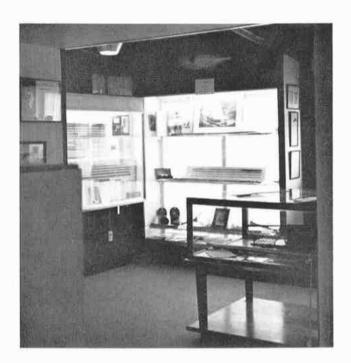
The American Fly Fisher





The Museum of American Fly Fishing

Manchester, Vermont 05254

The Museum is a non-profit institution, chartered under the laws of the State of Vermont. As an educational organization it is directed to the preservation and keeping of the traditions that bond the past with the present. The Museum offers a permanent public repository where the historic fly rod, reel, book, art work and fly pattern may be expertly guarded against the destructiveness of time. Contributions are tax deductible as established by the U.S. Revenue Service.

A descriptive brochure is available.



The permanent exhibits at the Museum display the world's finest collections of fly fishing tackle.

Henry Bruns

OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

President
Raymond A. Kotrla
Vice President & Curator
Austin S. Hogan
Treasurer
Leigh H. Perkins
Secretary & Asst. Treasurer
Mrs. Millie B. Delaney
Registrar
Kenneth Cameron
Conservator
Charles Olin

Honorary Trustees

D. C. Corkran Harry Darbee Herman Kessler Wesley Jordan

MEMORIAL CITATION

Joseph W. Brooks, Jr. 1901-1972

Albert I. Alexander Gene Anderegg Stuart C. Apte Joseph Spear Beck Harold Blaisdell Stanley Bogden Miss Kay Brodney

Carroll C. Curtice Donald DuBois Charles A. Fellows Benjamin A.G. Fuller Arnold Gingrich William A. Glassford Gardner L. Grant Dr. Alvin Grove, Jr. George W. Harvey Charles E. Jones Poul Jorgensen Mark Kerridge David Ledlie Leon L. Martuch Sidney Neff Mrs. Leigh Perkins Steve Raymond Rick Robbins Willard F. Rockwell, Jr. Theodore Rogowski Ben Schley Berni Schoenfield Ernest G. Schwiebert Warren Shepard Milford K. Smith Louis Stoia Prescott A. Tolman Bennett Upson Archibald Walker Milton Weiler **Ted Williams** Maxine Atherton Wykoff

The American Fly Fisher

Published by The Museum of American Fly Fishing for the pleasure of the membership.

SPRING 1974 Vol. 1., No. 2

ADVISORY BOARD

Kenneth	Cameron
Rock	port, Mass.

Arnold Gingrich New York, N.Y.

Dr. Alvin Grove State College, Pa.

Baird Hall Manchester, Vt.

- Raymond A. Kotrla Washington, D.C.
- Leigh H. Perkins Manchester, Vt.
- Steve Raymond Seattle, Wa.
- Mrs. Anne Secor Arlington, Vt.
- Donald Zahner Manchester, Vt.
- Austin S. Hogan Cambridge, Mass. Research & Liaison

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ARTICLES

"We Also Will Go With Thee"	A. I. "Pal" Alexander	p. 3
The Greatest American Brook Trouts	Austin S. Hogan	p. 7
TECHNOLOGY		
The Fly Rod Splice	Kenneth Cameron	p. 10
Reconstructing Historic American Trout Flies	Poul Jorgenson	p. 14
READINGS IN AMERICAN HISTORY		
" He Described It as the Best Fly Fishing He Ever Had Enjoyed"	Steve Raymond	p. 16
Making A First Class Fly Rod	Reprint Maine Sports- man, Feb. 1900	p. 19
The Historic Montana Trout Fly From Tradition to Transition	George F. Grant	p. 20
MUSEUM AFFAIRS		
Traveling Exhibit Available for Loan		p. 22
The Wading is Sometimes Difficult	Austin S. Hogan	p. 23
RECENT ACQUISITIONS		p. 24

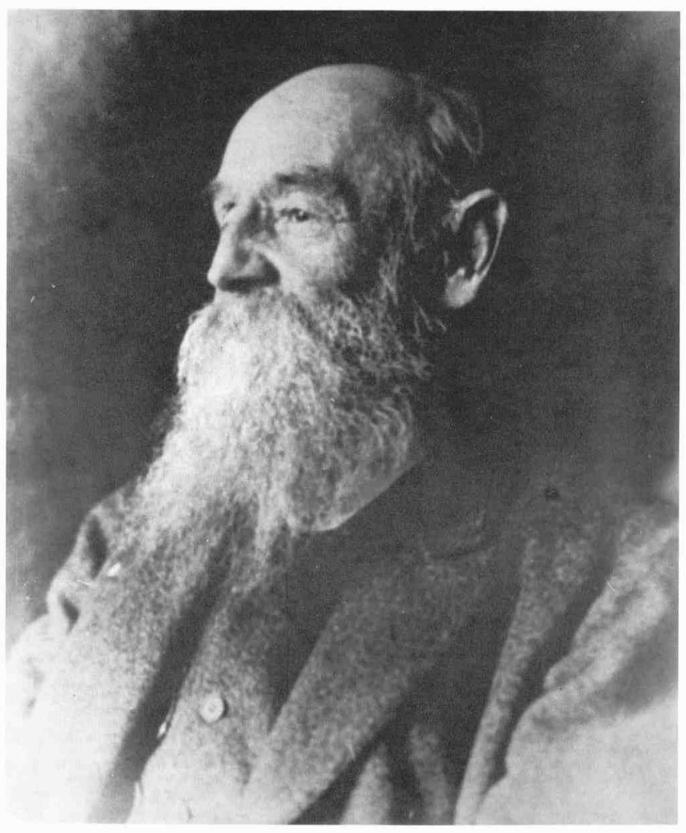
p. 24

THE AMERICAN FLY FISHER, the magazine of THE MUSEUM OF AMERICAN FLY FISHING, is published quarterly by the MUSEUM at Manchester, Vermont 05254. Subscription is free with payment of membership dues, single copies \$2.00. All correspondence, letters, manuscripts, photographs and materials should be forwarded care of the Curator. The MUSEUM and MAGAZINE are not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts, photographs, drawings, materials or memorabilia. The Museum can not accept responsibility for statements and interpretations which are wholly the author's. Unsolicited manuscripts can not be returned unless postage is provided. Contributions to THE AMERICAN FLY FISHER are to be considered gratuitous and become the property of the Museum unless otherwise requested by the contributor. Publication dates are January, April, July and October. Application to mail at Second Class Postage Rates is pending at Manchester, Vermont.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

© Copyright 1974, THE AMERICAN FLY FISHER, Manchester, Vermont 05254. Original material appearing may not be reprinted without prior permission.

CREDITS: Museum photos by Kenneth M. Cameron. Drawings by Austin S. Hogan. Printing by Thompson, Inc., Manchester Center, Vermont.



WILLIAM COWPER PRIME
1825 - 1905
A truly beautiful example of the superiority of the glass plate negative. Photographer unknown. Prime was noted for his intellectual pursuits, was a respected journalist and travelled from New England to Florida for his fishing. Photo in the collection of A. I. Alexander.

"We Also Will Go With Thee"

(A Look at W. C. Prime) by A. I. "PAL" ALEXANDER Photos by the Author

A. I. Alexander is a past Vice-President and Director of the Federation of Fly Fishermen, a collector of angling books, is deeply interested in fly fishing history and literature and conducts an outdoor column for the Lawrence (Mass.) Eagle Tribune. The mini-biography that follows will be found unusual in its approach and appraisals.

One hundred years have passed since W. C. Prime wrote I Go A-Fishing (1873), one of the most successful and, in many ways, strangest fishing books of all time. To call it a "fishing book" may be a gross misnomer for it is far more than that. It is the philosophy of a zealous man with firm opinions on everything from Agnes Durer to fashion and the book is pregnant with yarns of Egypt, Syria, and Asia Minor that have nothing whatsoever to do with going a-fishing. Yet, in spite of all this, a safe wager to make is that on the bookshelf of any dealer who handles old or second hand angling books there will be one of the common editions of Walton's Complete Angler (1653) where the biblical quotation from John 21: 3 - "Simon Peter said, I go a fishing: and they said, We also will go with thee." - is used on the title page and a copy of W. C. Prime's I Go A-Fishing where, of course, a portion is used in the title.

William Cowper Prime (1825-1905) was born in Cambridge, New York, the son of a Presbyterian minister. He was educated at the College of New Jersey, now Princeton. After college, Prime entered the law for a time before turning to journalism. He was a president of the Associated Press and for eight years, he edited the New York Journal of Commerce. Prime also held a chair in art history at the College of New Jersey and a vice-presidency of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. His writings ranged to numerous subjects including travel, art, porcelain and fishing. Although he wrote a dozen books or so, I Go A-Fishing is undoubtedly the best of them.

During the summer, when the world was at a much more leisurely pace than it is today, he and his fishing companion, William F. Bridge, of New York City, the angler "Dupont" in I Go A-Fishing, headed for Franconia, a magnificent mountain retreat area of New Hampshire. Here, with six hundred other guests, at the luxurious Profile House, 2000 feet above the sea, with its flower gardens, promenading ladies, and laughing children, they made their headquarters for a summer of fishing.

Additionally, Prime spent much time at a sizeable log cabin constructed on the shores of Lonesome Lake in the Mount Cannon Range, 1000 feet above Profile Lake - "that gem of all the world of waters wherein I have taken many thousand trout" - and only 200 feet below the Profile, The Old Man of the Mountain, itself, the strange, natural, stone configuration of a man's face.

Charles Goodspeed, an admirer, who authored Angling in America (1939) shows three stereoscopic photographs by the Kilburn Brothers. One is of Prime fishing Lonesome Lake, the second is of the cabin, and the third is of Prime and Bridge seated in front of the cabin "disputing the fly question." Interestingly enough, this last photograph was also used as the frontispiece of Favorite Flies and their Histories (1892) by Mary Orvis Marbury. In her text, Mrs. Marbury says that an uncle, J. C. Hinchman, while sojourning in the White Mountains, took the picture and sent it to her but the anglers in the photograph were not identified until some years later when W. C. Prime and William Bridge, sitting in a similar manner, were observed by Mrs. Marbury. Noticing the remarkable resemblance, she showed the photograph to the gentlemen and Prime recalled that it had been taken some fifteen years prior at Lonesome Lake. Whether she had in her possession at that time the other two photographs is not known for certain but it seems highly probable.

The origin of the photograph (opposite) taken of Prime in his later years is unknown to me. I found it laid in one of the first editions I have of I Go A-Fishing without any marks or notations. It is the only close-up photograph I have ever seen. In I Go A-Fishing there are no photographs or illustrations save one obscure line drawing taken from The Dialoges of Creatures Moralysed (1480?) which shows the first use in literature of a float or bobber.

With a full summer to ply his sport from sunrise to sunset, Prime knew well the waters of the Franconia area. He fished Profile Lake, Echo Lake, Walker Brook, and Nancy Brook as well as the Pemigewasset River. And, with his friend Dupont, he took an almost unbelievable toll of the native brook trout from the region. As Prime relates, "In fact, after a few days, we counted them only by the basketfuls. The Pemigewasset seemed inexhaustible."

Strangely enough, he seemed to have no conception of saving fish for another day although concern for this had been expressed earlier and well by people such as Thaddeus Norris with whom he was quite familiar. Prime defended his right to enjoy the killing of fish as long as the catch was not wasted. It is unfortunate that he was not housed in a resort smaller that the Profile House, capable of entertaining six hundred guests, as he had no compunction about bringing back enough fish for the whole hote!! Moreover,



The Prime Gnat. Tied by the author.

Prime did not doubt for one minute that he was a sportsman when he did so as he recalls, "We threw back countless small fish which we did not care to take out, and finished the day's sport with a hundred and fifteen trout to take home for the supply of the hotel. It is a comfort to take fish where they are sure to be useful for food, and it is a subject of profound regret that many persons go into the woods and camp, and, having only a few mouths to supply, kill large numbers of trout which are not eaten but thrown away. No sportsman does this."

Again, in reference to his prodigious catches, "A day's fishing like this gives us no large fish, and so many small ones that we seldom count them. We often have from four to five hundred trout in our baskets as the result of such a day on the Pemigewasset."

Why Prime felt obligated to take so many fish or supply a hotel full of strangers he does not say. There is no question, however, that he was acutely conscious of the weight and numbers of his fish catches. Relating another experience, he states, "The keenest day's sport in my journal of a great many years of sport was when, in company with some other gentlemen, I took three hundred blue-fish in three hours' fishing off Block Island, and those fish were eaten the same night or the next morning in Stonington, and supplied from fifty to a hundred different tables, as we threw them up on the dock for any one to help himself. I am unable to perceive that I committed any sin in taking them, or any sin in the excitement and pleasure of taking them."

