

## Re: Pluto's OK

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- *From:* "Scott Hedrick" <[dinehnmKILLSPAM@xxxxxxxx](mailto:dinehnmKILLSPAM@xxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Mon, 11 Sep 2006 17:49:42 -0400
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"Brett Paul Dunbar" <[brett@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:brett@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote in message  
[news:DDGHy2urS1AFFw+L@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:DDGHy2urS1AFFw+L@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

That would violate the Berne convention, as the treaty prohibits requiring any kind of formality to establish or retain copyright on the general principal that copyright should not be lost accidentally or due to ignorance of a specific legal system.

You misunderstand— we weren't saying that copyright would be lost without registration. The registration was to give notice of the most current copyright holder, to avoid a copyrighted item from becoming an orphan, thus making it impossible to legally get permission to copy. There's currently no process to get permission to copy or reprint something in copyright where the current holder cannot be found, essentially making such an item useless. There are thousands of items currently in copyright, but for which the current owner is unknown. The registration process we were describing involved items which have transferred ownership— if someone buys or otherwise knowingly obtains the copyright to an item, then they should be required to register that change of ownership, so as to allow the public to contact them if it is desired to duplicate an out-of-print item. One way to ensure this is done is to require registration within a limited period of time of the change of ownership. The penalties for not properly registering could be as drastic as losing the copyright, or it could be that the item is treated as an orphan if a duly diligent search cannot uncover the proper owner, and thus the item could be legally reprinted at the standard government-issue rate, with the royalties thus held in trust until the true owner comes forward. Thus, orphans can be legally