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As recent as a 100 years ago Anthony Trollope expressed the concern of authors about the law of copyright. He then said "take away from English authors their copyrights and you would very soon take away from England her authors". This right to artistic and literary property which had concerned man for many centuries has seen unprecedented development in the last 100 years. The importance attached to copyright in England is seen by the fact that copyright is one of the extremely few branches of the English Common Law which has been codified. These Acts have been employed to protect the property of an individual within a State. Yet

this was inadequate as copyright became an international problem and the rights of authors and other artists became national assets which had to be protected. It was this need that has resulted in international conventions to protect copyright.

This Book while giving an account of the English law of copyright including a complete and considered treatment of the Copyright Act of 1956 also explains the implications arising out of the Universal Copyright Convention signed at Geneva in 1952 which came into operation in September 1955.

This Book has the fortune which no succeeding Edition could have in that it carries with it the unrivalled authority of the late Mr. F. E. Skone James who was the acknowledged master of the Law of Copyright in England for over 30 years. He died during the preparation of this work and the Book is dedicated to him. The authors deserve to be congratulated for producing an easily comprehensible work on a subject which lawyers have far too often thought as a peculiar branch of the law only to be comprehended by the specialist practitioner in the field of copyright. This Book should help the ordinary practitioner to delve into the mysteries of the law of copyright. Its excellent and readable style would also help the laymen who may need to refer to the law of copyright particularly while he is engaged in the production or reproduction of some work of artistic or literary merit.

The Book is well arranged and the sub-classifications will help easy reference by persons engaged in particular professions. For instance, there are special sections for newspaper publishers, film producers, book publishers, authors, printers, librarians and advertising agents etc. This Book will also be useful for practitioners in Malaysia and Singapore for the law is either directly based on the United Kingdom Copyright Act or is modelled closely on it. The United Kingdom Act of 1956 applies in Sarawak and in Sabah the United Kingdom Act of 1911 is supplemented by the Copyright Ordinance (Cap. 28). In Singapore the States Settlement Copyright Ordinance is in force and this is based on the Imperial Copyright Act 1911 adjusted suitably to local circumstances. This law operates also in Penang and Malacca. There is a similar Statute which operates in the other States of Malaysia. It will therefore prove to be useful for practitioners here.

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