For all his rationalizations on the size of his fish baskets, he thoroughly loved his outdoors - "no man is in perfect condition to enjoy scenery unless he have a fly-rod in his hand and a fly-book in his pocket." In later years, he saw the beginning of pollution and the inexhaustible supply of brook trout begin to become exhausted. Writing of the same area in Among the Northern Hills (1895), he laments, "No one cares to build a country home on the banks of a river flowing with the mush of saw-dust, unapproachable except by wading in soft, rotten wood, foul with drifting slab stuff and the waste of saw-mills."

And, on the fishing, "Times are not now what they once were here (Pond Brook out of Echo Lake). Time was when this brook was one of the finest in the world. But times have changed. A large manufacturing village, six miles away, turns out on every Sunday morning in April and May scores of men with poles and lines, who reduce the trout to a comparatively small number."

Fly fishing meant using one of his eleven fly rods and a cast made up of two or three flies. Four of these rods were made by Thaddeus Norris of Philadelphia. One, a thirteen footer, weighing ten ounces, was for "black bass and for trout, when fish are large and plenty and I desire to kill as many as possible within a limited time." Two other rods, identical, made by Norris, twelve feet long and weighing seven ounces, were his favorites on both brook and lake.

For flies, we know from a letter written to Charles F. Orvis, reprinted by Charles Goodspeed in *Angling in America*, that he liked a Black Spider tied with an abundance of long black hackle fibers to go with a black body and a short red butt. According to Prime's letter, this pattern produced strikes on Profile Lake when nothing else would.

Favorites were Scarlet Ibis, the White Mother (White Miller) and the Gnat. The Gnat was a variation of pattern and Mrs. Marbury lists it as the Prime Gnat in her book. It had wings of dark slate, black hackle, peacock herl body, and a gold tip. Also used was an unidentified fly, tied for him locally, that had a red body and black wings which were tipped with white.

It seems, however, despite his upbringing on Westminster Catechism, he strains the credulity of the modern angler, (unless we have been misled in our assumption that the wilderness trout in the days of plenty were unselective), when he tells us, "We brought into the Profile House that evening forty-five fish, weighing thirty-nine pounds. Everyone of these forty-five fish was taken on a Scarlet Ibis or White Moth. They would not rise to any other fly."

Suprisingly, we do not have much information on Prime from his contemporaries. He was not included by Fred Mather in Men 1 have Fished With (1897) or My Angling Friends (1901) both of which were collections of stories of notable anglers of the day. Charles Hallock, in An Angler's Reminiscences gives Prime perfunctory notice in discussing angling literature and chides him somewhat, too as he says, "Once in a while a contemplative author like Thoreau sauntering by the river side, or Willis, from Under a Bridge, or Prime in Owl Creek Cabin Letters, or Ike Marvel, wrapt in Reveries would lead us unsuspectingly into secluded by-paths of the forest, discanting piously upon the silvery denizens of the brooks in a fashion to prompt an occasional vacation rambler to go a-fishing. But these new men (novi homines) in the days of their novitiate, never aspired to higher game than the 'trout of speckled pride.' The way in which they held him up to tender recognition might make a sentimental person wish to fondle, but never to skin and eat him. Prime, good master, was adolescent then and callow, but he was a born angler, well versed in the mysteries of the brooks; and as soon as ever his heart was hardened and he ceased to regard the beautiful things as pets, he began to write bravely of kidnapping them from their fluvial home and 'playing them scientifically,' and so has continued to write for forty years, though he has never risen to the higher plane of the salmon.'

Hallock's *The Fishing Tourist* was published in the same year, 1873, and by the same publisher, Harper & Brothers, as W. C. Prime's *I Go A-Fishing* but it is of interest to note in *An Angler's Reminiscences* (1913), in his section on the chronology of angling books, Hallock dates Prime's book as 1874, a year after his own. This error may have been accidental, or freudian, perhaps, but one wonders about the relationship of Hallock and Prime at the NEW YORK JOURNAL OF COMMERCE where Hallock also served as an editor for a time, and, for most of his life, was a large stockholder.

W. C. Prime's many digressions from the "contemplative man's recreation" will undoubtedly be his undoing in securing a very high rung in angling literature. The moralizing and unusual amount of erudition in many fields which, in its day, seemed pertinent was probably welcomed by the reader. Today, however, it has become dry, tedious, and irrelevant. Few readers care about the inadequate rhymning of Dies Irae or pronouncements on New York fashion such as, "A stove-pipe hat is so thoroughly ridiculous that no

barbarous nation has ever invented any thing remotely resembling it." His sentiments on tobacco, of which he was very fond, "If up-country gravestones told truth you would find them saying 'died of dough-nuts' where one said 'died of tobacco'," are even more archaic.

It is unfortunate that the Prime Gnat isn't a killing pattern found in every New Englander's fly book, thus assuring him some fragment of immortality but it isn't. At the scene of his many fishing triumphs in Franconia there is an Appalachian Mountain Club trail bearing the title of "Fishin' Jimmy Trail," a short cut from Lonesome Lake to Kinsman Pond. Fishin' Jimmy was the title of a very modest 46-page book by Annie Trumbull Slosson, a niece of W. C. Prime. There is no "Dupont" or "I Go A-Fishing" trail and perhaps that is the way Prime would have wanted it. Prime was a philosopher, "The angler, I think, dreams of his sport oftener that other men of theirs," and frequently gives the reader lofty thoughts such as, "Trout fishing is employment for all men, of all minds. It tends to dreamy life and it leads to much thought and reflection," which is reminiscent of Walton. But basically he was a story teller. He did not have the fishing expertise that the giant of the era, Thaddeus Norris, had, nor did he pretend to be an instructor in the art. Yet, he wrote his stories for fishermen to read, "I have written for lovers of the gentle art, and if this which I have written fall into other hands, let him who reads understand that it is not for him."

If his angling writings do not survive in the future and there is no where a small literary niche for W. C. Prime, he would, of all people, understand because, "We who go afishing are a peculiar people."

AT THE LONDON FISHERIES EXHIBITION

Hexagonal Split Bamboo Fishing Rods

Were awarded Three Silver Medals and the highest special prize—10 Sovereigns. Noted for excel ence more than numbers. This is the highest prize awarded to any American for Split Bamboo Rods.

Manufactured by B. F. NICHOLS, 153 Milk Street, Boston, Mass.

Send for list with Massachusetts Fish and Game Laws.

SEND NAME FOR ILLUSTRATED CATA-SPLIT BAMBOO SALMON, TROUT AND BASS RODS OF W. S, TRUMBULL, Potter Place, N. H.

Round Section Bamboo Rods.

TRADE OF MARK.

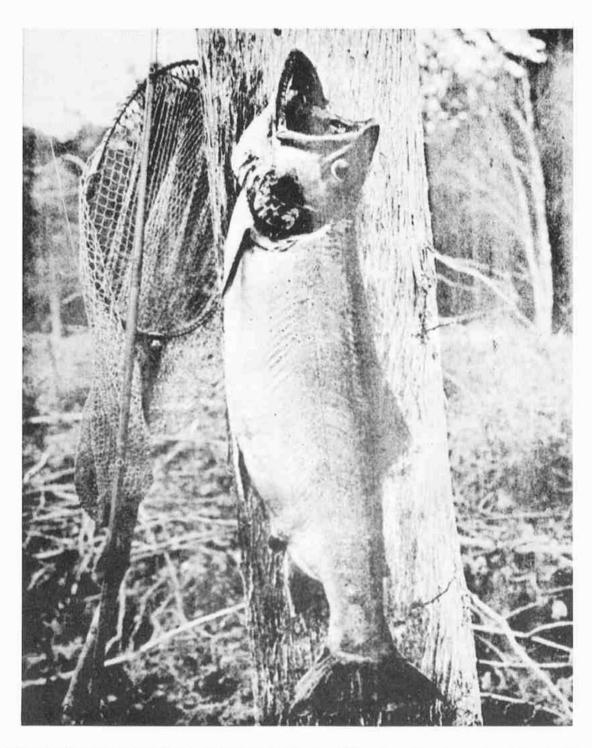
Having been the pioneers in the manufacture and introduction of Section Bamboo Rods, we have always taken great pride in securing and perfecting every improvement in order to maintain our position as the makers of the very best rods. Knowing not only theoretically, but also by long experience, that a properly made round rod is the only absolutely perfect rod, we have invariably refused, and still do refuse, to put our name on any but our "Best" round section rods. While our prices for these round rods are only a trifle more than the prices asked by any other makers, the rods are widely known to be incomparably superior and guaranteed in the most liberal manner.

We have just finished and put on the market a new caliber round rod, 10 feet long, and weighing with the solid reel seat only 7 ounces. This rod has stood the most severe tests, and found capable of killing the largest black pass. The many expert anglers who have handled this rod pronounce it the best balanced and most perfect rod in the market.

ABBEY & IMBRIE,

18 Vesey Street (Fourth door from Astor House), New York City.

This <u>FOREST & STREAM</u> ad of Sept., 1885 is informative in that an engineering principle is involved which was ultimately discarded in the manufacture of split bamboo rods. The round configuration has returned with the modern fiberglass rod.



This magnificent Salvelinus Fontinalis is typical of the trout taken from Rangeley waters during the Victorian age. Senator Wm. P. Frye of Rangeley took one of over 10 pounds on the fly in 1898.

The Greatest American Brook Trouts

by AUSTIN S. HOGAN

If there is a dream all fishermen have in common, it is to hold a world's record for the largest of all fishes. If you were born and bred in the trout country of the east, then your dream is of the giant Fontinalis, the red spotted giant with the square tail which, by sheer weight and muscle, will tear your heart to pieces before it is landed and on the scales, will weigh over 14½ pounds. The champion was caught by Dr. J. W. Cook of Fort William, Ontario, on the evening of July 22, 1915, from the Nepigon River at the foot of the McDonald rapids. A larger one may yet come from the Canadian wilderness if the romantic reports of bush pilots and trappers are true, but the odds are long, and the Cook record has stood for 58 years.

The historic literature centers the greatest of American's brook trout feeding quietly in the waters of Canada's Lake Nepigon drainage system, and in the United States, deep down in Maine's Rangeley Lakes. Unfortunately, the sporting publications of the 19th century, though giving the Nepigon its due as a producer of large brook trout, fail to note anything spectacular relating to fish over 6 pounds, yet it is obvious such were present. Robert B. Roosevelt in his "Superior Fishing," 1865, reported "after having fished from Labrador to the Mississippi and killed trout in every State where trout are to be killed, I am satisfied that the fishing of Lake Superior surpasses any other on our continent -." Of its in-flowing rivers, "the most famous is the Neepigon, where barrels of trout have been taken in one day; but the Bachawaung and Agawa are nearly as good, and within a more convenient distance, while the Harmony is unequaled for wild and romantic scenery."

Roosevelt may have discouraged visitors for he also notes meeting a group of fellow fishermen who "had ascended the Neepigon; and gave glowing accounts of the number of fish but not much of the character of the fishing, saying that the trout which were large on the average, were collected in pools, as we had found them on the Bachawaung, and were so numerous as to ruin the sport. They had had a long journey and had run out of whiskey, a deprivation that we hastened to supply —." Tragic, but no mention of a 14½ pounder.

Roosevelt and the many others who wrote of the Nepigon, apparently did not get in to the giant trout. Perhaps because they were not there or their flies were not fished deep enough. Edward R. Hewitt, in his "A Trout and Salmon Fisherman for Seventy Five Years," 1948, visited both the Lake and the River in 1887 and again during the summer of 1891. He notes two varieties of trout in the river; one a thin and deep fish with very red sides and extremely red fins, the other much deeper and fatter having a blue side coloration. The latter came from Lake Superior and the more reddish fish, which an Indian told him always was in the river, seldom went over 11 pounds. Apparently, the Lake Superior migrant was the real heavyweight.

