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## Found: Swinburne's Copyright

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*Found: Swinburne's Copyright*

Scholars working with unpublished material by Swinburne or with works by him still covered by copyright will be interested to know that the copyright remains in the hands of its presumptive owner, the successor firm to William Heinemann Ltd.

Baffled by the refusal of Reed International Books to assert a claim when I sought to publish two newly discovered poems by Swinburne, I traced my understanding of the history of Swinburne's copyright in a note accompanying the texts of the poems (*Victorian Poetry*, Summer 1993).

I have recently heard from Mrs. Catherine Trippett, the Permissions Administrator for Reed Consumer Books, who has explained to me that it was only in 1994 that she had been able to search the firm's archives in great detail and to research copyright law more closely. She writes (March 9, 1995) that she is able to clarify the ownership of Swinburne's copyright:

Heinemann does own copyright in any of Swinburne's work that is at present unpublished, or that has been published within the last fifty years. Anything published during his lifetime, or more than fifty years ago, is now out of copyright.

According to the provisions of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act, 1988, the copyright in unpublished works will cease to be protected beyond the end of 2039.

In an e-mail message of March 31, 1995, Mrs. Trippett has granted me permission to have published the two Swinburne poems "Milton" and On the effect of Wagner's Music.

Terry L. Meyers