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To: Julie L. Sigall
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From: Henry Mel ton
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Comment:

I urge extreme caution in declaring works to be 'orphan'. I am an author with several minor works spreading out over decades. While some potential third party might have difficulty tracking me down due to old addresses, etc. I still know and use every one of my old works. If the door is opened to third-party squatters who wish to take my work for their own use -- without even notification-- then I run the risk of losing the ability to build new, profitable work based on my own scaffolding.

Should an Orphan Works rule be enacted, there must be a way that third-party use can be rescinded quickly when the author finds out that he's been ripped off. There should be no time limit on this. It might be just as hard to locate the third-party's use as it is claimed to be had to find me.

The value of old works, that currently appear abandoned, cannot be estimated. If my new book takes off, 'valueless' older works can suddenly become sources of income.

Why not, instead, make a database, a large addressbook if you will, that creators can keep updated with their current mailing address? I would be glad to help others locate me.