

B-Perazzo-Peggy-20050308143003

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

Date: 03/08/2005

From: Peggy B. Perazzo

Comment:

Hello: I have had problems trying to find out if books published after 1922 are in the public domain. I have a web site on historical stone quarries, and I need the information from the old books to show the evolution of the stone industry.

One example of a book that I have had problems in ascertaining whether it is in the public domain is related below. (The 7th edition of this book was published in 1937. I realize that I can use the editions published prior to 1923, but I need the editions published after that date to show the evolution of the industry.)

I was trying to find out if the book, "Economic Geology," by H. Ries, A.M., Ph.D., Professor of Geology at Cornell University, 7th edition, published by John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1937, was in the public domain or still under copyright. (I would like to quote a substantial amount of the text relating to the stone industry in addition to using some of the photographs on our non-profit web site.)

I contacted the publisher, John Wiley & Sons., Inc.; and I received a letter stating that they think the book is in the public domain, but a thorough copyright search would be required to be certain.

I contacted Cornell University where H. Ries was a professor, and they sent me the last known son's name and address. He was the last known family contact person relating to the copyright.

I mailed a letter via U.S. Mail to H. Ries' son, but I never heard back from anyone and the letter was never returned to me. This letter was sent about 4 months ago.

I cannot afford to pay for a thorough copyright search on this book, and this is just one of several books that were published after 1922 that I would like to use.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this very important issue.

Peggy B. Perazzo
Stone Quarries and Beyond
<http://www.cagenweb.com/quarries/>