

Reed 11/04/06  
SC

8th April, 2006

Gowers Review of Intellectual Property,  
Zone 4/E1,  
H M Treasury,  
1, Horse Guards Road,  
London, SW1A 2HQ.

For the attention of Mr. A. Gowers,

Dear Sirs,

Re: Copyright Law

I am writing to you because I am most concerned to learn that there is currently a campaign afoot to extend the copyright period of gramophone recordings from 50 to possibly 75 or 95 years.

I wish to object to this proposal most strongly, since I am a keen collector of music from the period 1910 to 1950, and currently many excellent independent record companies are issuing competitively priced material on CD from this period. This material would otherwise not be available to the public, since I know of not a single radio programme which caters for this particular interest.

The large record companies like EMI and Decca show no interest at all in making available this specialist material, particularly of the pre World War Two era.

I am a collector in particular of Music Hall Artists, who, of course, were recording during this period. If the smaller companies are compelled to pay copyright fees for this archive material, I feel it is inevitable that the extra costs will force them out of business, thereby depriving enthusiasts such as myself access to this country's great musical heritage.

I feel that the motives which are prompting the proposed extension of the copyright period are entirely selfish, without due regard for the true fans of nostalgia, whose music could be lost to them if this proposal is implemented.

Yours faithfully,

Kenneth I. Brown

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