

STUART W. GENTLING

The year 1986 will be a very special year for Texans. It marks the 150th anniversary of Texas Independence. To commemorate this special event we wish to announce with pride the forthcoming publication of a monumental new book titled, "Of Birds and Texas," by Scott and Stuart Gentling and John Graves. The Gentlings have worked for over seven years to ^{create} produce the forty-five paintings which are reproduced in this remarkable book. Forty of the offset color lithographic plates are of Texas birds depicted against backgrounds of the State's many different regions, showing the changes of seasons and weather and the different times of day and night. The five additional plates will deal more exclusively with the land and people of Texas painted in the Gentlings' more familiar drybrush watercolor style. Stuart Gentling will contribute an introduction to the book, and either he or his brother, Scott, will write one page of commentary to precede each of the color plates. Accompanying the Gentlings' text and plates will be a major new work by Texan, John Graves, certainly one of the most respected prose writers in the United States today. The forward will be written by Harry Tennison, an international sportsman and conservationist and currently President of Game Conservation International. Both Graves and Tennison are long time friends of the artists.

Both plates and text will be printed in the great Imperial Folio size of 22"X28", a format rarely used for books today and, to the best of our knowledge, never before attempted in Texas. As with many fine art publications of this importance, the pages of this book will not be bound but will be contained in a fine handmade linen-covered box. Only the best PH neutral (acid-free) materials will be used in the printing of the book and in the manufacture of the box that will hold it. The design and printing of the text will be by award-winning printer, David Holman, and his Wind River Press at Austin. The edition limit of the book is 500 copies plus 25 artists' copies, and the edition limit of each individual reproduction in the book is 750.

This impressive work, "Of Birds and Texas", is certain to become a classic in the history of Texas publishing. Its creation will be the product of

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a unique combination of unique talents drawn from the exacting disciplines of painting, literature, design and printing. This book then will be an appropriate monument to celebrate the 1986 Texas Sesquicentennial, and as such it will have been created to celebrate our present, to commemorate our past, and to provide us and our descendants with a truly exceptional heirloom for the future.