In the latter half of the nineteenth century, forest stocks were being rapidly depleted. The demand for wood products was fast increasing as our country entered a burgeoning industrial revolution. The wholesale destruction of forests made life very difficult for the native brook trout, *Salvelinus fontinalis*; namely, water tables were lowered, snow runoff was hastened, and stream temperatures increased considerably. These factors together with increased fishing pressure by ever-expanding population centers led to the demise of the brook trout in many areas of our country. We remember reading many accounts by correspondents to *Forest and Stream* and other similar, early periodicals that lamented the depletion of native trout from their favorite streams. Fortunately, the situation was remedied with the introduction from Europe of the brown trout, *Salmo trutta*, which is considerably more tolerant of higher water temperatures, generally grows to a larger size, and is oftentimes more difficult to catch. The stocking of brown trout proved to be a wise move. They readily adapted to their new environment and since their introduction have provided high-quality sport fishing for generations of anglers. But today, just over one hundred years after the successful introduction of this game, an often lionized and anthropomorphized species, its populations are being seriously threatened. The culprit—acid rain. This causes us to pause and reflect upon what sport fishing for *Salmo* species, if any, will be available to anglers one hundred years from now. To our knowledge, there are no *Salmo* species that will tolerate the acidity of lakes and streams whose pH is below 4.7. Many bodies of water are dangerously approaching this level of acidity.

Recent studies have demonstrated that, in all probability, most of the acid rain that plagues the Northeast is derived from the emission of sulphur oxides from coal-fired power plants in the Midwest. Lakes and streams from New York to Nova Scotia have been rendered fishless as a result of these emissions. It is clear that technology is available to significantly curtail acid rain before lakes and streams are made irrevocably barren of most living creatures. It is a chilling thought that the history of fly-fishing in this country, as well as others, may come to an end before we have a chance to celebrate the bicentennial of the brown trout's introduction.
The Evidence for Early European Angling, I:
Basurto’s Dialogo of 1539 .......................... 2
Richard C. Hoffmann

Notes and Comment .................................. 10

Museum News (Special Section) ........................ 11-18
A Checklist of Works by Charles Lanman ................. 19
the editors

The Deerfield River: A Fish Story ...................... 22
Edward R. Hewitt

Blooming Grove Park .................................. 26
Charles Hallock

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The Evidence for Early European Angling, I: Basurto's *Dialogo* of 1539

by Richard C. Hoffman

Once in a great while, something of extraordinary importance that relates to the history of sport-angling is unearthed. For example, the discovery of the single extant copy of Samuel's *Art of Angling*, 1577, by the well-known British sporting-book dealer, E. Chalmers Hallam. Another discovery has recently been made that we consider to be even more remarkable, as it clearly demonstrates the beginnings of an angling heritage—a Spanish angling heritage—completely unrelated to the legendary Dame Juliana Berners and her reputed Treatyse of Fishing with an Angle (1496). It is to Richard Hoffmann that we owe a great debt for recognizing the significance of Fernando Basurto's "El Tratadico de la Pesca" (The Little Treatise on Fishing), published as part of a much larger work, the *Dialogo*, in Zaragoza, Spain, in 1539. It describes methods for fly-tying and fly-fishing unlike those found in the Treatyse. A translation of "El Tratadico de la Pesca" by Hoffmann and his colleague, Thomas Cohen, appeared in the last issue of the American Fly Fisher. Herein we include a scholarly, thoroughly documented essay by Richard Hoffmann, which elegantly speaks to the question of these two disparate angling heritages.

Fly fishers receive from most modern writers of angling history a common understanding of the origins of their technique and their sport. Aelian's Macedonians rest in second-century isolation before a millennium and more of darkness where the absence of evidence can, if one is so inclined, justify groping speculation. Then dawns the angler's day in the English Treatyse of Fysshynge wyth an Angle, whether or not further illuminated by the myth of Dame Juliana Berners. The Treatyse likely originated in the early to mid-fifteenth century, and the complete text is first known to have appeared in the second *Bake of St. Albans* in 1496. From this insular wellspring all subsequent sport-angling literatures and recorded fly-fishing traditions trace their origins.¹

To put it bluntly, the common tradition is implausible (as speculatively acknowledged by some) and is demonstrably in error. That the Treatyse is not the sole record of fly-fishing in fifteenth-century England is shown conclusively by the contemporary and independent manuscripts recovered by W. Braekman and briefly examined in the *American Fly Fisher* in 1982.² That the Treatyse is not the sole early coherent discourse on sport-angling and that fly-fishing itself was not a peculiarly English practice in the late Middle Ages are just as conclusively shown by recently (re)discovered continental books and manuscripts of comparable date and clearly autonomous origin. This article examines one such new piece of evidence; subsequent essays will explore others. One aim is to correct misconceptions by confrontation with the historical record; another is to inspire concerted search for still more evidence yet unknown.

Historians of fly-fishing have known for some time of the Astorga manuscript, a remarkable early Spanish listing of thirty-three fly dressings written in 1624 by the Leonese Juan de Bergara.³ Wholly unknown in angling circles, however, has been a work that appeared nearly a century earlier, the *Dialogo que agora se hazia: dirigido al muy illustre senor don Pedro Martinez de Luna conde de Morata; senor de la casa de Illuece; con un Vivo te lo do: por descante; El qual ha visto Vasurto*.⁴ The colophon tells us it went to print at master George Goci in Zaragoza on March 17, 1539. Internal evidence dates the composition later than June 1538. The author was Fernando Basurto.⁵

Fernando Basurto is a minor, but not unknown, figure in early sixteenth-century Spanish letters. Born in the Pyrenean town of Jaca in the 1460s or 1470s,
he initially pursued a military career. He participated in the successful campaigns of the Catholic monarchs Fernando and Isabella, whose aim was to reconquer Granada and gain a dominant position in Italy. Later in life Basurto retired to Zaragoza, chief city of his native Aragon, where, after 1528, his status as citizen (vecino) is attested in several records. The patronage of aristocratic Aragonese there supported a provincially significant literary activity in genres of chivalric romance and the popular lives of saints. In this milieu Basurto worked until his death sometime shortly after 1540.6

Basurto's generation was in many ways among the most creative and successful in the history of Spain. During his youth and early manhood, the marriage and joint rule of Fernando and Isabella had ended a long period of political disarray and an even longer rivalry between the crowns of Castile and of Aragon. By 1492 they had driven the ancient Muslim opponent from the peninsula and then turned to expand Spanish power across the western ocean and, following old Aragonese interests, across the western Mediterranean to Italy. With the succession of their grandson, Charles V (in Spain, Carlos I), in 1517, the Spanish monarch was also the ruler of central Europe and the Netherlands; soon Spain was a center of the constellation of Habsburg power. Spaniards took pride in the achievements of their dynasty, their religion, and their arms. At home, too, restoration of political order encouraged population growth and economic prosperity, the latter especially among some of the trading towns and the great producers of wool, Spain's principal export commodity. Learning and literacy expanded, and an indigenous religious revivial cleansed the church of abuses. In all of this growth the Aragonese lands of the southern Pyrenees and middle Ebro basin shared, though politically the Castilians certainly led.

Spanish society, like that elsewhere in sixteenth-century Europe, had an intensely hierarchical structure. Earlier, the stupendous wealth and consequent local power of landed aristocratic lineages had caused factional conflicts to cripple royal authority. Now, with a careful blend of force and persuasion the Catholic monarchs tamed and co-opted their great subjects, not by destroying their wealth, status, or influence, but by drawing these into dependence upon and service of the state. Disturbances over the loss of some traditional aristocratic privileges erupted in the early years of Charles's reign, were crushed, and not repeated. Securely allied with, even cultivated by, the crown, the great aristocratic houses stood at the pinnacle of Spanish society, recipients of deference from and dispensers of favor to all their inferiors. But still, in a paradoxical way, sixteenth-century Spanish society also contained an egalitarian strain stronger, perhaps, than that then found elsewhere. Every male possessed a strong sense of his own personal honor; the social standing recognized in him by his fellows. Under the Catholic monarchs and Charles, Spanish society was open to individual ability and ambition as well as to the new ideas encountered in Italy and among the Habsburg's Flemish courtiers. Yet an intense national feeling also persisted, with real xenophobic fear and dislike for those who seemed to threaten the continuity of long-held values. Thus, popular feeling supported creation of the Spanish Inquisition after 1478 and promoted measures to cleanse Spain of religious and racial pluralism. To the great aristocrats' hidalguía ("nobility"), commoners increasingly opposed their own claims to limpieza de sangre ("purity of blood"), while both shared the mythic conviction that Spain's strength lay in its religious identity. Pride in Spanish accomplishments, Spanish religion, and Spanish society even heightened during the later years of Basurto's life as French kings and the German Protestants joined
The Muslim infidel to threaten what Spain had built. To the historian, at least, a sense that an open society was closing in upon its acknowledged cultural pillars gains prominence during the second quarter of the sixteenth century. Fernando Basurto and the audience for whom he wrote shared these cultural experiences.

The twenty-two leaves of the Dialogo that came from Coci's press in 1539 seem a typical product of Basurto's age and situation. The title page displays a large woodcut of the arms of the Martinez de Luna, Basurto's patrons to whom the work is dedicated. Around the four sides of the crest an inscription in red glorifies that aristocratic dynasty: "Vivas en el mundo, o infeliz escudo de Luna: Pues tus claros varones contada fidelidad y esfuer-

NOTE:


3 J. P. Diez, En torno al manuscrito de Astorga y la pesca de la trucha en los ríos de León (Leon, 1968) offers a facsimile, transcript, and discussion of this text. A brief English summary is G. Beall, "The Document of Astorga," The Fly Fisher, 1982, vol. 14, no. 4, pp. 34-36. De Bergha notes that he drew his patterns from "libros de pescadores de mucho experiencia," but no such prior writings are cited in the studies mentioned.

4 Freely translated: "A dialogue which is now being made, directed to the most illustrious lord Don Pedro Martinez de Luna, Count of Morata, Lord [or senior member] of the dynasty [literally, "house"] of Illece; with a lively te be do [a form of song with refrain] for performance which Basurto has seen."


6 P. Geneste, pp. 5-7, indicates the standard references.


8 All references to Basurto's text are from a photographic copy (obtained with the support of a minor research grant given by the faculty of arts, York University) from that in the the Paris Bibliothèque de
a lyric on the moon (luna) that becomes, not surprisingly, a final panegyric to the de Luna. The colophon appears at the end.

How the Count of Morata, Don Pedro Martinez de Luna, responded to Basurto’s labors is unknown. So, too, is its reception by the author’s other contemporaries. Though mentioned by a handful of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century students of Aragonese literature, by the early twentieth century the Dialogo was not to be found in any Spanish library and was presumed lost. Then, some years ago, a copy came to light through the investigations of a senior scholar of Hispanic literature, the late Don Antonio Rodriguez Monino. It was in Paris at the Bibliothèque de L’Arsenal, bound with a contemporary work on aristocratic lineages of Spain. Monino died before he could publicize his discovery, leaving that duty and the task of a critical appreciation to a French Hispanicist, Pierre Geneste. His article, which accomplished this, appeared in the French scholarly journal Bullettin Hispanique in 1978. Geneste offered a literary analysis of Basurto’s dialogue and appended thereto a transcription of the practical Tratadico, “dedicating this especially to the fervent emulators of the old fisherman.” Yet Geneste could place the recovered text only in a literary context, for he was no angling historian. Of the copies that he knew only that he had found the oldest-known Spanish treatise of fishing and that its form was the same as that used by the one other early angling author of whom he had heard, Isaac Walton. Not surprisingly, in the years since 1978 no student of early angling has noted Geneste’s article or Basurto’s original work. But, as is detailed below, the latter has considerable significance for the early history of European angling in general and fly-fishing in particular.

