

28 August 1987

Mr. Barclay Ryall, President
Camp Bowie National Bank
P.O. Box 9678
Ft. Worth, Texas 76107-9005

Dear Barclay:

You will find enclosed here a copy of a letter I sent to Don Otto last week. It expresses in an unambiguous way my disappointment over the manner in which the museum has handled the acquisition of our paintings, and it points out the many roadblocks which the museum has placed in our way by its lack of coordination in its own departments and by its indifference. I frankly do not expect the letter to have much effect on them, but I believe it is important at this time to go on the record in voicing criticism and to try to make some attempt to get them to honor the spirit of our agreement. It has finally become apparent to me that diplomacy doesn't work very well. Now that Cornelia Blake is back from Europe, perhaps she will be able to help us find a few board members who might spur the museum on to greater effort. I have worked very hard to publicize the paintings and thus to enhance their value and prestige to the museum, and I have done a very good job of it. It is so frustrating to know that so many of our other problems could be solved if only the museum would discharge its obligations in good faith. They have tied our hands as far as raising money on our own, because they have requested that we not approach their priority contributors. If such a contributor shows an interest in donating a picture they can simply tell them that the museum has a total of eight years to acquire the collection and then request the donation for more pressing needs.

Now that Harry Tennison is no longer in the picture, I hope that we can turn our attention to discharging the \$50,000 loan in my mother's name for which she put up for collateral her property where we are living on Harley Street. This property is her only real asset outside of her own residence, and it has been tied up for so long by our book project that it has become a genuine source of worry for her and for me. Last June when you and I discussed in your office how best to allocate all the money received from the sale of the Audubon painting, I told you that Scott and I wanted the bank to keep all the money and that as soon as Harry Tennison's note was taken care of, then we could take care of mother's loan. Since you also agreed, I thought that mother's note would automatically be taken care of. However, she received a notice yesterday stating that payment is due. Now that the second installment

has been paid by Sothebys, we have apparently missed the opportunity to use this payment for this purpose. If it is too late to apply this particular money to pay her loan, then, please, let us apply the necessary funds from the final Sotheby installment to pay this \$50,000 note. You didn't seem to have any problem about this matter when we talked about it, but if there is a problem, I would appreciate it if you would let me know.

Finally there is the matter of my contract to Craig Jensen for the completion of the remaining 210 boxes. He told me that if he receives the final payment of \$18,217.00, he can begin on the boxes almost immediately. I have been technically in default of my agreement with Jensen for a long time, and he has been very patient. I would certainly like to take care of this obligation as soon as possible while he is not encumbered by another major binding project. This would finally take care of all the Austin people. I would like to be able to tell him something as soon as possible.

Next Tuesday Scott and I are going to take a much-needed and well-earned vacation to south Texas. Actually it is very much a business trip, because we are making the trip to gather painting subjects for our forthcoming show this Fall. We will only be gone three or four days, but I am going to spend that time as a painter and give as few thoughts as possible to the publishing business!

Warmest regards,

Stuart
Stuart Gentling