

holme-elizabeth-20050316130002

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

Date: 03/16/2005

From: elizabeth holme
Title: print room coordinator
Org: george fox university

Comment:

don't remember the specifics but in trying to find copyright for just one item I contacted each of the following:

the publisher which no longer existed;
the new publisher which didn't hold copyright and didn't know who did;
the author which I couldn't find at all;
found a book "1992-1993 Insider's Guide to Book Editors, Publishers, and Literary Agents" at a used booksale on a weekend;
which had a section titled "Directory of Literary Agents" and started calling each one listed asking if they had ever heard of the specific author;
found a literary agent who had heard of her but would not give me her contact information but would pass my contact information on to her;
got a call from a lawyer!

Turns out the author was dead and her estate held copyright to the work in question. I did eventually get the permission.

Book published by a company in my own backyard. I live and work in Newberg, Oregon. The publisher was in Willsonville, Oregon. Only they never answered their phone. The following year the directory said that they had moved to another location but they didn't answer either phone but I did find a web page for them which had them at a third location which did not answer their phone. The third year I tried all numbers again but by then I had my "1992-1993 Insider's Guide . . ." and found the publisher listed and it showed this publisher to be an imprint of a Texas publisher. So I called the Texas number and got a recording and another number to call. After three years and however many dollars in long distance calls I finally got permission.

Another publisher that went out of business was kind enough to have an employee monitor an answering machine for more than a year after the event. The message received was that if you wanted imprint a call this company and imprint b call another company, and imprint c was a third company. If this does not help you please leave a name and phone number and we'll get back to you. They did (it took a couple of weeks) and they were able to tell me what company I needed to contact to be able to get the permission for my book.

The laws have been written making it illegal for any and all to not get permission. However there is nothing out there that forces the publishers, authors, agents, and any other copyright holders to make themselves available and/or responsible for their actions. If those holding copyright permission on anything want their money they need to be 100% more responsive and accessible to those searching for copyright

holme-elizabeth-20050316130002

permission than they are currently.