



American Fishing &
Fly Fishing Literature
*From Colonial Times
to the Present Day*

2006/07 Exhibit
Paul and Mary Ann Ford
Fly Fishing Collection

Special Collections
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The 18th and 19th Centuries

Review literature about early American fishing both implicitly and explicitly states that the sport was frowned upon by church and society as being potentially sinful. Let us recall, however, that the majority of people in Colonial New England were not churched. In fact, during that period there were many more taverns than there were churches – some one hundred and thirty such pubs on Cape Cod by 1700. More significant, those who sport-fished with bait, lure or fly and wrote about their experiences were relatively wealthy. Several were members of the Protestant clergy – men of inherited wealth. Others were merchants or professionals, including one prominent M.D. Further; these people of means assembled themselves in imitation of the aristocratic “Brits” and their “associations.” In America, sporting gentlemen who formed “associations” held that celebrations and festive occasions, well oiled with the finest spirits, were as important as the sport. Of course, fishing for food was all-important.

Most books found in this section are quite plain in appearance. Their boards, endpapers, page-paper and fonts don’t generally attract attention. Color was infrequently used. But content is the crux of the matter.

1 Seccombe, Joseph. **A Discourse Utter’d in Part At Ammauskeeg-Falls in the Fishing-Season - 1739.** Barre Publishers, Barre, Massachusetts, 1971. Pp. 43. This is a reprint of the 1743 first edition. The 1971 edition was limited to one thousand copies and signed by Michael McCurdy, creator of the reprint’s woodcarvings. VF/VF. This is the first known essay on “sport” fishing in Colonial America. Seccombe, a graduate of Harvard College and ordained Christian minister, espoused this theory: *We are allowed to use the Creatures of God, not only for our Necessity, but for meet and convenient Delight.* Ammauskeeg Falls was on the Merrimack River, near Manchester, New Hampshire. Fish were taken by net or spear. This was considered relaxing sport and the gathering (*meet*) was a convivial social event. Eel were the most popular catch, most likely for their sweet flavor. Good catches were made, too, of shad, white perch and Atlantic salmon.

2 Milnor, Wm. (ed). **An Authentic Historical Memoir of the Schuylkill Fishing Company.** Judah Dobson, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1830. Pp. 125. First edition, first printing. Volume includes **Memoirs of the Gloucester Fox Hunting Club.** Pp. 56. Quarter bound in brown leather. Bears the bookplate of Colonel Henry A. Seigel. VF. This book describes the early history (1732-1830) of the oldest fishing club “association” in America. The book, itself, is the second oldest about fishing published in America. **This volume is very rare.** Wealthy men of high social class and professional distinction founded the Company of Pennsylvanians. Their objective was to effect a convivial gathering of those who sought to preserve and protect, for themselves, fishing and hunting along the Schuylkill River and its abounding lands through purchase and by political-legal means. With some sense of humor, club members established what was known as **The State in Schuylkill.** It had its own Castle and Navy! Women were welcomed to Company festivities that included sumptuous meals accompanied by the finest of drink. White perch, shad and stripped bass, as well as vast numbers of catfish, comprised the Company’s major catch.

3 _____ . An authorized facsimile edition produced for the Ford Fly Fishing Collection in 2006 by Books on Demand.

NOTE: Although neither rod nor reel, line or lure is mentioned in Seccombe and Milnor, there is evidence (Goodspeed, 1930, p. 80) that angling rods were imported to America as early as 1689. It is important, too, to note that fresh-water fishing appears to have been a group's social activity rather than the journey of some pensive, poetic Walton. Women were welcome participants in group activities.

Reinard, Ken. **The Colonial Angler's Manual of Flyfishing & Flytying.** Fox Chapel Publishing, N.P., 1995. Pp. 106. First edition. N. Issued without DJ. Reinard has created a picture of the American Colonial angler—dress, rods, horsehair lines, sunk flies. He documents fly-fishing in New York in the 1730s, though he concedes that most fishing was for food. Very well illustrated.

