domain stands as a legacy of ours, and prior generations.

Not all things copyrighted should stay copyrighted for hundreds of years. However, with current copyright laws standing policies of permanent copyright extensions (for the lifetime, as it is, of the producer/author) it is important to not exceed the bounds of current public domain transitions.

We are not contributing as much to the public domain in modern times, as even we were 50 years past (in relative terms). Why not let orphan works pass into the public domain. If the producer or their estate has not taken measures to secure a work's place in copyright, then the work should be added to the general knowledge.

Thank you for your time.
James Hel sby