

Yudel son-Larry-20050322203003

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

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From: Larry Yudel son

Comment:

I'm setting up a publishing company, and am looking to publish a commentary on the classic Hebrew work, the Mishna. In trying to design a cover, I ran across the work of A. Raymond Katz, a WPA artist who produced a series of six woodcuts about the Mishna in 1964. Katz dies in 1974. His old publisher is out of business. Given what a common name Katz is, tracking down his heirs seems like a nightmare -- particularly since any children he might have had are quite likely dead as well.

I would love to contact the holder of his copyrights, to see if I can use his work as cover illustrations. Absent a central clearinghouse of rights holders, this seems like an expensive -- and probably fruitless -- detective job.

Rather than maintaining the value of his works, the current copyright law reduces it to zero.