

MUSEUM
OF
SCIENCE
AND
HISTORY

Donald R. Otto
Executive Director

April 11, 1989

Messers Stuart and Scott Gentling
902 Boland
Fort Worth, Texas 76107

Dear Stuart and Scott:

On October 31, 1985 the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History entered into an eight-year agreement with you to purchase your 40 original watercolor paintings of Texas birds, each having an image size of approximately 20 inches by 26 inches.

Now, three and a half years into this eight year Agreement, we are pleased with the progress that has been made. The museum has fulfilled all requirements of the Agreement to date, with 19 original paintings having been purchased outright, and pledges received for 10 more. This leaves only 11 of the original 40 paintings yet to be committed under our purchase agreement. The Board is actively seeking new contributions for the collection, and payments on pledges are coming in on schedule. We are optimistic that the entire collection will be paid for well in advance of the eight years allowed in our Agreement.

This brings us to a subject of concern for our Board, and one that requires our immediate action. This concern is for the safety of the entire collection. In our Agreement the museum pledged its best efforts to keep the entire collection intact. We know this is what you want, and it is what the museum desires if at all possible. For us to be able to fulfill our Agreement with you, we need to have the entire collection in our possession.

Under the terms of Article 4 of the Agreement, you were to deliver to the Museum possession of all 40 paintings plus (i) original studies, (ii) preliminary drawings, (iii) certain correspondence and (iv) original manuscripts of the text of the book entitled Of Birds and Texas, published by Wind River Press, Austin, Texas.

1501 Montgomery Street
Fort Worth, Texas 76107
(817) 732-1631 or
Metro 654-1356

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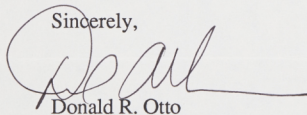
All of the paintings were originally delivered to the museum for exhibition in 1986, and later placed in storage by the museum with Fine Arts Express. The paintings were again exhibited by the museum from April to September, 1987. Following the close of that exhibition period, the paintings were delivered to your agent, Ralph Carr, for return to Fine Arts Express. Arrangements had been made with Fine Arts Express to store all 40 paintings, keeping those that had been fully funded separate from those that had not, in case new donors wanted to view the available paintings before selecting the one they wished to fund.

It was discovered only within the last few months that the 40 paintings were never delivered to Fine Arts Express as directed by the museum after the 1987 exhibition, but were instead delivered to your studio. We only became aware of this fact after you requested that we allow certain of our paintings to be exhibited in Austin last winter. At that time Dr. T. Lindsay Baker, Curator of History for the museum, attempted to pick up all the paintings as directed by me, for delivery to Fine Arts Express, where they would be properly protected against fire, theft or vandalism, and would be housed within acceptable temperature and humidity control levels.

Subsequently, at the museum's insistence, you delivered to Dr. Baker the 19 paintings fully paid for, but insisted on retaining possession of the 21 other paintings in violation of the terms of our original Agreement.

I have learned only recently from Mr. Barclay Ryall, President of Camp Bowie National Bank, that you no longer carry insurance on any of the *Of Birds and Texas* collection, and it is imperative that you immediately deliver to the museum the remaining 21 paintings mentioned above, plus all the support material covered in Article 4 of our Agreement. The museum's insurance will only cover the collection if it is in our possession.

Sincerely,



Donald R. Otto

cc: Mr. Reginald Robinson
Mr. Barclay Ryall
Mr. Ralph Carr