

G-Hartwell-William-20050301230002

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

Date: 03/01/2005

From: William G. Hartwell

Comment:

I had a story in which I wanted to quote the a few lines of lyrics to a song. I contacted the American company that had translated the original lyrics, and that company referred me to the foreign company that held the original copyright, because they did not hold any rights other than to their translation. Attempting to contact the company that holds the original copyright produced no results of any kind, not even a refusal. The copyright holder might as well not have existed, as far as any response I got. A procedure for proving that I attempted to license the original, but the owner did not respond, would have made it possible for me to use the material I wanted to use. Instead, I had to completely excise the quote from my work.