

July 13, 1888

TX Audubon Society

Dear Mrs Glazebrook,

Thank you for your letter of July 2. It is most gratifying to see how ^{our} paintings for our elephant folio continue to excite and please the ~~art and~~ ^{public} and the public twelve years after they made their debut. Last month the Governor acquired a copy for the executive mansion and a ~~set~~ complete set of 450 color plates for his offices.

The upcoming Centennial of the Texas Audubon Society does indeed present an opportunity to possibly organize a state tour of the original 40 bird paintings, although we are in the eleventh hour to plan such an exhibition should you seriously consider it. All the paintings are owned by the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History which might be very interested in helping the Texas Society in its Centennial observances.

^{positive print}
^{BASS had}
No ^{way} ^{to} ^{do} such an exhibit could be ~~afforded~~ ^{put together}, I see several very good ^{fund raising} opportunities for the Texas Audubon Society, not to mention the attendant publicity such a show would ^{generate} ~~draw~~. Let me suggest a number of other possibilities. Although my brother Scott and I have a very tight schedule for the next two years we might venture to print a ~~series~~ ^{series} of pictures of Texas birds to commemorate the Centennial. We would retain ownership of the paintings but would produce a print and a postcard which would be donated to the Society for fund-raising purposes.

~~It might also be possible for us to publish a small version~~

I have always wanted to publish a small version of our 47th elephant folio "of Birds and Trees" and the Centennial might

just be the perfect opportunity to do so. If the Texas Audubon Society would support such an effort with its endorsement, I might be able to persuade a University Press to undertake such a publication. If the book could be done in time ~~the~~ ^{it} is accompanying the Franklin exhibit it might be possible to generate further revenues for the Society. Also I have a number of color plates left over from our original book. They measure 22" x 28". These plates have always sold well when I have offered them to the public. Some are sold out, but I still have many of the most popular plates left and I might be willing to donate some of these prints to the Society for fund raising purposes.

As you see, the Centennial ~~offers us~~ ^{presents} ~~to both~~ the Texas Audubon Society and us a possible opportunity for a whole new generation of bird enthusiasts to rediscover our "Folio of Birds and Texas" which was dedicated to John James Audubon. The book was ~~truly~~ ^{unanimously} praised as the most magnificent book in Texas history, and the "Audubon" folio of the twentieth century! John Graves, Texas' most respected writer, wrote the main essay for our book which was ~~praised~~ ^{acclaimed} as the most autobiographical writing he ever did. Under a different title the ~~essay~~ ^{work} appears ~~in this~~ as the very first essay in the V. of Texas Press Edition of the John Graves Reader. ^{for the book}

I might add that our ^{bird} paintings have been displayed at The Dallas Museum of Natural History, The Texas State Historical Museum (near the Law School) ^{at Austin}, The Institute of Texan Cultures at San Antonio, and the Heard Museum at McKinney.

You also mentioned your planned reception at the Brass Hall. Scott and I had created all the mural designs for

the Hall including the great overhanging dome
motif. (See the accompanying photo). I
am currently designing the lighty pool
ceiling for the second lobby which will
contain in it be a mural of Texas birds in
an local woods. You picked a good location.

The suggestion I have made are only
provisional. Practical considerations and the
lack of funds may create difficulties, but at
least they might be worth considering. My brother
and I have raised quite a bit of money
over the years for wildlife conservation causes
and the Centennial of the Texas Audubon Society
might just be the kind of opportunity to
make a further contribution.

Sincerely yours.

If you would like to know more
about our plans, I suggest that you call
Agn. Tylee, director of the Texas Audubon
Society. He is a friend and knows I give
about about us and the ^{project}.

Enclosed are some ^{reproduced} photos of us for your
interest etc.