

*The Reed Draper Collection  
of Angling Books*





Cover art:  
Michigan Grayling, from S. A. Kilbourne,  
*Game Fishes of the United States*, 1878.



*Old fishermen never die,  
instead they write books about their passion . . .*

John D. Voelker

Frontispiece from *The Compleat Angler*,  
illustrated by Arthur Rackham in 1931.

The Arthur Rackham illustration is  
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# *The Reed Draper Collection of Angling Books*

A Partial Catalog

Published in Conjunction with  
an Exhibit of the Draper Collection

in the

Francis and Mary Lois Molson  
& Meijer Exhibit Galleries of the  
Clarke Historical Library  
May 1 through October 22, 2007

by

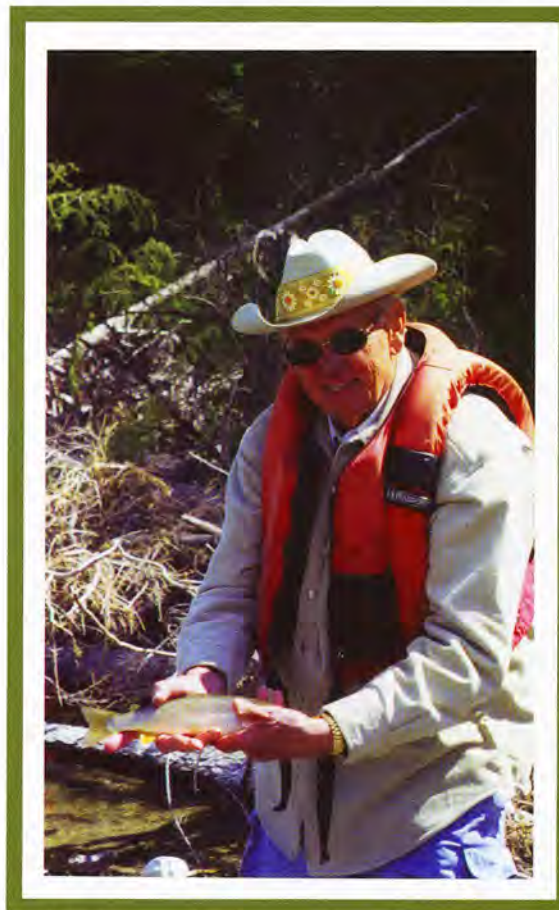
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Mount Pleasant  
Clarke Historical Library  
Central Michigan University

2007

# Reed Draper: An Appreciation

Central Michigan University is pleased to acknowledge the important contributions of Reed Draper and his spouse Joanne Draper in establishing The Reed Draper Collection of Angling Books at the Clarke Historical



Reed Draper

Library. Reed Draper (1928-2004) was a native Michigander; he was born in Saginaw and received his formal postsecondary education from the University of Michigan and the General Motors Institute. After serving in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War, Draper opened his first automobile dealership in Bay City. He owned several car franchises in the Saginaw area and throughout his life was very active in groups and academic programs associated with automotive merchandizing. He was a member of many community organizations and served as President of the Saginaw General Hospital, President of the Saginaw Club, Chairman of the Joint Development Committee of the Saginaw Chamber of Commerce, and Trustee of Northwood Institute.

Reed Draper had a lifelong passion for fly-fishing, particularly fly-fishing for trout. Although he fished all over the world, his favorite stream was the North Branch of the Au Sable River, where he owned a cabin and spent countless hours instructing family and friends in the fine art of fly-fishing. It is clear that he enjoyed sharing his passion with others—perhaps almost more than the pleasure he himself derived from fishing. He also enjoyed fishing in such diverse locales as New England and New Zealand, and he owned a ranch in Wyoming where he fished in the Jackson Hole area.

The Reed Draper Collection of Angling Books began with an idea that became a reality a number of years ago when a Cleveland rare-book dealer notified Central Michigan University that an important collection of angling books was available. A CMU vice president contacted Reed Draper and asked if he might be interested in purchasing the collection on

behalf of the University. Ultimately, Draper did just that and donated the library to the Clarke. In the years that followed this donation, he located an additional major angling library that had been owned by Willard Tripp of





Bay City. Art Neumann from Saginaw, the longtime owner of a fly-tackle shop named The Wanigas Rod Company, also assisted in this endeavor. It should be noted that Art Neumann was instrumental in founding the national organization Trout Unlimited.

