

American Fly Fishing Literature



2019 Exhibit Annotated Guide

The Paul and Mary Ann Ford
Fly Fishing Collection

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This year we feature a socially prominent mid-twentieth century writer who created a modest number of beautifully written sporting works that include many angling stories. Too, the reader will find bibliographic works that are foundational to a strong American angling book collection. ENJOY!

Dana Lamb (1899-1986) lived the life many of us in the sporting world would envy. A man of “proper” east coast family background who was educated at Lawrenceville, Dartmouth and Princeton and became a successful investment banker well-rooted in New York’s illustrious Angler’s Club. He had the leisure and wealth to pursue his beloved Atlantic Salmon (*Salmo Salar*) in the northeast’s fabled Canadian private club waters as well as Europe. He fished trout from Pennsylvania to Vermont, mostly on club (private) waters and in company with the general anglers of his day. Too, if you looked closely, you might see him sneaking through thick, prickly Vermont underbrush searching for a timberdoodle or wily grouse. He wrote, at times, with captivating simplicity, most often with humor to cause the reader a good chuckle and often with nostalgia. He did not write “how to do it books!” Yet at times there is a sensitivity to his writing as if to say, “There is a cost to all of this.” The income from most of his books was given to wildlife preservation organizations. Truly, Dana Lamb was a “sport.”

Lamb, Dana S. *Bright Salmon and Bright Trout*. Barre Publishers. Barre, Massachusetts. 1964. Pp. 111. First edition. First printing of 1500 copies. Fly art on endpapers. Gold landing net inset on cover. Gold title inset on spine. New dull yellow cover in similar new slipcase with the title pasted on. One can’t help laughing about how this “poor soul” suffers when he faces his thirst and hunger, not catching fish when another fellow does. Oh wat a sad life—Adirondacks to Halifax, Nova Scotia and more!

_____. *Woodsmoke and Watercress*. Barre Publishers. Barre, Massachusetts. 1965. Pp. 89. First edition. First printing of 1500 copies. Tan cover with gold title on spine. Beige endpapers. In beige slipcase with title. Our hero has temporarily escaped America’s crowded Beaverkill and Manhattan’s endless society cocktail parties for the Canadian wilds. Now read the book as you enjoy one of the author’s cold martinis and the salmon lure you! But know that to the last page you will not be bored.

_____. *Not Far From the River*. Barre Publishers. Barre, Massachusetts. 1967. Pp. 101. First edition. First printing of 1500 copies. Tan cover, decorated with green flies, beige endpapers, gold title embossed on spine. Lots of very good short pieces here. Seems like there was a lot of Scotch consumed on these Canadian fishing trips. But that’s not any different from what we saw of American fly fishers in the pre-1900 period!

