

26 August 1987

Judith Cressy, managing editor
Arts and Antiques
89 Fifth Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10003

Dear Ms. Cressy:

Last September I sent a copy of our recently-published book, OF BIRDS AND TEXAS, to Andrew Boynton for his inspection and possibly a review in your magazine. After receiving the book he called me to say that, inspite of the fact that he was impressed with the work, he was not exactly certain how Art and Antiques would deal with it. He said that he wanted to do something, but he did not know exactly from what angle the magazine might approach the book project. I told him that the magazine could hold on to the book as long as it was needed and that I would wait until I was contacted by him. I have not heard another word from Art and Antiques since that day. I really do not think that the book is very hard to misplace. It is a Great Imperial Folio of color plates and letterpress text, and it weighs 46 pounds. The book has a retail value of \$2,500, and I would greatly appreciate its return. I am not going to make any trouble with the magazine about this, but since this limited edition of 500 copies is almost sold out, I want to place every book where it will do the most good.

To better acquaint you with OF BIRDS AND TEXAS I am sending you a tube containing a few pages from the book and some background materials including comments from important art and book people. OF BIRDS AND TEXAS is by all accounts one of the most impressive publications of its kind produced in this country in the twentieth century. The fact that my twin brother and I dedicated it to John James Audubon before we discovered and purchased and authenticated a long-lost Audubon bird painting certainly enhances the uniqueness and the news-worthiness of our project. We sold the painting last May at Sotheby's in New York amid a great deal of publicity. The painting was Audubon's first published work, and at the time we sold it, the picture was the only Audubon bird painting published in the artist's lifetime remaining in private hands. We paid \$18,000 for the painting. It sold at Sotheby's for \$253,000 — the highest price ever paid for an Audubon bird painting at auction.

I would like to say that I have long been a reader and subscriber to Art and Antiques and that your magazine was the very first news publication of its kind that I contacted when our book was finally published. I am still

rather surprized that the magazine found it difficult to do a story on us. Even though we no longer need the publicity and almost all the books have now sold out, I would still like you to reconsider giving the book a review. I really want as many people as possible to know about this ten-year project. In the meantime, I would appreciate it if you could make some inquiries about our 46 pound Imperial Folio and see that it is returned to me. I will, of course, pay all costs. If you have any questions, I can be reached at my home number (817) 738 4427 or my studio (with answering service) 332-7059.

Thankyou,

Stuart W. Gentling
480I Harley Street
Fort Worth, Texas 76107