



PRESIDENT GERALD FORD signed into law the current Copyright Act on October 19, 1976. It has been amended several times since then, including extending the term of copyright protection and addressing the delivery of digital works.

PRESIDENT THEODORE ROOSEVELT signed into law the 1909 Copyright Act on March 4, 1909, his final day in office. It was the third general revision of the copyright law since passage of the first federal copyright law in 1790.

"Washington's Inaugural at Congress Hall, Philadelphia," a reproduction of an oil painting of **PRESIDENT GEORGE WASHINGTON**'s second inauguration, was deposited with the Copyright Office on June 18, 1947. A plaster bust of **PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY** was deposited on April 23, 1963. "Stars and Stripes Forever," the musical composition by John Philip Sousa, was deposited on April 15, 1898.

On March 3, 1865, just six weeks before his assassination, **PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN** authorized a bill amending the Copyright Act to extend copyright protection to photographs and photographic negatives. Famed Civil War photographer Mathew Brady took this photograph of Lincoln.

Presidents, American Creativity & Copyright

PRESIDENT GEORGE WASHINGTON signed the first federal copyright law on May 31, 1790. It recognized the value of copyright to the nation's cultural and economic progress, and it gave rise to a registration system that has produced an unparalleled record of American creativity. Since 1790, more than 35 million works have been registered. Copies of millions of these works have been deposited with registrations, including many books by and about U.S. presidents and countless works of visual and performing arts celebrating presidents and American political traditions.