Basurto’s Dialogo offers a coherent and uniquely Spanish argument for the legitimacy and moral value of angling as a sport. It plausibly informs the modern scholar and angler of the mental and cultural context in which its protagonist pursued his beloved pastime and, notably, in the practical Tratadico, of the techniques by which, with fly and bait, he sought his quarry along the rivers and coastal waters of the Crown of Aragon. What follows here sketches the defense of angling given by Basurto and then examines both the mentality and the practice of Basurto’s fisherman.

The major theme of the dialogue proper is the announced debate between the old angler and the noble huntsman on the merits of their sport. The fisherman, a commoner, angrily confronts the youth of high status. His noisy retinue has frightened the fish and destroyed the other’s recreation. The aristocrat, proud but not haughty and always generous, asks why such great distress and such disdain for the hunt. What if a few fish are bothered? With respect the angler replies: because the chase may provide pleasure for the body, but it endangers the body and the soul, and it offends others. He elaborates, detailing with a rich supply of anecdotes how famous hunters brought the unlucky into hazardous situations and, worse, how they threaten their own salvation. The hunting party ride through the property of others and destroy it. They ignore the obligations of religion, rising so early as to miss mass, forgetting their prayers, and indulging in the pride and gluttony of great retinues and extravagant meals. The chase, says he in summary, “is a human exercise for recreation of the body and it has its dangers; fishing is divine and human, divine for the salvation of the soul and human for, with repose, its gives pleasure to the body.”

Thus the angler moves to the offensive. How is his sport superior? “Fishing does not offend God; it does not affright one’s neighbor; it does not destroy the fisherman himself.” It is a sport of balance, not excess.

The angler follows a simple, solitary, contemplative pursuit, even going to mass in the morning before leaving for the river.

The hunter sees the fisher’s point but denies its general applicability. That may be well and good for such as you, says he, but not for me. Who ever heard of princes and nobles who fished? Again, the fisher can exploit his competitor’s naivete: fishing is not noble, it is saintly and apostolic, and that is even better than being noble. Saint Peter and Saint Andrew were fishermen. But, in reply, they were not seen with nets; they have no fish pride in that. The angler’s response is priceless: yes, the Apostles fished with nets; if they had been anglers, Christ would have stopped to see how they were doing before He called them. And then he continues in the dialectic mode, contrasting examples of hunting saints like Saint Eustachius, who abandoned the sport upon its conversion, with those of the Apostles, who fished even after accepting Christ’s call. The simple pleasures of the angler’s life preserve and purify the earth and the sea.

So, the angler argues, his sport is not only better than hunting, it offers to the aristocrat a remedy for the dangers of the chase that will make the noble more apt for his proper social role, a metaphoric hunt of the infidel, the ongoing struggle against the enemies of justice, of religion, and hence of Spain. The new recreation will improve the aristocrat’s ability to fulfill his traditional obligation, which

Arsenal, fol.122v, which is not paginated but does contain signature foliation.

Some readers may appreciate a brief “translation” of signature foliation that describes how the book is put together and how we can refer to particular pages in it. In most printed works, such as this copy of the American Fly Fisher, each sheet of printed paper contains a total of sixteen printed pages, eight on each side of the sheet. A number of such sheets are folded together so the pages fall in the proper order and are sewn or otherwise fastened along the fold; such a set of sheets is called a “signature” or a “gathering.” Your copy of the American Fly Fisher, like most books, contains one signature, but most books are made up of several signatures piled atop one another in sequence and then bound. The successive signatures are customarily identified by letters of the alphabet, the first as a, the second as b, and so on. Now look at any page in any signature: that page and the page on the other side of it together make up half of the original printed sheet. Such a half-sheet is called a “leaf” or a “folio” (abbreviated as fol.). Both sides are usually numbered with page numbers in modern books, but many manuscript books (codices) and early printed books have only each folio numbered; they are foliated rather than paginated. We refer to the side of the folio that appears to the right of the fold as the recto (r) and the other side as the verso (meaning the back, and abbreviated v). One common practice was simply to number the folios consecutively through the book, so that fol. 7r is followed by fol. 8r, or, if roman numerals were used instead of arabic, fol. vii is followed by fol. viii r, and so on.

But another advantage for the people who put the book together was to label each folio by its signature and its sequence in the signature. Each page is still individually identifiable, but the identification must specify signature, then folio, then side. This is the arrangement in Basurto’s Dialogo. Thus, a citation to fol. bi verso in a note below refers to

the back or left-hand side of the third leaf in the second signature. Modern readers should also know that medieval and sixteenth-century writers rarely used is for roman numeral four, but employed iv instead. In the original, the title page is fol. a i recto; a facsimile of it appears in Geneste’s work, facing page 8. Freely translated, the inscription reads “Live long in the world, oh noble house de Luna, with your famous men noted for fidelity and strength! From your origins to now you have served your kings and have struck down the false thoughts of your enemies; with outstanding victories and with all your battle standards placed on the field [you] proclaim it.”

This is a proverb of a cavallero cazador:Te legar cada uno todos que es su exercício mejor. Finalmente vienen a concluyer: en que el pesador a ruego del cavallero cazador: le da por memoria la manera con que se pesa: así en la mar quanto los nos, y los cebos de todo el año.” (fol. a ii recto)

P. Geneste, see note 3, pp. 6-7
the angler illustrates with further references to the praiseworthy deeds of legendary and historic Spanish heroes, including, of course, members of the house of de Luna. His knightly opponent is vanquished and, abandoning the field, asks to be instructed in this new art.

Clearly, this is not the defense of angling familiar to readers of the English Treatise. Where that text rather quickly compares angling to three other field sports, hunting, hawking, and bowling, Basurto’s protagonists engage in their extended debate over but the two. The author of the Treatise criticizes just the laborious and physically dangerous aspects of the chase, while the Spanish angler emphasizes far more its morally and socially deleterious qualities. The same applies to the positive elements of the argument. Both texts praise fishing as a saler enterprise conducted in the pleasant surroundings of the riverside and offering benefits through its quiet and contemplative aspects. For Basurto, however, the advantages of angling lie still more in its intrinsic qualities of internal purification, which go beyond the secular to the religious. His evaluation of the sport is cast in a social and cultural context broader than that articulated in the older English work. His angler speaks in terms of a whole social situation where conflict between individuals and the status of individuals affects choices and motivations. He assumes, too, a set of commonly known and appreciated cultural elements, ranging from the daily practice of religion to national patriotic myth. This broad cultural awareness, even learnedness, is evidenced, too, in differences in the two authors’ use of illustrative exempla: what are in the Treatise mere moral tags and proverbs become in the Dialogo a rich collection of scriptural, religious, and mythico-historical allusions. Where the English text is direct, simple, even cryptic at times, the Spanish is elaborated, complex, even contrived.

Basurto’s Dialogo, then, is a wholly autonomous cultural creation, distinctively an original product of its time and its situation. The form and content of the argument it develops are wholly attuned to the realities of sixteenth-century Spain. Here are the ardent religious faith, the national feeling with its strong historical and mythic roots, the sharp sense of social hierarchy and social responsibility, and the feeling of individual pride. The defense of angling advanced there is one that could only have its origins in that context. Thus, independent of other known angling literatures, the Dialogo can document mentalities and practices in an early angling tradition hitherto virtually unknown.

So where does angling fit in the mind of Basurto (or his literary counterpart, the aged angler)? What are its features in his cultural milieu? The Dialogo records a recreation pursued with patience and enthusiasm by otherwise ordinary members of Spanish society. For Basurto, angling is unquestionably a recreational sport, not an occupation. Angler and hunter alike refer to it as recreacion, exercicio, deleite, and placer. Its purpose, actually, is to give “recreation to the body” as well as to benefit the soul. Such is evidenced not only by the argument of the dialogue itself, but also by the motives to which the old angler in the Tratado attributes his own long participation: “I have for some years practiced it in the sea and on land to escape some vices which are the burial of man and a perpetual prison of the soul.”

Basurto emphasizes the patience of the angler, but also displays his boundless enthusiasm for the sport. Patience is the principal theme of the preface to the Tratado, both with respect to waiting for the fish to be found in a taking mood and to waiting for proper conditions before setting forth. Yet the patience is coupled with a strong sense of the mental concentration that makes the successful angler pay such close attention to his enterprise that it obligates his worldly cares. “For so great is the attention which fishing demands and so enjoyable its delights that... one had no concern for tiredness, nor for sleeping, nor for not having slept, nor for one’s loves, even if one is in love.” Instead, the angler is watching his float for a bite, making sure his hook is drifting well, checking his bait, and doing all those things that his fishing demands.

The angler’s passion for his sport emerges not only in this sense of patient concentration, but also in his hyperbolic enthusiasm for everything about it. To the insinuation that the net-fishing Apostles were less than true anglers may be added the clever way Basurto’s protagonist brags about his own tackle. “The butt section of the rod was cut from the wood of the tree of Jesse and its tip section was taken from the head of Samson. The gourd which holds my wine is that beneath which Joseph rested when he went into Egypt. And here is the basket for my fish. It is the one which Saint Peter left on the bank when he went to follow Our Lord.” The tackle is to the angler as the arms to the knight himself. Yet that very enthusiasm, not confined to this angler, but characteristic of the sport, poses its own dangers of excess. Its fanaticism must be reminded not to go fishing whenever the conditions look good. Those who work (los menes-

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17 "...en les dédián spécialemente aux fainénas émules dels vuyos pescheur." (P. Geneste, ibid., p. 29)
18 P. Geneste, ibid., pp. 27 and 29
19 For a more elaborated discussion of the debate, see P. Geneste, ibid., pp. 13-19.
20 "Pues se vnria buseo de saber que el carancel es humano exercicio para recreacion del cuerpo... y no para su plegio: e el pescar diurno y humano: diurno para salvar el anima: y humano para con reposo dar placer al cuerpo." (fol. a iii verso)
21 "Pues pescando: ni se ofende Dios: ni se acrena el proximo: ni el pescador se destruye." (fol. a iii verso)
22 The passage (fol. b iii recto) is a complex one, filled with Basurto’s confusing dictions and Aragonisms.
23 Pescador: Por lo que me satisface: yo se lo mando: por desear que aun que principes ni senores no han seguido mi ejercicio: que no han faltado santos y apostoles: que en tiempos pasados leisieron que es harto mejor que principes ni senores.
24 Sino mira a santo Pedro y a santo Andres: si fueron pescadores: quando nuestro señor los llamo diziendo que le siguesen.
25 "Ejemplo: Bien tienen razas si de varas: fueron pescadores: mas pues fueron de redes: no cures de tener vanagloria de aquello.
26 De que donos arquie: por poner dolencia en mi oficio. Pues mirad: yo as prometo a fe de pescador: que si como las hallo nuestro señor pescando con redes: los hallai a pescando con varas: que antes de llamados: los miran a como pescavan. Porque no solamente el pescar aplaz al que le tratan mas aun al que le mira. Ojan como sus redes los hallo: que es pesca poco aplazable alzando por sus obras reiteros: antes que no miralos...
28 Fols. c iv verso and c v recto
29 Compare with the argument outlined above the introductory section of the Treatise as given in McDonald, Origens, pp. 134-145 and 141-191 (facsimiles and transcripts of the ms. and the first printed edition). Of course Basurto takes some thirty pages to do what the Treatise covers in four.
30 Fol. a iii verso
32 Fol. a iii verso
33 P: Por que es tan grande la atencion que pescando se requiere: y tan gososa la deleitacion: que en aquel tiempo se recibie que ni se acuerda el pescador de ofendida a dios ni de prejudicarlo al proximo ni aun de comer: porque no le fatiga la hambre; ni de dormir aun que no haya dormido: ni de sus amores: aun que sea enamorado. [Is this an ironic reference to the focus of the lover upon the beloved, common in popular romance?]
trales) should beware the failure to attend to their business; the clergy should not go every day until they have said their masses and prayers; the lawyers (los letrados) should put their cases in good order first.  

