

2 October 1989

Messrs. Don Otto and Reginald Robinson
The Fort Worth Museum of Science and History
1501 Montgomery Street
Fort Worth, Texas 76107

Dear Gentlemen:

Thank you both for your prompt replies. Scott and I are delighted with your choice of Fine Arts Express for the framing. In fact it is by far the best choice all the way around. I frankly did not know that they did framing work, but I do know that they are excellent people who will do a very good job and will solve a number of logistical headaches for all of us.

I would also like to tell you that I would be happy and honored to speak to the Board about the bird painting project. From the beginning Scott and I have wanted this collection to remain in Fort Worth where it was created, and I truly believe that the paintings can and will be an increasingly major museum asset in the years ahead. Exactly five years ago I promised the Museum Board that I personally would do everything in my power to promote the collection and the Museum of Science and History, and, I believe, the exhibitions and lectures that Scott and I organized with the museum's cooperation over the intervening years have been a continuing fulfillment of that promise.

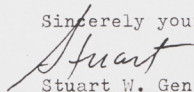
There may be, however, a problem about my meeting with the Board if it wants to talk to me in November, for I have been invited by Lee and Ramona and Ed Bass to accompany them as a Fort Worth Zoo Association Board member on a two week trip to Nepal to see the single-horn rhinos that our zoo may try to acquire. We will be traveling in the company of several directors of the world's major conservation organizations, and I think that we are even going to be feted by the Prince of Nepal. It is truly a trip of a lifetime, but it is also a golden opportunity for me to talk to the Besses about helping the museum with the collection. (I am giving the Besses several copies our folio for presentation to the prince and other international dignitaries so that the museum's collection — and name — will literally be traveling with us.) I do not believe that either Lee or Ed Bass are currently major contributors to the Museum of Science and History, and this trip might just give me a chance to bring them on board.

I might mention here that as a zoo board member in the company of Fort Worth Zoo director Elvie Turner and Harry and Gloria Tennison I traveled to Zimbabwe last summer to observe the capture of the ten black rhinos recently imported by the zoo. I gave Mr. Tennison a large number of the color plates from our bird book which he presented to government officials and other conservation people there. The prints proved so popular that Harry soon ran out of copies, and we only avoided hurting some peoples' feelings by promising to send more plates as soon as we got home. These bird prints have always been useful for diplomacy as well as for raising money. (I gave colored plates to all or most of the major contributors to the museum's bird painting project, and I would be glad to do it again to help stimulate future museum donations.) In fact I also have several other ideas that might be helpful in aiding the museum to raise the remaining purchase funds quickly if or when the Board accepts my recent offer.

Since I may not be here from November 2nd through the 16th, perhaps I should talk to the Board in October if possible — either at their regular session or perhaps at a special gathering of several Board members selected to talk with me. It might be useful to extend our deadline for a decision on my offer until after your December board meeting. I will certainly do my best to cooperate with you in every way so that we will have a decision and a course of action by the end of 1989.

Please let me know what else I can do to help. I have always been a supporter of the Museum of Science and History since 1950 when it was the Children's Museum and we gave it our collection of Kachina Dolls, and I want to do as much as I can in the years ahead to see that the museum is not "encumbered" by the Gentling Collection but is able to use it as the wonderful museum-promotion and public outreach tool that it can be.

Sincerely yours,


Stuart W. Gentling

cc. Mollie Lasater
Ralph Carr