4

Smith, Jerome, V.C. M.D. **A Natural History of the Fishes of Massachusetts Embracing A Practical Essay on Angling.** Freshet Press, New York, New York, 1970 reprint of 1833 edition. Slipcase. VF/VF. Pp. 399. The book's main section is an encyclopedic description of Massachusetts' fishes—a bit tedious! The short second section, called **Trout and Angling** is a fascinating treatment of trout fishing, most of it with fly rod, in Maine and in the Bay State—and especially on Cape Cod's creeks. Smith mistakes Maine's landlocked salmon for a trout and he, like many others of his time, errs in assuming that the East Coast's ubiquitous brook trout is a true trout when, in fact, this beloved speckled beauty is a charr—*Salvelinus fontinalis*. He noted, astutely, that construction of mills and over-fishing were decimating brook trout populations in Massachusetts' rivers. This essay is well worth reading. The book was criticized shortly after publication for being too much about angling and too little about instruction!

5

Phillips, John, C. **John Rowe An Eighteenth Century Boston Angler.** Privately printed by the Cosmos Press Inc., Cambridge, Massachusetts, for John C. Phillips, 1929. Pp. 32. Limited edition of 150 copies. F. This is a gentleman-merchant's fishing diary. While Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758) preached of "sinners in the hands of an angry God," chaps like John Rowe (1715-1787), a successful Bostonian and his friends plied fresh water, fishing from home to Cape Cod and enjoyed a "jolly" social life in the welcome company of their wives and other ladies of proper social background. This is not only good fishing history, but also, it is useful social history.

6

_____. **George Washington Sportsman From his own Journals.** Privately printed by the Cosmos Press Inc., Cambridge, Massachusetts, for John C. Phillips, 1928. Pp. 47. Limited edition of 100 copies. F. Although there is almost nothing of fishing in this diary, the notes depict the "social" nature of sport in Colonial America.

7

Brown, John, J. **The American Angler's Guide.** (Cover title: Fly Fisherman's Gold). Derrydale Press, Lyon, Mississippi, 1993. Pp. 332. Limited edition of 2500 copies. Reprint of the 1845 (anonymous) edition. N. Handsome leatherette boards engraved in gold with page fore-edge in gold and marbled end papers. The content, written by a New York tackle dealer tells a great deal about fly fishing—even to the point that one should dress in subtle colors. In this pioneer work Brown prescribed tackle, especially flies and other artificial baits created in America, not England, to meet the different requirements of home waters. Makes sense!

8

9

Cotton, Charles. **The Compleat Angler or the Contemplative Man's Recreation, Part II.** Timken Editions, New York, New York, 1998. Afterword by John McDonald. Pp. 55. Deluxe limited edition of A-Z. This is letter **K**. Signed by Timken and McDonald. Half-bound in leather with green-gold marbled boards. Letterpress printed on Zerkel mould-made paper. New in brown linen slipcase. This is a companion to the Bethune **Walton** (already in Special Collections). Cotton was Walton's young friend who advanced the theory that there need be only one fly for each month. Cotton's description of sixty-five flies establishes the tradition of writing about flies – and is consequential for American fly fishing literature. This is a diamond.

10

Norris, Thaddeus. **The American Angler's Book.** Porter & Coates, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1881. Pp. 697. (The Memorial edition.) Limited to 250 copies with an obituary included in the text. F. First published in 1864. Written by a Philadelphia fishing tackle merchant, this book is considered by many to be the most important statement about fly-fishing in 19th century America. "Uncle" Thad Norris took Americans from fishing as a social event to "Fly-Fishing - Alone." He was a splendid fly fisher, tackle and fly rod-maker; and writer. Too, Norris practiced catch and release while most other fishers practiced gluttony.

11

Van Nest, A.R. **Life and Letters of Geo. W. Bethune.** Sheldon and Company, New York, New York, 1867. Pp. 446. First edition, first printing. F. This is the biography of the man who edited the first American edition of Walton's **Complete Angler** (1847) and added his own brilliant essay on fly fishing as a footnote. The Ford Fly Fishing Collection already includes Bethune's first edition.

