Ridgway Collection

KUHN BROTHERS
ENGRAVERS & PRINTERS
99-101 BEEKMAN ST.
NEW YORK.

March 23, 1915

Dear Mr. Ridgeway:-

We are trying to get some good photographs or illustrations of the Bald Eagle. We secured a number of them from Mr. Sanborn of the Bronx Zoological Park, this city, which are very fine. When the photographs were taken however, the birds were perched rather high, so that they all are photographed more or less from the under-side of the body and we would like to secure, if possible, some photographs showing the bird's head in profile or head-on and some with spread wings.

It is our intention to make a design for Stock Certificate and Bond use showing an eagle with spread wings. Most of the eagle designs which are used are wrong in construction, and it is our desire to use the correct thing. I have wondered whether you could suggest where we could get photographs of that kind, or whether they are available in the Library at Washington. We would prefer photographs if we could get them.

Thanking you in advance for your attention in this matter we remain

Very truly yours,

ALFRED C. KIHN

Ridgway Collection

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Apr. 9, 1915

KIHN BROTHERS
ENGRAVERS & PRINTERS
99-101 BEEKMAN ST.
NEW YORK.

April 3, 1915

Dear Mr. Ridgeway:-

I beg to thank you for your kind note of the 26th ult. I found a copy of Fisher's "Hawks & Owls" at the Children's Museum in Brooklyn, where Miss Gallup is curator. This is near my home and much more accessible than the American Museum of Natural History which you suggested. The eagle is a very nice one but is is hardly the pose that we were looking for, what I wanted was an eagle in profile, more like the one used on our trade mark, and I have secured one since then from Mr. Sanborn.

Now if it is not presuming too much on your good nature I would like to know if a copy of the eagle is available which you say is in the National Museum, and which was prepared by the Biological Department for the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. Since this is a spread eagle I think it would answer our needs.very well. Considering that this eagle was mounted expressly for the Bureau of Engraving and Printing I fully realize that it cannot be copied exactly and I wish to assure you that this is not our intention. We want to design a spread eagle that is different from all others, and at the same time have it ornithologically correct; most of the eagles now in use are not. It would therefore be our intention to use what pictures we can get in building up a design, of which we purpose making a wash drawing.

In order to have everybody concerned feel that we are acting in good faith, I will show you the drawing before we start to make a steel engraving of it. If there is any expense attached to getting a copy of this eagle, or if we have to pay for photographing it we shall be pleased to pay expenses.

I wish to say that my son received the sixth volume of your "Birds of North and Middle America" some time ago and we have had them nicely bound in heavy buckram for reference. It is not quite clear to me how many volumes there will be before this series is completed, and I would like to be advised if it is to be carried out through many more volumes and how many, provided the scope of the work is known now.

Thanking you in advance for your attention to the above I am

Very truly yours,

ALFRED C. KIHN