

Mrs. Francis H. Low
(Susanne M. Low)
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In reference to research into the location
and provenance of all known copies of
Audubon's "Birds of America", the Double
Elephant Folio, under the aegis of the
American Museum of Natural History,
New York.

Sept. 18, 1989

Mr. Stuart Gentling
4801 Hanley St. Fort Worth, 76107

Dear Mr. Gentling,

I am writing you in reference to a letter I
wrote you July 11, 1989 and which just now is checking
back. I find I addressed it to 'Scot' instead of
'Stuart' to which I apologize.

When I didn't receive any answer from you
I assumed that either I had the wrong address or
that to true reason you chose 'no comment'.

I have just received a letter from Alice Ford
written in answer to me. I wrote requesting data
on a completely different matter. In my letter to her
I related the story of my coming upon your Great
Crow Blackbird painting simply because I thought
it would amuse her and add a light touch to my letter.

Her reply to me was a little confusing. She

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knew nothing of what I asked her about but she did comment on the Great Cow Blackbird.

To start she said she had never heard of me or my work (in spite of the fact that Asheville brought out our books at the same time feeling one would help the other). She then said that you had sent her a copy of my July 11 letter to you. So now that I know from that, that you received my letter, I thought I should tell you that if you answered it I never received your answer.

She expressed two opinions that I found very curious. One was that I should not keep the name of the current owner to myself. Surely she does not think I should break my word to someone whose hospitality I was receiving. That would be most dishonorable. Secondly she seemed to feel the current owner had ^{no} ~~no~~ right to the painting but should give it away to a public institution. Do you suppose she carries this

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believe all the way and feels all private owners should give away all their treasures?

Supposing all private collections were suddenly given to public institutions. Where would enough room be found to house them and who would pay for their care and security? Your taxes and mine I guess.

I enclose a copy of my original letter to you and would so appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,
Susan W. L. W.
(Mrs. Francis H. W.)