12

Scott, Genio. **Fishing in American Waters.** Harper, New York, New York, 1868. Pp. 484 and index. First edition, first printing. F. A New York publisher, Scott wrote of various topics related to fishing. Most important, perhaps, was his early attempt (1869) to popularize the split bamboo rod, a superlative improvement over long, weighty "clubs" most fly fishers cast. His book spoke of travels through America, Canada and South America, of striped bass fishing, fishing for children, fishing up stream or down, the brook trout as a true trout, the demise of the Atlantic salmon--a useful miscellany of descriptions and insights. (Gift of Jack C. Hutchinson to The Fly Fishing Collection)

13

Keene, John Harrington. **Fly Fishing and Fly Making.** Forest and Stream, New York, New York, 1887. Pp. 159. Contains fly tying materials and color fly plates. First edition, first printing. F. Keene was an Englishman who came to America in the 1880s and settled in Manchester, Vermont, close by the Battenkill River. He was a gifted entomologist and very inventive fly tier, an imitationist. A talented fly fisher, he argued that the floating fly should be cast up stream and drifted down, because fish faced up stream to feed. The book's 1891 edition displays Keene's innovative June Bug, Black Ant, Midge and jointed-body fly. Schullery (see References) gives Keene the credit due him. (Gift of Jack C. Hutchinson to The Fly Fishing Collection)

14

Prime, William, C. **I Go A-Fishing.** Harper & Brothers, Publishers, New York, New York, 1873. Pp. 365. First edition. Prime was a well-heeled attorney turned journalist. This is a collection of autobiographical stories--many of them romanticized tales of trout fly fishing in the Northeast. Prime traveled, dined and fished in grand style. The book was popular.

_____. **This Old House.** Harper & Brothers, Publishers, New York, New York, 1853. Pp. 318. First edition. G. with some foxing. There is some trout fishing here, but what is more important is the life-style (much about Long Island) of this "sport"

15

Orvis, Charles. and A. Nelson Cheney, compilers. **Fishing with the Fly.** H.B. Nims & Company, Troy, New York, 1885. Pp. 326+. Color plates of flies. Second edition. F. This contains stories, essays and instruction written by eminent trout and salmon fishers of the time. Locales extend from Alaska to the Northeast. This was and is a much-admired classic.

16

Mather, Fred. **Men I Have Fished With.** Forest and Stream, New York, New York, 1897. Pp. 371. First edition, first printing and signed by the author. VG. This is about gentlemen and rascals with whom Mather associated during his fishing and hunting years. His adventures took him from the East to Mid-west. His stories provide useful insights into the "characters" of his sporting life. He was a champion fly caster and a fishing club co-founder.

17

Van Dyke, Henry. **Little Rivers.** Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, New York, 1903. Pp. 349. Second edition. Inscribed by the author. Uncut fore-edges. Very attractive gold-embossed spine and cover. VF. Van Dyke was a national religious leader, scholar and teacher as well as a United States ambassador who wrote, "A RIVER is the most human and companionable of inanimate things. It has a life of its own, and is as full of good fellowship as a sugar-maple sap." This book is of trout and salmon fly fishing throughout the East and Europe. The language is lyric and the book was a best seller.

18

_____. **Fisherman's Luck.** Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, New York, 1899. Pp. 247. First edition, first printing. VF. These essays are of a meditative mind devoted to the out-of-doors and consumed by beauties in nature whether they are fish or flowers. Beyond that is his concept of luck which he sees as the fisher's certainty. Providence will cause some blessing to befall the fisher even though the individual cannot be certain of what that might be. So we are advised to make friends with our luck. Within this book, Van Dyke's essay, "Fishing in Books," is a gentle but crushing attack on ephemeral technical angling books compared to the "literature of power."

19

_____. **Fisherman's Luck.** Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, New York, 1899. Pp. 247+. A deluxe limited edition known as the **Walton Edition.** Printed by the De Vinnie Press on Van Gelder paper. This is number 8 of 150. Quarter bound in what appears to be a white leatherette. Uncut page edges. The author wrote and signed a special preface. A poem, "The Angler's Reveille" by Van Dyke and dedicated to Walton is added to this edition. The bookplate of Joseph Bates, Jr. is laid in.

