

University of Texas Press

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Stuart Gentling
4801 Harley Avenue
Ft. Worth, TX 76107

Re: *From Time to Time*

Dear Stuart:



I was delighted to get your detailed letter and prospectus for the book that Shannon and I mused about over our last lunch. I also appreciate your finding the remaining two contracts for the Audubon book. They have now joined their siblings in the great bureaucratic spawn and will, with luck, emerge upstream at some point, fully executed. When they do, I'll send a copy for you and one for Scott.

Needless to say, I'm impressed with the thought you've already put into the new project, and I think it is definitely do-able. I also think a maximum of a hundred color plates is reasonable. Finances aside, my concern was that we not publish so many of any one kind of work that a later, more in-depth treatment of that particular subject (I'm thinking primarily of the Aztec works, of course) would be precluded. Your plan seems to have met my misgivings about that.

It would certainly be fun to have Dave Hickey's take on your work. He's such an interesting and freewheeling thinker. I am ashamed to confess that I don't know Dr. Pillsbury's work, but I'm happy to have him included if you want. The only problem that nags immediately is that the "naming" of so many introductory pieces can get a little confusing, especially since the book's author(s) usually write(s) the preface. If Hickey were willing to write the foreword and Dr. Pillsbury an introduction of sorts, we could call your opening salvo something else, like "In the beginning" or "How we began." That would make it seem slightly less like a parade before the reader gets to the actual book. At any rate, that can all be worked out later. I have already shown your samples around, and enthusiasm is high.

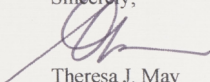
Meanwhile, in order to draft a contract, I need to know how much text you and Scott want to include (in words, if you can estimate that way) and what an approximate timetable might be for submitting the draft manuscript. Once I have that information in hand, we can crank up the paper machine. Call, of course, if you have questions.

I'd love to come and visit this summer, and I thank you so very much for your generous invitation. Since I'm a full-time working costumer in my "other" life, I'm pretty well committed until late July or early August. Right now, I have three shows in process so I'm lucky if I get to sleep a bit, much less travel. If deep summer is not too late for your purposes, though, I'd love to come up. Let me know what might work for you then, since I know your own travel schedule can be hectic.

I'll look forward to hearing from you soon about some particulars for the new project. Let me say again how pleased I am that you're excited about it. Meanwhile, we anticipate the transparencies for *Birds* so that we can move forward with that good book.

With best wishes to you both,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Theresa J. May', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Theresa J. May
Assistant Director
and Editor-in-Chief