

### Art and Modern Copyright

Art and Modern Copyright is the first in-depth and longitudinal study of the history of copyright protecting the visual arts. Exploring legal developments during an important period in the making of the modern law, the mid-nineteenth to early twentieth centuries, in relation to four themes – the protection of copyright 'authors' (painters, photographers and engravers), art collectors, sitters and the public interest – it uncovers a number of long-forgotten narratives of copyright history, including views of copyright that differ from how we think today. As well as considering the distinct nature of the contribution of copyright to the history of the cultural domain accounted for by scholars of art history and the sociology of art, this book examines the value to lawyers and policy-makers today of copyright history as a destabilising influence: in taking us to ways of thinking that differ from our own, history can sharpen the critical lens through which we view copyright debates today.

Elena Cooper is Leverhulme Early Career Fellow at CREATe, School of Law, University of Glasgow. Elena is a member of the British Art Network and the Institute of Art and Law, and an Associate of the Centre for Intellectual Property and Information Law, University of Cambridge.



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# Art and Modern Copyright

The Contested Image

Elena Cooper CREATe, University of Glasgow





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For Lukas, a special friend, and in fond memory of Kyriakos.





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#### Acknowledgements

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in Britain c. 1850–1914 at the Watts Gallery, Surrey. I thank the contributors to the discussions that each of these presentations provoked. I also thank Jane Ginsburg, the art historians Judith Bronkhurst and Graham Howes and the curator Nicholas Tromans for reviewing an earlier draft of Chapter 4. Abbie Sprague provided much appreciated art historical insights during the course of my PhD. I am appreciative of the support of staff at Cambridge University Press, particularly the advice of Kim Hughes. Finally, no account of the intellectual journey resulting in this book would be complete without mention of the inspirational teaching of Anne Barron at the London School of Economics in 1998–1999, which first sparked my interest in intellectual property scholarship, as well as innovative interdisciplinary teaching on the University of London LLM in 1999-2000 by Anne Barron, Lionel Bently and Robert Burrell, which planted the seeds for aspects of the approach in Art and Modern Copyright and my interest in returning to academia after five years in private practice.

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Finally, I am delighted to have William Powell Frith's *The Railway Station* as the front-cover to this book: an iconic example Victorian modern art, which was first exhibited in 1862 as the introduction of copyright protection for painting was debated by Parliament. For this, I am most grateful to Laura McCulloch, Royal Holloway, University of London.



### Plates

- Plate 1 Panorama of Damascus, Looking South West by Francis Frith, 1857, from the photographic series Views in the Holy Land.
- Plate 2 Henry John Temple, 3rd Viscount Palmerston (Prime Minister 1855–1858 and 1859–1865) by John Jabez Edwin Mayall, carte-de-visite, 1857.
- Plate 3 Unauthorised photograph of John Jabez Edwin Mayall's photograph of Queen Victoria, *carte-de-visite*, early 1860s.
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- Plate 13 Photograph appearing on the front page of *The Daily Mirror* of 19 November 1910, documenting the women's suffrage protest on Black Friday, 18 November 1910 (Mirrorpix).

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## Abbreviations and Archive Sources

Abbreviations

BJP The British Journal of Photography

Engraving Acts Engraving Act 1735, 8 Geo. II c.13; Engraving Act

1767, 7 Geo. III c.38; Engraving Act 1777, 17 Geo. III c.57; Engraving Act 1836, 6&7 Will IV c.59 and

Copyright Act 1852, 15&16 Vic. c.12, s.14

NAPSS Transactions of the National Association for the

Transactions Promotion of Social Science

NAPSS Proceedings of the National Association for the

Proceedings Promotion of Social Science

PJ The Journal of the Photographic Society (later The

Photographic Journal)

PN The Photographic News

1878 Report Copyright Commission: The Royal Commissions

and the Report of the Commissioners; P.P. 1878

C-2036, C-2036-1 XXIV.163, 253

1898 Report Report of the Select Committee on the Copyright

Bill (H.L.) and the Copyright (Amendment) Bill

(H.L.); P.P. 1898 (189)