A fish weighing 19 pounds is recorded by an early sur-

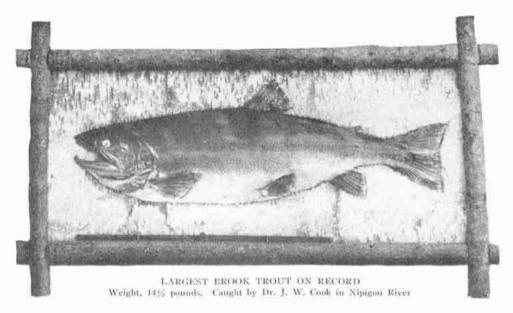
veying party. Hewitt found the very large trout in waters that were deep and swift and for a time was at a loss to get his artificial within their interest. His largest Nepigon trout was taken by putting a small bit of lead to his leader and using a 17 ounce, 15 foot salmon rod. The best afternoon's fishing produced 13 fish, six over six pounds and one very much larger. This trophy was 26 inches long and 20 inches in girth, the estimated weight 13 pounds.

The weighing may be unofficial but in the romantic concept, Edward Ringwood Hewitt holds the American record for the largest Eastern brook trout caught on the fly.

The Rangeley story is far better documented. The Lakes are located in the far north-west corner of Maine and many of the names come from the crude attempts of the early settlers to shape the syllables of the Indian tongue into the framework of a more familiar language. During settlement, the largest were called the Androscoggin Lakes. Whatever the original meaning and beauty, it has been lost through an awkwardness of pronunciation which included Molechunkamunk, Wollekennebacock and Umbagog. The more familiar modern names are Rangeley, Mooselookmaguntic, Parmachenee, Kennebago, Richardson and Umbagog; the smaller, Quimby, Dodge, Gull, the Seven Ponds, Long Pond and many others, cover nine hundred square miles. Most of the waters, through good management, still provide very fine trout fishing.

From 1864 to 1914, the Rangeley Lakes and streams produced no less than 25 native eastern brook trout weighing 10 pounds or over. Any one of these, at that time, could have been a world's record in its class. One of the largest, a monster weighing 11¾ pounds was taken on a fly September 30th, 1879 by Frank Marble and his guide, Steven Morse of Upton, from the Upper Dam, Lake Mooselookmaguntic. Another, 11½ pounds, was caught from the same place by Dr. J. S. Mixter, June 7th, 1887. So abundant were 5 and 6 pound fish, that few of these catches were even noticed. However, what is particularly strange for a nation of sportsmen, the Rangeleys were almost unknown before the 1860's and when many of the waters of the Adirondacks, Long Island, and Pennsylvania were nearly fished out.

Prior to the Civil War, few sportsmen believed the brook trout would go over 5 or 6 pounds and, when the news was circulated that George Shephard Page, a noted angler and clubman, had brought a number of fish weighing 5, 6, 7 and 8½ pounds from the wilds of Maine to New York, few believed. When authorities are no longer authorities, a mild panic usually ensues and the experts scrambled ineffectually, (including Charles Hallock and Thad Norris), to suggest these were lake trout or Schoodic salmon. Eventually, the great naturalist Louis Agassiz pronounced them genuine brook trout and the noise subsided until the more opportune could get to the fishing grounds and recover their expertise.



Dr. Cook's world record was split in half then skinned and mounted at Fort William, Ontario. Does this trophy still exist and if so in whose possession? From The American Angler - April 1918.

Actually, the great trout of the Rangeleys had been noted in the SPIRIT OF THE TIMES as early as December 18th, 1852. That year a group walked from Bridgeton to Richardson Lake to capture a sackful or more of eight pounders.

The first and perhaps the luckiest fly fisher of all time was Joseph Ellis Ware who came from England to settle in Farmington during the 1830's. He moved to Nova Scotia in 1840 but during the previous decade, he and his pupil the Reverend Zenos Thompson fished Oquossoc Stream at Indian Rock, now the location of the Oquossoc Angling Association. The Ware rod, which was made in England (tip and mid-section of lancewood, butt of "English maple"), owned by Thompson's son in 1909, may still be in existence.

In the 1840's two members of the Boston Society of Natural History studied aquatic life in the Rangeleys reporting on the habits of a minnow, but didn't even remark about the big trout. And, a group of New York City sportsmen fished off Indian Rock but they kept the fishing secret. What astonished the local guides were the camp outfits that included tents, silver knives, forks and spoons, fine cheeses, imported sausages, Madeiras and custom made fishing tackle.

By the end of the 1860's, the Rangeleys had become so widely known, a tourist boom had started and there were hotels, lodges and private cottages dotting the lake shores. Meanwhile, the native residents continued their traditional spearing and netting of the great trout for export to the Portland and Boston markets. The beginning effects were illustrated by two urbanites who visited Rangeley Lake during the autumn of 1872. (In the AMERICAN SPORTS-MAN, Vol. 1, No. 1, November 1872).

"Well, here we are at last, after two days and nights of incessant travel, some 600 miles from Gotham and fairly in the heart of the wilderness. Now, thought we, for once in our lives we shall have enough elbow room and for once in our lives cast our flies to the extreme limit which skill allows. But, alas, on the morrow at early dawn we paddled to a favorite fishing spot which lies almost directly in front of the camp, thirteen other boats were moored in almost provoking proximity. There were fifteen of us in all and throughout the whole day, we whipped the waters with unflagging zeal, the gross return for the entire flotilla being

exactly five trout, none of which weighed over five pounds. One thing was certain, we were not to suffer the pangs of solitude during our stay.

"There is a glorious pool at the foot of the dam. In this pool big trout were swimming, for we actually saw them, and breaking water with a nonchalance and a tantalizing sense of security which was positively maddening. Around this pool, which was about 80 feet in diameter, were seven, I do not exaggerate, ardent anglers, armed with huge bamboo poles, some twenty feet in length and three inches at the butt. They were fishing with minnows, worms, spawn, in fact, every lure that was illegitimate and unscientific, and in lathe constructed cars, which were tethered near the pool, we saw dozens of magnificent trout, weighing from four to seven pounds.

"Getting up early, we were able to fish from good locations and caught five trout weighing 27½ pounds, the largest being 8½ pounds.

"They are as different from their cousins the Lake Trout which often go 50 pounds as a porgie differs from a sheepshead. Our 81/2 pounder was only 27 inches long but it measured 18 inches in girth. The smaller fish, say such as under four pounds, are more elegant in shape than their big brothers, but in no wise are superior in beauty of coloring. Never were hues more brilliant than those which dved the gorgeous forms of our larger specimens. Such deep rich crimson as glowed along the sides, such lovely spots of purple and orange speckled with tinier spotlets of vivid scarlet as were scattered over the upper half of their bodies. Such dazzling white as striped the ventral line and extended over the whole thread, neither of us had ever beheld. In point of physiognomy, Lavator would not have given them a high score on gentleness. Their universal expression was sullen, savage and as remorseless as that of a shark. We had ample opportunity for examining the captured specimens as they lurked in the dark corners of the stone pens erected for their security and were reminded of the cruel, treacherous mien which stamps the monarch of the jungle behind prison

"There are comfortable accommodations in the neighborhood and ladies who are not suffering from the GREC-IAN BENDS can get along famously. Go in May or June if you are content to catch fish of two or three pounds with the fly and a big one with bait or trolling spoon. Go in

September (not earlier than the 20th) and if you are ambitious of catching sockdollagers in the only way they should be captured, with the fly.

"Salmon rods are in general use for the autumn fishing but are entirely unnecessary. I used only an 8 ounce rod and my companion's was a little over that weight. Large and gaudy flies are the favorites. The scarlet lbis and the Irish Lake flies are the best. Let your landing net be broad and deep with wide meshes. Go at the proper season, with the proper equipment and a corresponding determination, and on your return give us the glad tidings of your success."

The glad tidings continued for two decades with diminishing returns as the years rolled by. Kit Clark, advertising man and a very loud fly fisher began to complain about shortages in the last part of the 1880's bringing down the wrath of the loyal but as he said "they don't come to dinner at the ringing of the bell."

Dr. William Converse Kendall ichthyologist with the U.S. Bureau of Fisheries made a study of the Rangeley fish 1912 through 1914 and was so astonished at the size of the trout he made a very thorough investigation which was limited by circumstances to the reports in local diaries and the popular sporting publications. The largest trout reported was one of 12½ pounds caught by a boy, worm fishing, not verified. Others of 17, 15 and 12 pounds were also reported. Professor Agassiz was sent a fish that weighed 11 pounds. (1860). Luman Sargent, an Upton guide, took a fish of 11½ pounds, the largest ever seen by Fish Commissioner H. O. Stanley, who spent many years in the area. He said as a boy his father would bring home trout that, though gutted, looked like codfish and may have been even larger.

There was an inclination to exaggerate sizes for publicity purposes by hotel keepers and guides. A prime example was the announcement of the capture of a trout of 12½ lbs. by J. Frederick Grote of New York on June 11th, 1886. It was kept in a car for a week before it died, meanwhile being weighed several times at the Mooselookmeguntic House. It was 26½ inches long, 17½ inches in girth, 7½ inches deep and 4 inches thick through the neck. Jerry Ellis, Mr. Grote's guide, called it an 8 pounder and obviously the weight of 12½ pounds was a fraudulent claim.

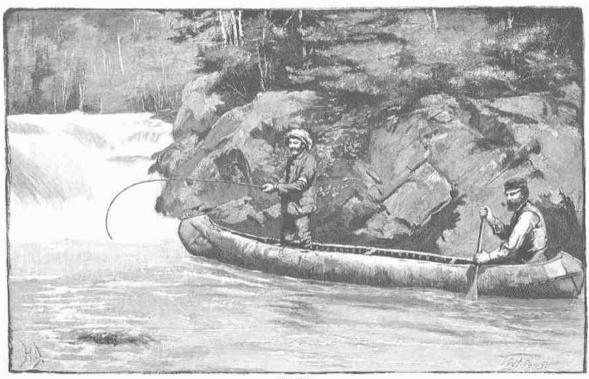
Dr. J. S. Mixter's record, for June 7th, 1887, was one fish of 11½ pounds; one weighing 9½ pounds and one of 6 pounds, caught deep trolling. Kendall mentions all the preceding fish and in addition, lists 15 trout weighing between 10 and 11 pounds; 30 between 9 and 10 pounds and 60 fish weighing 8 pounds but less than 9.

Most amazing was the catch of T. B. Stewart in the Upper Dam of two fish over 8 pounds taken on one cast. Some time later in 1888, this same T. B. Stewart was arrested for snagging trout with a grappling hook. He paid his fine, then loudly protested, but the catch of the double is now very suspect.

J. S. Rowe, editor of the *Maine Sportsman*, reviewing some of the big Lake and Brook trout catches, took heart that in 1901, a visit to the Sunshine Club (Moosehead Lake) revealed its members were no longer interested in taking huge numbers of fish for club prizes but, were now recognizing only the largest caught by a member; and emphasized they subscribed to the creed it was not true sportsmanship to make great catches of fish but rather catches of great fish. Rowe added that the State of Maine recognized and endorsed this forward step and had passed legislation limiting the daily take to 25 pounds.

The legislation was ineffectual at that time, and in the ensuing years, even more restricting laws failed to halt the depletion. The last 9 pound Rangeley trout is unrecorded, as are those of 8 and 7 pounds.

The greatest American brook trouts, whether from the Nepigon or a far corner of Maine are now a part of a tragic history.

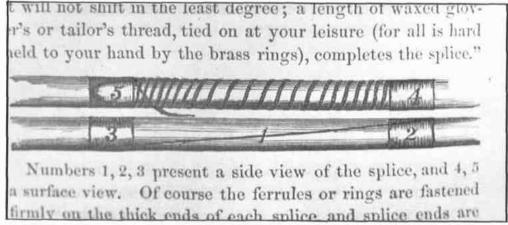


West Falls,

Adventurous fishing on the Nepigon. From the Century Magazine, 1899.

The Fly Rod Splice

by KENNETH CAMERON



The "Modern Splice for Fly Rods", from Genio Scott, Fishing in American Waters, p. 160.

Long before the introduction of the modern ferrule, and co-existent for centuries with more primitive ferrules, was the "splice," a means of joining fly-rod sections without metal. Briefly, the splice was a wood-to-wood joint of two matching bevels up to five inches long, cut so that the beveled overlaps would match exactly and continue the rod's taper. Variously, this means of joining rod sections could be used as either a temporary joint, to be taken apart after the day's fishing, or as a permanent one for early rods in which single sections were made of several pieces of wood joined end-to-end. In both cases, the splice was securely wrapped with heavy thread.

As can be seen from Thaddeus Norris' description of a splice in his American Angler's Book (1865 edition), it was more work for the fisherman than simply inserting one part of a ferrule into the other. (The description here is of a splice to repair a broken rod, but the operations are the same.) "To Splice a Rod. — . . . after rubbing the surfaces where [the bevels] come into contact with hard shoemaker's wax, wind the splice . . . with fine waxed twine or sadler's [sic] silk, and fasten off with the invisible knot [whip finish] . . ." In the case of a rod manufactured with splices, the bevels would not have to be waxed each time the rod was put up, but the time-consuming job of winding and whip-finishing had to be done each time the rod was used.

