

major new work by John Graves is a publishing event of ^{major} ~~great~~ importance.

In addition to the contribution made by the Gentles and John Graves, the book itself will be designed ^{and printed} by David Holman and his Wind River Press at Austin. David will collaborate on the project with his father, William Holman. Both men have ^{made} ~~totalized~~ the Holman name synonymous with the very best in ^{the} fine art design of book design and printing. (See "Printing Arts in Texas" (1975) by Al Bowman.)

Though the book, "of Birds and Things" ~~was~~ is intended to be primarily a work of art and literature, it is also ~~a work of art~~ ^{being created} ~~to pay~~ ^{to pay} homage to the state's natural ^{history} beauty and to ^{on certain} ~~some~~ extent reflect ^{some aspects of it.} its cultural past and present. The book is ~~primarily~~ ^{primarily} a work of ornithology and not a work of science. It is a work of ornithology, but it is not intended to be a work of science.

Scott and I have been actively engaged for seven years in creating the paintings for this book. From the beginning, it has been our aim to keep the painters together as a complete collection and we have managed to do so at the cost of ^{at the cost of} ~~at~~ considerable effort and sacrifice.

It should be kept in mind that despite of the fact that the book is a work of ornithology it is not a work of science.

It is our desire
It has also been our desire that ~~this~~
this collection ~~should~~ remain in Fort Worth,
the city where ~~they~~^{it was} created, or at the very
least that ~~they~~^{it} remain in Texas, I would
be simple enough to give ~~them~~^{the paintings} to an appropriate
institution to defray the tax burden that
this successful enterprise has placed upon
us, but the tax laws of our country will permit
us or Scott and me only to deduct the cost
of materials - ~~not~~ the value of the paintings, ^{themselves}
Since the ^{value of the} paintings is recognized as collateral
by Bondsmen this collection ^{might} better serve
our business ~~interests~~^{needs} for future
profits if we ^{simply} kept ~~them~~^{them} in our
own possession, rather than giving them away. As our
historical and artistic importance of the ^{throughout State}
the book becomes more widely known, the
paintings will ^{greatly} increase in value both in financial
terms and for promotional uses.

Scott and I will have to weigh the
advantages of keeping the collection against
the advantages of having ^{it} in an institution where
it could be seen and enjoyed by thousands of people.
The Fort Worth Museum of Science and History is, we think,
the best place to become a home for this important
collection. Should the museum be interested, the
earliest ^{date} opportunity for the paintings to be sold
should be sometime in late 1985 or early 1986. Because
this would be an expensive purchase and

a long term arrangement for payment would
be of advantage to both the museum and
to Scott and me. If the museum purchases
the collection it will receive along with
the paintings all preliminary ^{drawing} studies, all files
and ^{pertinent} correspondence relating the book
project and ^{the} original signed drafts of the text
by John Graves and the Gentling's ^{own} commentaries ^{to the} picture.
It is a rather unique opportunity to bring together
all ^{the} research materials to what is most likely
to remain a unique and historically important
publishing enterprise ^{created} ^{managing} ^{person} ^{and} ^{celebration} ^{to} ^{have} ^{to} ^{have} the state
in its subsequent years.

We are ^{presently} contemplating putting a the collection
on a tour throughout the state as soon as the
printing of the book is completed. This exposure is bound
to ~~bring~~ ^{arouse} ^{the} interest of potential collectors be
they individuals, institutions or corporations ^{for foot}. One
major corporation has already expressed its interest
in buying the collection and putting it on a tour
of its offices in 80 countries world wide. For
the time being Scott and I see no need to rush
events. As I have said, we would very much like
for the paintings to remain at home in Fort Worth and
to belong to an institution which could exhibit
them to the greatest number of people. The Museum
of Science and History ^{fits their requirements perfectly.} ~~would be a great home~~

If we can agree on the price and on a ^{mutually} convenient schedule of payment, and if the museum should draft ^{us} a letter of interest or intent, ^{when we decide to sell the on the terms to sell the pictures we} ~~we~~ shall honor the terms agreed upon no matter how much the painting should increase in value as the result of a State wide tour and the forthcoming sesquicentennial publicity.