Together Draper and Neumann enabled the acquisition of this second library, and Reed and Joanne Draper eventually donated the collection to the Clarke, where it was combined with the other angling books. The total collection of angling books in the Clarke now comprises almost two thousand books, perhaps the finest such collection in Michigan and even the midwestern United States.

While the collection contains a particularly strong section of English titles such as Izaak Walton's *The Compleat Angler*, as well as many fine books with color plates detailing fly tying and fly fishing, it is also notable for its many definitive books on American fishing including seminal works about the early history of the sport in Michigan.

The collection has much to offer with respect to entomology, ecology, and the principles of stream management. We thank Reed and Joanne Draper for their foresight in connecting Michigan's recreational heritage with this important library. The Reed Draper Collection of Angling Books is a unique addition to the Clarke Historical Library, and we celebrate its presence with the accompanying description and catalog.



Reed and Joanne Draper







# Angling in Print

## Introduction

Central Michigan University is fortunate to have the Reed Draper Collection of Angling Books in the Clarke Historical Library. In thinking about the importance of such a collection, it is significant that the most renowned angling-book collections in the country are found at some of America's foremost universities including Harvard, Yale, and Princeton. Significant collections are also to be found at universities such as Northwestern, New Hampshire, California at Fullerton, Montana, and in Canada at British Columbia. The size and scope of the Reed Draper Collection places it among the most outstanding assemblies of such works available to scholars in the midwestern United States.

Angling-book collections are sometimes accused of having a very narrow scope. This, however, is not true. Angling-book collections find applications in many academic fields. Given their historical origins, angling books are tied closely to English literature. There are direct relationships between these works and the disciplines of conservation, ichthyology, entomology, stream and lake management, and the general field of recreation. In addition, scholars will find that given the historical nature of many of the works in the Reed Draper Collection, early exploration, settlement, travel, and cultural topics are also revealed. Academics as well the general public will find much that is rewarding in these volumes. Whether readers are perusing works by Izaak Walton or Robert Traver, they will learn not only how to catch fish but also may explore many of the values and experiences of everyday life.

Although an angling-book collection has numerous uses, this catalog and the exhibit it accompanies celebrate "fishing with an angle" and emphasize the development of fly-fishing and its place in the streams of Michigan.



From Norris, *American Angler's Book*





## In the Beginning: *A Treatyse, Izaak Walton, and English Angling Literature*

The first book to reference fly-fishing was *A Treatyse of Fysshynge wyth an Angle*. It was published in 1496 as part of the second edition of *The Boke of St. Albans*. Some authorities suggest that this work was authored by Dame Juliana Berners, although support for this claim is not definitive.<sup>1</sup> *A Treatyse* was, in part, the first “how to” fishing book, discussing fishing strategies that remain important today:

*And for the fyrst and pryncipall poynt in anghyng: kepe the euer from the water for the syght of the fysshe, eyther ferre vpon the lande, or els behynde a bushe that the fysshe se you not. For if they doo: they wyll not byte. And looke that y<sup>e</sup> shadowe not the water as much as ye maye. For it is that thyng that wyll sone fraye the fysshe. And if a fysshe be a frayde: he wyll not byte long after.<sup>2</sup>*

But *A Treatyse* also develops a second theme that has become common in angling literature—the paramount importance of angling as a benefit to one’s psychological and physical well being:

*Also ye shal not use this for said crafty disortes for no couetousnes, to the encreasing & sparing of your mony onehy, but pryncypally for your solace, & to cause the helth of your body, & specially of your soule.<sup>3</sup>*

After it appeared, *A Treatyse* remained the most significant angling book for nearly 160 years, until Izaak Walton’s *The Compleat Angler* was published in 1653.