Inevitably, various devices were tried to make the splice easier and more secure. Genio Scott, for example, described a "modern splice for fly rods" in his Fishing in American Waters (1869), an improvement that certainly cannot have been "modern" even then: "The splice is of the ordinary length, with a small, thin rim, or flat ring of brass at the thick end of each splice; the thin end of each splice fits so tightly into (under) [sic] the brass rim or ring at the thick end of the other that it [the splice] will not shift..." Such metal rings were also used on splice guards, the beveled pieces of dowel fitted over the fragile ends of each face of the splice when the rod was taken apart for storage or travel.

Frequently, tying loops were whipped to the rod above each face of the splice so that after the splice itself was wrapped with waxed thread, it could be further held together with a figure-eight tie from loop to loop. Despite such devices, however, the fly-rod splice was never entirely secure; in use, it might twist apart, or the windings would loosen, or one section would ride up on the other, and the whole thing would have to be taken apart and re-wound — a vexing delay if the eyening rise was on.

Yet, despite its disadvantages, the splice was important to rod design until late in the nineteenth century, and it was still preferred by some fly-fishermen (particularly on solidwood salmon rods) as late as the nineteen-twenties. It was the closest approximation to a one-piece rod that could be devised, and, because of their lack of heavy metal ferrules, spliced rods were often preferred because of their better action and their lessened susceptibility to breakage at the joints. Dean Sage compared spliced and ferruled rods in 1902 (in "The Atlantic Salmon," in Salmon and Trout): "As between jointed [i.e., ferruled] and spliced rods, it is hard to decide, though probably the jointed one would carry the preference. I believe, however, that a spliced rod is more even in its action than a jointed one, from having no part of it, as ferrules, stiff and immovable. For the same reason, the jointed rod would be more likely to break at the points of union of the different sections than would a solid one. Perhaps, however, in actual work the convenience in putting up and taking down more than counter-balances the slight advantages I have named in the spliced rod."

Perfection in ferrule design in the last quarter of the nineteenth century made the splice obsolete, and it was ill-suited to the rapidly emerging split-bamboo rod, anyway; its length-wise stress where the bevels met tended to separate the rent-and-glued sections. Nonetheless, one fairly late example of the use of a splice on a split-bamboo rod exists. It is the work of Kenyon of Ohio in a "Silkien" rod of about 1915. (The Silkien process was a transparent silk wrapping of the entire length of the rod.) An 8 ft. 6 inch Kenyon

in the Museum collection uses a splice to join its two sections. Each tip of the splice is finished with brass for protection. Most probably, the Silkien wrapping kept the bamboo from separating in this attempt at a multi-joint rod with one-piece action.

But the Kenyon rod was an anachronism. By 1915, the splice had pretty well gone the way of the lancewood tip and the loose-ring guide. It had actually been part of the technology of the solid-wood rod, and in its centuries of use, it must have caused a good many loud and not very contemplative explosions of streamside anger! Yet, it is more than a quaint detail from the past; on the contrary, for at least five hundred years, and probably much longer, it was an essential part of the fly-fisherman's tackle.

THE FLY-ROD SPLICE: HISTORY

The first written evidence of the rod-splice, and of its coexistence with the ferrule, can be found in *The Treatise of Fishing with an Angle* (c. 1420). To be sure, this reference to a splice is arguable; J. Waller Hills, for example, does not accept it. Yet, the implication seems to be a strong one.

Under the heading, "How You Must Make Your Rod," we find directions in the Treatise for making a hollow butt section, or "staff" (all quotations are from John McDonald's modernized text) of hazel, willow or aspen. "Then ferrule the staff well at both end with hoops of iron or [alloy] . . ." (It should be noted that this "ferrule" is only part of a ferrule in the modern sense; that is, it is a ring of metal around the female side of the joint, a simple hoop the word "ferrule" here deriving from a term for "bracelet.")

The other part of the *Treatise* rod is the "crop", or flexible upper section, made of two different woods in such a way that it can be contained within the staff. "Take a rod of white hazel . . . and . . . make the rod fit the hole in the said staff, so that it will go halfway in . . . And to make the other half of the crop, take a fair shoot of blackthorn, crabtree, medlar or juniper . . . and bind them together neatly so that all the crop may enter the above-mentioned hole."

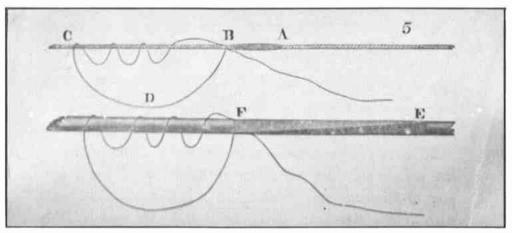
While it can be argued that we could "bind them together so that the crop may enter" without making a beveled splice, it is equally reasonable to argue that a bevel is intended rather than a clumsy lashing-together of two rods of wood, which would hardly permit the crop to ride smoothly through the ferruled hole in the staff. As well, it was easily within the highly developed wood-working crafts of the period to have made such a splice.

These directions in the Treatise introduce another important function of the splice - the joining of two different kinds of wood to create a flexible, tapered section with good action. In the age of fiberglass and split bamboo, we have pretty well forgotten that until the introduction of lancewood and greenheart in the nineteenth century, compound fly-rod tips of several woods were very common. In deed, they were essential to the design of a rod that was to have a flexible top and a powerful butt. Charles Cotton showed his understanding of the importance of such compound wooden rods: "The best that ever I saw are made in Yorkshire, which are all of one piece; that is to say of several, six, eight, ten or twelve pieces, so neatly piec't, and ty'd together with fine thread below, and Silk above, as to make it taper, like a switch, and to ply with a true bent to your hand; and these are so light, being made of Fir wood, for two or three lengths, nearest to the hand, and of other wood nearer the top, that a Man might very easily manage the longest one of them that ever I saw, with one hand." (from the "Instructions" in The Compleat Angler, fifth edition, 1676), Clearly, these long (up to sixteen feet) Yorkshire rods were not intended to be taken down. To a fisherman who lived on or near the stream, or had a fishing house like Cotton's own, this would have been no disadvantage.

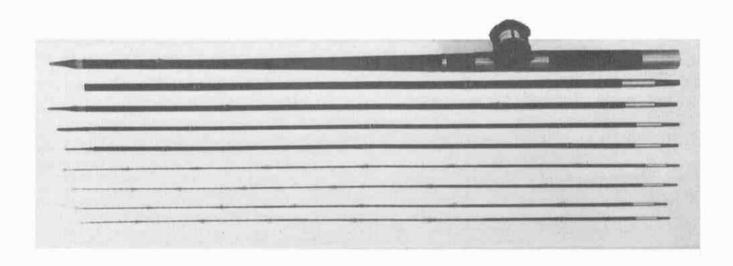
We actually have, then, two uses of the splice: first, to join rod sections together temporarily in a multi-joint rod; and second, to join short lengths of different woods permanently together in a single joint.

John Brown's American Angler's Guide (1845) recommended for trout a twelve-to-sixteen-foot rod with a compound, permanently spliced tip: "The butt of maple, the second and third joints of ash or lancewood, and the last joint, or top . . . if for fly-fishing, of spliced lancewood, bamboo and whale-bone . . ." Possibly, the bamboo intended here was whole bamboo, unworked, but more probably it was a round section cut from a thick-walled culm and only as long as the space between two nodes; until the development of longitudinally rent-and-glued bamboo or other canes with staggered nodes, it was impossible to use worked bamboo except in short pieces.

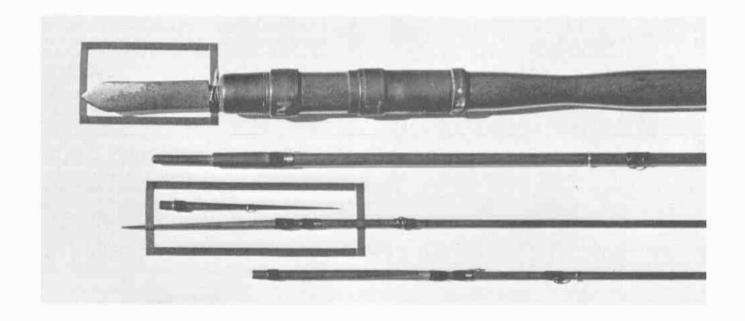
In fact, this limitation on the early use of the canes brought about one of the more interesting applications of the permanent splice. Instead of splitting and re-glueing triangular, longitudinal pieces of cane, the rod-maker of the first half of the nineteenth century was more likely to cut sections from the culm, round them (apparently without too much attention to the enormous difference between outer enamel and inner pith), cut out the nodes, and splice



Splicing a line (top) and (bottom), from Thaddeus Norris' American Angler's Book, p. 408.



The "Furman" rod of 1832 in the Museum Collection. Although its joints are finely-made ferrules, its tips are permanently spliced, glued and with black windings where different woods join.



Early Rod Fittings

- 1. (Top) A ground spike fitted with screw assembly allowing removal.
- 2. The common dowel type ferrule and loose ring guide.
- 3. Splice and splice guard, the latter used to protect the splice "point" when not in use, on a solid wood rod.
- 4. Splice guard in place.



A splice, without its guard, showing the beveled face and lateral marks from the winding. An unidentified rod in the Museum collection.

the resulting short pieces together end to end. As a result, we have to be very careful when dealing with early mentions of bamboo that has been "glued;" split bamboo, in the modern sense, may not be intended at all. Without going into the sticky territory of the history of split bamboo, we must note that rod tips made of bamboo spliced end to end coexisted with tips made of longitudinally rent-and-glued bamboo from the turn of the nineteenth century (from, that is, the early work of the London rod-makers Higgin-botham and Clark) until after the American Civil War. Of course, many kinds of cane had been used whole for tips before that.

The coexistence of these quite different uses of bamboo can be seen in Norris's instructions in his American Angler's Book (1865), "To Make a Tip" (spliced) and "To Make a Rent and Glued, or Quarter-Section Tip." Only the first need interest us here: "Take a piece of good Malacca cane [a material preferred by Norris over the then-available bamboos] as long between the joints as you can get it. Split off as many pieces of the size as you require, and reduce each piece with a spokeshave and file, cutting away the soft inner part, each piece being smaller than the preceding one as you

approach the small end of the tip . . . Bevel the end of each piece of cane sufficiently to let them make a good splice, say two inches and a half, two inches, and an inch and a half. Apply the glue hot to the surfaces which come into contact, lay them together, and wrap . . ." This wrap was temporary and was removed when the glue had hardened; the tip was then finished -- that is, the splices were filed and sanded until a perfect taper was created -- and the final silk wrapping was put on and varnished. In such a tip in the Museum, made of one forty-inch piece of lancewood and four nine-inch pieces of cane, the silk wrapping is several layers thick and the varnish very heavy, probably to protect the water-soluble glue underneath. The bevels themselves are not all in the same plane, but are rotated around the axis of the rod, evidently to distribute stresses as much as possible.

Such tips, with their black wrapping standing out against the pale yellow of the cane, are striking looking. The modern observer may think the splices are evidence of breakage, but nothing could be further from the truth: they are the final refinement of the rod-making technology that was to give way to rent-and-glued bamboo in the last third of the nineteenth century.

A BEAUTIFUL CALENDAR

The Horton Mfg. Co. of Bristol, Conn., makers of the famous Bristol steel fishing rods, have issued a calendar for 1910 which is the best this enterprising firm has ever sent out. It is the reproduction of a painting in full colors by N. C. Wyeth, size is about 21 x 28 inches, and represents a beautiful and striking fishing scene. It will be eagerly sought and highly prized by sportsmen everywhere. This calendar will be ready for delivery about Dec. 15, and will be sent free to dealers of fishing tackle only. To all others the price will be 25 cents each.

AMERICAN ANGLER
 1909



Reconstructing Historic American Trout Flies

by

POUL JORGENSON

The Museum of American Fly Fishing has been blessed with many fine contributions during the years of its relatively short existence. Unfortunately, although the generosity of donors has provided us with many beautiful and historically valuable examples of fly patterns, these examples represent periods confined to the decades beginning about the 1870's and continuing to the present. Time, the enemy, has made fly patterns produced during the periods before 1870 exceedingly rare. Those dressed before 1850 are not only rare but the few references we have to their construction and appearance come from the literature. But, thirty dressings are described in the early sporting magazines, and the two angling books which list patterns, "The American Angler's Guide," 1845, by the tackle dealer John Brown, and the 1847 edition of Walton's "The Complete Angler," edited by G. W. Bethune, provide no illustrations or engravings to guide the fly tier in matters relating to form.