20

McDonald, John. **Quill Gordon.** Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., New York, New York, 1972. First Borzoi edition. (First edition published in 1939.) DJ. VF/VF. Though he wrote elegantly about much else in this book, McDonald's principal focus was on Theodore Gordon (1854-1915). Gordon was born of wealthy parents in Pittsburgh. He was well educated, urbane, and a successful broker until illness caused him to give up the city. He spent the rest of his adult life a recluse--a fly fisher and fly creator in New York's Catskills, living in a small cabin close by his Neversink and the fabled Beaverkill and Willomec. Rivers. He is the father of American dry

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fly tying, though he never wrote a book about the subject – only articles for British magazines and a multitude of letters. His major creation was a type of dry fly that was neither “fancy” nor did it represent exactly one insect. Rather it was tied to represent a group of insects – so that its form and color were not tied to match a specific hatch, but rather to “be close” enough to many related hatches to induce strikes. Thus, he created his Quill Gordon. His use of stiff hackle for dry flies caused the fly to ride high, even in rough water. His genius was the foundation of American dry fly tying. His art and science instructed the Dettles, Darbees, Cross, Stenrud and countless others to this day. Seldom do we find a creator, technician and romantic bundled into one body and mind – but here we have him!

22

Netherton, Cliff. **History of the Sport of Casting, People, Events, Records, Tackle and Literature, Early Times.** American Casting Education Foundation, Inc., Lakeland, Florida, 1981. Pp. 386. Paper. VF. Bait casting and fly casting tournaments were held by “associations” or clubs in America as early as the 1860s. This book is a splendid collection of pictures and original printed material that describe casting and clubs until about 1900. It is very important, too, because it speaks both explicitly and implicitly to the place of social class in early American fly fishing. Too, we find that many “expert” fly fishers and fly tiers were superb casters.

23

Wells, Harrington, P. **Fly-rods and Fly Tackle.** Harper & Bros., New York, New York, 1901. Pp. 448. Frontis is a picture of Wells. Revised and enlarged version of the first edition printed in 1885. F. This book offers suggestions about the manufacture of fly rods and a multiplicity of instructions about all aspects of fly fishing. But Wells was probably most famous for inventing the Parmachenee Belle. This dazzling creation of yellow, scarlet, white and silver was designed to imitate the belly fins of a small trout. Wells argued that large trout took such a fly not because it resembled an insect but because it resembled a live bait. The fly’s success in New Hampshire and Maine proved its creator to be correct and led others to tie flies that imitated live baits rather than only insects. (Gift of Jack C. Hutchinson to The Fly Fishing Collection)

The 20th Century

“The Art of catching fishes with artificial lures in imitation of natural insects is the most chivalric of all methods of angling.” – Charles Bradford, The Book Trout and the Determined Angler

The American native brook trout population had been decimated by 1900. It was thought by some that trout fishing in America was done--“kaput”! But then, two wondrous events occurred. Wily European brown trout, mostly from the British Isles and Germany were transplanted to the eastern United States and then west by railroad, in milk cans to Montana and beyond, while the West’s rainbow trout were transplanted to the East. Soon the browns and rainbows were thriving in new environments. And the browns, especially, were dry fly addicts – but very particular in their tastes!

Americans invented new trout stalking techniques, flies and equipment to meet the challenges of fast waters as compared with England’s flat-water trout rivers.

Americans produced a fly-fishing literature. It was technical and spoke to rod design, entomology, innovative fly design and patterns. It was the fiction of romance and humor with “down east” literature a hit. Bibliographies of American sport fishing appeared. The art of bookmaking prospered for a while, resulting in very expensive limited editions. Scores of sporting and fly-fishing magazines appeared. Fly-fishing went to the saltwater flats and the blue ocean. Fly fishing became a popular sport – by the 1960s, it was no longer limited to the socio-economic elite.

Bradford, Charles. **The Brook Trout and the Determined Angler**. Freshet Press, Rockville Center, New York, New York, 1970. Pp. 69. VF. This is a reprint of the 1900 edition. We read stories about the author’s love of brook trout fly fishing, mostly in central Pennsylvania.

24

Gill, Emlyn. **Practical Dry Fly Fishing**. Charles Scribner’s Sons, New York, New York, 1912. Pp. 216. Line drawings. First edition, first printing. F. This was America’s first book entirely about the dry fly. Gill is reputed to have had a significant impact on dry fly fishing in this country. (Bruns). Nevertheless, according to the most knowledgeable fly fishing historians, dry fly fishing was practiced at this time by only a small, elite group. (Schullery). (Gift of Jack C. Hutchinson to The Fly Fishing Collection)

25

Perry, Bliss. **Fishing With A Worm**. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, Massachusetts, 1916, Pp. 24. This is the second of an edition first published in 1906. F. Written by a Harvard Professor of English, this tongue-in-cheek little essay says that the fly fisher can be excused for not catching fish, but the worm fisher better come up with “Results.” Beautifully written.

