

Richmond, VA Times Dispatch

MAY 1987

Lost painting brings \$253,000

FORT WORTH, Texas (UPI) — A John James Audubon painting rediscovered by two artist brothers was auctioned Thursday for \$253,000.

The painting, "The Great Crow Blackbird," had been believed lost or missing for 160 years before its discovery in 1984 by Fort Worth artists Scott and Stuart Gentling, who paid \$18,000 for it.

It was sold Thursday at the New York auction house Sotheby's to an unidentified New York art dealer. Another Audubon painting sold in 1981 for \$110,000, said a spokesman for the Gentlings.

The brothers used their discovery of the Audubon painting to finance a 22-inch by 28-inch book titled "Of Birds and Texas" that they dedicated

to the wildlife artist. The book was limited to 525 copies at \$2,500 each and is virtually sold out.

The Gentlings, who are twins, began work in 1977 on their collection of 50 paintings, 40 of Texas birds and 10 landscapes. Eight years later, Stuart Gentling discovered the "The Great Crow Blackbird" painting in a Philadelphia art dealer's catalog, and the brothers purchased it the same day.

With the painting as collateral, the Gentlings received the financial backing to complete "Of Birds and Texas." The original paintings have been sold to the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History for \$300,000.

BRIDGE

By Charles H. Goren
and Omar Sharif

What do you bid now?

Q: Both vulnerable, as South you

A: This is simply a matter of addition. Partner is showing a balanced hand of 19-20 points and you have a



CINEPLEX
AND NEIGHBORHOOD