

W. Jeffrey Smith
Attorney at Law
1216 Crenshaw Street
Newberry, SC 29108
wjstv@mindspring.com

To Whom it may concern:

I have been asked by Debby Greenlaw, author of *Krokbragd*, to address an issue which has arisen in connection with that publication. Specifically, is there any basis to assert that Ms. Greenlaw has appropriated the intellectual property of others in connection with the weaving techniques which are the subject of her publication? Upon examination of *Krokbragd*, and based on my 50 years' experience in intellectual property law, it is my opinion that there is no evidence of infringement under the U.S. Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C. 101 *et seq.* (Copyright Act) on the part of Ms. Greenlaw.

The purpose of the Copyright Act is to encourage the widespread dissemination of creativity and information to the public, and not to restrict it. The Copyright Act seeks to benefit the public at large by avoiding the permanent hoarding of useful information and ideas so that private citizens will not set themselves up as "gatekeepers" of information that could otherwise encourage continuing creativity and benefit commerce. At times unfounded infringement accusations are made by persons who either do not understand the Copyright Act and its purposes, or by those who are intentionally seeking to convince others, albeit incorrectly, that the accuser is the only person authorized to explain a subject to, or share information with, the public.

The use of books and lectures to explain how to do anything has been around for hundreds of years, but books are constantly being published with the hope that they will better explain a particular subject. This better explanation might be in the form of new diagrams or photos; a new order of presentation; an explanation of difficulties the author has faced and overcome on the road to mastery; and/or a list of other resources, past and present, that will help the reader (or listener if it is a lecture).

A credible Copyright Act infringement accusation necessarily includes 1) an understanding of the relevant Copyright Act provisions with regard to alleged infringement and 2) an ability to provide a clear side-by-side example of the alleged infringing material.

To conclude, there are thousands of how-to books on the same skill e.g. sewing, piano playing, tennis. Most have similar formats, similar photos and diagrams, and similar ideas on how to master the subject, and even similar wording and vocabulary, but that does not constitute infringement.

Ms. Greenlaw is the creator of a well-written, attractive book of the type that should encourage more wide-spread interest in the craft, and, as stated above, I have seen no evidence of any credible allegation of copyright infringement.

s/ Wm. Jeffrey Smith
Attorney at Law
July 17, 2019