

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
EASTERN DIVISION

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|--------------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| HONG KONG LEYUZHEN TECHNOLOGY, |) | |
| |) | |
| |) | |
| Plaintiff, |) | No. 25 C 15822 |
| |) | |
| v. |) | Judge Robert W. Gettleman |
| |) | |
| THE PARTNERSHIPS AND |) | |
| UNINCORPORATED ASSOCIATIONS |) | |
| IDENTIFIED ON SCHEDULE "A", |) | |
| |) | |
| Defendants. |) | |

ORDER

Plaintiff has moved for default judgment against defendants (Doc. 30). To determine whether default judgement in this matter is governed by the Hague Convention on the Service Abroad of Judicial and Extra-Judicial Documents in Civil and Commercial Matters (the "Hague Convention"), the court ordered plaintiff to file a supplemental memorandum addressing: (1) whether the addresses of defendants are known; and (2) if the addresses of defendants are not known, the efforts that plaintiff undertook to discover defendant's address (Doc. 31).

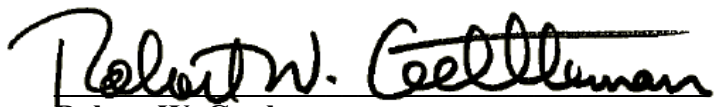
Having reviewed plaintiff's supplemental memorandum, the court finds that the Hague Convention does not govern this matter. The Hague Convention applies only where defendants' addresses are known. See 20 U.S.T. 361, Art. 1. When a plaintiff claims that defendants' addresses are unknown, "the court must assess whether Plaintiff has made reasonably diligent efforts to ascertain and verify defendant's mailing address." Peanuts Worldwide LLC v. Partnerships & Unincorporated Associations Identified on Schedule "A", 347 F.R.D. 316, 327 (N.D. Ill. 2024), appeal dismissed sub nom. Peanuts Worldwide LLC v. Electrician Guy, No. 24-

2170, 2024 WL 5297821 (7th Cir. Aug. 28, 2024) (internal quotation omitted).

Here, the court finds that plaintiff's efforts to ascertain defendants' mailing addresses were reasonably diligent in the circumstances. Plaintiff sought all known contact information for defendants from DHgate, the online marketplace that hosts defendants' storefronts, but received no addresses. Plaintiff followed up by verifying that defendants' virtual storefronts on DHgate did not list addresses. That was the extent of plaintiff's efforts. Plaintiff did not, for example, search for defendants' addresses using a search engine, or engage a Mandarin speaker or China-based investigator to try to ascertain defendants' addresses. Typically, this court would require greater effort than plaintiff undertook here. But the circumstances here are somewhat unique. Unlike other online marketplaces, DHgate does not require its sellers to provide an address. Thus, plaintiff was tasked with determining the addresses of defendants whose location information consisted of "location: China." In these circumstances, the court finds that plaintiff's efforts were reasonably diligent, if just barely.

After plaintiff made a reasonably diligent effort to ascertain and verify defendants' addresses, they remain unknown. Thus, the Hague Convention does not govern default judgment in this matter. Instead, default judgment is governed by Fed. R. Civ. P. 55. Consequently, plaintiff's motion for default judgment (Doc. 30) is GRANTED. Order to follow.

ENTER:


Robert W. Gettleman
United States District Judge

DATE: March 5, 2026