Workers, clerics, lawyers—the old angler assumes that a cross-section of Spanish male society is susceptible to the delights of angling. Like the angler himself, however, these men are commoners, not aristocrats. The sport lacks, for Basurto, the aristocratic identification of the hunt. His whole argument aims to challenge that social character, but at the same time serves historically to confirm it. Late medieval Spanish angling had its roots in social strata below that of the elite. Thus in this respect, too, Basurto’s angler and his sport are very much part of the early sixteenth-century Spanish cultural milieu. The fishermen go to mass, know the national and religious myths and obligations, and are accustomed to dealing with their social superiors. Sport angling is not an exotic in sixteenth-century Aragon. The old man is acquainted with other anglers and even, by implication, if it is not a literary conceit, with some writings of theirs. The sport of angling is a part, though an important part, of his everyday life, not an unusual import or a recent novelty. All that is novel is the notion that an aristocrat might join the angling brotherhood.

So how did Basurto and his fellow anglers in sixteenth-century Aragon actually practice their sport? Though barely noticed by Geneste, the Tratadico offers rich evidence on the quarry, tackle, baits, and presentation techniques. The early sixteenth-century Aragonese angler pursued several species indigenous to his area. Most commonly Basurto talks of barbel (barba), the large cyprinid of running waters, with at least three distinct varieties now recognized as native to the rivers he fished. He notes the preference of the larger specimens for relatively deep and slow-moving waters and repeatedly urges the angler to have strong tackle for them. Then there are several other members of the cyprinid family, the tench (tenza), two species of nasefish (boga and madrileña), an Iberian subspecies of roach (bermejuela), and the more distantly related Valencia hispanica (samarugo), which Basurto tends to treat as synonymous with the roach, although it is markedly more coastal in its distribution. But for the tench, which Basurto mentions only once in passing, these small fishes are sought with light tackle in shallower and clearer water. Next to these varieties, he discusses angling in fresh water for trout (trucha) and for eel (anguilla). Also noteworthy among his quarry are the several sea fishes mentioned in the first chapter, for this looks to be the earliest record of saltwater sport fishing. Clearly identifiable among them, however, is only the dolphin (dorado).

These fishes of Basurto’s recorded experience well locate the angler in space and in time. What he knows are varieties native to the Ebro basin of Aragon and to the coastal waters of neighboring and politically-linked Catalonia. Notably absent are those of more western Iberian distribution, like the salmon (Salmo salar) and several kins of cyprinids. Missing, too, are two favorites of early northern anglers, the pike (Esox lucius) and the carp (Cyprinus carpio); the former was introduced south of the Pyrenees during the nineteenth and of running waters, with at least three distinct varieties now recognized as native to the rivers he fished. He notes the preference of the larger specimens for relatively deep and slow-moving waters and repeatedly urges the angler to have strong tackle for them. Then there are several other members of the cyprinid family, the tench (tenza), two species of nasefish (boga and madrileña), an Iberian subspecies of roach (bermejuela), and the more distantly related Valencia hispanica (samarugo), which Basurto tends to treat as synonymous with the roach, although it is markedly more coastal in its distribution. But for the tench, which Basurto mentions only once in passing, these small fishes are sought with light tackle in shallower and clearer water. Next to these varieties, he discusses angling in fresh water for trout (trucha) and for eel (anguilla). Also noteworthy among his quarry are the several sea fishes mentioned in the first chapter, for this looks to be the earliest record of saltwater sport fishing. Clearly identifiable among them, however, is only the dolphin (dorado).

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Dialogo.

Inland Water Fish, multilingual catalogur.

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through in chapters two through four these have only a vaguely seasonal order, each is specified as useful for particular fishes and most receive appropriate tactical recommendations. Basurto's angler uses an array of natural and prepared baits as well as the artificial fly. The natural foods cover the gamut of small aquatic and terrestrial creatures, worms, nymphs, caelids larvae, crickets, centipedes, mature mayflies, ants, shrimp, squid, sardines, crabs, and small fish. Especially in his lengthy discussion of an evening emergence by what is likely to be some member of the mayfly family, "the little white butterfly with four little horns which at night comes to the rivers," he displays remarkable qualities of observation and ingenuity, detecting the behavior patterns of both flies and fish and devising a light trap to obtain the insects for use as bait. Note, too, his sensible recommendation to chum with the bait upstream of the place where you are to angle. While the natural baits, taken as a group, are recommended as useful for all sorts of fish varieties, Basurto employs prepared baits, various animal products, fruits, algae, cheese, and bread paste, almost exclusively for salmon. His recommendations lack, moreover, the elaborate prepared stink baits or semimagical concoctions present in the English Treatise and especially common in the northern continental angling literature of equivalent early date. Readers familiar with that material may sense a breath of fresh air in Basurto's complaints of the unpleasantness and bother in using a buried chunk of cow's or goat's liver to raise maggots for bait.

Basurto's instructions for preparing an artificial fly are, of course, especially important historically and to readers of the American Fly Fisher. The passage dealing with fly-fishing demands rather limited to passages from elsewhere in the Dialogo.

European Inland Water Fish. A multilingual catalogue. ed. M. Blanc et al., published by arrangement with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (London, 1971), lists for the Ebro basin Barbus barbus borogor (no. 114), Barbus meridionalis (no. 138), and Barbus meridionalis gremesi (no. 139).

Tinea alba is native to all of continental western Europe (European Inland Water Fish, no. 225).

Chondrostoma polyepis and C. toxostoma have overlapping distributions in the upper Ebro basin (ibid., nos. 167 and no. 170).

Rutilus rutilus aracis (ibid., no. 249) is the only member of this genus native to the Ebro basin. Note that Basurto does not mention any of the several closely related species inhabiting waters in the Atlantic drainage of the Iberian peninsula, all of which are known by their own vernacular names.

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43 Fol. b ivii verso (see note 22 above)

44 Fol. a ivii verso specifies the use of the vela, "as ilustro en mirar ala vela para conocer por ella si pica el pescado..."

45 Dier, Manuscrito de Astorga, pp. 18-21.

46 Bergara recommends use of the fly from January through May and the Feast of San Juan (probably the Baptist and hence June 24).

47 I have not been able to find bruni in Spanish dictionaries that go back to the eighteenth century. The closest name of a bird is bueno, which is defined as a "hedge sparrow" in Dicionario Nuevo de las dos lenguas española e inglesa, (Madrid, vol. 1, 1798), p. 351, but I am informed that the two terms are not likely to be related. Of course the real problem here is that Basurto is probably using a name from a local Aragonese dialect.

48 Compare the much less informative tying instructions in the fifteenth-century English manuscripts, Harley 2389, fol. 73 v, and Rawlinson C 506, fol. 300, as given in Hoffmann, "A New Treatise," p. 4, from W. Braekman, The Treatise on Angling in The Boke of St. Alhens (1496). Background, Context and Text of "The treatise of flyshynge wyth an Angle" (Brussels, 1980), pp. 41 and 31. Contrast, too, the considerable problems in understanding the fly patterns of the Treatise and early modern English angling writings published later and discussed at length in McDonald, Origins, pp. 103-132.


50 Fol. c vii verso

51 Hoffmann, "A New Treatise," pp. 4-6, offers examples and discusses the English evidence. As noted by Beall, "The Document of Astorga," p. 36, Bergara mentions the names of natural insects in
little in the way of explication. The "feather" serves to catch trout in Aragon from April to August, a longer and later season than that advised by Juan de Bergara in the Astorga manuscript from Leon a century later. Basurto's flies were tied with the soft hackles of capons, ducks, and the unidentifiable *bunal,* using colored silk that also formed the body of the feather, as elsewhere, bound the spade-end (*paleta* or "little shovel") hook to the line. His description of the tying technique is perhaps the clearest of any early one. In modern North American fly-tying jargon, he seems to place the butts of the feathers on the hook with the tips extending toward the front of it, to wrap forward over the butts to the spade end, and then to turn the tips up and bind them backwards in making the head. The bodies are wrapped of silk and ribbed with silk of another color. What remains ambiguous, however, is that Basurto's technique matches that considered traditional in Spain and used by George Beall to explicate the patterns of Juan de Bergara. That style employs hackle barbules stripped from the stem, tied with tips to the rear, and then flared. Basurto certainly reverses the direction of the hackle on the hook, but his reference to using "unas poquitas de las plumas" might plausibly be read to describe stripped barbules rather than several whole feathers. Still, the result is indisputably a silk-bodied fly encased in a fringe of feather materials.

Equally indisputable and more significant than the arcana of pattern design for Basurto's place in the historical record of fly-fishing is his explicit philosophy of imitation. He instructs the angler to go to the river, capture the natural flies, examine their color, and (implicitly) select the corresponding artificial to deceive the trout. It is the same argument as that in the fifteenth-century English manuscripts and, indeed, more sharply articulated than either that in the *Treatise* or by Juan de Bergara. That Basurto thinks in imitative terms is further emphasized in his advice on presentation.

The few words in the Tratadico given to the tactics of fly-fishing are to be read in the context of an overall concern to adjust his presentation of a bait to the fish, the season, and the prevailing water conditions. Two general techniques are used with both natural and prepared baits, fishing *al andar* and *a la tenenda.* A bait is fished *al andar* ("at a stroll") with a line no longer than the rod in water that is moving. Most of the time the angler employs a float and a relatively light sinker, but occasionally, as with the natural mayfly for trout, these are expressly advised against. Basurto's intention is to present the bait in a selected part of the water in which the fish are surface feeding, if at some depth. It is apparently a dead-drift technique analogous to roving a nymph or a dry fly. As such, this contrast with fishing *a la tenenda* ("at the stretch"), for the latter method uses more weight to keep the bait fixed in slow or dead water with some depth. Often Basurto recommends this still-fishing technique with large baits in turbid water for barbel. Hence Basurto's angler chose among methods and their application to offer his bait effectively in different situations. His considerable interest in problems of presentation goes beyond that shown in other early angling writings.

But when Basurto discusses the artificial fly, he uses neither of his specialized terms for presentation. Instead, he instructs the fly fisher pursuing trout in clear, fast water to fish with the fly alone, "throwing down the stream and going up the stream with reasonable speed so that the feather goes along the top of the water to the upper part of the stream, for in such a manner the trout eat real flies and so we fool them with artificial ones." This sounds close to classic wet-fly tactics, a downstream cast followed by using the fly up into the surface film. And, again, the intention is fully clear. Basurto wants the trout to think his feathered creation, already chosen to imitate the color of the natural insects present there, is also behaving like them. Especially when the angler's intentional skill at manipulating his bait is recalled, such instructions are unparalleled in the early angling record.

