

C-Penland-Robert-20050314070003

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

Date: 03/14/2005

From: Robert C Penland

Comment:

Even with the considerable copyright extensions already in place, copyrights are not intended to be held in perpetuity effectively walling off a portion of the creative landscape forever. Rather they are grants of exclusivity for periods of time in recognition of and to promote the investment in creative expression. In exchange for this protection under law, the owner should maintain the copyright by defending it. Works for which there is no owner are abandoned and should be returned to the public landscape for creation of derivative works. I hope you will agree the public good is not served by dotting the landscape with plots walled off forever but by dropping those barriers so that more works can be created.