26

----- **Pools and Ripples**. Little, Brown and Company, Boston, Massachusetts, 1927. Pp 102. Signed. Frontis is the author’s photograph. First edition was 1904. This copy is a third edition with its original dust jacket. VF. Boards are blue-marbled as water. This is of trout and salmon and the good humor of a gentleman who studied and enjoyed much more in nature than the fishing.

27

Netherton, Cliff. **History of the Sport of Casting**. American Casting Education Foundation, Inc., Lakeland, Florida, 1983. Pp.338. First edition, first printing. Hardback issued without DJ. VF. This continues Netherton’s description of bait and fly casting tournaments from 1900 to 1950. The book is filled with illustrations and reprinted original copy from various angling sources. We learn, too, that women’s tournaments were popular. The New York Angler’s Club was founded early in this period (1906) as a casting and fly fishing group. No one could have dreamed the club would become home to some of America’s most distinguished fly fishers and innovators as well as the well-spring from which was born so much exceptional American fly fishing literature.

28

Newkirk, Newton. **Doc an’ Jim an’ Me**. National Sportsman, Inc., Boston, Massachusetts, 1906. Pp. 71. Paper. Rare first edition, first printing. Inscribed by the author. F. Funny stories about fishing (fly-fishing, too) and hunting in the northeast wilderness. The characters are “proper” Bostonians turned loose. This is the first book devoted to humor that we have seen in the literature of American fly-fishing.

29

30 Camp, Samuel, G. **Taking Trout With The Dry Fly.** Macmillan and Company, New York, New York, 1930. Pp. 143. F. First edition, first printing. British fly fishers cast only to the rising trout. Camp differentiates the “American Dry Fly Method.” We cast over any likely-looking holding water.

31 _____ . **The Fine Art of Fishing.** Macmillan and Company, New York, New York, 1929. Pp. 177. F. This appears to be a second edition; the first was published in 1911. It is a “how to ” that acknowledges the brown trout as an established presence in America.

32 Ingraham, Henry, A. **American Trout Streams.** Privately printed for the Angler’s Club of New York by the Derrydale Press. New York, New York, 1926. This is #103 of the limited edition of 350. F. An edition of 150 copies was printed with the same publication date. A very readable yet scholarly trip up and down creeks and rivers. This is of stream ecology and resource preservation--a first in American fly fishing literature. The book’s cover is stained slightly with what looks to be the remains of wine!

33 Hewitt, Edward, Ringold. **Telling on the Trout.** Charles Scribner’s Sons, New York, New York, 1926. Pp. 166. First edition, first printing. F. This is about fly fishing for brook trout and brown trout. Indeed, the browns had arrived. Hewitt, a fine caster and a man of means was a leader in establishing the Angler’s Club of New York. He knew the wet and dry fly. But more important, he knew that the best stage of a fly fisher’s life was when that fisher realized that casting to the most difficult fish, with the most delicate gear, in the most difficult circumstances was the day’s best end – hook the fish or not. .

34 _____ . **Secrets of the Salmon.** Charles Scribner’s Sons, New York, New York, 1925. Pp. 159. Second edition. F. Master inventor as well as eminent fly fisher, Hewitt was determined to cause Atlantic salmon to rise to a fly and in any water conditions, just so long as he could see the fish. He was successful and this is his story.

35 Bergman, Ray. **Trout.** The Penn Publishing Company, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1938. Pp. 451. Flies for fifteen pages of color plates tied by Dr. Edgar Burke. First edition, first printing. Tan leatherette boards embossed with gold titling. Signed. VF. Bergman was a New Yorker who spent his life fly fishing, fly tying and writing about his experiences for magazines and in book form. Bergman was not a purist but an eclectic. That is: he used flies that imitated insects when that was called for; he used “fancy” attractor patterns at other times; he used floating and sunk flies. This well-written, easy-to-read, book contains very useful technical information as well as entertaining personal side-stories. **Trout** was probably the most popular fly fishing book published in America. It has gone through many editions.

