



KIRK PUBLIC RELATIONS

1511 JENNIFER STREET
RICHARDSON, TEXAS 75081
214-690-8446

June 22, 1987

Mr. Wick Allison
Publisher and Editor
Art & Antiques Magazine
89 Fifth Ave.
New York, NY 10003

Wick:

Enjoyed chatting with you today, and I appreciate your returning my call. To reiterate for clarification...

Fort Worth artists Scott and Stuart Gentling and author John Graves finished the massive, collaborative "Of Birds & Texas" in September 1986. Andrew Boynton of your staff was the first media person to receive one of the 46-pound, \$2500 art books for review on Sept. 5, 1986.

There had been no response from the magazine until A&A staffer Margo Guralnick assigned Dallas writer Sara Pentz to do a 300-word piece on the Audubon "art find" that resulted in the record sale in late May--\$253,000 for "A Pair of Boat-tailed Grackles," which eclipsed the old Audubon record of \$110,000 set in 1981 in London.

The Gentling twins, 44, were literally rescued in 1985 by the discovery and purchase of the painting from a Philadelphia print shop for \$18,000. It became the collateral that helped them complete their 10-year, \$550,00 project. About 400 of their limited edition of 525 books has been snapped up, and it's becoming a hot topic on the museum and library grapevine. Book and print dealers are buying the "book" and stripping out the 50 color plates for sale at \$200 each--a \$7,500 return on their investment!

Certainly, this story has a bit of kismet involved. They discovered Audubon's own book in the Ft. Worth Children's Museum when they were 13 and copied his works...retraced his southern trek across America when they were 16...dedicated the book to him in 1976... and the introduction mentioned the painting that had been missing for 160 years months before they discovered it. And now the Ft. Worth Museum of Sci. & History, the former Children's Museum, is purchasing the 40 bird watercolors from the book for \$300,000.

Check out the critics' praise on the back of the People Weekly reprint, and the other enclosures. The story, is well worth more than a few hundred words, and Pentz knows the whole story.

Allison, Arts & Antiques
June 22, 1987

The enclosures will give you more information for evaluation, Wick. My own news judgment may be getting in the way, but this certainly seems like an interesting story for your readers. And for the record, Scott and Stuart are known well beyond Texas as a fine portraitist and lanscape painter, respectively. They are close friends with Andrew Wyeth.

I appreciate your candor and early response. And do let me know when your next in Dallas or headed this way.

Warm regards,

Preston

Preston F. Kirk, APR

PFK/sct

cc: S & S Gentling ✓
Pentz

Encls.