What place, then, in the historical record of early European angling is provisionally to be allotted Fernando Basurto, his *Dialogo,* and especially its practical *Tratadico?* The work of this retired soldier documents for us an independent continental sport-angling tradition virtually contemporary with the better-known English one. He provides a philosophically and technically coherent description of that tradition, using an autonomous and culturally congruent argument and a novel literary form—the dialogue—to promote it. Basurto thus introduced the dialogic form to angling literature. In more substantive terms, Basurto's writings yield important new evidence for the antiquity of marine sport angling, for detailed ichnotaxonomical observation, and for carefully reasoned tactics of presentation.

Finally, in fly-fishing itself, he not only amends by a century the evidence for an independent Spanish heritage, he describes with a clarity of detail hitherto unknown the consciously imitative techniques of fly-tying and presentation therein.

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setting forth his fly patterns, but the clear statement of an imitative philosophy is wholly lacking (compare the text in Diez, *Manuscrito de Astorga,* pp. 18-21).

68 Fol. viii verso, "echándola abaxo de rezal, y subiéndola por el rio arriba con razonable presteza, de manera que vaya la pluma arrastrando por encima del agua hasta lo alto del rezal, porque de aquella manera se crean las truchas a las moscas verderas, que por eso las engañan con las artificiales."

69 The *Treatise,* Rawlinson C 506, and Juan de Bergara ignore presentation entirely, while Harley 2389, fols. 73 r to v, mentions only that the fly is used in the upper part of the water. See Hoffmann, "A New Treatise," pp. 4 and 5.

70 Perhaps speculation here can suggest a direction for further inquiry. The dialogue form subsequently used by Walton has been shown to have been his borrowing from the anonymously published the *Arte de Angling,* 1577, ed. G. E. Bentley, intro. by C. O. V. Kienbusch, notes by H. L. Savage (Princeton, 1956), which has itself been identified by T. P. Harrison as the work of William Samuel, vicar of Godmanchester in Huntingdonshire circa 1550 to 1580 and a religious exile in Geneva circa 1556 to 1558 or 1559 ("The Author of *The Arte of Angling,* 1577," *Notes and Queries,* 205 (1900), 373-376). But are there plausible links between the English Protestant clergyman of midcentury and the Aragonese Catholic soldier of a generation before? By 1559 the once-close relations between Spain and England had been chilled for nearly a decade through Henry VIII's repudiation of his Spanish wife, Catherine of Aragon, aunt of Charles V. But Catherine had died in 1556, and by 1543 the anti-French Anglo-Spanish alliance was restored. Following the death of the strongly Protestant Edward VI in the summer of 1553, English political opinion accepted Mary Tudor, daughter of Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon, as queen. After lengthy negotiations Mary took as her husband in July 1554, the son and heir of Charles V, Philip of Spain. Though Philip lacked enthusiasm for both the marriage and his wife, he remained in England with a Spanish and Netherlandish entourage for more than a year, seeking to participate in English governance and his wife's efforts to restore Catholicism there. He left England late in 1555 and, succeeding his father in rule over Spain and the western Habsburg possessions during the early months of the following year, did not again return to his wife in England before her death in November 1558. Philip II did, however, briefly thereafter pursue a marriage with his late wife's half-sister and successor, Elizabeth I. (See P. Pierson, *Philip II of Spain* (London, 1973), pp. 27-36.) Could a copy of Basurto's writings on angling have come to England with a follower of Philip or a Spanish envoy? Remember that the sole example known today is bound with a work on Spanish aristocratic families of the same vintage. It would be an irony.

*See illustration in the American Fly Fisher, vol. 11, no. 3, p. 12.*
To the Editor:

Last year I made an 18-foot rod and a 20-foot horsehair tapered line of the kind that would have been used in the seventeenth century in England by fishermen like Charles Cotton (who wrote the fly-fishing chapters in Walton’s *Compleat Angler*).

The fly I used was Cotton’s Blue Dun, which I dressed on a #10 hook, though I used rabbit-fur dubbing instead of dog’s hair.

The first thing I discovered when I fished with this outfit was that I could cast a fly much better than I had expected. I could not cast into a wind, but I could cast across a moderate wind and lay out a fairly straight line. The second, and important, discovery was that the horsehair line would not sink. Only the fly sank, about half an inch to an inch below the surface, as the floating line kept it from sinking farther. By using a thinner wire hook and a more buoyant material than fur, it would have been possible to have kept the fly right in the surface film. Flies fished with braid horsehair float very near to or on the surface and are quite visible to the angler. If anyone wanted to describe the way the fly fished, then I would have been correct in saying that it floated downstream. I was also reminded, strongly, of what one of Cromwell’s commanders, Robert Venables, wrote in 1662:

...fish will sometimes take the fly much better at the top of the water, and at another time a little better under the superficies of the water... 

What surprised me was that, in effect, we were dealing here with floating flies—on small hooks and light dressings on the top of the water, on larger hooks and more absorbent dressings a little under the surface of the water. I did not realize the full implications of what I had seen until a few months later when I read an article by the English fly-fishing historian Jack Heddon.

The article makes clear the distinction between the floating fly and the dry fly. The term “dry fly” was first used in an angling textbook by a Devon fisherman, G. P. R. Pulman, in 1841. He wrote that if the soaked fly sank too deep, then it was best to take a dry fly from the box and tie it on. Also, if the line was soaked, then several false casts would throw off “the superabundant moisture.”

The distinction that Heddon makes between the flies that Pulman was using and those designed by Marryat and Hallford for the Hampshire rivers in the 1870s is that the Hallford patterns were specifically designed to float on their hackle tips and to ride the stream with their wings cocked. Marryat and Hallford used very light materials, such as quill, for the bodies, to aid presentation; and the upstream dry-fly fishing of the kind they advocated was made possible only by the use of the heavy braided and dressed silk lines made first in the United States. Thirty years earlier Pulman’s lines were made of undressed silk and horsehair, a very different mixture.

There is far more to the subject than this brief summary. Heddon’s analysis will be given in *The Encyclopedia of Fly Fishing*, which Batford of London will be publishing next year. However, if the distinction between the floating fly and the dry fly is valid, which I think it is, certainly American anglers would have been fishing floaters long before Hallford sent his patterns to Theodore Gordon.

Sincerely,

Conrad Voss Bark
The Times Sports Desk
London, England
A New View

So much has happened at The American Museum of Fly Fishing in recent years that we're using this special section of our quarterly American Fly Fisher to bring our many new friends up to date. Above is a chronology of fly reels spanning almost two hundred years in our recently renovated galleries.
About the Museum

First incorporated as a nonprofit, educational institution in 1968, The American Museum of Fly Fishing is now home to the world's foremost public collection of historic fly-fishing tackle, books, periodicals, and related items. We've prepared this special supplement to the American Fly Fisher, our quarterly publication, as a means of introducing our many new friends and supporters to the Museum. Within this section you'll find news of current Museum affairs and a colorful tour of our new exhibition galleries that opened in May of 1984. On this page are some facts about the Museum that you may find both informative and entertaining. Welcome!

Two things of special significance have evolved at the Museum within the past two years. The first is the purchase of our permanent home, independent of any other organization or institution. The second is the development of our National Exhibit Program.

Our new headquarters, shown on this page, are on the main street of Manchester, Vermont, adjacent to the historic Equinox Hotel (which is currently undergoing an eighteen-million-dollar restoration). Until 1984 the Museum rented exhibition space next to the Orvis retail store, about a half mile from our present quarters. This led many people to the erroneous conclusion that we were an "Orvis Museum." The American Museum of Fly Fishing is, of course, a totally independent institution with a board of trustees national in scope. In purchasing our new building in November of 1983, the Board of Trustees took a major step in enhancing our image as an independent organization.

Now, for the first time, exhibitions, the collection, our library, and administrative functions are all under one roof. Also for the first time, the Museum is adequately covered by sophisticated systems for physical security and fire protection, linked directly to the nearby police and fire departments.

A Capital Fund, separate from any operating funds, was established in 1983 to purchase, repair, renovate, furnish, and otherwise cover the costs associated with our new building. This fund carries a five-year goal of $250,000, of which $75,000 was raised almost immediately to permit occupancy. The balance of $175,000 is the subject of an ongoing campaign, and we look forward to its successful conclusion during 1987 or sooner.

Our new headquarters offer a solid base for a second important development: the National Exhibit Program. In 1983, recognizing the Museum's constituency to be national—even international, the Trustees adopted as a matter of ongoing policy that museum exhibits be placed from time to time around the country in conjunction with other responsible institutions. The entire country can't come to the Museum, so the Museum is going to the country—taking the rich heritage of fly-fishing to as many people as is practically possible.

For example, in addition to maintaining exhibits in Manchester, we now exhibit every summer at the International Fly Fishing Center (maintained by the Federation of Fly Fishers) in West Yellowstone, Montana—one of the true crossroads of contemporary fly-fishing. We also recently participated in shows at the Catskill Fly Fishing Center in Roscoe, New York, the Addison Gallery in Andover, Massachusetts, and the Berkshire Museum in Pittsfield, Massachusetts.

We are now working with the Academy of Sciences in San Francisco on a major exhibition scheduled to be held there during the summer of 1985. Our plan is for this show to subsequently travel to other museums across the country during 1985 and 1986.

All of these activities are expensive. It has been through the generous support of many individuals and corporations that our operating budget has grown to allow these expanded programs. In 1979 the Museum had an operating budget of $25,000. For our current 1984-85 fiscal year, our board adopted an operating budget of $244,700—almost a tenfold increase in six years.

We take our business as a museum seriously. Our full-time staff of three adheres strictly to professional standards of museum conduct and curatorial care. We also belong to and work with such organizations as the American Association of Museums.

A professional staff. New headquarters. Rapidly growing exhibition programs. Financial soundness. We've accomplished much in our sixteen-year history. But there's much more to be done. We depend totally on direct public support, and the light for adequate funding is never ending. If you aren't a member of the Museum, you'll find an application form on the facing page. Or perhaps you have a friend who should become a member—and receive the American Fly Fisher quarterly—our landmark publication that has twice won design awards from the printing industry.

Gifts to the Museum can be made in many ways—from bequests to cash to collectible tackle to fine fishing art—for very general or very specific purposes. They all tax deductible as provided for by law. Your museum needs the support of all its friends—old and new—in this time of rapid growth.

John Merwin
Executive Director
Annual Meeting News

Highlights of the Museum's annual business meeting in Manchester, Vermont, on September 8, 1983, were as follows:

Trustees elected to a three-year term:

New officers elected to a one-year term:
Gardener L. Grant (Chairman of the Board), Arthur T. Frey (President), W. Michael Fitzgerald (Vice President), Leigh H. Perkins (Treasurer), Ian D. Mackay (Secretary), and Charles R. Eichel (Assistant Secretary Clerk).

Outgoing President Gardener Grant honored Trustees Robert Buckmaster and Tim Bedford with President's Pins in recognition of their service to the Museum.