36 Cross, Reuben, R. **Fur, Feathers and Steel.** Dodd, Mead & Company, New York, New York, 1940. Pp, 78. First edition, first printing. VG. Cross was a student of Theodore Gordon’s method. Cross was an ornithologist, botanist, and entomologist. A master fly tier, his art is described in this little book.

37 Sturgis, William, Bayard. **Fly-Tying.** Charles Scribner’s Sons, New York, New York, 1940. First edition, first printing. Pp. 254. F. Sturgis was a pioneer in using deer hair to tie frogs and

crayfish. But he was a master and innovator in creating other “bugs.” The highly selective Derrydale Press published his **New Lines for Fly Fishers** in 1936. .

Marinero, Vincent, C. **A Modern Dry-Fly Code**. Crown Publishers, New York, New York, 1974. Pp. 270. Eighth printing. VF/VF. First edition was 1950. Hailed by many as the most original contribution to American fly fishing literature, this book’s focus is on terrestrial insects and creating fly patterns to imitate those insects. His Ant, Jassid and Pontoon Hopper are examples of his creativity. This is philosophic as well as technical. His home waters were in Pennsylvania, but his reputation was international.

38

_____. **In the Ring of the Rise**. Crown Publishers, Inc., New York, New York, 1976. Pp.184. First printing, first edition. 10 ¾ by 8 ¾. VF/VF. Filled with beautiful and informative photographs. Though there are three parts to the book, the most interesting theme that runs through it is of trout behavior and how the fly fisher responds most effectively to that behavior – but only after careful observation. This is another brilliant piece of thinking, doing and writing. A classic.

39

Rosborough, E.H. (“Polly”). **Tying and Fishing The Fuzzy Nymphs**. Stackpole Books, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, 1978. Pp. 192. Third edition. Deluxe limited edition 265/300. Full bound green morocco leather with golden stonefly nymph inset in cover. Signed. “Polly” was an innovator who wrote that nymphs should be “simulations “ of natural nymphs and not exact imitations, that a broken outline of the “real thing” is superior to attempted replication, that the broken outline can often be best achieved through the use of “fuzzy” materials, and that stream-fished fuzzy nymphs should be allowed to fish in the upper six inches or so of water as if they were drifting up off the streambed bottom. Much of what “Polly” proposed was revolutionary. He created at least twenty five new patterns. “Polly’s” home, for much of his long life. was next to the Williamson River in Chiloquin, Oregon. An Oregon Cascades mountain fur trapper for fifty years, he was sinewy and tougher than rawhide. (See his **Marten I Have Known**.) He considered himself the “complete” ladies’ man according to our mutual friend and his next-door neighbor Paul Pursell. (Gift of Jack C. Hutchinson to The Fly Fishing Collection)

40

Traver. Robert. **Trout Madness**. St. Martin’s Press, New York, New York, 1960. Pp. 178. First edition, first printing. G/VF. The author’s real name was John D. Volker. He was a Michigan Supreme Court Justice and his authorship of **Anatomy of a Murder** assured him financial security. **Trout Madness** contains twenty-one short stories about its roguish author, drinking bourbon from an old tin cup, exchanging lies with fishing cronies and meandering and meditating about the good life on the Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. This is an American fishing classic.

41

Schwiebert, Ernest, G., **Matching The Hatch**. The Macmillan Company, New York, New York, 1955. Pp. 221. First edition, first printing Signed. VF/VF. Schwiebert is considered by many to have been America’s most multi-talented member of the fly fishing community. He was a gifted painter of fish, a top-notch entomologist, an excellent fly tier and fisher, and fine writer. This book is a guide telling what insects to expect emerging at each season of the year and in what water. Knowing what insets are emerging, the angler will select an appropriate imitative

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fly. Schwiebert's *magnum opus*, **Trout** (1978) is the masterwork on American fly fishing. (Gift of Jack C. Hutchinson to The Fly Fishing Collection)