Bibliographies

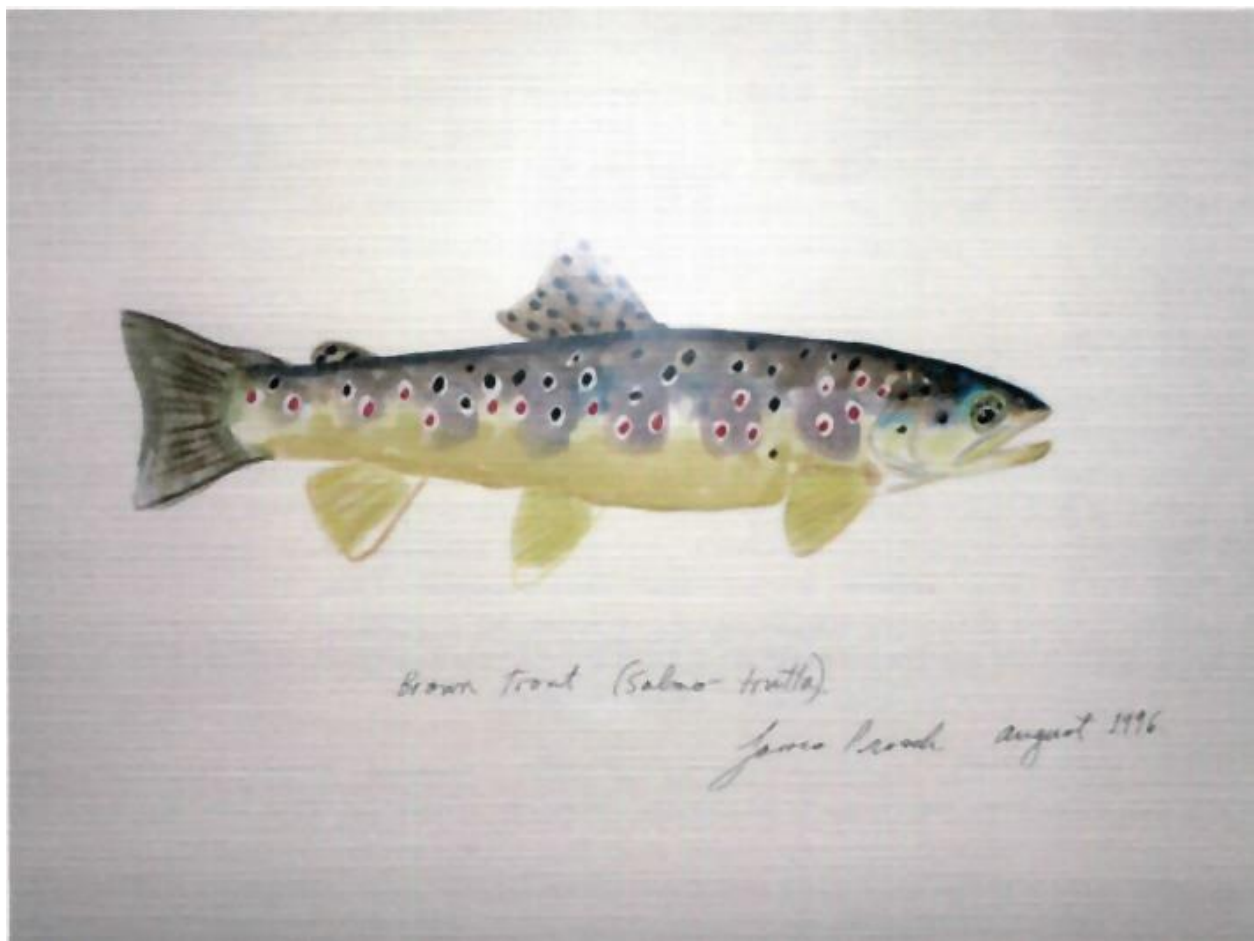
Biscotti, M. L. (Duke). *American Sporting Book Series*. Illustrated by T. O. Duncan. Sunrise Publishing Company. Madison, 1994. Pp. 325. Limited edition number 164/300. "To my friend Paul Ford who put together a great book in Angler's Hope. It is my hope that this volume will in some way add to your collecting pleasures." Original copy and art tipped in. Gold title embossed on green cloth and spine. Green paste board slipcase with title on face. This is a splendid history of American sporting series from Forest and Stream in the late 1800's to the middle 1960s.

_____. *The Borzoi Books for Sportsmen*. Sunrise Publishing Company. Madison. 1992. Pp. 201. Signed. Copy number 224/319 of limited first edition. Inscribed, "To my friend Paul Ford with kindest regards of the author," and dated 11/6/96. Maroon cloth cover with gold title on spine. Dust jacket is slightly marked. In maroon pasteboard slipcase with paper title and manuscript number pasted on cover. This is a history of one of America's most famous publishing companies and the books/authors it featured—including the world class Ray Bergman, John Alden Knight, William Schaldach, Van Campen Heilner et al. A brief, excellent biography is included for each author. Great Book!

Inman, Diane. *The Fine Art of Angling-Ten Modern Masters*. Di-les Books. Incline Village, Nevada. 2007. Pp. 201. Copy number 138/300 of deluxe limited edition. Signed by Inman on heavy paper inset in clamshell cover which are ten reproductions of angling art rendered by ten great current angling artists and featured within the book's *opus*. Book has tan edging on cream cover. Book is housed in 9 3/4" by 12" deep brown leatherette clamshell which has a tied Royal Coachman under plastic protective cover on its face. Beautiful book!

Kerridge, Phillip. *An Address on Angling Literature, including some mysteries and personal observations as well as some comments on piscatorial California and hints for collectors of angling books*. Sultana Press. Fullerton, CA. Edited by V. S. Hidy with preface by Joe Bates. Pp. 92. Copy number 119/350 of a deluxe limited edition. Frontis is a full color California golden trout by Tommy Brayshaw; book includes reproduced color plate of Blacker's *Art of Fly Makers*. Half-bound in brown leather with dark yellow burlap with fabric cover. Title in gold on spine. Coachman set into cover under strong plastic. In matching fabric slipcase. The author addresses angling literature and a list of fine books to collect. This superb book is a collector's delight.

