

CENTER FOR Texas Studies



July 6, 1987

Dear Stuart,

The "bird book" keeps rolling along! I either see something about you and Scott (as in the DALLAS LIFE piece) or have someone asking me about it from the FOCUS ON TEXAS paragraph I did. It has surprised me how much response that little newsletter has gotten. And we appreciate your joining the Center Friends. We're getting out another Newsletter later this summer. I guess it is our selective mailing list has paid off in interest and quality of response! (Besides, we can't afford to waste postage.)

In September, the Center for Texas Studies takes on its most ambitious task but one we are looking forward to as a real contribution to the Texas writing/arts/book world. We have recently been given the title to TEXAS BOOKS IN REVIEW, a very valuable publication unlike anything else in Texas, which was issued sporadically by Tarleton State on a once-per-year basis. The Tarleton editors, while capable themselves, didn't have enough access to a statewide system of reviewers and writers, but mainly, could not afford to issue the publication more than once a year--if then (the last one was in 1984).

We are going to issue TBR every quarter, in a 32-page format, with a listing of all the books published in Texas as well as a good many columns and reviews. One of the major reviews the first issue will be of OF BIRDS AND TEXAS by Al Lowman, who is probably Texas' best known book collector. Al will review it from the standpoint of collectability, rarity, and status among fine printings from Texas history. His review will cover a full page. What we were wondering is, knowing that an artist's work is his life, whether you would feel "right" about loaning us a sheet or note page whereon you had done some rough sketches, line drawings, doodling . . . that could run full page opposite the review. We will be printing in two colors, but the paper for these first issues will be a step above newsprint. I can assure you, we will return the sheet or piece just as quickly as it can be photographed for offset, we will stick a copyright line on whatever we use, and will enlarge or shrink (either way) so that copying would be useless. I know this is a touchy area for any artist, but we think such artwork to accompany Al's review will enhance the TBR, the review, and the book's interest. (And I certainly didn't mean to exclude Scott, either.)

If this is impossible for any reason, don't hesitate for a moment or think you might "hurt our feelings" saying no--and will certainly in no way effect the review. Our first printing of TBR will be 1,500 most of which will go to libraries, but we already have several subscriptions, just from a small story Bob Compton ran in the Dallas News.

regards.....



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