- 43** _____ . **Matching The Hatch**. The Macmillan Company, New York, New York, 1971. Pp. 221. Seventh edition. First edition was 1955. Signed.
- 44** _____ . **Nymphs**. Winchester Press, New York, New York, 1973. Pp. 339. 11 by 8 ½. Illus. by the author. First edition, first printing. F. We have here a fine history of nymph fishing and then visits, with commentary, to nymph "factories" in myriad geographic settings. The lesson: study well and make your imitation perfect!
- 45** _____ . **Death of a Riverkeeper** E.P Dutton, New York, New York, 1980. Pp. 287. First edition, first printing. VF/VF. This is more than a set of stories of the author's fly fishing adventures throughout the United States, the United Kingdom, Europe and even salt water flats. There is a "soul" to the author's writing.
- 46** Drury, Clyde, E. **Books of the Black Bass 1791 - 1881 - 1979**. Clyde E. Drury, Tacoma, Washington, 1980. 2 Vols. Pp.79. Second edition. Paper. N. This is the bibliographic source for black bass book collectors—a very useful contribution to the literature.
- 47** Martin, Darrel. **Fly-Tying Methods**. Nick Lyons, New York, New York, 1987. Pp. 276. 10 ½ by 8 ½. First edition, first printing. VF/VF. Beautifully done technical book that tells us what we need to know about tying.
- 48** _____ . **Micropatterns. Tying & Fishing the Small Fly**. Lyons & Burford, Publishers, New York, New York, 1994. Pp.306. Signed. 11 ¼ by 8 ½. VF/VF. Small flies is the topic. Big fish often gorge on tiny #20s and smaller. Martin tells us how to recognize and meet the challenge but not how to improve our eyesight!
- 49** Heacox, Cecil. **The Compleat Brown Trout**. Amwell Press, Clinton, New Jersey, 1983. Pp. 182. Introduction by Dr. Ernest Schwiebert. Color plates .Limited edition of 1000. This is #485. Signed. Gold embossed leatherette boards and page-edges. Slipcase. VF/N. The brown trout (s) were transplanted to America from England and Continental Europe in the late 1800s. Without browns, streams in New England and the middle coastal states would have been void of trout fishing, because the native brook trout (charr) were so easy to catch and their populations had all but disappeared by 1900. We speak of brown trout(s) rather than "the" brown trout because, based on geographical location, their coloration differs. Heacox tells the story. To add a word: without transplants to Montana in the 1880s, the great fisheries of rivers such as the Big Hole or Madison River or Beaverhead would not have prospered.
- 50** Lyons, Nick. **Sphinx Mountain and Brown Trout**. Kevin Begos, Apalachicola, Florida, 1997. Pp. 81. Art by Mari Lyons. Limited edition of 950 in slip-case. This is 324. Signed by the author and artist. N/N. This is a self-study by Lyons of life's struggles and his great appreciations for his wife's art and his courageous battles to outsmart brown trout that live near Ennis, Montana. Lyons has probably contributed more to publication of American fishing literature than anyone living or dead.

Note: The major bibliographies of American fly fishing have already been donated to Special Collections. The same can be said for first and limited deluxe editions of many of late 20th century's most prominent fly fishing authors. Next year's gift to Special Collections will emphasize complementary bibliography and American 20th century writers of fact and fiction.

Condition notations:

F	"Fine;" there may be some faint signs of wear
G	"Good;" the book's condition is just acceptable
M or N	"Mint" or "New;" the book has not been read
N	"New;" the book has not been read
VF	"Very Fine;" the book is like new but has been read
VG	"Very Good;" the book shows signs of wear

M/M, F/E, G/E, etc. Used when there is a book jacket; the first letter refers to the condition of the jacket and the second to the condition of the book.

References

*** These sources have been useful in our display.

American Fishing Literature

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Goodspeed, Charles, E. **Angling in America.** (1939)
Marsden, George. **Jonathan Edwards - A Life.** (2003)
Morgan, Edward. **The Puritan Dilemma, The Story of John Winthrop.** (1958)
Schullery, Paul. **American Fly Fishing - A History.** (1987)
The American Fly Fisher (Journal of the Museum of American Fly Fishing)

All Annotations by Paul Ford

→
**"Simplicity is the soul of fishing enjoyment –
humility the secret of success."**

Fred Everett, *Fun With Trout*

←

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