

Barr-Michael -20050311043006

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

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Comment:

I am a professor (now emeritus) of mathematics at McGill University. Some years ago, I was teaching a course for which I wanted to use a book called something like Number Theory, by Leonard Eugene Dickson. It was written sometime in the late 20s (perhaps 1928) and reprinted by Dover in the 50s. I wrote to Dover and they answered that they had had only a one-time licence, the book was out of print, they would not reprint it and the copyright holder of record was Dickson's widow, now likely deceased. Having no way of attempting to track down the current copyright holder, I abandoned the attempt to use this book as a text and chose another.

IMHO, the best way to deal with this is to require a copyright holder to have a publicly registered address for inquiries, failing which the work falls into the public domain.