Izaak Walton (1593-1683) spent much of his life working as an ironmonger and a hardware merchant in London, but he also had a productive later career as a linen draper. After his first wife died in 1640, Walton left London in 1642, remarried a few years later, and retired from business. He lived much of his life near Winchester, England; after his death he was buried within the walls of the famed Winchester Cathedral.<sup>4</sup>

Walton authored a number of works, but in 1653 he published what became one of the most widely distributed books in the English language. *The Compleat Angler* is exceeded only by the Bible and the *Complete Works of William Shakespeare* in the number of editions that have been produced. The full title of the first edition is *The Compleat Angler, or, the Contemplative Man’s Recreation. Being a discourse of fish and fishing, not unworthy the perusal of most anglers. Simon Peter said, I go a fishing: and they said, we also will go with thee. John 21:3*. This work was printed by Walton’s friend T. Maxey for Richard Marriot, in St. Dunstan’s Churchyard on Fleet Street in London.

The first edition of the book was so successful that it was followed in 1655 by a second edition containing eight additional chapters and 109 more pages. A third edition appeared in 1661, with a slight variant of the third edition



Facsimile reproduction from  
*A Treatyse of Fysshynge wyth an Angle*

<sup>1</sup> The Draper Collection houses several reprint editions of this work; the earliest dated version having been printed in 1875.

<sup>2</sup> Dame Juliana Berners, *A Treatyse of Fishing wyth an Angle* (Edinburgh: Private printing, 1885), n.p.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, n.p.

<sup>4</sup> Regarding his name, Walton used the spelling “Isaac” for much of his life, although “Izaak” became the literary spelling.



reissued in 1664. A fourth edition was printed in 1668, and the final and fifth edition published during Walton's lifetime was issued in 1676. The 1676 edition is distinctive in that two of Walton's friends, collaborators, and fellow angling authors teamed to produce the final edition. Charles Cotton added a portion titled *With Instructions How to Angle for a Trout or Grayling in a Clear Stream*, and Colonel Robert Venables wrote a section titled *The Experienced Angler*. All of these titles were incorporated into a book titled *The Universal Angler, Made so, by Three Books of Fishing*. Walton was primarily a bait fisherman, and the propitious addition of the work on fly-fishing by his friend Cotton added considerably to the scope of the fifth edition.

*The Compleat Angler* is written as a dialogue among three sportsmen: a fisherman named Piscator (who is Walton), a huntsman named Venator, and a fowler named Auceps. They walk and fish the River Lea, beginning on the first of May. After each person articulates the values inherent in his respective sport, Piscator convinces Venator to learn the art of angling and to become his pupil. After Venator enthusiastically adopts the role of scholar, the remaining chapters of the book—labeled as days in some editions of *The Angler*—focus on the lessons of angling and life to be taught by Piscator to Venator.

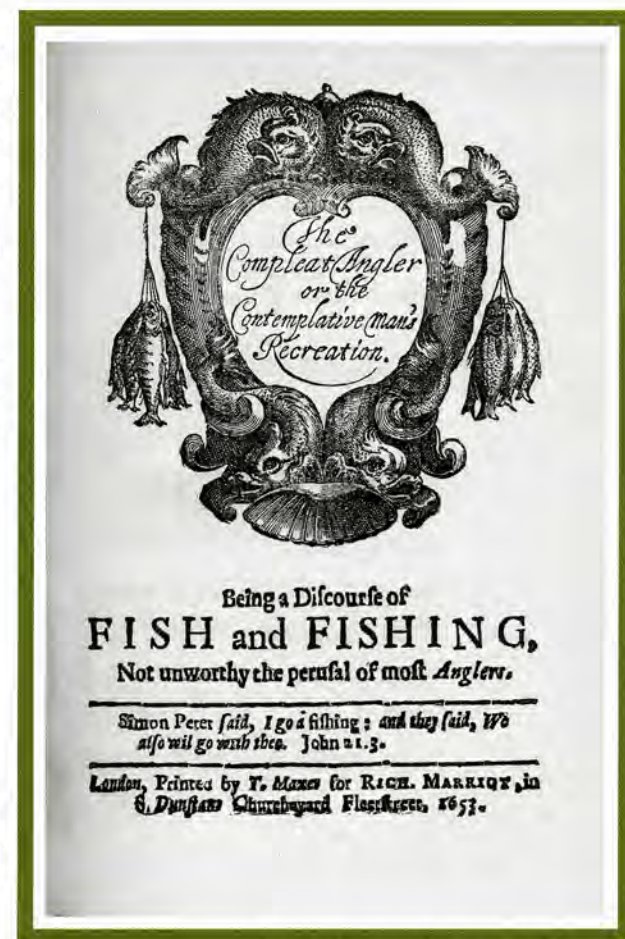
*The Contemplative Man's Recreation* talks about nature, beauty, religion, and escape from work in the pastoral setting of the English countryside. Venator has come to the master to learn how to fish, and Piscator does not fail him.

