

Nancy Ferguson

From: "Stephen Topping" <stopping@jpcolorado.com>
To: <Sales@Gentling.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2003 2:25 PM
Subject: Request for Permission

Dear Stuart and Scott Gentling,

I am writing to request permission to use one of your (gorgeous) paintings on the cover of a book we are publishing titled RIVERS AND BIRDS by Merrill Gilfillan. The painting we wish to use is titled BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON, on page 131 of OF BIRDS AND TEXAS (University of Texas edition, 2001).

Johnson Books is a small, independent publisher in Boulder, Colorado. Our author, Merrill Gilfillan, is an award-winning writer whose books, because they are literary, attract a limited readership (to our sorrow and consternation). Our first printing will probably be around 1,500 copies. But many successful writers recognize the fineness of Merrill's work. Jim Harrison wrote, "If anyone writes better prose in American I am unaware of it." And Tom McGuane wrote, "Prose doesn't get any better than this." We continue to publish Merrill's works because we believe in him. (I am sending a copy of our previous book by Merrill under separate cover to your Fort Worth address.)

Merrill found your beautiful book and asked if we could inquire about this image. Because of our fondness for Merrill as a writer and as a person, we would hate to let him down.

However, as a small press with limited resources, we often find ourselves depending on the kindness of strangers in our work. We normally try to pay between \$250-\$350 for cover images, and we have paid a top price of \$500. I recognize that your paintings could command much higher fees, but I'm asking if there's any chance you could make this image of the Black-Crowned Night-Heron available to us within the costs we can afford?

Hopefully,
--Stephen Topping

Stephen Topping
Editorial Director
Johnson Books
1880 So. 57th Court
Boulder, CO 80301
303-998-7581 (direct)
fax 303-998-7594
stopping@jpcolorado.com

[This E-mail scanned for viruses]

3/21/2003