Recognizing that $175,000 remains to be raised for the Museum's Capital Fund, the trustees established a Capital Fund Committee co-chaired by Robert Buckmaster and Gardner Grant.

Policy Review Committee, co-chaired by Ian Mackay and Charles Eichel, was established to review current museum policies and by-laws, with special reference to the collection, and to recommend changes at the next annual meeting.

An operating budget of $244,700 was adopted by the Trustees for the 1983-85 fiscal year.

That evening the first auction dinner of our current series was held in Manchester. Attendance was a record 75 persons, and gross proceeds were about $14,000, also a record.

Excerpts from the Executive Director's Annual Report

INTRODUCTION

The American Museum of Fly Fishing has enjoyed an extraordinarily successful year. The officers, trustees, staff, members, and friends of the Museum have all contributed substantially to this success, each in his or her own way. Among many other things, we have reached our long-standing goal of independence from the Orvis Company, which nurtured the Museum extensively for sixteen years. The Museum now stands on its own as an operating entity in virtually every aspect, ranging from paper clips to payroll.

Among the highlights of the past year have been: ● Becoming independent of continued
In the Galleries . . .

Below, our “Rod Shop,” which is a display collection of late-nineteenth-century rodmaking paraphernalia. Included is an original Leonard rod from Bangor and a few tools we believe to have come from Hiram Leonard’s first rodmaking shop in Maine.
Below (inset) is our reception area at the entrance. The galleries are constantly attended by our staff during public hours. The larger photo shows a portion of a rod display case and a lovely Krider valise rod (a recent acquisition). The bottom photo is a long view of one gallery, in which a visitor examines our 1893 Mary Orvis Marbury fly and photo panels, one of our more popular display items.
continued Excerpts from the Executive Director’s Annual Report

Orvis • Purchasing, renovating, occupying, and opening our building • Closing our fiscal year on June 30, 1984, with a balanced budget • Successfully completing the first phase of our Capital Fund Program • Increasing our membership • Aggressively beginning our National Exhibit Program • Continuing to run and expand our very successful Auction/Dinner fundraising events.

In every aspect of our operations, The American Museum of Fly Fishing is in better condition now than ever before, with an increased visibility both at home and across the country that helps to fuel our sustained and exceptional growth.

ORVIS AND THE MUSEUM
The late Arnold Gingrich, a former president of our board, wrote in 1973:

“The fact that the Museum is completely separated from the Orvis Company, with a governing body and membership drawn from the general public, has been hard to get across during the formative period when the Orvis Company has performed more for it, in getting it started, than anybody else. But the Orvis Company has made it clear, from the outset, that the ultimate aim is a completely self-sufficient organization.”

I am delighted to report that during the past year, with considerable assistance and encouragement from Orvis, that self-sufficiency has been largely achieved. The Museum owes a substantial debt to those many Orvis employees who have assisted us greatly over the years. Perhaps the greatest debt of all is due Orvis Company president Leigh Perkins, whose vision helped to establish the Museum in the first place and whose perseverance and patience have helped to bring us to the independence that we presently enjoy.

MEMBERSHIP AND MAGAZINE
We had a slight increase in membership during the year.

Our magazine continues to be of exceptional quality, especially when considered in the light of our relatively small membership. Trustee David Ledlie, our editor, is doing an outstanding job in maintaining and upgrading the quality of our publication.

It is important to remember that for people who do not see the Museum itself, the magazine is the most visible sign of our existence. We can all be proud of projecting such an excellent image.

NATIONAL EXHIBIT PROGRAM
At our 1983 Annual Meeting, in addition to voting to purchase permanent headquarters in Manchester, Vermont, the Board of Trustees wisely recognized, since our constituency is essentially an international body of fly fishers, that an aggressive National Exhibit Program would be appropriate. That program was adopted as a matter of policy, under which The American Museum of Fly Fishing will exhibit around the country and beyond in conjunction with responsible institutions. The aim of this program is to reach as many people as possible.

Since that time, we participated in exhibitions at the Addison Gallery in Andover, Massachusetts, and at the Berkshire Museum in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. We also fulfilled our commitment to exhibit in conjunction with the Federation of Fly Fishers at their facility in West Yellowstone, Montana.

The most immediate and important project under this program is the development of a large exhibit at the Academy of Sciences in Golden Gate Park in San Francisco to be shown from June through September of 1985. It is our intention that San Francisco will be the first stop for this exhibition and that it will travel from city to city, possibly Portland, Denver, Cleveland, Detroit, and New York, on its way back to Manchester.

THE CAPITAL FUND
At our 1983 Annual Meeting we established a short-term capital fund goal of $75,000. I’m delighted to report that from cash donations, donations of securities, accrued interest, and pledges we reached that goal. Note that the total budget for the Capital Fund was $250,000. This leaves us with a $75,000 balance to be raised. Of this figure, the largest amount is our mortgage, which presently stands at $119,000.

SPECIAL PROJECTS
We have embarked this year on one special project that I expect will eventually produce a substantial amount of income for the Museum, in addition to providing a service to the angling community in general. In my last Annual Report, I suggested that we might at some time publish catalogs of the Museum’s collections and sell same. One of our members, Jim Brown of Stamford, Connecticut, is an authority on antique reels. In return for his expenses, he has agreed to assist us in putting together a

A Brief History of Equinox’s Spa and Pavilion Building—

by Mary Bort

In Manchester, Vermont, on Main Street and north of the Equinox House, a splendid, enormous old hotel—the heart of the complex that is presently undergoing extensive restoration—sits a modest, white clapboard building that houses the new headquarters of The American Museum of Fly Fishing. The Spa and Pavilion Building, as it was originally known, was erected shortly after the First World War on a plot of ground adjacent to the small, yellow brick building (next to the Equinox complex and formerly C. F. Orvis’s tackle store) that now houses the Johnny Appleseed Bookshop. The building has a many-windowed pavilion at the rear that was attached to an enclosed front courtyard where products of the Equinox Spring Water Company were displayed.

A drinking fountain fed directly from the springs on Equinox Mountain was the central feature of the spa. The Equinox Spring Water Company advertised its product as highly beneficial to one's health and produced laboratory analysis and numerous testimonials commending its restorative powers. Naturally effervescent, the springwater also formed the base for several soft drinks, one of which was a nonalcoholic ginger champagne. Although begun at a time when mineral springwaters were very popular and considered to have great health benefits, the
President's Report to the Membership

The executive director reported on our progress for the past year, and you can see from the progress report what we have accomplished in our new headquarters here in Vermont. The American Museum of Fly Fishing has advanced to the point where it has a viable program to exhibit at major population centers across the country. We have made great strides.

Now it is time to turn the reins over to our new leadership, but before doing this, I must express my personal gratitude and that of the Museum to those who have made all of this possible:

- To my fellow Trustees, past and present, who have given their time, their financial support, and their expertise, and who willingly shouldered so many of our tasks when asked to lend a hand.
- To Laura Towse, our long-term secretary, who kept our books and records. She kept us on course and did so much more for us than the title implies—without compensation and proper recognition.
- To Paul Schullery, our former executive director, who established the standard of excellence and professionalism that continues in our magazine, our curatorial duties, and our exhibition program.
- To Dick Finkley, our associate curator, that man of all seasons, our secret garden, who fills in so well in so many areas when we need him.
- To David LEDIE, our editor, who has continued an effort that mystifies me. I can't understand how an organization with such a small membership can publish a magazine of this quality without going broke. David does it!
- To John Merwin, our executive director, whose first year on the job has brought such achievements that our enthusiasm for the Museum's future under John's direction has to be at an all-time high.
- To Martha Poole Merwin, whose marvelous design skills are so much in evidence in our headquarters and magazine. If John plays his cards right, she will influence our exhibition program and future expansion.
- To Leigh Perkins, whose vision recognized the role and the need for this museum. His leadership and support made it a reality. Leigh and Romi have been the heart and soul, the sine qua non, of our formative years. The contributions of this "dynamic duo" have been so great over such a long period that my words of appreciation can't begin to match their deeds.

The future is bright. Fly-fishing is increasingly enjoyed all across our country. While the Museum, like fly-fishing, has eastern roots, our leadership and support are now coming from all sections. We are a national institution, and our goal is to bring the heritage, the artifacts, the ethics, the art, the writing, the appreciation, and enjoyment of life—all of which are a part of fly-fishing—to the greatest number of people across this land.

Although I am stepping down as president, I intend to step up my support and commitment to this museum. I urge all of you to do the same. The progress we celebrate today is but a forerunner of the achievements we shall celebrate tomorrow, given your help.

Gardner L. Grant
President

the Museum's New Headquarters

event

then, after a successful concert series by artists of international reputation was held in the pavilion in 1925, many such concerts followed. Literary readings by local authors, including Robert Frost, Walter Hard, Sally Cleghorn, Dorothy Canfield Fisher, Zephine Humphrey Fahnstock, were presented there. For some years free movies were shown in the pavilion on Friday afternoons, open to all the children of Manchester. A number of Manchester's most respected seniors fondly recall "Our Gang" comedies they watched in the Equinox pavilion. Some of these same Manchesterites enjoyed Arthur Murray dancing lessons there in the 1930s.

In addition, the pavilion was used for garden club meetings and fundraising events. It functioned as sort of a community building until the early 1940s. Commercial use dominated the little building during the next thirty years. Memorable ventures included Anna Lippa's gift shop, Tom Fitzsimmons's wood carvings, and Robert Deely's art gallery. In 1975 the little building was moved to the vacant lot at the southwest corner of Seminary Avenue (its present location) where, after remodeling, it was transformed into a doctor's office. A year later the Deely Art Gallery moved back into the building, and shortly thereafter, the building was occupied by the Invention Corporation, maker of alpine slides. It remained vacant for several years prior to the time when it became the new home of The American Museum of Fly Fishing.
Among the highlights of our 1984 gallery opening was a retrospective exhibition of original paintings by the late Ogden Pleissner, a friend of the Museum for many years. Exhibitions of fine and sporting art are a regular feature of our galleries in Manchester, Vermont, and elsewhere.
As a follow-up to Dorothy McNeilly’s biography of Charles Lanman (The American Fly Fisher, vol. 11, no. 3, p. 14), we are pleased to publish a chronological checklist of Lanman’s writings that we have been working on for some time. The list is divided into three parts: books, magazine articles, and miscellaneous prose that didn’t seem to fit into the previous two categories. We make no pretensions for exhaustiveness. We have endeavored to be as complete as possible; however, we know that there are, undoubtedly, some items we have missed. We invite our readers to advise us of any omissions, glaring or otherwise.

The majority of Lanman’s literary efforts have no bearing whatsoever on the gentle art, but those that do are of great importance, as he was one of the first Americans to write about fly-fishing.

It wasn’t that Lanman described in detail the methods of fly-fishing employed by mid-nineteenth-century anglers; in fact, he was very weak on this score. The importance of Charles Lanman as an angling historian is that he (and therefore probably many others) routinely fly-fished for salmon, trout, and even some saltwater species. His vivid descriptions of rivers, lakes, modes of travel, and local scenery, interspersed with his accounts of fly-fishing and other modes of angling, give the reader of today a rare glimpse at what it was really like to fish in the wilderness of the United States and Canada prior to the Civil War. To the reader of his day, these vivid accounts provided information on wilderness outposts and other infrequently visited areas of our then-young country before they became routinely accessible via rail lines and then ultimately via the ubiquitous automobile. In order to put Lanman’s writing in proper perspective, we remind our readers that J. V. C. Smith, erstwhile mayor of Boston, published America’s first fishing book, Natural History of the Fishes of Massachusetts, in 1833. This was followed by John Brown’s American Angler’s Guide (1845) and Frank Forester’s Fish & Fishing (1849, first American edition in 1850). “Uncle” Thad Norris’s epic American Anglers Book did not appear until after the Civil War (1867). And all of these were essentially how-to books.

