

Richard Digger

Oct 18, early

Snow Goose

Roseate Spoon

686..40

gone as our  
primes-  
for

To show our gratitude  
we are sending 2 copies of —

As 1954 Comes to a Close

As we look ahead to the final days of 1954 we thought that it would be appropriate to <sup>show our</sup> thank those of you who have supported the efforts of the Museum of Science and History to ~~acquire~~ <sup>purchase</sup> the Bentler Collection of 40 original bird paintings from their book "OF BIRDS AND TEXAS." We also wish to take this opportunity to summarize the museum's fund-raising progress to date. So far 10 paintings have been purchased outright and donated to the Museum. In addition to these complete purchases 14 <sup>more</sup> ~~other~~ paintings have been spoken for and <sup>made for most of these pictures to secure</sup> partial payments have been donated. To secure these pictures for the museum. ~~We are currently seeking~~ 16 more paintings remain for which there have been no financial commitments made. Considering the financial difficulties which many Texas and Texas Institutions have had to face since the Museum briefly displayed the Bentler paintings last January, we believe are pleased with the progress made so far in the museum's ~~ongoing~~ program to acquire this important collection. In fact many people believe that <sup>all</sup> the ~~entire~~ 40 paintings have already been purchased and that contributions are no longer being sought. Contributions are indeed being sought, <sup>as</sup> and this will be discussed below.

Since last January a number of important events have occurred concerning the collection and

Call  
Jim &  
John

as of this writing

\$ 7,500

to put  
money behind  
the collection  
paintings, we  
already have  
purchased!



The many of all the people they wish to memorialize  
 Contributor will be MASTER  
 recorded on a plaque and those help in  
 who contribute more of the purchase of a painting  
 will be acknowledged <sup>separately</sup>  
 and Card for each picture in  
 that display.

As many people  
 inquire the status when  
 it is met in display  
 this journey

In addition  
 to the Dallas  
 show

the Audubon book for which it was created.  
 After a delay of more than a year and a half <sup>the</sup> book  
 OF BIRDS AND TREES has finally been published  
 and has been received with astonishment and praise.  
 The San Antonio Express-News recently called it  
 "the largest and most expensive book ever published  
 in Texas.... destined to become the Audubon  
 of Rose Tiltona.... the most ambitious one-man  
 printing venture ever attempted, it is a masterpiece  
 of its kind." This enthusiasm is <sup>public</sup> <sup>for the book and the collection</sup> <sup>being</sup> shared by  
 a number of institutions both within and outside  
 the state. The original paintings are currently  
 on display at the Dallas Museum of Natural  
 History <sup>at Fair Park</sup> where they were shown during the  
 Sesqui-centennial State Fair. The exhibition <sup>has</sup> <sup>to be</sup> proved so popular that the museum has  
 requested and received permission to display  
 the paintings for two more months. The <sup>view</sup> <sup>and</sup> <sup>the</sup> collection  
 will be on view in Dallas until January 4th.  
 The prestigious Institute of Texan Cultures in  
 San Antonio has <sup>also</sup> requested to exhibit the collection,  
 and it is expected that the paintings will <sup>be</sup> on  
 display there in San Antonio from early March  
 until late April when they will return to  
 Fort Worth. <sup>The Fort Worth</sup> Because the Museum of Science and  
 History <sup>there</sup> was only able to schedule a brief  
 exhibition of the paintings <sup>for</sup> in January when Rodro



Conclusion

traffic and parking, ~~problems~~ make it difficult for many Fort Worthers to visit the show, the museum plans to <sup>plans</sup> ~~decide~~ prominently display all forty paintings for a six-month ~~period~~ <sup>period</sup> beginning in late April or early May. Many important libraries and museums throughout the state have already acquired the Gentling book. However, only one institution can own the original Gentling <sup>original</sup> paintings. ~~Created~~ <sup>Created</sup> for the book. The Museum of Science and History is particularly pleased to have the opportunity to purchase this collection which was created in Fort Worth and to ~~offer~~ display it for the benefit of our city. Because the paintings are both works of art and natural history and are <sup>as well as important</sup> part of the history of Texas publishing, the collection encompasses several of the museum's most <sup>significant</sup> ~~important~~ areas of interest. <sup>and</sup> It is particularly satisfying to see that other museums and institutions throughout the state agree. However, <sup>insightful</sup> ~~insightful~~ <sup>during 1986</sup> of the progress which has been made, the Museum of Science and History has much work to do to complete the task of raising the remainings, funds needed to secure the collection for Fort Worth. In spite of its ~~many~~ other fund-raising commitments many of which are concerned with the <sup>important to do</sup> ~~priority~~ <sup>practical</sup> of keeping the doors open and the lights turned on etc., the museum <sup>in 1986</sup> ~~is~~



going to make every effort <sup>where the Gentling had</sup> ~~when the~~ to raise  
public awareness of the ~~fact~~ <sup>fact</sup> that the  
Collection has not yet been purchased in its  
entirety and ~~it is~~ the museum will intensify  
its <sup>work</sup> efforts to raise the ~~remaining funds~~ <sup>money</sup> needed. Although the Gentlings granted the  
museum as much as eight years to <sup>buy</sup> purchase  
the paintings when they agreed to the sale  
in 1975 (4) 1984 and signed the Purchase  
Contract in 1985, the museum has had  
an understanding <sup>with them</sup> that it would try to ~~make~~  
the purchase as quickly as possible <sup>have the</sup>  
money as quickly as possible and <sup>if possible</sup> to make  
full payment within a period of 3 years.

To little more than a year 24 Paintings have  
been <sup>shown for contribution by</sup> ~~spoken for by~~ <sup>friends of the Museum</sup> ~~contributed~~ <sup>which</sup>  
is more than half the Collection, and in spite of  
<sup>the worst</sup> a year of financial <sup>difficulties</sup> for Texans since the Great Depression,  
the museum and the Gentlings have been greatly  
encouraged by the response so far. When the Exhibition  
of the ~~Gentling~~ <sup>Ward Beach</sup> originals opens here in the Spring the  
museum is looking forward to adding more paintings to  
its <sup>growing</sup> list of Gentling acquisitions.

For those friends of the museum who  
might be interested in contributing a painting  
before the end of 1986 the purchase price of  
each painting is \$7,500. <sup>They</sup> names of all  
Contributors of <sup>good</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>as they</sup> ~~one~~ <sup>people</sup> ~~are sure~~ <sup>would</sup> they wish





little      For your information accompanying this letter  
is a list of all <sup>40</sup> the paintings of the Gentling collection,  
~~with~~ designating those pictures which have been <sup>completely</sup> purchased,  
and partially purchased and those 16 works which remain to  
be ordered for.