

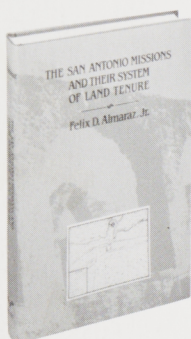
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JANUARY, 1989

Southwestern
Historical
Quarterly



The Texas State Historical Association

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January 10, 1989

Scott and Stuart Gentling
4801 Harely
Ft. Worth, Texas 76107

Dear Scott and Stuart:

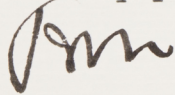
I am enclosing an advance copy of the cover of the January issue of the Southwestern Historical Quarterly which has your Wild Turkey on it. I think it turned out very well and will make a handsome cover for the Quarterly.

I will send you copies of the review as soon as we have them.

This whole endeavor has been most enjoyable and I really appreciate your encouragement and cooperation throughout.

Best wishes.

Sincerely yours,



Ron Tyler
Director

RT:jet
Encl.

Ron's Home Number
1-512-499 0769

Cover: *Wild Turkey*
38½ × 29½ inch

The striking im
nal watercolor
monumental be
viewed in this is
this plate in the
"We agree with
be this country"
would be hard-
more represent
ground for our
north of Austin
Hill Country. T
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Cover: *Wild Turkey* by Scott Gentling, 1986. Dry brush watercolor on paper, $38\frac{1}{2} \times 29\frac{1}{2}$ inches. *Courtesy Fort Worth Museum of Science and History.*

The striking image of the turkey on the cover was taken from the original watercolor that was used as plate XVI in *Of Birds and Texas*, the monumental book by brothers Scott and Stuart Gentling that is reviewed in this issue of the *Quarterly*. The commentary that accompanies this plate in the book relates the artists' feelings about their subject: "We agree with Dr. Benjamin Franklin who wanted the Wild Turkey to be this country's national symbol instead of the Bald Eagle. Indeed one would be hard-pressed to find a bird more thoroughly American or more representative of the wilderness of this new land. . . . As a background for our plate, we chose a beautiful stretch of countryside just north of Austin where the land begins to give hints of the approaching Hill Country. This young turkey, startled by something outside the picture plane, is about to take wing for the brush cover on the other side of the road. The road itself leads the eye to a distant and almost limitless Texas horizon."



The Texas State Historical Association

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Dear Stuart -

The Turkey on The
Quarterly cover was a big hit -
as was the caracara inside.

Thanks for all of your help over
the weeks and months. And
thanks also for donating a copy
of Of Birds ... to The auction.

It was, once again, a hot item.

One of these days I'm going to get
your prints framed - they are first on
my list. I was out hunting quail
on a ranch in Shackelford County
two weeks ago and saw a flock of
(over)

well over a hundred turkeys. I
walked towards them and they took to
the air. Believe me, seeing a hundred
wild turkeys soaring over the Clear
Fork of the Brazos is a sight to
behold.

Thanks again, Stuart.

Best,
Gerge Ward