

James Holman

1 September 1982

Dear David,

John Grace and I have
had a meeting of the minds as
far as his participation ^{in our project} is concerned.
~~He will write~~ He saw ^{all of} our birds
together for the very first time and is
so enthusiastic that he is going to
contribute a major literary effort
to the publication instead of ^{just} a simple
introduction. He will write ^{between} 7,500
~~words~~ and 12,000 words, and this
should make our book very special
in all respects - in ^{the} design, in the text,
and in the pictures.

David, it is time now for
you, Scott and me to reach a total
understanding of what you will
need ^{in order} to participate fully in producing
the Bird Book. I want our relationship
to be clearly spelled out on paper
so that there will be as little
misunderstanding as possible. I am
enclosing a separate page of items to be
considered for a contract. They are points
which have come to mind, and I
am certain that I have not thought
of everything. They should provide
us both with a ~~platform~~ base from

which to negotiate a working contract. I am sure that I have left items out

David, consider the points that I have raised and add anything that you think is pertinent. When we have reached an meeting of the minds, I will turn our agreement over to my attorney, Bill Collins, for his final perusal and then we shall meet either here or in Austin to sign it. It is important ~~even if we must be silent~~ that there be as few ambiguities as possible in our relationships.

While we are working out the contract there are ^{some preliminary} ~~a few~~ things that I need to know as soon as possible.

If Scott and I have all the necessary material in your hands by June 1st 1982 ready for printing and binding. —

1) How long will it take to produce the first 100 books for delivery.

2) How long ^{ahead of time} ~~order~~ will we need to ^{order} ~~acquire~~ materials so that full production may begin when we deliver the paintings and the text for printing.

David, please consider these points that I have raised and add anything that you may think is pertinent.

Because of the complexity of the enterprise and the great amount of money involved, it is most important that we have a complete mutual understanding of the ~~part~~ responsibilities and obligations each of us is to bear. I want there ^{to be} a minimum of ambiguity. I have never been involved in the book publishing business ^{before} and I am sure that my attorney, thorough as he is, ^{also} does not know the fine points of publishing contracts. ^{Since} you ^{must be} familiar with the publishing business in all of its intricacies, I would prefer that you submit a contract to me first. We will discuss the relevant points, reach a meeting of the minds and then only after you and I understand each other will I turn ^{the contract} it over to my attorney. He is a hell dog who tends to see a relationship as a potential adversarial one, and it will be easy to keep him on a leash if you and I understand each other beforehand.

more

~~David~~
David

I would like you to consider the following questions: points.

1) I will have all materials ~~to~~^{be} painted in your hands by June 1st 1952. This will include A) 40 completed paintings of Birds.

B) 5 Completed landscapes of the region of Texas.

C) The Comments upon each plate to be written by Scott and me.

D) The text by John Brown of 7,500 to 12,000 words.

If I have ^{everything} ~~all~~ ready to begin publishing on June 1st, how soon ahead of time must we order all materials, papers, cloth, ~~boards~~ leather, boards etc which you will need to immediately begin your task?

2) Once you begin your task, how long will it be from the time that you begin until the time you have at least 100 volumes and their cases ready to deliver?

David, these two questions are the questions most often put to me. My clients are willing to be patient but they do ~~not~~ ^{at times} have a right to have a general idea about when to expect delivery. I would like to be able to take advantage of the Autumn, pre-Christmas book season,

In closing let me say that though June
1st. is nine months away, those months
will slip by all too quickly. Sadly enough,
the one aspect about this project which
~~bothers~~ ^{bothers} me is not ^{the} ~~the~~ delivering the completed
paintings or text on time, nor the question
of sales; it is the coordination of all the
complex elements of printing, and publishing,
and ~~also~~ shipping which causes me
the most loss of sleep. ~~After~~ I have tried
to make the necessary provision for you
to make a great deal of money from this
enterprise, but you will be earning every
cent of it. Though Scott and I will
be bearing all the financial risk for this
venture, the success of this project in terms
of its timely completion rest more squarely
on your shoulders than upon those of anybody
else.

As you know, Scott and I have in mind
the creation of a team to produce a number
of books in the future. John Greer said that
he would like to part of that team also. This
first book is so important. It is a test for
all of us. I know that we are bound to
make some mistakes but if we can learn
from those mistakes with this first volume,
then we will have a much smoother time

in producing future work. The Contract ^{agreement} ✓
which we made for this book does not
necessarily need to serve as ~~the~~ a contract
paradigm for the next book. Scott and
I want to be flexible so that we may all
make the necessary adjustment as our
relationship grows and changes.

Say hello to Shelly and baby
for Scott and me. Until then, I will
be waiting to hear from you and to consider
any additional ideas for our contract which
you wish to suggest. Until then I remain -

Sincerely yours,
Scott