While Letters from a Landscape Painter (1845) and A Summer in the Wilderness (1847) mention fly-fishing briefly, Lanman’s first book of real interest to the fly fisherman is A Tour to the River Sagueneay (1848, published simultaneously in London under the title Adventures of an Angler in Canada). The English edition contains a wonderful frontispiece, a steel engraving that depicts a young Charles Lanman in his fishing garb, replete with fly book and other angling paraphernalia. A chapter on fly-fishing for salmon in Canada is the highlight of the book; there is also an episode about catching a trout with a live mouse as bait (Lanman was no purist—he even caught trout on squirrel meat!).

Our favorite Lanman book is Adventures in the Wilds of the United States and British American Provinces (1856). A chapter on salmon fishing and chapters on the St. John River, the Miramichi, the Restigouche, and the Nepisquit are most enthralling. Unfortunately, Lanman’s books are difficult to obtain. Angling historians must compete with collectors of Americana for these scarce editions. Presently, the Museum’s collection does not contain any Lanman items. Naturally, we would welcome their presence. Our thanks to Dorothy McNeilly for her help with this project.
Books Authored or Edited by Charles Lanman

1811 *Essays for Summer Hours.* Hilliard, Gray and Co. (several subsequent editions)


1817 *A Summer in the Wilderness; embracing a canoe voyage up the Mississippi River and around Lake Superior.* New York: D. Appleton and Co.; Philadelphia: G. S. Appleton (several editions)


1852 *The Private Life of Daniel Webster.* New York: Harper and Brothers (an enlarged version of the previous entry; several editions)


1856 *Adventures in the Wilds of the United States and British American Provinces.* Philadelphia: J. W. Moore. Issued in two volumes, it included material from the previous entry plus selections from his other previous books and magazine articles.


1867 *The Life of William Woodbridge.* Washington: Blanchard and Mohun


1871 *The Red Book of Michigan, a civil, military, and biographical history.* Detroit: E. B. Smith and Co.; Washington: Philip and Solomon

1872 *The Japanese in America.* New York: University Publishing Co. Edited by Lanman. (The National Union Catalog lists another work with the same title, published by Longmans, Green, Reader and Dyer in London in 1872, which is fifty-four pages longer and for which Lanman is listed as author.

1876 *Biographical annals of the Civil Government of the United States, During its First Century.* Washington: James Anglim (revised in 1887)

1879 *Octavius Perinchief: His Life of Trial and Supreme Faith.* Washington: J. Anglim

1881 *Recollections of Curious Characters and Pleasant Places.* Edinburgh: David Douglas


1885 *Farthest North; or The Life and Explorations of Lieutenant James Booth Lockwood, of the Greely Arctic Expedition.* New York: D. Appleton and Co. (several editions)

1886 *Haphazard Personalities; Chiefly of noted Americans.* Boston: Lee and Shepard; New York: C. T. Dillingham

1893 *Historic Washington.* Washington: Memorial Association of the District of Columbia. A pamphlet. (Date of publication has been questioned)

circa *The Story of a Book.* A pamphlet, thought to have been published in Washington.
Magazine Articles Authored by Charles Lanman

1840  "The Poet's Pilgrimage,"  
      Godey's Lady's Book, 22:175
      "Thoughts on Literature,"  
      Southern Literary Messenger, 6:296
      "Michigan,"  Southern Literary Messenger, 6:602
      "Evening Walks in the City,"  
      Southern Literary Messenger, 6:720
      "Autumn,"  Southern Literary Messenger, 6:723

      "The Old Indian,"  Southern Literary Messenger, 7:199

1847  "The Hermit of Aroostook,"  
      The American Whig Review, 6:283
      "Our Finny Tribes. American Rivers & Sea-Coasts. Part First—The Salmon,"  
      The American Whig Review, 6:490
      The American Whig Review, 6:561

1848  "The Game Fish of North America. The Striped Bass or Rock Fish,"  
      Southern Literary Messenger, 14:682
      "On the Requisites for the Formation of a National School of Historical Painting,"  
      Southern Literary Messenger, 14:727

1850  "The Tourist in the United States,"  Bentley's Miscellaneous, 28:289
      "Rattlesnakes,"  Southern Literary Messenger, 16:27
      "Our Landscape Painters,"  Southern Literary Messenger, 16:272

1855  "Our National Paintings,"  The Crayon, 1:136

1859  "Day With Washington Irving,"  
      Once a Week, 2:5


1865  "A Connecticut Village,"  
      Nation, 1:213

1868  "The Annals of Angling,"  
      Galaxy, 6:305
      "Forest Recollections,"  
      Lippincott's Magazine, 2:516


1870  "Peter Pitchlynn, Chief of the Choctaws,"  The Atlantic Monthly, 25:486

1874  "Our Landscape Painters,"  
      Southern Literary Messenger, 14:727

1876  "Block Island,"  Harpers Magazine, 59:168

1882  "George Perkins March,"  
      Literary World, 13:352

1885  "Our National Paintings,"  The Crayon, 1:136


1896  "Origin of the Choctaws,"  
      Magazine of History, 3:10

Miscellaneous Items Authored by Charles Lanman


1882  "An Aged Artist at Home—A Day with Asher B. Durand,"  
      The Tribune, Washington, DC, newspaper, letter to the editor
The Deerfield River: A Fish Story

by Edward R. Hewitt
edited and introduced by Jim Merritt

Edward Ringwood Hewitt (1867-1957) is well known to most fly fishermen. The creator of the Bivisible, Neversink Skater, and other patterns, he was also an early proponent of nymph fishing and a tireless experimenter in fly-fishing secrets of the Salmon (1922); Telling on the Trout (1926); Hewitt's Handbook of Fly Fishing (1933), Stream Improvement (1934), Trout Raising and Stocking (1933); Nymph Fly Fishing (1934); and his culminating A Trout and Salmon Fisherman for Seventy-Five Years (1948). Hewitt's two other books were personal reminiscences about his patrician upbringing as a son of one of New York City's leading families of the Gilded Age. (His maternal grandfather was Peter Cooper, one of New York's most colorful and influential mayors; his father was also mayor as well as a United States congressman.)

Hewitt was an 1889 graduate of Princeton University, where many of his angling-related manuscript and research materials now reside, in the Kienbusch Angling Collection of the Firestone Library. The collection was donated to Princeton by Hewitt's literary executor, Carl Otto von Kienbusch, a 1906 Princeton graduate and, like Hewitt, an inveterate and long-lived angler for trout and salmon. (Kienbusch died in 1976 at age 91.)

The article we publish here—"The Deerfield River: A Fish Story"—appears to be Hewitt's only attempt at angling fiction. (Hewitt was not shy about boasting of his fly-fishing accomplishments, however, and there were those who knew him who might have suggested that some fiction crept into his personal tales of angling exploits.)

The undated story, which as far as we can tell has never before appeared in print, comes from a box of Hewitt manuscript materials in the Kienbusch collection. The materials include a table of contents that was obviously typed and annotated by Hewitt. Among the marginalia in his handwriting are such notes as "not published," "not printed," "not sold," and "rejected." The materials also include a letter to Hewitt from J. E. Ford, associate editor of Outdoor Life in the mid-1930s, "regretfully returning" one of the manuscripts because he happened to be "more than well-supplied with material of this type." (Angling writers can take solace of sorts that even celebrated authors are rejected, and that editors' excuses have not changed over the years.)

A glance through the materials reveals why most of these manuscripts never saw print. Many of them deal with fish culture in a highly technical way. For example, as a trained chemist, Hewitt was obsessed with the fat content of trout flesh and with something he called "Factor H," an essential element in the diet of wild trout that he determined was missing in the pellets fed to hatchery trout. Such topics can make even the most dedicated fly fisher's eyes glaze over.

As a writer of angling fiction, Hewitt is scarcely in league with Hemingway or Zane Gray. "The Deerfield River" is
interesting less for its literary quality than for what it tells us about attitudes towards conservation in the 1930s. It is the presumably apocryphal story of some anglers who get together and bring suit against a polluter whose industrial effluent has killed a once-thriving stretch of the Deerfield, a blue-ribbon stream in the Berkshires of western Massachusetts. The story does show that Hewitt had a fair ear for dialogue, although it is rather mechanically written and would probably garner, at best, a B-minus in a creative writing class. Curiously, although Hewitt is not a character in the story, he does include a third-person reference to himself.

Hewitt also makes reference in the story to “Daniel Webster’s famous letter” about fishing the Deerfield. Our research into the letters and collected writings of Webster led to no such letter. Can any of our readers help us here, or was the author merely exercising his artisitic license?

The low-hung speedy roadster slipped along the new cement highway, turning into the Deerfield Valley purring like a comfortable, well-fed cat, as it had done ever since it left California a week before. Silas Wright looked along the well-remembered valley and remarked to his son Abner, “Well, there it is—the finest valley and the best trout water in Massachusetts. I tell you, boy, there are big ones in those rock pools below the falls, and when we come back from visiting Judge Thayer at the St. Johns we will stop and look the old places over. I want to show you where I caught that five-pounder when I was only twelve years old and where I lost Old Leviathan, the biggest trout there ever was in New England. I tell you he was three feet long and has not grown an inch longer in forty years, either. This was a fine place to be a boy in. You are used to California all your life, but I tell you there is no place in the world for sport like the Deerfield Valley.”

The car slanted down a hill and around a curve and close along the river where a big rock pool looked like a place that must hold a great trout. Silas looked at it longingly.

“I could easily cast out back of that big rock now with my four-ounce Leonard rod and land a fly just where the trout must be, but when I fished with a cut pole and line tied to the end and a gob of worms, I never could get the bait to just the right place. I have waked up nights thinking of the deep hole behind that rock and wondering if I could ever get to it.”

They rounded another bend and drove down an incline and across a culvert that had sunken a little with the frost coming out of the ground. The car gave a leap and there was a sudden crack and a grind, and although the motor went on, the car lost speed and stopped at the next rise.

Well I guess that is as far as we get tonight. Father, it sounds to me as if we broke the front spring, and I know that either the drive shaft or the pinion is gone in the rear axle. We can’t get any power to the wheels until all that is gone over. Let’s push her to the side of the road out of the way, and then we can see where we are and where to spend the night.”

“I know just where we are and where we are going to stay too,” his father answered. “Just up the hill is Ab Malcomb’s place, and if he is alive yet, he will just fall all over himself when he sees me, even if it is forty years since we played ball together. Let us get out the bags and the rods and tackle, and trudge up to the house and see if he is the same old Abe he used to be.”

A few minutes’ walk brought them in sight of an old white colonial house at the crest of the hill, with four large elms in front of it next to the road and a view up and down the valley.

Silas walked up the red brick walk between the low box hedges and tapped the brass knocker. The door opened and a gray-bearded man stood in the doorway, rather stooped, but hale and hearty.

“Does a man called Abe Malcomb live here?” asked Silas.

