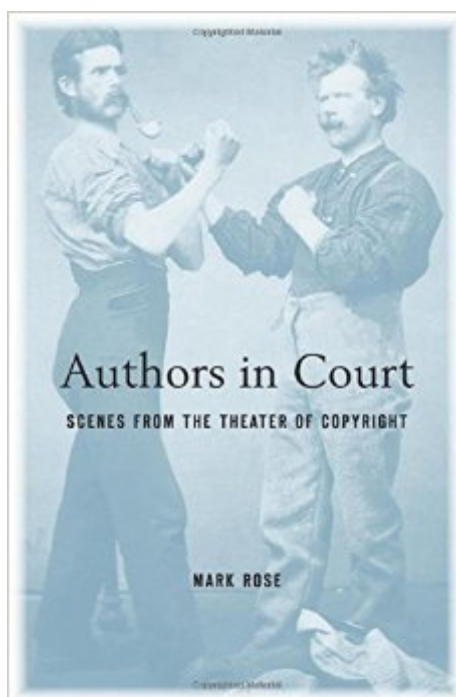


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# Authors In Court: Scenes From The Theater Of Copyright



## Synopsis

Through a series of vivid case studies, *Authors in Court* charts the 300-year-long dance between authorship and copyright that has shaped each institution's response to changing social norms of identity, privacy, and celebrity. Authors' self-presentations in court are often inflected by prevailing concepts of propriety and respectability. And judges, for their part, have not been immune to the reputation and standing of the authors who have appeared before them in legal dramas. Some authors strut their roles on the public stage. For example, Napoleon Sarony—the nineteenth-century photographer whose case established that photographs might be protected as works of art—was fond of marching along Broadway dressed in a red fez and high-top campaign boots, proclaiming his special status as a celebrity. Others, such as the reclusive J. D. Salinger, enacted their dramas precisely by shrinking from attention. Mark Rose's case studies include the flamboyant early modern writer Daniel Defoe; the self-consciously genteel poet Alexander Pope; the nineteenth-century abolitionist Harriet Beecher Stowe; the once-celebrated early twentieth-century dramatist Anne Nichols, author of *Abie's Irish Rose*; and the provocative contemporary artist Jeff Koons. These examples suggest not only how social forms such as gender and gentility have influenced the self-presentation of authors in public and in court but also how the personal styles and histories of authors have influenced the development of legal doctrine.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 240 pages

Publisher: Harvard University Press (June 6, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0674048040

ISBN-13: 978-0674048041

Product Dimensions: 0.8 x 6.5 x 9.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (2 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #487,420 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #36 in [Books > Law > Intellectual Property > Patent, Trademark & Copyright > Copyright](#) #573 in [Books > Law > Legal History](#) #727 in [Books > Reference > Writing, Research & Publishing Guides > Publishing & Books > Authorship](#)

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Says more in a slender volume than many a thousand page copyright treatise. Each chapter places

a fascinating, enjoyable story up front while quietly synthesizing and drawing out the law in the background. Why and when did copyright extend to photographs? How much of a plot line or character can a movie copy from a play? What about a sculpture based on a photograph of a couple holding eight puppies? Where did the concept of "transformative use" really come from? It's all here and much, much more. An elegant, masterful work. My only complaint is that Rose never makes it to my particular area of interest, video games. Let's hope for a sequel!

Fascinating reading!!! Informative, entertaining, accessible. Anyone who puts pen to paper will be entranced by this book!!!

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