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Yersted
Mr. & Limbucker
Triton Press Inc.
263 Ninth Avenue
New York, N. Y. 10001

17 Nov. 1973

Dear Sir:

~~My brother, Scott Gentling, and I currently
finishing the preparation of a series of paintings of birds of Texas as Texas birds
are~~

My brother, Scott Gentling, and I currently
finishing the preparation of a series of paintings
of Texas birds for what, I think, will be an
extremely important book to be published in
1974. This book to be titled, "Of Birds and Texas",
will be issued unbound in a fine hand
made ^{linen covered} ~~not covered with~~ linen. There will
be approximately 40 reproductions, and
these reproductions ~~will be~~ as well as the
pages of text will be of ^{the} Imperial Folio
size of 22" by 28". The main body of the text
will be a separate work of art, written by
John Graves who is unanimously considered
the finest prose writer in Texas. His books ^{such as} ~~like~~
"Goodbye to a River", "Hard Scrabble" and
"The Fast Running" are classics of Texas
literature. In addition to Graves, David
Holman of Wind River Press in Austin who

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is one of our best book designers will be in charge of the overall design of this book. This creative combination will result in what John Chalmers, Assistant Director of the Humanities Research Center (the rare book library at the University of Texas) has declared to be the most impressive publication of its kind in the history of Texas publishing.

The book itself will sell at an issue price of \$2500, and as of this writing we have already sold about 150 books. All of these sales have been made without the benefit of any promotion effort on our part. Our promotional campaign will not actually begin until we are about ready to go to press in 1984. I believe that one important reason to explain the ease with which this book sells besides its obvious quality is that it will be chosen by the State of Texas as an art project to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Texas Independence in 1986. The edition will be limited to not more than 750 copies plus 25 artist's copies. I have little doubt that we will sell out the entire edition right here in the State of Texas if we so choose. You must forgive my lack of modesty about this project, but it is a truly exceptional

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endeavor. I might add that I have not been turned down by one person who could afford the book. I ~~literally~~ and the people working for me have literally had a 100% sales record, all accomplished by explaining the project, naming the collaborators, and showing the original paintings, which hang in my office here in Ft. Worth. I have included a number of photographs to give you an idea of what the paintings look like. Most of the compositions in ^{these} photos are cropped so that you can not see the whole picture, and the color is poor, because these are only proof photographs. All of the original paintings ~~are~~ measure 22" by 28", the same size in which they will be reproduced.

Mr. Linbocker, I am currently exploring all avenues ~~to~~ in an attempt to secure the finest color work for the book. I am investigating printers here in Texas and throughout the United States, ~~and~~ Europe and Japan. Over the years I have received a number of advertisements from Triton Press. In fact my brother and I purchased the from your company the print titled "The ~~Quaker~~ Quaker" by Andy Wyeth.

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You might be interested to know that Scott and I gave Andy the two 18th century coats which he painted in that picture. Both Scott and I are Alumni of the Pennsylvania Academy of The Fine Arts where we studied under John McCoy, Andrew Wyeth's brother in law and a fine artist in his own right. I might ^{mention} ~~add~~ here that the painting of birds forms only a very small percentage of our output. We are essentially painters of still lifes, landscapes and portraits and not really wildlife painters at all. ~~We~~ ~~keep a fairly low~~ Until the publication of this book we have kept a fairly low profile, but our paintings are in important collections throughout this country and in Europe, Japan, ~~Russia~~ South Africa and even the Soviet Union. President Reagan owns work by Scott and in fact The White House has asked Scott or me to do the 1984 Christmas Card for President and Mrs. Reagan.

~~Please send items as to what~~

If you would like to see two examples of our work there is an article in last October's Architectural Digest by Michael Thomas, the writer and art critic, showing two of our

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paintings in his collection.

I really have no idea what your policy may be concerning artists whom you have not chosen utilizing your facilities. I must ~~complement~~ ^{ON} compliment you on the quality your work at Triton Press. Because the collatype process avoids the dot system of standard offset lithography, a much clearer image, the kind of image I would like, can be achieved. Many of our paintings must be done in more than four color, and your printers seem to be masters of color. at handling color. I have no idea whether or not your press can print a picture in Imperial Folio size or how much time it would take to print 40 reproductions. These and many other questions concerning costs and logistics remain to be considered. One thing is for certain, that my brother and I want to produce in this book the finest publication that we can afford, and I will leave no stone unturned in investigating all available printing sources. I would be very interested in what you might have to say about our project and whether or not Triton Press might ^{in other words} help us. I am looking forward to hearing from you. Until then I remain, sir
most respectfully, yours