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July 14, 2015

RE: U.S. Copyright Orphan Works

Points I feel are important to stress, from my point of view as a professional artist in small town America.

• There is no excuse for any company to claim they can not find a copyright holder to any given work.

Any work which does not carry an identifying name or symbol can be posted at any number of artist oriented and licensing sites, and within 24 hours, the originator and copy right holder of the piece will be identified.

Why is that so? Because there is a volunteer army of artists who make it a point to search out infringers and bring the information to the public and the copyright holder`s attention with a zeal that is impressive. They are self~appointed enforcers and they enjoy getting credit for keeping track of what material belongs to who!

They expose bad artists who steal and copy; and cottage industries and large companies that violate copyright laws.

I repeat, there is no reason for any company to claim they can not find the owner of any given piece of work.

• Also, I`d like to add that I toil for long hours creating my stock of illustrations. I wait months and even years for royalties. I am fortunate to be a part of large community of artists who are networking together as never before, and who will watch my back. Yet, even with the current laws, I do worry that I will have to chase down the few crooks in this industry. All artists have to worry about crooks, even with the laws as they are.

Please do not destroy our years of labor by allowing orphan claims, which will overwhelm our industry with more thieves.

Steph McCarthy