

T-Coffman-Andrew-20050314223006

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

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From: Andrew T Coffman

Comment:

This is a chance to show the public, people like me, that your office has our interests at heart, not the companies and individuals who have changed the copyright system from a limited reward for innovation to the golden calf it is now.

Releasing abandoned, forgotten and / or otherwise "orphan works" back to the general public will help stimulate innovation and curb the frustration of outdated and outmoded policies.

My personal experience was from the mid-90s and trying to track down the copyright holders of an obscure and limited printing of role-playing game rules. I did eventually track down the illustrator, but never did contact the original copyright holder. This prevented me from creating a derivative work and to re-release the original on a broader scale.