

I would like to object in the strongest terms to the proposed extension of copyright to 95 years : this is totally unjustified, even to new material; but to make it RETROSPECTIVE is ludicrous. I am a collector of old recordings of all kinds, from music hall to classical items, and as you have no doubt heard from other respected collectors such as Tony Barker (music hall expert, who has saved and reissued many very early music hall gems) there would be the completely crazy situation where the record companies who have inherited many defunct labels (e.g. Winner, Zonophone) DO NOT HAVE the originals, but could still prevent collectors who DO have them from making them public, not for profit, but as social / historical documents.

For example, it seems that EMI do not own the original rare sides made by Busoni (classical pianist/ composer) on the Columbia L series. I have one of these : but it would appear that although it was recorded in 1922 I could not put it in the public domain under the proposed legislation, which would also cause an absurd situation where much material that IS now public-domain, would suddenly cease to be : so could one still sell and buy the CD compilations of those items that have been issued ??

This is nothing to do with caring for families of deceased artistes, and is all about immense pressure from the recording industry concerned only with profits. The very earliest cylinders and disc records are deteriorating yearly, and getting fewer in number : dedicated collectors are growing older : and a huge historic repository is in danger of vanishing altogether.

At the very least there should be an ESCAPE CLAUSE for historic items (say, prior to 1936, i.e. over 70 years) whereby the companies owning the original copyright should be obliged to place them in the public domain (especially when they no longer have any copies in their archives, hence should be GRATEFUL to collectors ! ) so long as they are not duplicated and sold FOR PROFIT, other than a purely nominal covering of costs.

John