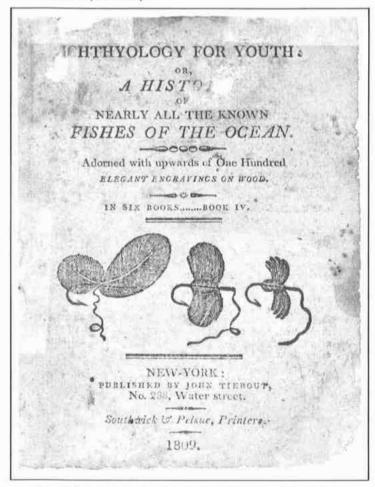
Reproducing and reconstructing the American fly pattern of the years before 1850 then becomes an educated guess. The Museum program is in its beginning stages and procedures start with a drawing in water color of a fly, its dressing researched as carefully as possible. This drawing, provided by the Curator, offers a direction.

Going back a bit in history (to perhaps better understand what fly fishers were trying to accomplish), we find that their method of dressing, as well as the flies themselves, were unsophisticated and simple. Most patterns were dressed as wet flies to be fished below the surface — and in some cases, with strong indications of not imitating anything in particular.

The only article dealing with the method of making the artificial flies, at least, that is in my possession at this time, was published in a copy of the "American Turf Register" for September, 1830. The nameless author describes his method of dressing the fly by holding the hook firmly between the first finger and thumb of the left hand, with the bend toward the base of the fingers and the barb being downwards. He continues by explaining the manner in which the line is attached to the hook. (I assume that the writer is referring to the 4 to 8 inches of gut snell attached to most of the early flies which I have dealt with.) The line is placed on the underside of the hookshank where it is later to be fastened with a very fine yellow "Marking Silk" that has been waxed with shoemaker's wax. While still holding the hook firmly between his fingers, the writer places the waxed silk on top of the hookshank together with the stripped portion of stem from a hackle that is to form the body. He now wraps the fine waxed silk around the hookshank toward the bend, binding down the material and fastening the gut snell all in one operation. The silk is taken back as far as the desired body length where a half-hitch is applied before it is wound forward to the head position. The body hackle is now spiraled forward with close turns and tied off in front with a few turns of silk and a couple of half-hitches.

It is interesting to note that the writer's description of fly making makes no mention of tools other than a pair of fine-pointed scissors, and later in his work, uses a needle to pick out some body fur for legs much like is still being done on our present day Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear. While the preceding was not meant to be a complete and detailed description of fly making in the early 19th century, at least it explains how the gut snell is attached to the hook with the simplest of means.

I recently received a new plate of Austin Hogan's fly paintings for use in our reconstruction efforts. The dressings are based on some footnotes by the Reverend George Washington Bethune (1805-1862) in the first American publication of Walton's "The Complete Angler" (1847) mentioned previously.



This "Ichthyology for Youth," 1809, with its faded title page illustrates a winged artificial fly of the period in three stages of its dressing. The woodcut is the first of its kind published in America. Donor - John Orelle.

By the rarest of good fortune, the Museum has received a fly book dating back to somewhere near mid-19th century American. The moths have chewed up the feathers and only the hooks and bits of the fly bodies and gut remain. The hooks are like solid gold in our reconstruction program, and they enable us to dress more authentic-looking flies than in any previous attempt. The photographs illustrate some of the flies explained by Reverend Bethune in his footnotes, and I dressed them on the hand-held original hook, using no other tools than a pair of scissors. This, I might add, is doing it the hard way, and unless you try it yourself some day, you may never really appreciate your vise and other accessories available for modern day fly dressing.

RECONSTRUCTIONS. Four of the Reverend Bethune's selections for January, taken from footnotes in his "Walton" of 1847. Poul Jorgenson is author of "Dressing Flies for Fresh and Salt Water," 1974 and a Trustee of the Museum.

- A dropper fly on a No. 9 hook. Body, red floss silk, wound with gold; the head with a small black hackle, wings, brown wing from a peacock.
- A tail Palmer on a No. 4 hook. Body, black mohair with a little orange toward the head; wound with silver, and a strong black hackle from the tail of a Poland cock.
- A white moth. Body, white ostrich herl, and a white cock's hackle over it; the wings from the feather of the white owl.
- A red Palmer. Body, scarled seal's fur; wound with fine gold tinsel, Palmered with stiff red cock's hackle.



Bethune flies by Jorgenson



The big Rangeley trout brought people to Rangeley. Parmachene Lake didn't have either but it had John Danforth, a very famous guide and woodsman. Henry P. Wells enjoyed his company and its certain his angling skill. In order to bring tourists to his wilderness lodge, Danforth built a wooden railway with horse drawn cart starting from Cupsuptic Stream. He also established a zoo stocked with the wild animals of the region. Wells gave him publicity through his 1885 book "Fly Rods and Fly Tackle" and from then on, Danforth, Parmachene Lake and the Parmachene Belle (which he originated in 1883), were famous.

READINGS IN AMERICAN HISTORY

"...He Described It as the Best Fly Fishing He Ever Had Enjoyed"

by STEVE RAYMOND

Steve Raymond's inquiring mind has placed him in the authoritative position we would all like to be in concerning the fish and fly fishing of the Northwest. He is editor of THE FLYFISHER, a good publicist for the many causes of Conservation and the author of *Kamloops* and the new *Year of the Angler*.

In dealing with the Pacific Northwest, the historian's problem is not one of choosing from an abundance of material, but in compensating for a lack of it. The Northwest had no Thaddeus Norris to preserve the flavor of its early angling experience, nor did it have an innovator of the stature of Theodore Gordon whose work could influence future generations of anglers. Writers on other subjects make brief reference to 19th Century Northwest angling, but it was not until after the turn of the present century that written accounts devoted solely to that subject began to appear with any regularity.

The best of these are two little-known books that offer some highly entertaining experiences of early angling in British Columbia. One is *Fishing in British Columbia*, by Thomas Wilson Lambert (Horace Cox, London, 1907). Lambert was a surgeon attached to the Western Division of the Canadian Pacific Railway, an assignment that gave him great latitude to travel within the province in the years immediately before and after the turn of the century. Fortunately, he also was a fly fisherman with a literary bent, and his book contains the experiences of 12 years of angling in the province.

The second book is by Francis C. Whitehouse, one of the few individuals ever to have a fish named for himself (Salmo kamloops whitehousei, the so-called "Mountain Kamloops Trout"). The book did not make its first appearance until 1946, but several key chapters were published separately much earlier. Today it exists in two editions, the first entitled Sport Fishes of Western Canada and Some Others (1946) and the second simply Sport Fishing in Canada (1948), both published privately by the author, the latter in a numbered edition of 1,200 copies each signed by the author.

Lambert and Whitehouse both wrote about early fishing for steelhead, Pacific salmon and members of the char family, but it is their discussion of early angling for the Kamloops trout (Salmo gairdneri kamloops) that is of primary importance to the present writer.

Although it had been known for many years to the Shuswap Indians and other tribes, the Kamloops trout was "discovered" by the white settlers who founded Fort Kamloops in 1812. The word Kamloops, itself, was a corruption of an Indian word meaning "the meeting of the waters," which is what the Indians called the confluence of the North and South Thompson Rivers where the fort was founded. The white settlers found large, silver-colored trout abundant in nearby Kamloops Lake and in some of the other large lakes of the Southern Interior of the province. Little record exists of what efforts they made to catch these fish,

though it is known that both sport and commercial fisheries existed. Neither fishery was very intensive, owing to the sparse population of the area and the great difficulty of access that existed until very late in the 19th Century.

The Kamloops trout was without even a name until 1892. The settlers noted it bore a strong resemblance to the rainbow trout, but that name was little used; a host of local names found favor instead.

Lambert described the effort which first gave the trout its biological identity: "For several years two Americans came every season to Savona's Ferry (on Kamloops Lake) to fish, and, becoming impressed with the beauty of the so-called silver trout, they sent a specimen to Professor (David) Starr Jordan, of the Leland Stanford University of San Francisco (sic). The first specimen did not arrive in good condition, and another specimen was sent, in the preparation of which I personally assisted. It was a fish of about 1½ lb. in weight, a very beautiful specimen and a most typical example of the silver trout." Unfortunately, Lambert does not give the names of the two Americans involved.

Jordan examined the sample and noted its resemblance to the rainbow trout. But he also found some differences, the most striking of which was the higher scale count of the silver trout from Kamloops Lake. Based on that, he decided the trout represented a previously unclassified species, which he named Salmo kamloops . . . and from that came the popular name Kamloops trout, which is in common use today.

(It remained for a biologist, Charles McC. Mottley, to determine in the late 1920's that the higher number of scale rows on the Kamloops trout was a product of the trout's environment . . , namely the cold water in which they spawn . . , and that the Kamloops was biologically the same as a rainbow trout. Mottley classified it as a variety of rainbow which he called Salmo gairdneri kamloops.)

The completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway in 1887 opened the Kamloops country to easy access for the first time, and in writing about the area, Lambert was not above throwing in a little commercial for his employer. He wrote:

"The cost of the fourteen-day journey from London to British Columbia will be at most 50 pounds each way; it can be done for much less. There is no charge for the fishing, and ordinary living expenses are not high. One can stop at hotels along the Thompson (River) for 2 dollars a day, in Kamloops for 3 dollars a day, in the Canadian Pacific Railway hotels at 4 dollars to 6 dollars. There are no extra charges, except at the bar, which in British Columbia it is considered the duty of everyone to support liberally. A stranger will find that a few dollars spent judiciously and

with tact in this way will usually be productive of quite astonishing results. In the West a drink puts everyone on equal terms, and at once establishes a feeling of camaraderie. It might be said to correspond somewhat to the old custom of offering the snuffbox."

Lambert seemed particularly fascinated by the drinking

habits of the provincials. He goes on to say:

"The natives understand it as a sign that the stranger wishes to be on good terms, that he does not consider himself superior in any sense, that there is no side about him, that he is willing to drink with them as an equal. He will certainly receive a like invitation, and he must on no account refuse; to do so is an unpardonable violation of Western etiquette, even if everyone present insists on taking the part of host in turn . . ."

Most of the many lakes in the Kamloops region were naturally barren of fish in Lambert's time, awaiting the first plants that later would make the area world famous for its fishing. But some lakes had natural trout populations, and a few others had been stocked by white settlers or Indians, and it was on these waters that Lambert and his friends

practiced their sport.

Lambert's tackle was typical of that used in the area at the time. "... An 11 ft, split cane is the best, and long enough for any river," he writes; "a 14 ft, rod is very unhandy in a rough country or among trees, and all local fishermen use a small rod. Tackle should be of the same kind as one would use for sea-trout fishing, and should be strong."

He recommended a stone fly pattern as the only insect imitation needed, and for general fishing prescribed traditional patterns such as the Jock Scott, Silver Grey and Silver Doctor, in large sizes, "with some March Browns and stone flies of the same sizes, and an assortment of smaller Scottish loch trout flies of various patterns . . ."

Lambert's writing is filled with fishing experiences that strain the credulity of the modern angler, and one would be inclined to disbelieve some of them if the few other contemporary accounts did not indicate that such fishing not only existed but was not particularly uncommon at the time. But of all the experiences Lambert relates, one in particular stands out. It was a trip to Fish Lake, south of Kamloops, now known as Lac le Jeune. Let Lambert tell it:

"In the summer of 1897 an American proposed to me that we should go up and try what good tackle could do; in fact, he proposed that we should go up and try to make a record. We went up in the first week of August, and the result far surpassed our wildest imagination. We fished three full days, and brought back 1500 trout, which weighed 700 lb., cleaned and salted. The first day we caught 350, for some time was wasted in finding the best places. The second day a start was made at 5 a.m., and we fished till long after dark, about 9:30 p.m., catching 650; the third day we caught 500.

"Flies were abundant, and the fish were ravenous for both real and artificial; they almost seemed to fight for our flies as soon as they touched the water.

"Even when almost every feather had been torn off they would take the bare hook. We fished with three flies, and often had three fish on at one time; on one occasion my companion handed me a cast and three flies with a few inches of running line which had been lost by me not twenty minutes before . . .

"We had estimated our catch on the best day to be over 700 fish; but, owing to exhaustion and the necessity of cooking our supper, after being seventeen hours on the water, we did not feel equal to removing our fish from the boat and during the night a raid was made on them by mink,

which are very plentiful round this lake. Though it was impossible to say how many had been carried off, 650 was the exact total of fish counted on the following morning..."

