

8 September 1988

Don R. Otto, Director
Fort Worth Museum of Science and History
1501 Montgomery Street
Fort Worth, Texas 76107

Dear Don:

I have been invited by Ron Tyler and the Texas Historical Society to deliver a paper on our book to the 20th annual North American Print Conference to be held in Austin November 9 thru 12 of this year. This is a very prestigious convocation of scholars including professors, museum people, as well as collectors and dealers from all over the United States. My paper will ultimately be published in hard cover along with the other papers delivered at the symposium. This is a great honor and, I think, an appropriate way to end my efforts to promote the bird project. My paper's title will be: Tradition and continuity: A Modern Elephant Folio from Texas and its Curious Relationship to John James Audubon and American Natural History Publishing.

The Texas Memorial Museum adjacent to the campus of the U. of Texas Law School has invited us to display fifteen of our bird paintings from October 15 thru November 22 which will coincide with the conference. I have requested by phone that Bill Reeder, the museum's director, get in contact with you as soon as the tentative show dates are made firm. For your information, his telephone number is 1-512-471 1604. The only person down there with whom I have talked is a staff person named Jeff Jeffries.

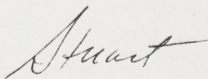
Since most of the paintings chosen for the exhibit are now part of the Museum of Science and History's collection, I would certainly like to have your permission to show them. A special reception for conference members will be held at the Memorial Museum, and I have no doubt that it will enhance the stature of the collection as well as the book and really bring the project to the notice of important American scholars.

Don, I am also sending you a collection of published materials about the book and the bird paintings to keep in your files. There have been a number of newspaper notices published around the country and in Europe about our Audubon painting-discovery, but I have not assembled these for Xeroxing yet. One more highly important article is being planned by Ron Tyler for the Texas Historical Quarterly. Our book will then have received excellent reviews for

its human interest, its publishing quality, its art and ornithological significance and finally for its importance historically. I am also sending you an updated list of relevant commentary about the book by important art and book people.

I hope all is well with you and that perhaps with Mollie Lasater's help the museum might be able to make some progress in its efforts to acquire the remaining bird paintings. I think that I have done about all that I can possibly do to promote the book and secure the status of the collection in this community and in the eyes of the art and publishing world. If you have any questions, Don, please give me a call.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Stuart".

Stuart Gentling

Paintings to be exhibited at the twentieth annual North American Print Conference.

Oct. 15 to Nov. 22, 1988

(approximate dates)

1. Cattle Egrets by Scott and Stuart Gentling
2. Cardinals by Scott and Stuart Gentling
3. Roseate Spoonbill by Scott and Stuart Gentling
4. House Wren by Scott Gentling
5. Snow Goose by Stuart Gentling
6. Black-crowned Night Heron by Scott and Stuart Gentling
7. Mourning Dove by Scott and Stuart Gentling
8. Great-tailed Grackle by Scott and Stuart Gentling
9. Rufous-sided Towhee by Scott and Stuart Gentling
10. Crested Caracara by Scott and Stuart Gentling
11. Canvasback Duck by Scott and Stuart Gentling
12. Six Migratory Warblers by Scott and Stuart Gentling
11. Rivoli's Hummingbird by Scott and Stuart Gentling
12. Cliff Swallow by Scott Gentling
13. Zone-tailed Hawk by Scott and Stuart Gentling

*The framed picture size of each work is approximately 29" X 35"