

December 17, 1986

Mrs. Ralph H. Cummins
5701 Merrymount
Fort Worth, Texas 76107

Dear Mrs. Cummins:

We would personally like to thank you for your generous support of the efforts of the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History to acquire the complete collection of our original bird paintings from our book, OF BIRDS AND TEXAS. We are mindful that it is quite rare for artists and their work to be honored in this way, especially in their own lifetime and by their own city. For us, it is the most gratifying reward for nearly a decade of hard work to create something very special in the history of Texas publishing. The public response to the paintings, as well as the eagerness of other institutions throughout the state in wanting to exhibit the works in their own cities, provide, we think, ample proof that this collection will be an asset to the museum and the people of Fort Worth that will increase in importance in the years to come. Many donors may not realize that, in addition to the entire collection of 40 original bird paintings, the museum will acquire as a gift from us most of the watercolor studies, master drawings and all pertinent notes and correspondence relating to the creation and publishing of our book. The Museum of Science and History will then become the major source of information and future scholarship concerning this collection and the publication of our book.

We are sending you by separate mail two signed artist's proofs of color plates which were printed from an original painting which you helped the museum to acquire. We hope that, in some small way, this gift will express our gratitude for your enthusiasm and support. We are also sending you a brief summary of the considerable progress which the museum has made to get the collection as well as some interesting news concerning our book and the paintings themselves. Again, we would like to thank you for your help and to say that, through your gift, you have become a very real part of a historically important project which, we hope, will give pleasure to art and nature lovers of all ages and become for Fort Worth a special source of civic pride for generations to come.

Sincerely yours,

Stuart Gentling Scott Gentling