“He does and he doesn’t. That is, sometimes he thinks he is alive and then again he wishes he was dead.”

“Well, there is a man called Silas Wright who wants to speak to him a minute.”

“You don’t mean Silas Wright who used to live a mile down the road and went off to California forty years ago and never sent word since he went?”

“That same fellow, and I am the man.”

“Turn around and let me have a look at ye. Forty years ages a man some! Well I’ll be damned—it’s Silas all right. He’s got that same twinkle in his eye. Penelope, come out here and see an old friend.”

A matronly farmer’s wife in a blue gingham dress came out from the kitchen, and it did not take her a second to greet her old friend. “I would have known you anywhere,” she said. “You have got that same twinkle and kindly look about you that almost made me take you instead of Abe. But I suppose it is all for the best.”

“Well Silas, I see you have your bags along, and I suppose that is your son out there.”

“Abe, that is the fact. We were headed for the St. Johns to visit Judge Thayer, and I expected to stop here on the way back and see all the old friends I left. But fate willed otherwise and that sunken culvert down over that hill just did for our car, and it can’t go a foot until it is towed in and fixed. I suppose there is a repair shop somewhere where we can get some work done. In the meantime, if you will have us, we will stay the night and talk over old times.”

“Bring in the bags, and Penelope will fix up the front room so you can be comfortable. You remember that was the room Daniel Webster always had when he came up trouting with my granddad. If it was good enough for him, it is good enough for you.”

“Well Abe, how has the world treated you all these years?” asked Silas, as they sat beside the open fire after supper.

“Evenings can be cold in early May in Massachusetts, and a little fire feels pleasant.”

“Well Si, during the war I did fine. Got fifteen cents a quart for my milk and made as much as five thousand dollars a year. That made me feel as if it would always be that way, so I bought the place and built a new barn and put in a silo and got a milking machine and some high-priced cattle, and to get going I had to borrow money and went to old Pete Flint. You used to know he always was a skunk, and the only satisfaction I ever got out of him was when I licked him for cheating at marbles, and then he stole my real agates out of my pocket in my coat when I wasn’t looking. A man that will cheat as a boy will be a skinflint when he grows up.”

“Well, that’s just how he is now. I borrowed ten thousand dollars from him, expecting to pay it back in about three years, and then this depression came on and I not only can’t pay anything, but can’t even make my own living, let alone pay off any mortgage. Pete says that he will foreclose this fall, as he wants the power at the falls to put up another gla- cine mill. Just as if the mill he has has not done enough damage already. He claims that he gives work to lots of help and is a public benefactor, and what if the trout don’t do well in the river. That is their lookout, and anyway there is no law in this state that can make him keep his stuff out of the stream.”

“Do you mean to tell me,” asked Silas, “there are no trout in the river like there used to be when we were boys?”

“Not a damned fish—and hasn’t been since ten years past. You have to go five miles downstream to get a chance of a bite, and the trout are none too thick there, either.”

“Well, that’s a crying shame to have the finest trout water in New England spoiled by a mill when a few settling ponds and a little care would look after all that waste from the mill. Can’t the Fish Commission do anything about it? There must be some law they could work under.”

“There was a deputation of local fishermen who went to Boston to see the
commissioner, and all he had to say was that he had no power to take any action in the matter, so there it rested. I think it's a shame that a man's fishing can be ruined by another man and that he can get no satisfaction or redress. Fishing is a God-given pleasure and recreation, and no one has any right to destroy it. That's the way I feel, but I am almost the only one that feels that way. Most say just let the trout go—we've got the mill and jobs. They could have both the jobs and the fishing too, if they had a little spunk, but they have butter lives these days.”

Silas sat still a while, methodically shaking the ashes off his cigar every few minutes.

"Abe, you say you owe Pete ten thousand dollars and past interest and that he threatens to foreclose if you don't pay up by December, and you say that it is his mill that has ruined the fishing in the river.”

"Yes, that is the fact, and I don't see any way out for me, but the poorhouse next winter, Penelope is almost sick over it all.”

"Abe, I have a proposition to make to you. You know, I have some reputation in the law in California, and the common law is the same there as it is here. I have always had an idea that a man had no right under the English common law to damage his neighbor's property, and that if he did, damages could be collected for the amount of damage done. This seems plain horse sense.”

"But Silas, how can I show any damage Pete has done me? Trout fishing is not worth anything here, and if I can't show a money damage, I can't collect anything.”

"You have a sound view of the law all right,” Silas responded, “but you don't see as far as I do. I have had to see farther than the other fellow to make my way, and I have always wanted to find a case like this to try out. By heavens, I'll do it now if you will play the game with me.”

"How can you show any damage when there isn't any?” asked Abe, "I don't see.”

"It's this way, you may not know it, but fishing today has a real value in many places. On the Test in England, fishing brings as much as twenty-five hundred dollars a mile for a season, and Hewitt on the Nesersink rents rods for fishing his waters at one hundred and fifty dollars a season and has to turn the fishermen away. He tells me, next year he will raise the price to reduce the number coming. Why, your water would be worth at least twenty-five hundred dollars a year if the fishing was what it used to be when we were boys. Why, man, you are only seventy-five miles from Boston, and a man can get to your water in two hours. Do you mean to say that fishing is not worth anything? You bet it is, but we have to have legal proof of this. The way we get that proof is simplicity itself. A group of responsible gentlemen come to you and make you a flat offer for the fishing on your water of twenty-five hundred dollars a year for a term of ten years, provided the trout fishing can be made good again. They put up a bond for performance of this with the Shawmut Bank in Boston and post securities for the fulfillment of the contract as soon as the Fish Commission reports that trout will live in the water.”

"But how does that help me out with Pete Flint? Long before we got all this done he would foreclose the mortgage and I would be without a home or anything.”

"Well Abe, I think I can fix that all right; I will have a talk with Judge Thayer, who knows all the fishing nuts in Boston, and I guess if I explain to him the fun we will have with old Pete Flint, it won't take him long to get busy and form a syndicate to get the best water in New England for ten years. No one could kick at their posting it after they made the fishing where there was none. People would say, they made it and they are entitled to it. I think I see a way to get even with old Pete for cheating at marbles and stealing my real agates. I don't forgive a dirty trick like that even if it happened as a boy.”

The next morning while Abner wrestled with the local repairman and telephoned for parts to be brought out from Boston, Silas wandered along the Deerfield River with his rod—the first trout rod seen on this water in many a year. He visited the old poolds and tried all the favorite holes of his boyhood with never a rise or a strike. He grew madder and madder as the day wore on and swore with determination that Pete Flint would pay for this, or his name was not Silas Wright.

The trip to the St. Johns was uneventful. They found the fishing for land-locked salmon all that Judge Thayer had written it would be, but Silas could not get his mind off the Deerfield River with its beautiful pools bare of the trout he used to know.

Judge Thayer gave the whole matter careful and deliberate legal consideration, as was his wont in any legal matter, and on the last day of their visit he expressed his conclusions.

"This case is just open and shut. If we prepare it properly, there can be only one ending to it. Pete will have to pay the full value of the property damage he is causing, and he will have to put in a proper disposal plant for his factory waste. He will also have to pay damages during the time the stream is under purification until the Fish Commission reports that it is fit to support trout. I will agree to get together a syndicate of men who will lease the water from your friend, and I will get the best lawyer in Massachusetts, who is also one of the best fishermen, to take the case at no expense to your friend. He will do this and will also take a share in the syndicate.”

"The procedure will be as follows,” the judge continued: “When this syndicate is formed and is ready to make its offer and post the bond with the Shawmut Bank, Abe Malcom will make a formal demand of Pete Flint to cease polluting the Deerfield River, which pollution causes him pecuniary damage. When he receives his reply, which will be what we expect, suit will be entered in the Deerfield Court for damages amounting to fifteen times the yearly rental that Abe is offered for the fishing on his waters. This would amount to thirty-seven thousand five hundred dollars if he wishes to continue to pollute the water. I miss my guess if he does not find it far cheaper to put in a proper disposal plant for his waste. About that time I will have a firm of sewage disposal engineers wait on Pete Flint and offer to fix his sewage for perhaps ten thousand dollars. He will want to save that twenty-seven thousand dollars mighty bad, and he won't take long to decide what to do. I hope the jury will award Malcom compensation for the time he must wait until the river is fit for fish—this ought to be at least two years. The five thousand dollars he will get will pay off all the back interest on the mortgage, and he can easily pay off the principal out of his fishing rents in a few years. In fact, my bank will lend him the amount on the security of this fishing lease at a low interest, and he can be clear of Flint forever.”

The following few weeks were busy for Thayer and Wright; they had fishing luncheons and dinners at most of the sporting clubs in Boston. Gradually the syndicate took shape, not so much from those who were ardent fishermen as from those who believed that pollution of our waters must stop and here was a good way to make a beginning without any new-fangled and untied laws. Their English ancestry had abiding faith in the old English common law, and they felt that in these times of New Deals and laws of doubtful legality, here was a chance to do something in the way their forefathers did.

The newspapers carried editorials on the matter, and all the sporting magazines were full of this new point of view. As the day of the trial approached, the leading papers covered the story daily and the picture sheets were full of photos of the beautiful Deerfield River. Offers to join the syndicate came in by the score.

The bill of complaint that Judge Thayer drafted was simplicity itself. The Deerfield River was a natural trout stream, famous for two hundred years as the best stream in Massachusetts. Had not all read Daniel Webster's famous letter
about his fishing there? Fishing had remained good until the glacine mill had been established, and since then trout could not live in five miles of the water. Peter Flint had refused to remove the pollution from the watershed, alleging that there was no law requiring this to be done. Abe Malcomb stated that he had a genuine offer from responsible parties, backed by a bond and with securities deposited at the Shawmut Bank, to pay him twenty-five hundred dollars a year for ten years for the fishing rights on his part of the river, to begin as soon as the Fish Commission reported that the water was suitable for trout. Copies of the bond and offer and proposed lease were submitted to the court.

The attorney for the plaintiff stated that no law was necessary to oblige pollution to be removed from a stream if such pollution caused money damage to the property owners. No man has a right to damage his neighbor's property. The damage has been shown and the money value proved. He demanded a judgment of the full capital amount of this damage, which at six percent would be thirty-seven thousand dollars. If this were allowed, he further asked that damages be assessed for the time during which the pollution was not removed sufficiently to allow trout to live in the stream, as during this time the complainant was kept out of his offered income.

The defense was decidedly weak. The attorney alleged that there was no law to oblige the removal of pollution, that the mill gave work to many people, and that requiring it to remove the pollution would close the mill permanently. They could not refute the damages represented by the offer for the fishing rights. The prosecution, in closing, further showed that the firm of Dow and Company, the celebrated chemical engineers, would agree to put in a sewage-disposal plant for this factory for ten thousand dollars and contract to deliver an effluent to the river in which trout could live.

The jury was out just fifteen minutes and gave a verdict in full for the plaintiff, with full damages.

On the way out of court, Silas Wright brushed past Pete Flint and whispered in his ear, "I guess that makes up for your cheating at marbles and stealing Abe's real agates, you skunk."

Two years from that day there was a meeting of the Deerfield Syndicate at Malcomb's farm. The river had been clean for a year and a half, and the trout put in had prospered and grown. The small group of fishermen lined up at the side of the road and stood waiting for the starting gun fired by Silas Wright. Cameras clicked and the movies were ground out as the shot rang out and the Deerfield River again took its place among the great fishing streams of this country. 

