Copyright Enactments Prior to the 1909 Act, Including the English Statute of Anne (1710) and Original State Statutes from 1783

Resolution of the Continental Congress Respecting Copyright, (1783)

[1]--Resolution Passed by the Continental Congress

Recommending the Several States to Secure to the Authors or Publishers of New Books the Copyright of such Books.

On the report of a committee, consisting of Mr. Williamson, Mr. Izard and Mr. Madison, to whom were referred sundry papers and memorials on the subject of literary property.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the several States, to secure to the authors or publishers of any new books not hitherto printed, being citizens of the United States, and to their executors, administrators and assigns, the copy right of such books for a certain time not less than fourteen years from the first publication; and to secure to the said authors, if they shall survive the term first mentioned, and to their executors, administrators and assigns, the copy right of such books for another term of time not less than fourteen years, such copy or exclusive right of printing, publishing and vending the same, to be secured to the original authors, or publishers, their executors, administrators and assigns, by such laws and under such restrictions as to the several States may seem proper.

[May 2, 1783]

JOURNAL OF THE UNITED STATES IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, CONTAINING THE PROCEEDINGS FROM NOV. 1782, TO NOV. 1783, PP. 256-57. (Philadelphia, D.C. Claypoole, 1783).

*. Editor's Note: Except for the Statute of Anne, this appendix is primarily derived from a portion of the document *Laws passed in the United States Since 1983 Relating to Copyright*, which was published as Copyright Office Bulletin No. 3, and revised until 1963. The Preface to that document reads as follows:"This loose-leaf compilation of United States copyright laws and related matter, which has been prepared for public as well as official use, is essentially a revision and expansion of Copyright Office Bulletin No. 3, originally compiled in 1900 by Thorvald Solberg, who was then Register of Copyrights."A previous compilation which covered the years 1783-1952 and was prepared under the supervision of Louis Charles Smith, former Senior Attorney in the Copyright Office, was internally processed in 1952 as a working paper for the Copyright Office staff. This new edition has been brought up to date through the year 1962."