

The Institute of Texan Cultures
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File No. DF15
March 6, 1984

Mr. Stuart W. Gentling
4801 Hartley Street
Fort Worth, TX 76107

Dear Stuart:

Thank you for your long and frank letter. I, too, wish that we had continued to deal personally instead of through intermediaries. I learned long ago that two friends sitting down together can accomplish much more and more quickly than dealing through third parties.

I hope that my earlier letter didn't imply any lack of interest on my part in your paintings, the book project or the possibility of a future exhibit of your and Scott's work at The Institute. As I told you when we visited in Austin and here in San Antonio, I was absolutely entranced by the quality of your work. I was convinced then, as I am now, that such a show would be one that we could mount with pride.

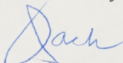
What I didn't make clear, I'm afraid, is that we do work months and years ahead. When I had no further word from you, I decided that you either had abandoned the idea of a show or that you decided to inaugurate the exhibit somewhere else. Meanwhile, our exhibits staff and research people had been wanting to do a History of Aviation thing for a long time. When we unexpectedly received a very large grant to undertake just such a project for the Sesquicentennial and found our schedule not committed, we decided to go ahead.

Whenever and wherever you decide to open your exhibit, it will be a success. And I hope that The Institute will have an opportunity to mount it sometime in the future. Although my own retirement is tentatively set for sometime in 1986, I don't think that my leaving (if, indeed, I decide to do so) will lessen this institution's interest in your work.

Mr. Gentling
Page 2
March 6, 1984

Like you, I feel that our two contacts, brief as they were, heralded the beginning of a friendship. Let's do keep in touch. I shall follow with interest the publication of the "book," the opening of the exhibit, and the tour that will follow. And I hope that in 1987 (or before, if an opening develops in our schedule) we can arrange a showing here.

Cordially,



Jack R. Maguire
Executive Director

JRM:gry