In Walton's day, an angler used tackle consisting of strands of horsehair connected to long wooden rods comprised of ash and hazelwood with pins serving as hooks. As he was primarily a bait fisherman, Walton provides detailed instructions on many aspects of this angling technique. Walton's description of coloring a fishing line provides evidence about how carefully Piscator instructs Venator:

*And for dying of your hairs do it thus: Take a pint of strong Ale, half a pound of soot, and a little quantity of the juice of Walnut-tree leaves, and an equal quantity of alum, put these together into a pot, or pan, or pipkin, and boil them half an hour, and having so done, let it cool, and being cold, put your hair into it, and there let it lie; it will turn your hair to be a kind of water or glass colour; or greenish, and the longer you let it lie, the deeper coloured it will be; you might be taught to make many other colours, but it is to little purpose; for doubtless the water or glass-coloured hair is the most choice and most useful for an angler; but let it not be too green.<sup>5</sup>*

How should one approach a particular species of fish? There are separate chapters on the "Observations" of trout, grayling, salmon, pike, and perch, as well as other species such as carp, bram, tench, eel, barbel, gudgeon, roach, dace, loach, and bull-head. Walton borrowed liberally from the work of other authors of the period, including a section on the construction and use of artificial flies, although it is unlikely that Walton fished extensively with

<sup>5</sup> Isaac Walton, *The Complete Angler* (New York: John Wiley, 1852), 235-36.



Facsimile reproduction of title page,  
*The Compleat Angler*





them. He identifies twelve different flies as being excellent in enticing trout. All things considered, Walton explains that angling does not come easily:

*PISCATOR. O Sir, doubt not but that Angling is an Art, and an Art worth your learning: the Question is rather whether you be capable of learning it? for Angling is somewhat like Poetry, men are to be born so: I mean, with inclinations to it, though both may be heightened by practice and experience: but he that hopes to be a good Angler must not only bring an inquiring, searching, observing wit, but he must bring a large measure of hope and patience, and a love and propensity to the art itself; but having once got and practiced it, then doubt not but Angling will prove to be so pleasant, that it will prove like virtue, a reward to itself.<sup>6</sup>*

As has already been noted, *The Compleat Angler* is far more than a “how to” manual for the everyday fisherman. It is also about approaching life through contemplation and meditation and harmonizing with nature and God:

*No life, my honest Scholar, no life so happy and so pleasant, as the life of a well-governed angler; for when the lawyer is swallowed up with business, and the statesman is preventing or contriving plots, then we sit on con-slip-banks, hear the birds sing, and possess ourselves in as much quietness as these silent silver streams, which we now see glide so quietly by us. Indeed my good Scholar, we may say of Angling, as Dr. Boteler said of strawberries; “Doubtless God could have made a better berry, but doubtless God never did.” And so if I might be judge, “God never did make a more calm, quiet, innocent recreation than Angling”.<sup>7</sup>*

It is altogether fitting that the foundation of the Reed Draper Collection of Angling Books is made up of a superlative compilation of many editions of *The Compleat Angler* by Izaak Walton. A preeminent nineteenth-century bibliography of English angling books published by Thomas Westwood and Thomas Satchell in 1883 and titled *Bibliotheca Piscatoria: A Catalogue of Books on Angling, the Fisheries and Fish Culture*, provided an early analysis of the edition complexities associated with this title. Westwood and Satchell counted 89 distinct editions of *The Complete Angler*<sup>8</sup> published through 1882. Although many of these editions are obscure, rarely seen volumes, the Reed Draper Collection has 70 of the books catalogued by Westwood and Satchell and even contains numerous pre-1882 volumes not found in their exhaustive research compilation. While modern bibliographies have now identified more than 400 different editions of *The Compleat Angler* that take us through the twentieth century, the Reed Draper Collection has more than 180 editions of this work and closely related books, and, as such, represents one of the most outstanding Waltonian libraries in the country.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid., 23.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid., 105-6.