Jim Merritt has been a frequent contributor to the American Fly Fisher. He lives in Pennington, New Jersey, and works in the development office at Princeton University. He is also an avid fly fisherman.

* We understand that trout fishing on the Deerfield is still quite good and that a local Trout Unlimited chapter has recently helped to establish approximately one and one-half miles of catch-and-release water there. —En.
Blooming Grove Park

by Charles Hallock

In vol. 11, no. 2 of the American Fly Fisher, we reprinted a portion of Justin Francis's Catskill Rivers that discussed some of the better-known private fishing clubs that had their headquarters in the Catskill region. The Catskills, however, did not have a corner on fishing clubs. Pennsylvania, too, had its share. One of the larger clubs (in terms of acreage) was the Blooming Grove Park Association, founded in 1871. The club is still in existence, having changed its name to the Blooming Grove Hunting & Fishing Club in 1904. Charles Hallock, founder, editor, and publisher of Forest & Stream and author of numerous sporting books, was its first corresponding secretary. Other officers included Fayette S. Giles, president; Sanders D. Bruce, vice-president; Genoa C. Scott, treasurer; and John M. Taylor, recording secretary. The following account by Hallock was originally published, we believe, in an 1873 issue of Harper's magazine.

We are indebted to Frank L. Froment of the Blooming Grove Hunting and Fishing Club for the use of the above photographs and to Mrs. Osborne Coates Jr., a longtime member of Blooming Grove, for the illustrations on page 28.

It has been ascertained to an almost mathematical nicety that it will cost the metropolitan angler one dollar for every pound of trout he takes, no matter where or under what circumstances he fishes. If he goes to trout preserves in the vicinity of the cities, he will be charged a dollar per pound for all the fish he catches, or several dollars per day for fish that he may, but does not catch. Should he select the streams or ponds within one hundred miles or so of town, he will find them depleted by much fishing; and the expenses of his journey and contingencies will bring the cost of the few fish he takes up to the inevitable dollar per pound. Or should he prefer remote localities where trout can not only be had for the catching, but swarm in such abundance as absolutely to embarrass the angler, the measure of his expenses will still be a dollar per pound. At the same time, he will be unable to enjoy the pleasure of bringing his fish home, or even of eating more than a few of them on the spot. The same conditions are relatively true of salmon, or any other description of genuine game-animals or game-fish. If the angler hires a river in Labrador or Canada, it is quite probable that he may catch a thousand pounds of salmon in the course of a month's fishing; but the price of his lease and his expenses for traveling, guides, boat, provisions, outfit, and encumbrances, to say nothing of time consumed, will foot up a dollar per pound. Or, if he goes down to Long Island for a couple of days, and captures a dozen pounds of trout at the regulation price demanded for the privilege of fishing, his expenses will be found to reach $12.

This is the high tariff at present imposed upon the sportsman's indulgence. The only way to cheapen his amusement is to encourage home industry, and make fish abundant in all neighborhood localities. Pisciculturists have accomplished much toward re-stocking exhausted and depleted waters, but their efforts have not yet been productive of important economic results. The work of propagation has not been sufficiently diffused over the country to reduce the market price of trout, or place good fishing-grounds within easy and inexpensive access of the public.

The "Blooming Grove Park Association," so far as its own territory is concerned, has fulfilled both of these conditions. It has a domain of more than 12,000 acres [current holdings are now approximately 18,000 acres] within a few hours' ride of New York City by the Erie Railroad, where its members may not only fish, but hunt, ad libitum, free of charge. The sportsmen may leave New York, or any other adjacent city, and in twenty-four hours return with a saddle of venison, a bag of birds, or a basket of trout. To active businessmen whose time is precious, this is an advantage worthy of consideration. Every year, there are many gentlemen of sporting proclivities, with but a week to spare, who are compelled to forego their favorite pastime, because the ordinary hunting resorts are so distant that they have no sooner reached the ground and got fairly to work, than they...
are compelled to pack up and return. Recognizing these disabilities, and appreciating the necessity of more accessible sporting-grounds, two gentlemen of New York, well known to sportsmen and the public generally, Fayette S. Giles, Esq., and Genio C. Scott, Esq., some three years ago conceived the idea of providing a grand park or inclosure [sic] within a reasonable distance of New York, where game might be bred and protected as it is in Europe in the grand forests of Fontainebleau, and the Grand Duchy of Baden. Both gentlemen had the necessary knowledge and experience to guide them in their undertaking. Mr. Giles having been a resident of France for six years, and engaged actively in field sports, both in the forests of Fontainebleau and in Germany, while Mr. Scott has always been regarded good authority in matters piscatorial, and is well known as the author of Fishing in American Waters [1869].

Great difficulty was experienced in finding a sufficiently large tract of land anywhere near New York that contained the necessary requisites of stream, lake, upland, lowland, and forest; but at last a spot was found perfectly suited to the purpose in Pike county, in the extreme northeastern portion of the State of Pennsylvania. Here fine streams were found running through pleasant valleys, eight beautiful lakes were within easy walking distance of each other, and a range of high wooded hills crossed the southern end of the tract. To add to the advantages and attractions of the country, deer were already found in the woods in great numbers, and woodcock, ruffed-grouse and wild pigeons were met with at every turn. The streams were already stocked with splendid trout, and the tract seemed really a sportsman's paradise. One of its greatest advantages was its proximity to New York, being distant from the city only four or a half hours by the Erie Railroad; and the sportsmen who had conceived the idea of establishing an American Fontainebleau, saw at once that they had found the proper location for it. About twelve thousand acres of land were purchased, and in such a form as to include all the finest of the lakes, the mountainous country, and the best of the streams, the entire property being located in the townships of Blooming Grove, Porter, and Greene. It was at once decided to form a club of gentlemen fond of sporting for the purpose of improving, stocking, and enclosing the tract. The result was the incorporation, in March, 1871, of the "Blooming Grove Park Association."

This Association now included about one hundred members from a dozen different States, principally married men with families. It has a large new clubhouse or hotel, romantically located upon the borders of one of the larger lakes, a boat-house and boats, Indian canoes, etc., croquet lawns and other recreation for the ladies, summer-houses, a natural history, and zoological department, with several live specimens, bathing-grounds, etc. In short, the "park" is a summer resort of the most classical and high-toned character, combining all the ordinary attractions of watering-places with the main objects for which the Association was instituted. Members pay the almost nominal sum of $1.25 per day for board, and the whole economy of the park is so contrived as to secure the greatest amount of gratification and profit at the least possible expense. Cottages may be erected and occupied by those who prefer not to board at the hotel.

The primary objects of this Association are the importing, acclimating, propagating, and preserving of all game animals, fur-bearing animals, birds, and fishes adapted to the climate; the affording of facilities for hunting, shooting, fishing and boating to members on their own grounds; the establishment of minkeries, otteries, aviaries, etc.; the supplying of the spawn of fish, young fish, game animals, or birds, to other associations or to individuals, the cultivation of forests; and the selling of timber and surplus game of all kinds; in a word, to give a fuller development to field, aquatic and turf sports, and to compensate in some degree for the frightful waste which is annually devastating our forests and exterminating our game.

There is no personal liability on the part of any member or officer of the Association for the debts or liabilities of the Association, but the property of the corporation is liable for its debts, in the same manner as the property of individuals under the laws of the State. The capital stock is $225,000, consisting of 500 shares at $450 per share; each share constituting full membership with all club privileges, and carrying pro rata ownership in the property and all its improvements. The capital may be increased to $500,000, by increasing the land held in fee, and the Association is empowered to acquire, by gift or otherwise, and hold lands in Pike and Monroe counties in Pennsylvania, not to exceed thirty thousand acres, and may lease, hire and use neighborhood lands to the extent of twenty thousand acres, making the right to control fifty thousand. And the Association may issue bonds, sell, convey, mortgage or lease any or all its property, real or personal, from time to time. The corporation makes its own game laws. The penalties for poach-
ing are defined in the charter, and are very severe. For instance, for taking fish, the fines are $2 for every fish, and $5 per pound in addition; elk or moose, $500; deer, $10 each, etc.; so, also, for setting fire or damaging any property of the Association. The gamekeepers or wardens are made deputy-sheriffs and constables, with power to arrest poachers or any person infringing the laws of the corporation.

A great amount of work has been done by the Association during the two years of its existence. In addition to the erection of a most attractive club-house, eighty feet long and three and a half stories high, with an extension, it has put up a large boat-house; built a dam to raise a lake five feet; enclosed 700 acres of forest with a deer-proof wire fence eight feet high, and stocked it with deer; built a commodious game-keeper’s and refreshment house therein; stocked three of the large lakes with black bass from Lake Erie; commenced trout works; introduced a few landlocked salmon; erected rustic gateways and summer-houses; built roads, laid out avenues, paths, and a croquet lawn; created a fleet of boats and canoes; and imported a kennel of dogs of best stock and approved varieties. Altogether, it is a vast enterprise for this continent, and its present condition reflects great credit upon the sagacity of Fayette S. Giles, Esq., its President, in perceiving that the people of America were prepared to foster such a scheme, as well as upon his energy and perseverance in carrying it to a successful consummation. It has received unusually favorable endorsement from the newspaper press, and seems to meet with greater favor from the fact that it holds out inducements to ladies to participate in the sports and schemes of their husbands. Here will be one asylum, at least, where the enervated belles of New York can spend a season, and in the sports of the field regain ten years of youth as capital for future campaigns at Saratoga or Long Branch. There is no reason why a lady should not learn to cast a fly and ensnare the wily trout as skillfully as the most expert male angler, and with a light rifle they would soon learn to enjoy a wait upon a runway for a final crack at the spotted deer. No more sensible, healthful, or rational enjoyment could be proposed than a month’s out-door sport in a locality so well stocked with game, and it is to be hoped that such a pastime may find more favor in the future with people who usually spend their summer vacations idly making a tour of the watering-places and fashionable resorts, and from which they generally return to town more weary and languid than at the outset. The “Bloom- ing Grove Park” is entitled to a prominent place among the sporting resorts of America. §
Gone But Not Forgotten

Ever since its inception, The American Museum of Fly Fishing has been working hard to develop and refine its procedures for handling accessions and for cataloging its ever-expanding collection. We have made great progress in this area, largely due to the efforts of our registrar, JoAnna Sheridan. Jo came to the Museum four years ago, and, armed with just a few suggestions from Paul Schullery, our erstwhile executive director, completely revamped the Museum’s entire record-keeping process. In a very short period of time she gave the Museum a professional system for handling its collection—of which we are, naturally, very proud. This was not an easy task. While there is a great deal of literature available pertaining to museum record keeping, each museum, obviously, is quite different—especially ours, as there is really no other like it. Thus, in addition to adapting schemes of other museums to suit our needs, JoAnna had to develop many new systems on her own. We also mention that she did an excellent job of managing the day-to-day operation of the Museum when we were between executive directors. We are most grateful for the job JoAnna Sheridan has done for the Museum. Her dedicated, behind-the-scenes efforts will greatly facilitate our preparation for museum accreditation.

We regret to say, JoAnna has made the decision to leave the Museum in order to pursue a number of other professional interests. Jo, we wish you well in these future endeavors and, of course, thank and applaud you for all that you have done for us—you will be missed, but certainly not forgotten.