Norton, Jeffrey. *The Angling Library of Jeffrey Norton*. Pacific Book Auction Galleries. San Francisco; and Bloomsbury Book Auctions. London. Six auction catalogues. Three volumes represent American, Canadian, Australian and New Zealand authors. Pp. 300+; two volumes are of British and European authors and one is of Joseph Crawhall's nineteenth century woodcuts. Pp. 230+. Annotation for each of 4000 titles. A scholar's goldmine! Housed in a tan broadcloth clamshell with black edging. Gold title embossed on black leather on spine. Binding was executed by Jace Graf at Cloverleaf Studio in Austin.



Brown Trout by James Prosek

_____. *Some Silent Places Still*. Barre Publishers. Barre, Massachusetts. 1969. Pp. 100. First edition of first printing of 1500 copies. Numbered in ink 573. Green cloth cover and quarter bound in tan club with green title embossed on spine. Heavy dark green endpapers. Splendid salmon fishing scene sketched opposite title page. Dark green slipcase with title on front. Much about Quebec salmon fishing. Solitude is good, even on public water. And, of course, "just one good fish and back to the river it goes." The title of this collection speaks for itself and for many of us who cast the waters.

_____. *Green Highlanders and Pink Ladies*. Barre Publishers. Barre, Massachusetts, 1971. Pp. 92. Number 51 of 1500 first edition, first printing copies. Signed. Musing take Lamb from 1712 Northampton, Massachusetts to the Adirondacks' Ausable where he discovers flies named the Green Highlander and the Pink Lady. But alas who would give such outlandish names to serious trout flies? Only a chap who drinks large quantities of Scotch. Read on McDuff and enjoy the author's fishing and hunting tales in New England and beyond blended with copious blends of "booze" and good humored acquaintances.

_____. *Where the Pools are Bright and Deep*. Illustrations by Eldridge Hardie. Winchester Press. New York. 1973. Pp. 143. Signed. First edition. Slightly faced beige paper cover illustrated by Hardie and protected with mylar. Book has perfect blue boards and gold title is on spine. Some landlocked salmon fishing, some hunting, some old friends and remembrance of the Connecticut River before the dams killed off Atlantic Salmon runs. Lamb is growing older!

_____. A trade edition of the above. Unsigned etc.

_____. *Beneath the Rising Mist*. Illustrations by Tom Hennessey. Stone Wall Press. Boston. 1979. Pp. 138. First edition. First printing. Paper cover illustration by Hennessey as a guide and two anglers play an Atlantic Salmon. Book cover is black material with gold fly embossed and cover quarter bound in red cloth. Spine with usual gold imprinting. The book is of the past recaptured in memories of fine angling punctuated each evening among friends with laughter and copious drinks. It brings sadness and joy to an aging Lamb.

_____. *The Fishings Only Part of It*. Illustrations by Eldridge Hardie. Anwell Press. Clinton, N.J. 1982. Pp. 171. Limited edition of 1000 copies. Signed by Dana Lamb, Eldridge Hardie; and Jim Rikhoff, President of The National Sporting Fraternity Limited. Blue leatherette cover with Anwell Gold Seal imprinted. Gold embossed spine with title, a fish and a grouse. Faded slipcase. We might call this Lamb's summing up of an extraordinary life on flowing waters and struggling through thicket thorn bushes.

_____. A trade edition of the above except that this cover is dark brown and its cover seal is a bright gold salmon fly.

Endnote

The reader is bound to ask why Lamb spent so much time fishing eastern Canada's Atlantic Salmon rivers. The simplistic answer is this. Rivers large and small such as the Connecticut and Maine's Penobscot were dammed for their power production and waste disposal by textile, leather, metal and wood products industries. Too, America's flourishing industrial society soon to enter World War I would need power, water and disposal capabilities. It could sacrifice upriver bound fish! And, as America's eastern social elite grew, so did their purchases of large stream tracts to provide private trout waters and wondrous clubhouse facilities. Dana Lamb had the best of two worlds. We see him on the banks of the Miramichi, Cascapedia or Restigouche and in one of several private clubhouses for the elite. No fault assigned here. For that was just the way life was then for the elite social class in America.

Annotations by Paul Ford

Paul and Mary Ann Ford

Professor Emeritus Paul Ford joined Western's Department of Education in 1970. He served the University as teacher/scholar, college administrator, and vice president for academic affairs. A life-long fly fisher, he writes of the sport, and shares with his wife, Mary Ann, a love for searching out fly fishing titles.

Mary Ann Ford received her M.Ed. and Principal's Certificate from Western. She has served as a public school teacher, curriculum director, and principal. She is an astute judge of fly fishing literature and art, and a gifted needlework artist whose pictures include the fly fisher's world.

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