<sup>8</sup> Many of those who edited Walton's classic work chose to modernize the spelling of “compleat.” For the purposes of this work we have accepted whichever spelling of the word a particular editor used.





Space limits our ability to detail here the extent of the Walton portion of the Reed Draper Collection of Angling Books. However, we will note that of the numerous extant editions, the collection contains many first editions of *The Compleat Angler* with different named editors and publishers.<sup>9</sup> The collection does not contain any of the first five editions of *The Compleat Angler*, which were published during Walton's lifetime. As one might expect, these volumes are exceedingly rare. In October 2001, a fine copy—"finest in existence"—of the first edition of Walton's book sold at Christie's Auction House in New York for \$226,000. This represents a substantial increase from its original cost of 18 pence when it was first published in May of 1653.

An important, but later, Walton edition in the collection was edited by Reverend George Bethune. In 1847 Bethune produced the first American edition of *The Compleat Angler* and added to it a "Bibliographical Preface" of eighty-four pages wherein he surveyed much of the known history of angling and angling literature. His successful first edition was followed by a second in 1848. The Draper Collection holds copies of an 1852 third edition, which was followed by later editions in 1859, 1866, 1880, and 1891. It is interesting that Bethune initially used the pseudonym "The American Editor" to publish this work.

The combination of techniques and personal values expressed in *The Compleat Angler* is representative of the qualities that we see in the other books that contribute to the richness of the Reed Draper Collection of Angling Books. There are many books on fishing strategies, there are exquisite volumes containing prints of beautiful and deceiving artificial flies, and there are numerous works detailing many and varied sport fish. But most of all one finds in the angling-book collection continuing references to the reasons why fishing is a gentle and contemplative art.

## Additional British Foundation Volumes

In addition to the Waltonian portion, many other important and scarce English angling books can be found in the Draper Collection. Even prior to Walton, a wonderful book of angling poetry—the first such effort—was published by John Dennys in 1613 and contains a section on "The Qualities of an Angler." The Draper Collection has several later editions (1811, 1883) of Dennys's work *The Secrets of Angling*.

Although Izaak Walton was primarily a bait fisherman, his first edition mentioned twelve artificial fly patterns, and by the fifth *Universal Angler* edition, Cotton brought the total number of fly patterns listed up to sixty-five. The angling literature in England was increasingly focused on the art of fly-fishing.

Following Walton, many writers wrote about angling from a more technical perspective. Richard Brookes published *The Art of Angling* (1740), which is essentially a well-done "how to" book that was republished in many editions during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Thomas Best produced *A Concise Treatise on the Art of Angling* in 1787 that continued the technical-manual approach to angling. The Draper Collection has two editions



Title page from Brookes,  
*The Art of Angling*

<sup>9</sup> It includes first editions by the following editors/publishers: Browne (1750)—the first published after Walton's death; Hawkins (1760); Major (1823); Pickering (1825); Rennie (1833); Nicolas (1836); "Ephemera" [Edward Fitzgibbon] (1859); G. Bell (1875); Stock (1876); Davies (1878); Griggs (1882); Cassell (1886); Lea and Dobe (1888); Lowell (1889); Harting (1893); McClurg (1893); Lang (1896); Gay and Bird (1901); Buchan-Methuen (1901); Navarre (1925); and Rackham (1931). Also present are many duplicates, deluxe editions, and editions by lesser-known publishers and editors.





