Jule L. Sigall
Associate Register for Policy & International Affairs
U.S. Copyright Office
Copyright GC/I&R
P.O. Box 70400
Southwest Station
Washington, DC 20024.

22 March 2005

re: Orphan Works Study (70 FR 3739)

Dear Mr. Sigall,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this matter.

I, as an artist, am an affected party of the proposed change. I write stories, poetry, music, computer software. I also paint, draw and engage in graphic design. The things I create are my property. Copyright law currently protects my property.

In essence, the proposed changes are fundamentally conversion of my property to someone else, without compensation. In addition, I would lose all moral rights and control of my creations, merely because someone who wishes to steal my work can not locate me.

Under such a total lack of artistic rights, I would have to chose another profession. I would no longer engage in these creative activities. Such a sociopathic policy as proposed would have a horrible, chilling effect of artistic invention and creation, merely to make convenient blind robbery by talentless hacks who are unable to create new things themselves, and greedy publishers desiring to profit off of copyrighted materials without compensating the creators, or allowing them any say in the matter.

Obviously, since corporations are easier to 'locate' than individuals, this proposal would seldom result in copyrighted material owned by faceless corporations being converted, but would often result in copyrighted material owned by individuals being converted.

I strongly urge you to reject this outrageous and offensive suggestion and instead focus on *increasing* the rights of actual artistic creators by allowing for irrevocable moral rights of creators. These rights will include the right of the creator of a work to reject objectionable uses of the work, even in the case where copyright has been transferred to someone other than the creator of the work.

The mere serious consideration of the outrageous thievery that is being contemplated does not bode well for a free republic, though I am sure Lenin would be pleased.

Sincerely,

Jeff Scott
Actual Artist who Creates Real Things