Lambert reported a hearsay account of an angling trip with even more spectacular results:

"Mr. Walter Langley uses a collapsible boat, which can be packed on a horse's back, and with this he has tried many lakes known to the Indians; his 22 lb. trout was caught from this boat. In 1902 he visited some lakes on the opposite side of the Thompson, about thirty-six miles from Savona's, and reported the most wonderful fishing to me. With a companion, he fished about five days, and brought back 700 lb. of salted trout; his catch included more than fifty fish of 4 lb. in weight, and the average fish was about 2 lb. There were no small fish in the lake they fished (probably Hihium Lake), and all were taken on the fly.

"Mr. Langley had accompanied me in 1900 to Fish Lake where we had excellent fishing; but he reported the fishing on this lake to be far better, owing to the large size of the fish; in fact, he described it as the best fly fishing he had every enjoyed . . . "

Whitehouse's angling experiences generally were in the same area as those described by Lambert, though Whitehouse also fished farther east in the Kootenay region where the Kamloops trout also was native.

Whitehouse describes his preference in tackle as an HDH line with 300 feet of backing, together with a rod of 10 feet or 10 feet, three inches, and a 3-3/8 inch to 3-3/4 inch reel.

"The advantages of a rod of 10 feet or 10 feet 3 inches cannot be over-emphasized for river fishing from the bank; for the current at the mouths of rivers; or for still lake work from a boat," Whitehouse wrote. "In either case the long caster will not only take more fish, but the larger ones. This does not mean that a lighter rod, say 6½ oz., should not also be carried. In point of fact, such a rod, with reel to match, is quite desirable for midsummer fishing, and for localities where the trout run small; but it should be stiff enough to cast a longish line.

"With a 10 foot rod, a tapered leader of 7½ feet, as made up by Farlow, Hardy, etc., is ideal for wet fly fishing, and will serve for dry, though, for the latter, 9 feet is more usual. If not obtainable, I buy 6 foot lengths, and add to either end as desired from my supply of assorted points. With rod and leader of length as cited, the latter does not intrude through the top ring when the line is reeled in and the fly held by the small ring provided; it dries straight."

Giving advice on dry-fly fishing for Kamloops trout, Whitehouse said:

"A good 'Kamloops' will slip up to a floating fly, and slap it with his tail to drown it; he then spins around and takes it. The tail slap only *looks* like a rise. When the line tightens you *know* he has it, well before the tug; for he has turned to go down."

Whitehouse also was a firm believer in offering the fish an imitation of the stone fly. "I have a series of three stone-fly nymphs: yellow, white and red bodies, with brown back quite effective," he wrote. "And the Professor . . . a yellow bodied fly . . . I have found to be also acceptable . . . "

"With regard to method, if, as B. W. Powlett advocates, the line and cast be oiled to within nine inches of the hook, the effect is a floating line and a suspended nymph. Fishing from a boat (as most Kamloops trout fishing was done then and still is today), the line may be cast across the current and permitted to drift downstream. The floating line can be kept reasonably straight, ready for the instant tightening necessary to hook a fish. In the Old Country 'nymphs' are usually tied on small hooks; but our fish are both larger and

less sophisticated, and sizes 8 or 6 (old style) will serve."

That was Whitehouse' recipe for angling in the spring during the stonefly hatches. He also recommended using such patterns as the Parmachene Belle, Red Ibis, Montreal and Royal Coachman during the fall months, and suggested the Teal and Silver, Mallard and Silver and Cummings Fancy for fishing the river mouths when the sockeye fry were running. Concerning the latter type of fishing, Whitehouse wrote:

"The trout appear to lie in wait where the river . . . Adams, Little, Eagle, etc. . . . opens into the mouth. When a batch of fry appears, the trout raise them and the commotion starts, with the fry and their pursuers moving down-current quite rapidly. The fisherman must keep an eye upstream, ready to cast his minnow-fly beyond and below the broil as it passes the boat; which will, by virtue of the current, put the lure right in among the voracious trout. The long distance fly caster clearly has an edge on the short; for he will be able to reach that many more fish. They are moving rapidly in their attack upon the fry, and hit the fly very hard. I set the hook from the reel, for a finger on the line spells loss of fish and flies."

Whitehouse was not a purist by any means, and one of his chapters is devoted to the technique of deepwater trolling for large Kamloops trout in the big lakes of Southern British Columbia. The best of the fly fishing experiences he relates also turns out to have been his first such experience, and he describes it as follows:

"My first introduction to fly-fishing for Kamloops trout was in 1905 and again in 1907, at the famous Bonnington pool, on the Kootenay River below Nelson. Kelly, an Irish ex-soldier, was my boatman; and a bag of fifteen fish or so, running up to 3 lbs., was quite usual. In those days trout might be sold; and, in addition to a daily fee of \$3, the fish taken were Kelly's perquisite, for being a visitor they were of no use to me. This arrangement had its peculiarities; for,

should I miss a fish, either in the strike or in playing it (and we all miss the odd one!) Kelly, with some of his perquisite swimming away, did not hesitate to voice his criticism: 'You were too slow!' or 'You let him idle!'"

Later on he says:

"I must touch upon Kelly's criticism: 'You let him idle!' As trout come to years of discretion...say 2 or 3 lbs.... they acquire a trick of suddenly stopping dead still and releasing themselves. In spite of Kelly's admonitions of 1907, a fine trout caught me napping at Lac le Jeune several years ago. I was sculling down centre lake to a favourite bay, and was trailing my line on the chance of a fish, when he took the fly. A beautiful trout, 3 lbs. or so, he went through all the tricks in a Kamloops' repertoire, leaping and racing around like a mad thing.

"After ten minutes or so of this, he worked up close to the boat near the surface, then dropped down six feet and stopped dead still . . . was gone! A gallant fellow, and deserved his freedom."

The Lac le Jeune that provided such wonderful angling to Lambert and Whitehouse is much changed today. A good road leads to it, and there is a fancy resort that caters more to skiers than to anglers. The lake is surrounded with cabins where the people from Kamloops, now a good-sized city, go to spend their weekends. The trout population is sustained by heavy stocking in the face of great angling pressure.

Indeed, much of British Columbia has changed as civilization has pushed its way out from the river valleys up into the hills and meadows and tamed the wild country. But British Columbia is a vast land, and, relatively speaking, its population and development still are small. For the venture-some angler, there are still virgin waters remaining to explore, waters rich with the promise of exciting angling such as that related by Lambert and Whitehouse in their fascinating glimpses of the past.

Making a First Class Fly Rod

New Maine Factory for the Manufacture of the Pride of Every Fly Fisherman, — How the Material is Selected, and Converted into a Handsome, Artistically Finished Rod, Strong Enough for Taking Big Fish.

Years ago, Hiram Leonard, in a building in Bangor, the chief of rod makers in America, whose rods today, as they have been for many years, are the standard of excellence where ever the fly and split bamboo are in vogue, established the business which has since outgrown both its immediate quarters and the State from whence they first went forth to market. It is a singular coincidence that in the course of time, another factory for the making of the same quality and kind of rods should be established within fifteen minutes walk of that old factory, by men who for several years were engaged with Mr. Leonard in making these delicate yet extremely tough articles, at once the pride and the care of the expert angler of today, as well as brethren who do not claim to be expert, but who tempt to tame the lusty and the gamy salmon from the cool depths of the Maine lakes and rivers. Thomas & Edwards, of Brewer, Me., formerly of Central Valley, N. Y., the present home of the Leonard rod industry, have opened up and fitted out a factory in the former city, just across the river from Bangor, where they plan to continue the business formerly carried on by them in Central Valley, of making and repairing high grade

split bamboo rods which are so much sought after by anglers. F. S. Thomas, Senior member of the firm, was for many years engaged in the Leonard shop on the most delicate and important part of rodmaking and was therefore well fitted to establish himself in business on his own account, which he did some years ago, and having business interests in Brewer, decided to remove the principal part of his plant to that city and to continue to supply as he has done for some years, the trade with a first class article in the nature of rods. Having at their command the most improved machinery, it is an easy matter for them to do repairing or remodelling of any sort and they do quite an extensive business in this department of their factory.

Mr. Edwards of the firm is also a former employee of the Leonard factory, having been with Mr. Leonard in Bangor, and removed with him to Central Valley.

The writer recently visited the Thomas & Edwards factory and was shown by Mr. Thomas the machines and processes through which the material must pass before it is considered fit for use by the angler.

"The foundation of all rod making," said Mr. Thomas, "is in the joints, which must be perfect if you would have the finished rod evenly balanced and sufficiently strong to withstand the most tremendous pressure exerted by fighting fish." In one corner of the factory were a bundle of canes of uniform length and from these are selected those of about the size desired for the first joint or length to be made. These are then sorted for quality, so that the canes which show imperfections from the outside may be thrown aside, after which a machine called a sand wheel removes all knots and leaves the surface perfectly even, the natural joints of the cane being as smooth as other parts of the wood. These canes are then split with a very small saw, which by means of adjustment will saw almost through the cane to the hollow center, but leaves the cane apparently intact, so that these pieces — which starting as a whole cane, end in the rod as a joint, all the six pieces having been together throughout — are not mixed up, but remain together until it is desirable to separate them.

These lengths of splits or sawed cane are then broken apart and given a final test, which determines if the stock is of sufficient quality, for the best grade of rods, this test placing the stock in the class which the rod will occupy when it is ready for the market. The pieces of cane are placed so the natural joints are "broken," that is do not come opposite each other, and so weaken any part of the rod, after which the ends are sawed off perfectly even, so that six pieces are one length, the joints are uneven. The end pieces sawed off are broken by the operator in his hands, and the degree of elasticity shown in the breaking determines the quality of the stock. If it snaps like dried wood, then it is thrown aside as unfit, but if it goes to the opposite extreme and will bend almost double, before breaking and then break so gradual that the fibres of the wood, almost like a brush, are fine and full of life and not brittle, then it is the highest quality for rod making. Such cane could almost be made into brushes, so fine it is.

The tests having been completed, there still remains some uneveness in the pieces, as in splitting, the saw follows every deviation of the grain of the bamboo, and so they are placed over a warm fire and heated just to the right temperature, when they are taken out. Working very swiftly because they cool quickly, the operator now straightens them in a small machine in which he can by the pressure of the hand or foot, bend them any way he wishes, and being very pliable when hot, the wood will remain, quite as steamed wood in other branches of wood working will over forms, the great difficulty being here to get the wood straight.

Having straightened and made true, the stock next passes to the planer, a delicate appearing machine — as in fact every machine appears to be — and with the finest of adjustments — where the under side of the bamboo, formerly the inner part of the cane, is planed off to a uniform thickness, removing from the inside, those projecting parts which on the outside were removed by the sanding machine. Thus when the strips are put through the beveling machine, they are of a uniform thickness, and their taper can be accurately and correctly determined by the operator, who otherwise would not know how he was coming out.

And now after the straightener is through with them, these pieces of bamboo which look alike as peas, come to the most delicate machine of the whole establishment, and the one on which more of the success of the rod depends than any other. So delicate and exact are these bevellers, and so secret are their workings, that in most factories — where they are the creation of the manufacturer himself, and are not protected (?) by patent — this important part of the plant is kept in a room closed to the rest of the workmen, and accessible to the manufacturer and operator in charge, only.

By a curious and delicate arrangement of fine saws, the strip of cane passes through the beveller, following the changes in a pattern of steel which runs through at the same time, and which determining the taper of the rod that is to be, means whether the rod will taper with exact proportion from tip to butt, or will be uneven, in which case the strain would come on some weaker part, which in a first class rod is not supposed to exist—"weak parts" not being tolerated, speaking from the angler's point of view, for the great secret of the resistance of a rod to the struggle of the fish many times its weight is that the strain is divided throughout, and no part escaping its share of the work, and must be perfectly calculated to meet that strain when it comes. It is because of this taper or "balance" that the manufacturer talks of, that the big fish may be safely brought to net, when perhaps the fish weighs pounds and the rod weighs ounces.

Having made up a large supply of joints, the workmen sort them out, so that the taper of the first joint is exactly to a hair, the size of the butt of the next higher joint, and the taper of this joint exactly the size of the butt of the tip, when the joints are tied together, and wait the final work of fitting them up with reel seats, ferrules, guides and tips, winding and varnish before shipment. The burnishers turning them off all ready for the salesroom.

