

Subject: Of Birds and Texas permission

Date: Tuesday, April 1, 2003 3:58:30 PM

Sender: Stephen Topping <stopping@jpcolorado.com>

To: 'peggy@utpress.ppb.utexas.edu' <peggy@utpress.ppb.utexas.edu>

Dear Peggy Gough,

Johnson Books is a small, independent publisher in Boulder, Colorado. A few weeks back, I wrote to Stuart and Scott Gentling, inquiring about using one of their images (Black-Crowned Night-Heron, from page 131) on the cover of a collection of essays we would be publishing titled Rivers and Birds. I wrote directly to the artists not to circumvent the press, but because I expected you would have referred me to them anyway, as owners of the artwork.

In my message, I asked the Gentlings if they would please be merciful and allow us to reproduce the artwork at less than what I imagined would be the going rate, since we are a small publisher and further this collection of essays would be more a labor of love than a commercial project. (Our author, Merrill Gilfillan, had found the book, fell in love with it, and asked us to inquire after this particular image.)

After a little while, one of the brothers called me directly (I was so surprised, I neglected at the time to write down if I was speaking with Stuart or Scott; I think it was Stuart, but I wouldn't put money on it). To my delight and astonishment, he told us he would not charge any fee for us to use the image, but he did ask that we clear permission with your press, which explains this long message. (It felt like Christmas -- he promised to send a print for the author, which is just so sweet and generous.) I didn't think I could fit this long explanation on your web site's permissions form.

My contact information is at the bottom of this message.

The book is Rivers and Birds. Author is Merrill Gilfillan. We want to use the artwork on the cover. I guess we'd like world rights (although I doubt we'll sell any). We will publish this book on our Fall 2003 list, probably September pub date, as a trade paperback original. The book will probably run around 120 pages. We will likely print 2,000 copies, maybe only 1,500.

The artwork we are requesting is from Of Birds and Texas by Stuart and Scott Gentling. The image appears on page 131. It is titled Black-Crowned Night-Heron.

Thank you very much for your help.

Best regards,
--Stephen Topping

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