

Letter to Wendell Gilley Museum from John A. Silver, Sept. 9, 1986

JOHN A. SILVER
PIPERVILLE, PA. 18847

September 9, 1986

WENDELL GILLEY MUSEUM
PO Box 254
Southwest Harbor, Maine 04679
Attn: Curator or President

Friends:

I enclose several photographs of original carved birds by Mr. A. E. Crowell that I bought directly from him at a small, informal workshop on Cape Cod about fifty years ago. At the time, Mr. Crowell was embarking on his new calling of bird carving as opposed to guiding sportsmen down the Cape for the shore birds he loved and was trying to reproduce.

During my visit of several hours - and a most interesting ornithological conversation - I was shown a number of different miniature bird carvings by Mr. Crowell that he was preparing for Mr. Henry Ford's famous ~~Shelburne~~ Museum. Some extra typical models were available and I bought several for the modest price of \$3.00 each. These "duck samples" were not only carved but beautifully painted by Mr. Crowell. In his workshop window was a most lovely, indeed exquisite bird carving, not of a duck series or species, but a little Lesser Yellowlegs. I was a young apprentice engineer at the time, on holiday, with a huge salary from working in my Uncle's machine shop of \$30.00 a week. As stated, I knew the price of the miniature ducks of \$3.00 and asked the price of the little Yellowlegs. Mr. Crowell said it was quite expensive and already sold to a french lady who had

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People

Description: Letter describes Mr. Silver's visit to Elmer Crowell's workshop where he purchased several miniature bird carvings, and his subsequent visit to Wendell Gilley's workshop. Enclosed are photographs of a greater yellowlegs and a duck carved by Crowell. Silver also describes Wendell Gilley's trip to Abercrombie and Fitch where he was inspired to start bird carving.

Creator: Silver - John A. Silver

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