A word is to be said about finishing, which Thomas & Edwards are very particular about so as not to spoil an otherwise fine piece of work. The reel seat is made of one solid piece, without any seam, and is so firmly fastened to the butt there is no opportunity for water to get in, or for it to come off. The ferrules are also of the best quality, being waterproof at the open end, and securely, fastened, with an annealed end where they come against the rod, so as to allow the slightest possible giving, and ease off any strain that otherwise might have a tendency to break the rod short off at the point of contact. As it is impossible to buy ring tips that are tapered, they make their own of the finest materials, securing a tip ferrule that fits perfectly over the delicate tip, avoiding the mutilating of the slender piece so as to bring the strain on it uniformly. The rings are perfectly smooth, making the least possible friction for the line as it runs in and out, and putting the finishing touch to the perfect work.

While fly rods are the principal product of the factory, other rods are made and with the exception of a different pattern on the beveling machine, where the taper is determined, making the stock fit for bait rods by a quick taper, instead of one graduating through a rod averaging smaller, the work for all rods is practically the same. The reel seats for bait rods are different having the socket above instead of below, so that in trolling the drag will not loosen the reel from its place, as frequently happens with cheap rods, which are sold for bait or fly rods according to the expressed wish of the prospective customer, who has a chance to repent at leisure.

A high grade rod, it will thus be seen, requiring the utmost care to produce and the prices asked for them are not so high, after all, when everything is considered. And if it is possible, the angler will be wise in buying a good rod, one which has the stamp of a maker of reputation, whose rods are known and can be recommended, because in so delicate a branch of woodworking, he must continue to use the utmost care, that his reputation may not be smirched by the production of a single rod of poor quality. Fine finishings and lots of varnish may make a rod look well, and attract the eye, but only the thoroughness of manufacturing observed by rod makers whose reputations are above shoddy productions will guarantee safety when one of Moosloocmeguntics or the Penobscot's big salmon seizes the fly and starts to break the rod — or the record.

... from The MAINE SPORTSMAN, Vol. 7, No. 78. February. 1900. p. 9.

The Historic Montana Trout Fly - From Tradition to Transition

by GEORGE F. GRANT, STAFF

George F. Grant has written two books of an historical nature, "Montana Trout Flies" and "The Art of Weaving Hair Hackles." Through his great proficiency as a fly tyer, he has been able to develop techniques which have given us assurance, the rare and unique fly pattern, damaged by time, can be restored to an approximation of its original condition. This article reflects his love for historical research.

Any early history of angling in Montana would have to begin with a brief reference to the native fish, which at one time, comprised the wild fish population of this State, but whose very existence is now endangered by habitat changes caused by man, competition from introduced species, and, in some cases, excessive fishing.

The trout was the Cutthroat (Salmo clarki), so named because of a red slash on each side of the lower jaw. The scientific name is derived from the fact that it was first reported by Lewis and Clark (1803-1806), who found it in the Missouri River. It is divided into two species, the West-slope and the Yellowstone, the most readily apparent difference between them being in the matter of coloration. Only remnant populations remain in the large rivers and it is not an important species to the sport fisherman.

The Arctic Grayling (Thymallus arcticus)† was reported by Lewis and Clark in 1805 as a "new kind of white or silvery trout" but is was not scientifically recognized and named until 1872. The following is a direct quote from the journal of Captian Meriwether Lewis, Thursday, August 22, 1805:

"late in the evening I made the men form a bush drag, and with it in about 2 hours they caught 528 very good fish, most of them large trout, among them I now for the first time saw ten or a douzen of a white species of trout, they are of a silvery colour except on the back and head, where they are of a bluish cast, the scales are much larger then the speckled trout, but in their form position of their fins teeth mouth &c they are precisely like them, they are not generally quite as large but equally well flavored."

They were fishing in the upper reaches of the Beaverhead River in the vicinity of what is now Clark Canyon Reservoir

Like the Cutthroat, the grayling still exists in limited numbers, but is more important as a part of past history than a practical segment of present Montana angling experience.

The only other indigenous fish of interest to fly-fishermen, since the time of Lewis and Clark, is the Mountain Whitefish (Prosopium williamsoni), and was referred to in notes of the early exploreres as a "bottlenose" fish. Although not positively identified and named until much later it is generally conceded that the fish described by the early explorers was the fish we know today as the Mountain Whitefish. The fish survives in vast numbers despite the fact that it is given only token legal protection and is readily taken with the artificial fly or any other method.

Brown, rainbow and brook trout were introduced into the Madison River drainage in 1889, and later planted extensively throughout the State. These trout have replaced the native fish, with the exception of the whitefish. The rainbow has been particularly detrimental to the cutthroat by hybridization. Among the imports the brown has shown the greatest ability to withstand fishing pressure and adverse habitat and water conditions.

The early Montana fisherman from 1870 - 1900 certainly was an adventurer seeking the excitement that a new territory had to offer, or he was an outdoorsman who lived near a stream or lake. He might have been a member of a railroad crew, or an army officer. He could have been a settler who implemented a meagre diet with an occasional meal of trout. It is doubtful if any of these people fished solely for the sake of sport for trout fishing during this period could not have been the contemplative, recreational pastime of Walton. The grizzly bear, the cougar, and other predators were still plentiful and must have often frequented river bottoms and lake shores in search of food. Rattlesnakes were a constant menace in many areas. The fishing was undoubtedly excellent, but carrying a load of freshlycaught trout back to camp may have been a hazardous experience.

In the late Fall of 1877, a writer, known only as "Tamarack," joined an expedition from Corinne, Utah, to Missoula, Montana, which required forty-one days and was made more difficult by snow slides and cold weather. On the way, he cut a willow pole and caught trout with a piece of red flannel attached to a hook.

Later at Missoula, he tied a fly comprised of a bare shank, goose feathers, and yellow silk. When cast "it made a noise like a quail." This was probably the earliest recorded use of an artificial fly in Montana, but it does little more than to confirm the presence of many non-discriminating trout that would have been as easily deceived by any other combination of silk and feathers.

As "Tamarack" became more expert, he sent east for a bamboo fly rod and purchased flies made in San Francisco and sold by a local storekeeper. Among the patterns he used were Coachman, Professor, Grasshopper, Imbrie, Cheney, Captain and White Miller. He preferred the Coachman and Professor with reversed wings. Recommended six-foot colored leaders and six-inch snells on the flies, which were of medium size, probably No. 8.

There also is a record of one Jack V. Nye, an old Indian scout and trapper, who fished and hunted along the Yellowstone, Rosebud and Stillwater about 1880. It is interest-

[†] Mentioned in Townsend, John K. (1809-1851), Narrative of a Journey Across the Rocky Mountains to the Columbia River, Philadelphia 1839.

ing to note that during a period when bait fishing was prevalent, Nye used flies. One of the patterns he used he called a "Yellowstone," and said that it resembled a native insect. Later, when he sent samples east to Mary Orvis Marbury, then compiling her famous "Favorite Flies and Their Histories," it was found to be a Professor tied on a Size 7 hook.

The early development of Montana was rapid and by 1900, there were many cities and towns. The wilderness atmosphere was no longer dominant although much of it remained and still does. Fishing was now becoming a sport, and the eastern fisherman, aided by the railroad, was being attracted by the lure of this little-known region.

During the period from 1910-1925 fishing as a form of recreation, and fly-fishing in particular, probably experienced its greatest advance in Montana. This was the "golden age" in this region, not equaled previously nor exceeded later.

It is true that the possibilities of sport fishing had been recognized long before as fish hatcheries had been established in Butte and Anaconda as early as 1905, and stocking was being carried on by the State Bureau of Fisheries, but travel was difficult and it was not until the advent of the automobile that out-of-state sportsmen and local residents really discovered the multitude of lakes and streams holding the big trout.

In 1910, an article written by Percy M. Cushing appeared in "Outing," Vol. 57, which described a fishing trip on the Bitterroot River in the vicinity of Stevensville, Montana. Cushing reports that he became acquainted with two local barbers, Gene Cottrill and Wes Walls, both of whom were fly-fishermen and looked with disdain on anyone who fished otherwise. The trout were mainly Cutthroat "but occasionally a rainbow is hooked and the steelhead is not unknown." Local fishermen called the Cutthroat in the Bitterroot "river trout" or "red bellies." The rods used were split bamboo, the line was "enameled," — a fifty-foot cast was considered long.

The flies used were the usual eastern patterns: Coachman (royal and plain), King and Queen of the Waters, and Cowdung. These fishermen used a single fly, which is surprising, for the two-fly cast with point fly and dropper was used more often than not for many years after 1910.

Mention is made of a natural aquatic insect, the "salmon fly," which is the western name for the giant stonefly (Pteronarcys californica). The trip from Stevensville to and along the river was made on horseback. There was talk of keeping only enough fish for a meal or two, already an awareness of a need for conservation.

In 1910, we can note from Cushing's story, eastern patterns were still very much in vogue. There seem to have been no changes or innovations. It is quite evident that the wilderness cutthroat and grayling of Montana, like the native brook trout of an earlier wilderness in Maine, were plentiful and easily deceived with the artificial fly. Existing patterns were quite adequate and there was little incentive to try to change them. With the ever rising surge of tourist interest, however, and the increased local interest in fly fishing, it was inevitable that regional patterns would emerge and the man on the scene, the local fly-tier, would assume a commercial leadership.

One of the best was Jack Boehme of Missoula. His skill with the fly-rod eventually took him to national fly-casting tournaments, and his inventiveness in the creation of fly patterns led him to a position of leadership among Montana fly-tyers, as well as a permanent place of distinction in Montana fly-tying history.

Boehme's "Picket Pin" was certainly one of the first radical departures from the standard eastern pattern and was probably influenced by the "Trude," an earlier Idaho pattern that featured a hair wing made from the tail hair of an eastern fox squirrel. Boehme used the tail hair of the Columbian ground squirrel (gopher) to form the wing of the "Picket Pin." First tied about 1915, this hair-wing pattern and its variations set a trend that has persisted in Montana to this day.

About 1920, Franz B. Pott of Missoula, Montana, a flytyer with a background of wig-making and an unusual knowledge of weaving hair, introduced a series of flies that had both bodies and hackles woven from coarse hair, principally ox and badger. This series of all-hair wet flies ended the reign of the standard patterns, especially among knowledgeable big-river fly-fishermen. The "Sandy Mite" and the "Lady Mite" have been the most popular and effective flies in Montana for a period of fifty years.

During the same time that Boehme and Pott were revolutionizing Montana fly-fishing, Wilbur L. Beaty of Butte was making an equally important contribution. Lacking the creativeness of the two Missoulians, Beaty concerned himself with the medium of quantity production through the combined efforts of twenty to thirty girl tyers. He operated as a manufacturer supplying dealers and made thousands of flies available to a fly-fishing public whose demands seemed almost insatiable.

There were certainly others who contributed much to early Montana fly-fishing and fly-tying, and it is hoped that additional research will reveal some of this interesting early history.

References.

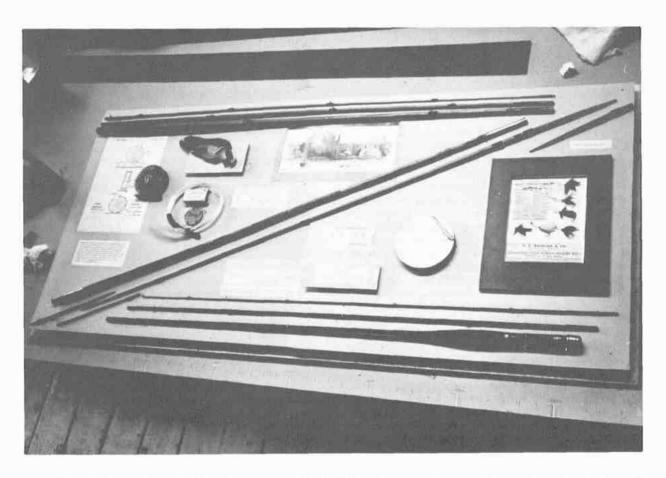
"Fishes of Montana" by Dr. C. J. D. Brown (Big Sky Books, Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana)

"Montana Outdoors" (Official Publication of the Montana State Fish & Game Department, Helena, Montana)

"Favorite Flies and Their Histories" by Mary Orvis Marbury, Boston 1892.



Traveling Exhibit Available for Loan



One of the displays included in the Museum's travelling exhibit. Featured are sections of early solid wood fly rods.

One of the most pressing problems the Museum has had to face concerns extending its services and educational programs to a membership and general public unable to view the exhibits at Manchester, Vermont. MAFF is a national organization. To bring a sampling of the many different types of antique fishing tackle and other memorabilia, connected with fly fishing, to the scattered membership, a travelling exhibit has been developed. This consists of six display cases, each designed to be shipped as a unit with display, plexiglass window and casing and a removeable cover. Upon receipt, all that has to be done by the exhibitor is unscrew the cover, place this on a table, lay the display case in it on a hinge and the exhibit is ready for viewing.

