

From: [REDACTED]
To: [FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty](#)
Subject: Historical Recordings
Date: Tuesday, March 16, 2010 4:46:01 PM

Dear Ms Espinel,

My name is Barry Stapleton and I am the director of the Ward Irish Music Archives here in Milwaukee, WI. I'm writing on behalf of our institution in regards to your request for input from copyright users.

We deal with mostly historic recordings. We respect current and new legislation that gives copyright owners what is due them.

But the current law, as I understand it, leaves nearly all historic recordings under copyright, even when owners can't be found as it is then referred to State laws. Edison at least put all of his recordings under public domain. But for many of us small institutions, when we find or are given historical recordings from the Acoustic Era, 1890-1925, it would seem prudent that these recordings should be in the public domain if no copyright owner can be found or is known.

This has been a major issue with us and other institutions. We belong to the Association of Recorded Sound Collections, ARSC, and is through this organization that we try to keep up with current laws and we hope that you will consider ARSCs recommendations on this matter.

Thanks for your time and consideration,

Sincerely

Barry Stapleton

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