

WEST TEXAS COLLECTION

Houston Harte Art Collection

33 original paintings

Record ID: A - 4

Donor: Houston Harte Family

Acquisition: Gift, 1972

Access: Open for research

Restrictions: Houston Harte family owns copyright

Citation: Houston Harte Art Collection, West Texas Collection, Angelo State University, San Angelo, TX

Administrative/Biographical History:

The collection consists of thirty-two original paintings by artist, Guy Rowe, for the book *In Our Image* which is a collection of character studies from the Old Testament. An additional portrait of Mr. Harte was later added by Rowe.

Houston Harte was born in 1893 in Knobnoster, Missouri. He became a newspaper publisher before his graduation from the University of Missouri School of Journalism when in 1914 he bought the Knobnoster Gem. He later bought the San Angelo Standard Times. He was senior partner of Harte, Hanks & Co., publishers of seven other Texas newspapers. For twelve years Harte served as director or vice-president of the Associated Press. He died in 1972.

In Our Image was first published in 1949. Harte believed strongly that people would read the narratives if presented as attractively as other modern books. With almost missionary zeal, Harte sought out the best examples of the best narratives and a great artist to illustrate them.

Harte began the culling process with a list of fifty-two narratives. To make sure his preferences were correct, Harte consulted a group (seven individuals) of noted clergymen throughout the US. Each clergyman submitted a list of his fifty favorite Old Testament stories. Twenty-six were high on five lists or more lists. They are presented in the book in the exact words of the King James Version of the Bible.

Guy Rowe, former cover artist for *Time* Magazine, was commissioned to illustrate the book. He devoted three and one-half years to the research and creation of the paintings. Rowe rediscovered an ancient method of painting with wax. The portraits were done in grease on protectoid and were painted on the back or reverse side, a technique which is perhaps the oldest in the history of painting. Rowe did not attempt to interpret religious thought but only to show Bible heroes in all their timelessness. Rowe died in 1969.

Scope and Content:

The collection consists of thirty-three original paintings.

Arrangement:

- A-4.1 Creation
- A-4.2 Adam and Eve
- A-4.3 Noah and Wife
- A-4.4 Abraham
- A-4.5 Jacob's Blessing
- A-4.6 Jacob Becomes Israel
- A-4.7 Joseph and His Brothers
- A-4.8 Moses and the Burning Bush
- A-4.9 Moses and the Tablets
- A-4.10 Balaam
- A-4.11 Joshua
- A-4.12 Gideon
- A-4.13 Jephthah
- A-4.14 Samson
- A-4.15 Ruth and Naomi
- A-4.16 Saul Anointed
- A-4.17 Saul Denounced
- A-4.18 David and Jonathan
- A-4.19 David and Nathan
- A-4.20 David Mourns
- A-4.21 Solomon Praying
- A-4.22 Solomon Judging
- A-4.23 Elijah
- A-4.24 Elisha
- A-4.25 Job
- A-4.26 Isaiah
- A-4.27 Jeremiah
- A-4.28 Ezekiel
- A-4.29 The Fiery Furnace
- A-4.30 Nebuchadnezzar's Dream
- A-4.31 Amos
- A-4.32 God Is Our Refuge
- A-4.33 Houston Harte