



FEATURED PARTY Art Ball

What: The Art Ball
Why: Benefiting the Dallas Museum of Art
Where: 1717 N. Harwood St.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Peggy and Carl Sewell with their daughter, Jacqueline



Angie Barrett



Event designer and creative director Todd Fiscus



Walter Elcock, president of DMA board of trustees; Suzanne Droese, ball chairman; and Dr. Jack Lane, The Eugene McDermott Director of the Dallas Museum of Art



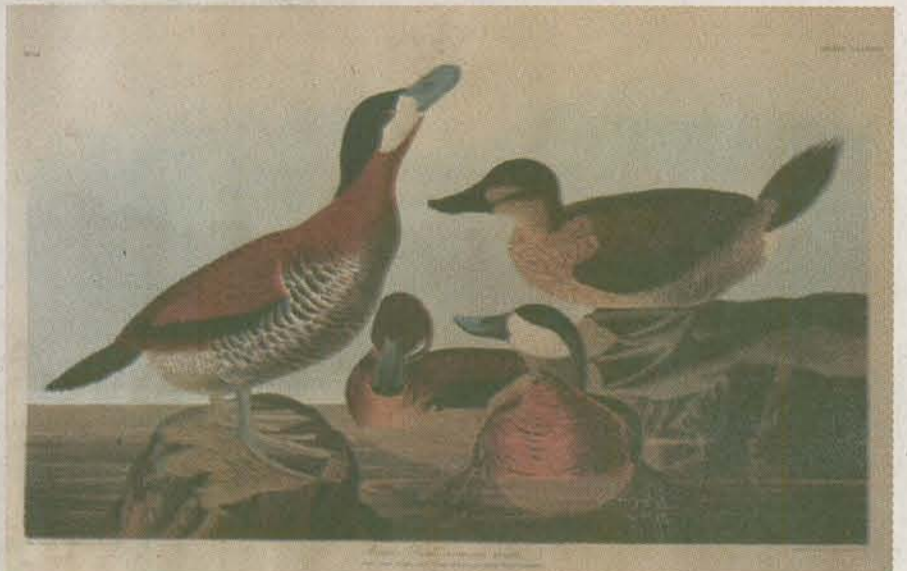
Emily and Steve Summers



Catherine and Will Rose



Jolie Humphrey and Erin Hill



For the Birds

Antique nature prints more popular than ever

By Kristiana Heap
Society Editor

A few weeks ago, in the intimate Carriage House of Preservation Dallas on Swiss Avenue, a group of art enthusiasts packed themselves into the cozy space to listen to a presentation by an antique nature print collector and dealer named J. Gilbert Johnston Jr.

Johnston, who resembles a young Tom Wolfe, went over his allotted time as a speaker at the Summer Preservation Institute, but he had a lot to cover — about 300 years of the history of scientific art. In the world of antique prints, though, it seems like time is irrelevant.

After the sale of iconic American nature artist John James Audubon's "The Birds of America" for \$8.8 million at Christie's in 2000, surpassing the Gutenberg Bible as the most expensive printed book sold at auction, there has been an increase in public interest for antique nature prints.

True enthusiasts like Johnston, however, aren't interested in the prints for mere monetary value.

"As a boy, my parents gave me for a Christmas present — I think I was 12 — a



STAFF PHOTOS: ALLISON SLOMOWITZ

Art collector and dealer J. Gilbert Johnston Jr. speaks during a lecture on 'Art Treasures of Natural History: Connoisseurship and Preservation.'

copy of Audubon's "The Birds of America," said Johnston, who owns Antique Nature Prints in Birmingham, Ala.

"I began collecting contemporary nature artists in college ... At some point I was buying so many prints that I thought, I really can't keep all of these. I picked out the ones I wanted and sold the rest."

Any bird prints are difficult to come by because of high demand, said Bob Schutze, owner of Beaux Arts in the Design District.

"We have a running demand in front of the supply. As soon as we get them, we sell them," he said of Audubon prints. "They're very difficult to acquire now."

Fortunately for Dallas residents, dealers like Schutze and Johnston are searching auction houses and estate sales to find the pieces their clients desire. But antique nature prints are not just imitations of the original, and collecting them can be costly.

"It has always been a problem with prints; the minute you say print, they think that it is synonymous with reproduction, and that is not the case," Schutze said. An antique print was typically created by an artist drawing flora and fauna, which then went to an engraver, and then was hand painted by a watercolorist.

"I think you're holding a piece of history in your hand, a tangible piece of the history of science," Johnston said.

"Every year, there are fewer of them, and more people are interested in nature," he said. "Demand is increasing, and supply is down; you don't really own them; you are a custodian for a period of time. They're older than you."

Katherine Seale, interim director of Preservation Dallas, who co-sponsored Gilbert's lecture and print show with the Lee Park and Arlington Hall Conservancy, sees antique prints as a suitable match for members of her organization.

"Our membership consists of a lot of

See BIRDS, Page 4C

VIVIAN CASTLEBERRY

A Passion for Peace

Growing up in the Great Depression, becoming the first woman on the *Dallas Times Herald* editorial board, and founding Peacemakers Incorporated, Vivian Castleberry officially retired in the 1980s but has yet to stop her quest to empower women. She recently helped organize the Third International Women's Peace Conference, which brought together close to 1,000 delegates from around the world. She took a little time to let us know how she got where she is today.

— Brooke McDonald

Tell us a little about yourself: I was born in Texas, went to Athens High School, and graduated from Southern Methodist University in 1944. My husband and I have been married for 61 years. We have five daughters, and we have lived

in East Texas since 1965. I became a career journalist for the *Dallas Times Herald* and had an early retirement.

What was it like raising five daughters and being the first woman on the *Times Herald* editorial board? It

was difficult, but very rewarding because that was during the time when women were told they couldn't do both. By being the first woman on the editorial board, I found that it opened doors for other women.

What do you like to do in your free time? I have three passions, all of which take a lot of time. I have written four books since I retired in 1986. I always knew I wanted to be a writer. My first memory is from when I was 9 years old, sitting in my paternal grandparents' porch swing, writing. With writing, I am a speaker. I have spoken at a lot of programs in the Dallas area. I



COURTESY PHOTO

Vivian Castleberry

also do volunteer work. I work with Summit and also helped to establish the Dallas Woman's Foundation. Oh, and I quilt. I am a quilter.

Can you tell us about the Third International Peace Conference and

See PEACE, Page 4C

INSIDE

Celebrations: Weddings and engagements 4C



PAGE 2

Fun and Funky: Shoes with a kick



OVERHEARD

"Anybody out there been hit on at the Whole Foods?"

Paige Phelps on blog.peoplenewspapers.com