

April 26, 1987

Dear Mr. Grentling.

Do you remember our correspondence relating to the curious ^{fact} in Alice Ford's book between pp. 82 and 83. There is a reproduction of the Great Crow Blackbird in which one can discern the lines "Engraved by W.H. Lizars".

I think I may have partially solved the problem.

In the book "The Double Elephant Folio, The Story of Audubon's Birds of America" by Waldemar Fries (pub. by the American Library Ass. 1973) the following lines are on p. 10. and relate to events in 1826 in Edinburgh.

Quote: --- took the naturalist (Audubon) to see the engraver, William Henry Lizars. At the time, Lizars was engaged in engraving illustrations for Selby's "Birds of England" as well as those for an edition of Wilson's "American Ornithology", edited by Sir William Jardine. "

more

Now I can only surmise and guess but at least it is a start as to solving the puzzle as to why the engraving is marked "Engraved by W.H. Lizans" rather than "Engraved by Alexander Lawson" as one would expect.

Perhaps Jui William Tardine had in his hands copies of Wilson's "American Ornithology" as well as Bonapartes "American Ornithology" which was frankly a completion of Wilson's unfinished work.

But although he had the books, Tardine did not have Lawson's copper plates. So Tardine simply had Lizans make fresh copper plates, exact duplicates of the illustrations in the book legend and all except for the change in the engraver's name.

All of the above is pure speculation. One would have to work in a first class natural history library with copies of all the books involved including Tardine's Scottish reprints to get a clear picture. Hope this is of some help.

Sincerely,

Jessamine M. Lee

Mrs. Francis H. Low

Miles River Rd. Pk. 1 Box 210

Easton Md. 21601

Mrs. Francis H. Low
Mile River Rd.
Rte. 1 Box 210
Easton Md. 21601



Mr. Stuart Gentling
4801 Hankley St.
Fort Worth
Texas
76107