22 December 1986

Dear Christmas

I am writing you this letter to inform you that as of January 1st 1987 I can not grant you exclusive right to deal for me in the sale of our Audubon painting of the Boat-tailed Grackles. Frankly I was somewhat surprised when I received a letter from Avalon Archer several weeks ago stating what I thought he would do - going behind your back to get my permission to sell the Audubon.

I told you that I would not deal with that man, and I meant it. What was also disturbing was a Xeroxed copy of a letter sent out by to prospective clients by a mid Atlantic print dealer whom I never heard of. The facts stated in this letter were mostly incorrect and the fact that nowhere was there mentioned that this Grackle painting was Audubon's first published work and the only Audubon bird painting published in Audubon's lifetime that remains in private hands. No wonder you received no offer over $150,000.

It is frustrating to provide all the research materials and documentation to a dealer made by others and have such a feeble effort to communicate the importance of this painting to potential clients.