(1798, 1804) of this work. In 1816 George C. Bainbridge wrote *The Fly Fisher's Guide* (1840 edition), one of the first English works to use color plates of flies. William Carroll published *The Angler's Vade Mecum* (1818), another early work that contained twelve colored plates. Thomas Salter, *The Angler's Guide* (1815, 1823, and 1830) was also an outstanding "complete practical treatise on angling."

Among the best of these early technical manuals was Richard Bowlker's book, *The Art of Angling or the Complete Fly Fisher*, which was first published in 1747 and then continued in later editions (1806, 1814) by his son. Bowlker's practical advice was unusually detailed. As quoted by Arnold Gingrich in his *The Fishing in Print*, Bowlker noted:

*Patience is ever allowed to be a great virtue, and is one of the first requisites for an angler.*

*In your excursion to or from fishing, should you overheat yourself with walking, avoid small liquors and water as you would poison; a glass of wine, brandy, or rum is more likely to promote cooling effects, without danger of taking cold.*

*An angler should always be careful to keep out of sight of the fish, by standing as far from the bank as possible; but muddy water renders this caution unnecessary.*

*When you have hooked a fish, never suffer it to run out with the line, but keep the rod bent, and as nearly perpendicular as you can; by this method the top plies to every pull the fish makes, and you prevent the straining of the line.*

*Never raise a large fish out of the water by taking hold of the line, but either put a landing net under it, or your bat. You may, in fly-fishing, lay hold of the line to draw the fish to you, but this must be done with caution.<sup>10</sup>*

The most exceptional early book of the artificial-fly genre was that of Alfred Ronalds. His 1836 publication, *The Fly-Fisher's Entomology* (first edition-1836, second edition-1839, and ninth edition-1883), contains nineteen hand-colored plates showing forty-seven natural insects side by side with their forty-seven artificial counterparts. Ronalds was the first author to introduce a scientific classification of the flies he illustrated. According to Westwood and Satchell:

*This book, though in some respects inaccurate, displays a rare combination of entomological and piscatorial science.*

*The drawings of the natural fly in juxtaposition with the artificial are of great value and nicety.<sup>11</sup>*

William Blacker wrote *The Art of Angling, and Complete System of Fly-Making and Dyeing of Colours* (1842, 1855). The 1855 edition contains twenty-one plates, of which seventeen are fine hand-colored plates of incomparable beauty. Succeeding Ronalds, Blacker provided an outstanding book that had exceptional detail on fly tying and was probably the first to promote the gaudy patterns used for salmon. The "work is a strange medley of practical usefulness and rhapsodical extravagance," according to Westwood and Satchell. "The instructions for fly-making are peculiarly precise and clear."

<sup>10</sup> Quoted in Arnold Gingrich, *The Fishing in Print* (New York: Winchester Press, 1974), 70, 71.

<sup>11</sup> Thomas Westwood and Thomas Satchell, *Bibliotheca Piscatoria: A Catalogue of Books on Angling, the Fisheries and Fish Culture* (London: Satchell, 1883), 178.



