

THE FORT WORTH MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND HISTORY
PROGRESS REPORT -- THE GENTLING COLLECTION

As we look ahead to the final days of 1986, we would like to thank those of you who have supported the efforts of the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History to purchase the Gentling collection of 40 original bird paintings from their book, OF BIRDS AND TEXAS. We wish to take the opportunity to summarize the museum's progress to date. So far, 12 paintings have been purchased outright and donated to the museum. In addition to these complete purchases, 12 more paintings have been spoken for, and significant partial payments have been made for most of them to secure these pictures for the museum. At the time of this writing, 16 more paintings remain to be purchased and donated by interested patrons. Considering the financial difficulties which many Texans and Texas institutions have had to face since the museum briefly displayed the Gentling paintings last January and began to raise money, the fact that 24 have been committed to the museum in less than a year is a most impressive accomplishment.

Since last January, a number of important events have occurred concerning the Gentling collection and the book for which it was created. Having been published in July of this year, the book has been universally received with astonishment and praise as one of the most important publications ever created in Texas. The San Antonio Express-News recently called it "the largest and most expensive book ever published in Texas. . . . destined to become the Audubon of rare Texana the most ambitious one-man printing venture ever attempted it is a masterwork of its kind." Such enthusiasm for the book and the collection is being shared by a number of public institutions throughout the state. The original paintings are currently on display at the Dallas Museum of Natural History at Fair Park where they were part of the Museum's Sesquicentennial display at the Texas State Fair. The exhibition proved to be so popular that the Dallas museum requested and received permission to show the paintings for two more months. They will remain on view in

Dallas until early January 1987. The prestigious Institute of Texan cultures in San Antonio has also asked the Museum of Science and History here to allow it to exhibit the collection, and the paintings will go on display in San Antonio from March 3rd through April 5th, when they will return to Fort Worth.

Since the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History was only able to schedule a brief exhibition of the paintings last January when parking problems due to rodeo traffic made it difficult for Fort Worthers to visit the show, the museum plans to exhibit all 40 paintings from mid-April through the summer. When the Gentling collection exhibition opens here in the spring, the museum, with the further help of more patron donations, is looking forward to adding the remaining 16 paintings to complete its acquisition of the Gentling collection. For friends of the museum who would like to contribute a painting before the end of 1986, the purchase price for each painting is \$7,500. Those who contribute a painting will have their names and/or those in whose name the picture is donated displayed on the label for that particular work. Those who contribute 50 percent or more of the cost of a painting will be listed on a label at the entrance of the gallery in which the paintings will be exhibited.

We would like to close by mentioning that many important museums and libraries throughout Texas have acquired the Gentling book, OF BIRDS AND TEXAS. However, only one institution will be able to own the complete collection of the original paintings for this monumental publication, and the Gentlings feel both honored and grateful that the citizens of Fort Worth are making it possible for this important collection to remain in the city in which it was created. For your information, accompanying this letter is a title list of all 40 paintings of the Gentling collection, designating those pictures which have been completely or partially purchased and the 16 works remaining to be spoken for.

E. Ralph Carr

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Project Manager

THE GENTLING COLLECTION (40 Paintings)

THE CURRENT STATUS OF PAINTING DONATIONS TO THE MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND HISTORY

Paintings paid for in full and donated to the museum:

- 1) Mourning Dove
- 2) Cardinal
- 3) Lichtenstein's Oriole
- 4) Crested Caracara
- 5) Canvasback Duck
- 6) Black-crowned Night Heron
- 7) Rivoli's Hummingbird
- 8) Roadrunner
- 9) Wild Turkey
- 10) Six Migratory Warblers
- 11) Pyrrhuloxia
- 12) Purple Martin

Paintings chosen and partially paid for:

- 13) Bufflehead Duck
- 14) Scaled Quail
- 15) House Wren
- 16) Mockingbird
- 17) Bobwhite Quail
- 18) Cliff Swallow

Paintings not yet committed, including the 6 paintings not yet chosen but partially paid for:

- 19) Turkey Vulture
- 20) Cattle Egret
- 21) Pigeon Hawk
- 22) Oystercatcher
- 23) Purple Gallinule
- 24) Burrowing Owl
- 25) American Woodcock
- 26) Acorn Woodpecker
- 27) Roseate Spoonbill
- 28) Sharp-shinned Hawk
- 29) Snow Goose
- 30) Barn Swallow
- 31) Red-shouldered Hawk
- 32) Red-billed Pigeon
- 33) Flammulated Owl
- 34) Great-tailed Grackle
- 35) Rufous-sided Towhee
- 36) Chuck-will's Widow
- 37) Zone-tailed Hawk
- 38) Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
- 39) Ringnecked Pheasant
- 40) Surf Scoter