

# Announcement

from the Copyright Office, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. 20559

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## CHANGE CONCERNING REGISTRATION FEE FOR FOREIGN WORKS UNDER THE NEW COPYRIGHT ACT

### IMPORTANT

Beginning on January 1, 1978 ( the effective date of the new copyright law), a registration fee of \$10.00 will be required for all works. THE NEW LAW CONTAINS NO PROVISION ALLOWING THE REGISTRATION FEE FOR FOREIGN WORKS TO BE WAIVED UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.

### EXPLANATION OF THE CHANGE

The changes in our registration procedures for foreign works will result from provisions of the Copyright Act of October 19, 1976 ( Public Law 94-553, 90 Stat. 2541). The new law makes no distinction between domestic and foreign works with respect to the registration fee.

- Under the old law. The old law ( in effect through December 31, 1977) provides that, with respect to most foreign works, the applicant for copyright registration has an option. The normal requirement calls for the deposit of one copy and a fee of \$6.00 to accompany the application for registration. Instead of this, if the applicant chooses to submit the application within six months from the date of first publication abroad, the accompanying deposit can consist of two copies of the work and a catalog card in a specified form. Under this special option, the registration fee is waived entirely.

● Under the new Copyright Act. The new law requires, for registration of a work first published outside the United States,

- an application for registration
- one complete copy or phonorecord as so published, and
- a \$10.00 registration fee

THE OPTION OF SENDING ONE ADDITIONAL COPY AND A CATALOG CARD INSTEAD OF THE REGISTRATION FEE WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE.

#### NOTE

Under the law in effect through December 31, 1977, registration is considered a condition of copyright protection.

Under the new law, registration is generally voluntary, although it will be necessary as a condition for certain rights and remedies. Registration can be made for either unpublished or published works at any time during the copyright term. Copyright, under the new law, is secured automatically upon creation of the work and generally lasts for the author's life, plus an additional 50 years after the author's death. For works made for hire, and for anonymous and pseudonymous works (unless the author's identity is revealed in Copyright Office records), the new term will be 75 years from publication or 100 years from creation, whichever is shorter.

For further information about duration of copyright under the new law, write for Circular R15a.