1899 Report Report from the Select Committee of the House of

Lords on the Copyright Bill [H.L.] and the Copyright (Artistic) Bill [H.L.] together with the Proceedings of the Committee, Minutes of Evidence and Appendix; P.P. 1899 (362)

1900 Report Report on the Select Committee on the Copyright

Bill [H.L.] and the Copyright (Artistic) Bill [H.L.] together with the Proceedings of the Committee, Minutes of Evidence and Appendix;

P.P. 1900 (193)

1909 Report Report of the Committee on the Law of Copyright;

P.P. 1909 Cd.4976

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List of Abbreviations and Archive Sources

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#### **Archive Sources**

Angeli-Dennis Correspondence to/from D.G. Rossetti, held by Papers University of British Columbia Library, Canada. Blaine Papers Correspondence and documents left by Delabere

Roberton Blaine, held by the Crozier Cole family.

Brown Papers Ford Madox Brown Collection, (C1918),

Manuscripts Division, Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, Princeton University

Library, USA.

Field Papers Correspondence left by Edwin Wilkins Field

(mssHM 42884–42939), The Huntington Library, San Marino, California, USA.

Graves Papers Papers of Henry Graves & Sons, Manuscripts,

Add. 46140, held by the British Library.

St John's Wood Papers of St John's Wood Arts Club and its Papers Copyright Committee, held by City of

Westminster Archives Centre, London.

LCC Papers Papers and Minutes of the Photographic Trade

Section of the London Chamber of Commerce

held by Guildhall Library, London.

Leathart Papers Papers of the collector James Leathart, held by

University of British Columbia Library, Canada Records held by the National Archives, London.

NA Records held by the National Archives, Los NA of Scotland Records held by the National Archives of

Records field by the National Archives of

Scotland, Edinburgh.

NAL Papers Artist correspondence and papers, the diaries of

Henry Cole, reports of the Science and Art Department, minutes of the British Institution and papers concerning the Society of Arts' campaign for artistic copyright, held by the National Art Library, Victoria and Albert

Museum, London.

National Gallery 1

Papers NLS Papers Reports, minutes and correspondence held by the

archive of the National Gallery, London.
Papers of David Octavius Hill, held by the

National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh.

NSW Papers Correspondence held by the Art Gallery of New

South Wales Institutional Archive, Sydney,

Australia.



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NPG Papers Correspondence of the photographers Elliott and

Fry, contracts of Foulsham & Banfield and the archive of George Watts, held by the National

Portrait Gallery archive, London.

RA Papers Correspondence, minutes and annual reports of

the Royal Academy of Arts, held by the archive of

the Royal Academy of Arts, London.

RBS Papers Papers and council minutes of the Society of

British Sculptors and pamphlets, held by the Royal British Society of Sculptors, Old Brompton

Road, London.

RPS Papers Papers and minutes of the Royal Photographic

Society and papers of the Linked Ring Brotherhood, held by the National Media Museum, Bradford, but since 2016, held by the Archive of Art and Design (AAD), Victoria and

Albert Museum, London.

RWS Papers Papers of Joseph Jenkins and Minutes of the

Society of Painters in Water Colours, held by the

Royal Watercolour Society, London.

Scottish Draft petitions, correspondence and minutes of

Academy Papers the Royal Scottish Academy of Painting,

Sculpture and Architecture, held by the Royal Scottish Academy's archive, The Dean Gallery,

Edinburgh.

SOA Papers Draft Bills, papers, correspondence and minutes

concerning the Society of Arts' campaign for artistic copyright, held by the archive of the Royal Society of Arts, John Adam Street, London.

Society of Arts, John Adam Street, London.

Trevelyan Papers Correspondence deposited by the Trevelyan

family, held by Special Collections, Newcastle

University Library, Newcastle.

Unilever Papers Correspondence held by Unilever Art, Archives

and Records Management (UARM), Port

Sunlight, UK.

Walker Papers Correspondence, reproductions records and artist

files, held by the Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool.

Whistler Papers Correspondence of James McNeill Whistler, held

by University of Glasgow.



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