

Library Services, Archives and Special Collections

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If any living person is clearly recognisable in any photograph or other visual media, they have the right to request that it is taken down. Please see our Takedown Policy for further information.

Library Services will indicate any works provided to you that are Orphan Works. A search will need to take place to try and trace any rightsholder. Either Library Services will carry out the search, or will ask you to; in the latter case, guidance will be provided on this. A record must be kept of this search so that we can prove that efforts were made to locate a rightsholder.

- Orphan works are works where the rightsholder is not known. Many of the photographs in City Archive are Orphan Works.
- According to current UK law, such works are protected by copyright until 2039.
- Although such works can be made available to the public, there is an element of risk in doing so, in case a rightsholder comes forward and asks for compensation.

- An Orphan Works Licence can be obtained, subject to certain conditions, to allow safe use of the material. A fee is payable for this. Guidance on Orphan Works is [published by the Intellectual Property Office](#).

Please note that if a genuine rightsholder comes forward, they are entitled to request a fee for use of the work. The amount can be open to negotiation, but will need to be paid by the requestor.

Associated fees

Any fees related to an application for an Orphan Works licence (to use an image where the copyright holder is not known) will be the requestor's responsibility.

Reuse of material

- The requestor may reuse an image for the requested purpose only, for further use an additional request should be made.
- Library Services asks that anyone reusing digital images from these collections apply the following principles:
- Respect the creators – ensure traditional cultural expressions and all ethical concerns in the use of the material are considered, and any information relating to the creator is clear and accurate.
- Any adaptations made to an image should not be attributed to the original creator and should not be derogatory to the originating cultures or communities.
- Please credit the source of the material – as “reproduced with permission of City, University of London Archive”.

Related documents

Library Services Archives and Special Collections, Collection Development Policy

Library Services, Archives and Special Collections, Access to collections

Library Services, Archives and Special Collections, Handling guidelines

Library Services, Archives and Special Collections, Takedown Policy

Contact details

If you have any general questions or information relating to content please contact archives@city.ac.uk

If you have specific questions or information about use of images or other content please contact: archives@city.ac.uk

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