



October 29, 1985

Stuart Gentling
The Gentling Book of Texas Birds
902 Boland Street
Fort Worth, Texas 76107

Dear Stuart:

I appreciate receiving your letter of October 21st, 1985 but I was sad to learn that you hadn't reserved adequate funds to complete the printing of the book.

You have requested that I contact my suppliers for additional credit to complete the work, deliver the finished book to you, and you would then pay me after you had collected income from the sale of the book.

Unfortunately, I do not have the resources to finance a publisher. As made clear in our contract--I am a printer and not a publisher.

The purpose of the formal contract signed on Feb 8, 1985 was to provide a series of payments as the work proceeded--every third plate to be invoiced for payment. However, as you requested, I held up on the billing until I completed a larger number of plates. And this has postponed the weekly flow of income which I need to operate. Because you have been consistently late in responding to my invoices, any work done in the future will require payment in 7 days--payable prior to being shipped.

I agree with you that you and Scott have come a very long way on this project, but I cannot accept your contention that I am responsible for the book being late, and that these delays have caused your financial difficulties. If your payments had been on time I would be finished with the color work except for those paintings you still have not completed. Without completing your end of the production, how could any printer be finished? For a publisher who is in a rush to complete a project, taking 60 days to respond to invoices does not show any urgency for production. I still have not received the 5 chromalins sent to you on October 22. My letterpress has sat idle for months waiting for you to complete the ms.

As for advice, I will give advice if asked for it. One would assume that a businessman with a battery of lawyers, an accountant, business manager and secretary is being given plenty of advice. Here is my advice: arrange for your own financing, get that money out of your hands and into an escrow account to pay your bills, and be honest with me.

In your letter you claim that honesty is the best policy, yet you have not been honest with me concerning your finances. You told me that the first payment of \$100,000 from the museum would be earmarked for production, but now you have admitted that it must go back to the bank to repay a loan.



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As for schedules concerning deadlines for ms. corrections, deliveries of original paintings and transparencies, time required for printing the text and colorwork, etc.,--it has and always will be ASAP when you are trying to complete a project ASAP. A little common sense dictates that concept. It is ludicrous for me to announce any kind of printing schedule when you refuse to pay me by any kind of schedule but your own.

I am pleased as you are that you have accepted the quality of printing done so far (with the exception of Red Oak, which was attempted with a faulty transparency), and hope that you can solve your difficulties soon enough for production to begin again.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'David Holman'.

David Holman