Each show case is designed to provide information relating to several aspects of the development of fly fishing in America. The chronology begins with tackle used before the advent of the split bamboo rod and is carried to the present. Included are examples of the fly tying art, reels, engravings, prints and early examples of solid wood and cane fly rods. The display case shown in the photograph, displays samples of woods used before 1880. Included is Mallacca cane recommended by Thad Norris in the 1860's, lancewood, ash and green heart. Also displayed, an early fly reel and its patent papers, very old fly tying materials, a brass leader box and some very unique Victorian fly patterns, and a very unique tip section with its splice and splice guard. (Oblique, center) Other cases illustrate the gradual development of the fly rod, reels and related equipment for the following periods. A century of progress is well represented.

The travelling exhibit is available to non-profit angling clubs and associations. Museums, universities and other interested non-profit organizations may also participate in this program. The exhibit is free with the borrowing party paying shipping and handling costs to and from Manchester. Write the Curator for more detailed information and an application blank. The number of requests for loan, already received, suggest arrangements be made as soon as possible.

The Wading Is Sometimes Difficult

25,000 visitors annually and holdings of over 2,000 antique rods, reels and related equipment, plus a library . . . present problems. An informal report by the Curator.

Within the primary objective of preserving rods, reels, fly patterns and books, the response by the public has been extremely generous. Four years ago, the Museum exhibits were limited to a fine collection donated by The Orvis Company. At this writing, the exhibit rooms and show cases, rented from the same company, are crowded with the finest examples of fly fisher's treasures to be found anywhere in the wide, wide world. In addition, a storage room and workshop located in the old Orvis factory is already filled to capacity with additional items. The reality is a little unbelievable when it is considered that the Museum began with so few precious artifacts. But, it is now quite obvious that the fly fishers of America will support the Museum very well indeed within the programs that seek to exhibit and preserve what once belonged to the historical past.

The original organizational problems which concern the business of recording, classifying and caring for the various items that are donated, have been resolved by the Trustees through the appointment of a Registrar, a Conservator, a Secretary-Assistant Treasurer and a Curator who assume the responsibilities associated with each office. In this way the routine tasks of thanking donors, the bookkeeping, the exhibits, the correspondence, the registration of materials and their storage are taken care of. These positions, in our limited financial circumstances are all part-time. The increasing flow of contributions indicate very strongly, however, that within another two years our present facilities will require expansion and more hours will have to be devoted to administrative services.

Of equal concern, the educative responsibility has not been completely resolved beyond the teaching offered by the permanent exhibit at Manchester, and a travelling exhibit now in its experimental stages; the publication of a catalog designed to provide a capsule history of fly fishing in America in conjunction with the exhibits, and a work book directed to assist those interested in library research. We are pleased that the 25,000 who do visit the Museum can be enriched by our exhibits but we must find more ways to reach out to the many thousands who do not have the opportunity and means of visiting.

The problems connected with the educational objective are both complex and difficult of solution. This because, the Trustees are faced with a unique circumstance. Over the two centuries fly fishing has been in development in America, its history has been unrecorded and the medium which would be most closely associated with the preserving

of tradition and cultural enrichment, the sporting magazine, has very deliberately turned its back on the historical presentation. Couple the lack of historical records with the lack of a means of communication and it is easily understood why great numbers of fly fishers are uninformed and the natural diffusion of a cultural interest which is generated by association is continually aborted. Certainly, the fly fisher can have his pleasures without a knowledge of the past, yet, how much the greater that enjoyment if there is a knowledge of his development, his creativeness over the ages, and the companionship of an ancestry that took pride in the pursuit of a most unusual and satisfying form of recreation. The reaching makes difficult wading.

To promote the historical interest and expedite the educational aim, an association of experts has been formed who have been listed as Staff and Consultants. This group assists in the preparation of publications, researches restoration methods, provides information regarding appraisals and donates valuable services applicable to library needs and technical classifications. Our latest forward movement relevant to the educational aim is now being taken with the publication of *The American Fly Fisher*. With its advent, there is no doubt we are again casting to a dark and secret stream for there is no precedent to guide us, no collected body of research material except what is in our library to refer to, and, what is particularly difficult to face, a potential readership almost completely uninformed as to the details of the historic beginnings.

I stated "without precedent" - not quite true, for in 1829, John Skinner published America's first sporting magazine, *The American Turf Register*. His material was almost completely dependent on the gratuitous contributions of his fellow sportsmen. He solicited a society as hedonist in character as the fly fisher of today and, the periodical was supported in this fashion for 15 years. Our problems are much the same, the bringing together of writers and picture makers and all the others who can make a Museum publication not only a teaching tool, but an informative and entertaining journal in which we can take great pride.

In every project the Museum has undertaken, we have had to break new ground. A willing and happy contribution of effort and money by the membership has proven that, even in these years of violence and disillusionment, new concepts are possible, and can be carried through to a profitable fruition. The gifts of good will are heartily appreciated.

Austin S. Hogan Vice President and Curator



RECENT ACQUISITIONS

The Merritt Edmond Hawes Memorial

The Museum is proud to announce the acquisition of one of the finest collections of memorabilia connected with the history and development of American fly fishing tackle since the Museum's organization. Through the generosity of Mrs. Elsie Hawes of Canterbury, Connecticut, widow of the late rod maker Merritt Edmond Hawes, (B. December 1, 1902, Central Valley, N. Y.; D. April 27, 1973, Canterbury, Connecticut) a large number of items belonging to the Leonard - Hawes family have been donated for study and exhibit.

Merritt Hawes was the son of Hiram Webster Hawes and Cora Leonard, daughter of Hiram Leonard. Both parents were champion tournament casters and an integral part of the business which originated in Bangor, Maine during the first part of the 1870's. Hiram Hawes passed his technical knowledge on to his son, Merritt.

Upon the death at Central Valley of H. L. Leonard, the firm name was sold to T. B. Mills of New York and the family, including the widow, Mrs. Elizabeth Leonard, moved to Canterbury where the tackle business was continued. (1909).

At one time (Mrs. Elsie Hawes writes) a connection was made with the Parker Gun Company to market Hawes' rods as a part of their sales offerings. Although the rods were labeled Parker-Hawes, there was no firm tie-in with the Canterbury establishment which was known at Canterbury as Leonard - Hawes. On the passing of Mrs. Leonard in 1916, the firm became known as H. W. Hawes & Co., and the rods were so labeled. A catalogue of about 1925 notes a Hawes - Leonard name.

The Memorial, which will feature an exhibit of Hawes and Leonard production models, will be established as a permanent display upon the completion of preliminary studies during 1974. Included in Mrs. Hawes' donations are tools and machinery from the Canterbury workshop, early Bangor rods and reels, Central Valley rods, rods made by H. W. Hawes and rods made by Merritt Hawes. Also donated are personal belongings inherited from the Leonard side of the family including portraits of the two Hirams painted by Mrs. Leonard.

The Hawes' Memorial is to be placed in the Museum's new exhibit room now under construction. A dedication ceremony is planned.

PERIODICALS

A limited number of the Museum's "A Check List of American Sporting Periodicals" by Austin S. Hogan, who researched the subject for over a decade, are available. Two hundred and more miscellanies were published before 1900. The most useful, to those interested in the history of angling in America have been selected. In addition the work book contains an historical introduction, the public libraries where the periodicals are on the shelves and excerpts which example the period literature. Soft cover, complete references and easily readable, the listing is the only guide of its kind in the field of angling references. \$5.00 post paid, from the Museum only.

THE MUSEUM CATALOG

Museum Catalogue No. 1 is given free with all memberships. Fully illustrated, it offers a brief history of fly fishing in America to 1870 by the Curator and a listing of Museum rods, reels, fly patterns and memorabilia by G. Dick Finlay. The explanatory notes are particularly valuable when viewing the displays at Manchester. Extra copies of the catalogue are available from the Museum at \$2.00 each, postpaid.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

The American Fly Fisher is but one of the many benefits received by participating in the Museum affairs. Also included with your membership are the informative catalogues, free research services, a direct line of communication to experts in history, literature and technology, free appraisals for donors of materials and an opportunity to individually promote a new movement in the field of fly fishing that is completely unique. Your dollar support becomes far more than financial help. It is the keeping of an unspoken promise to future generations that a heritage will not be lost. A brochure will be forwarded on request.

A tie tack is presented with each membership of \$25.00 or more.

> Associate \$ 10.00 Sustaining \$ 25.00

Patron \$100.00 and over

Life \$250.00

All membership dues, contributions and donations are tax deductible.

Please forward checks to THE TREAS-URER, The Museum of American Fly Fishing, Manchester, Vermont 05254 with your NAME, ADDRESS and ZIP CODE; type of Membership desired and a statement of the amount enclosed. Upon receipt, a catalogue, magazine and membership card will be mailed immediately.



MUSEUM NEEDS

Research Library

Sporting Magazines before 1930 Tackle Dealer Catalogues before 1925

Tackle Photos, Vintage Technical Books

Rare Book Library

Limited Editions Autographed Letters Manuscript Diaries Early Americana Book Manuscripts Early Icthyology Early Sporting Travel

Prints and Paintings

Exhibits & Study

Older Fly Books and Flies, Fly Rods of Solid Wood; 4

Section Bamboo.

Early Fly Lines; Silk, Horse

Hair, Grass.

Reels, all types, especially

before 1870. Early Hand Nets.

Old Vintage Boots and Waders.

Eveless Hooks

Old Creels before 1930. Fly Tying Tools.

Silk Worm Gut.

Biographical Information

Tackle Makers.

STAFF AND CONSULTANTS

LIBRARY

Mrs. Leigh Perkins, Librarian

Joseph Spear Beck Stanley Bitchell Miss Kay F. Brodney

Henry Bruns James Gribble Mark Kerridge David Ledlie

HISTORY & LITERATURE

W. H. Lawrie Sid Neff

Gordon Wickstrom

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Dan Reid Ben Upson

TECHNOLOGY

G. Dick Finlay

APPRAISALS

All Staff and Consultants in Specialties.

FLY RODS

Kenneth M. Cameron

Wesley Jordan Martin Keane

REELS

Archie Walker Arthur Walker

John Orrelle

FLY PATTERNS

Robert Cavanaugh George F. Grant

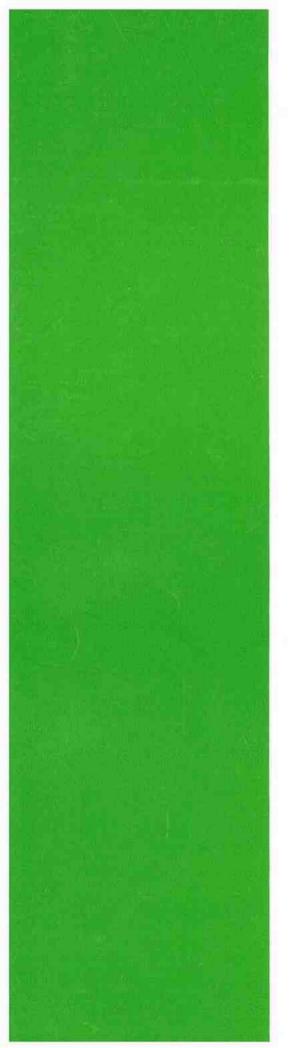
Poul Jorgensen

ARCHAEOLOGY

Alan Olson

PHOTOGRAPHY

Tony Skilton Donald Owens



No marvel that apostles and prophets, emperors and kings, philosophers and bishops, soldiers and statesmen, scholars and poets, and the quiet, gentle and contemplative of all ages and of all professions, have found delight in angling, or that they have been the better and the wiser, and the purer and the happier by its practice. It brings its devotee into close and intimate communion with nature. It takes him into flowery meads and shady woods; by the side of murmuring brooks, silver cascades and crystal rivers; through deep ravines sentineled by cloud capped mountains, and into valleys clothed in vernal beauty and made vocal with rippling waters. It would have been strange indeed if an art which requires such surroundings, and which can only be practiced by the exercise of patience and a quiet temper, had not been discovered to be a rest to the mind, a cheerer of the spirits, a diverter of sadness, a calmer of unquiet thoughts, a moderator of passions, a procurer of contentedness, or that what thus ministers medicine to the mind, while it invigorates the body, should not prove attractive to all who

Find tongues in trees, books in the running brooks, sermons in stones and good in everything.

... George Dawson. 1876