Sample flies from Ronalds,  
*The Fly-Fisher's Entomology*



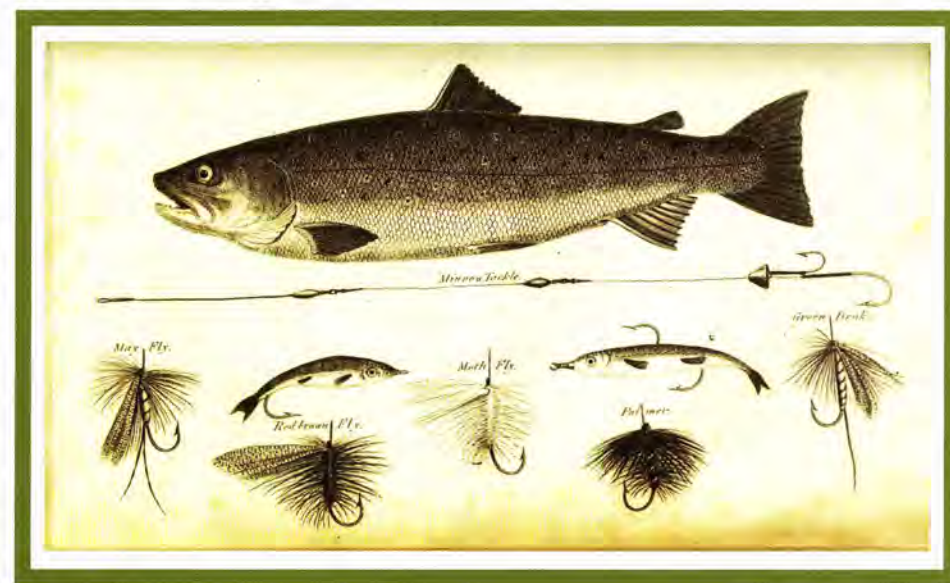


Sir Humphrey Davy was a leading scientist of the early part of the nineteenth century and president of the Royal Society. He wrote *Salmonia* (1828, 1832, 1840, 1848, 1851, and 1870), which was one of the most exceptional examples of English angling literature. As described by James Robb in *Notable Angling Literature*, “it is distinguished by its scientific outlook, its serene philosophy and its extensive information.”

George M. Kelson, *The Salmon Fly: How to Dress It and How to Use It* (first edition-1895) with eight chromolithographic plates is considered to be the bible of all classic salmon fly books and the book to which all should refer for details in the preparation of these large and gaudy patterns. John Jackson, *The Practical Fly-Fisher; More Particularly for Grayling or Umber* (1854), with ten hand-colored copper plates of flies, is also impressive. Multiple important books by Edward Fitzgibbon [Ephemera] are also found in the collection. The first two editions (1847, 1848) of his very scarce *Handbook of Angling: Teaching Fly-Fishing, Trolling, Bottom-Fishing, and Salmon-Fishing; with the Natural History of River Fish, and the Best Modes of Catching Them* contain detailed instructions on fly tying, and his *The Book of Salmon* (1850) contains eight outstanding hand-colored plates of salmon flies.

The collection also contains many other examples of important and rare books of the “how to” and “where to go” genre. *The Angler's Pocket-Book* (1805), and *The Gentleman Angler* (1726) are two early examples that follow Walton in instructing future sportsmen; and *The Angler's Note-book and Naturalists Record* (1880, 1888) is also an important later-nineteenth-century guide. The collection's large size prohibits listing all of the relevant volumes, but other very early works include *The Angler's Almanac and Pocket-book for 1855*; *The Angler's Companion* (1841); *The Angler's Guide* (1828); *The Angler's Magazine* (1760); *The Art of Angling* (reprints, 1817, 1836); William Bailey, *The Angler's Instructor* (1857, 1866); William Brown, *The Natural History of the Salmon* (1862); William Carpenter, *The Angler's Assistant* (1848); H. Cholmondeley-Pennell, *The Angler-Naturalist* (1863); H. C. Cutcliffe, *The Art of Trout Fishing* (1863); Francis Francis, *A Book on Angling* (1867, 1876); William Andrew Chatto, *Scenes and Recollections of Fly Fishing* (1834); and Henry Phillips, *The True Enjoyment of Angling* (1843). Of special note is Reverend William B. Daniel's *Rural Sports* (1807, 4 vols.), which contains seventy-six plates of flies and fish and an extensive amount of advice on fishing.

Finally, the Clarke Historical Library contains a number of bibliographic reference books relating to English angling books.<sup>12</sup>



Trout from Daniel, *Rural Sports*, vol. 2.

<sup>12</sup> Reference works found in the Clarke Library include the aforementioned works by T. Westwood and T. Satchell, the many editions of Bethune's *The Complete Angler*, and Daniel's *Rural Sports*. In addition, the Clarke has Thomas Westwood, *The Chronicle of the Complete Angler* (1864, 1882), and *Exhibition List of Waltonians at the Rowfant Club* (1896); Bernard Horne, *The Complete Angler* (1970); and James Robb, *Notable Angling Literature* (1945). Some important American bibliographical reference books are John Bartlett, *Catalogue of Books on Angling* (1882); Henry Bruns, *Angling Books of the Americas* (1975); Arnold Gingrich, *The Fishing in Print* (1974); John Phillips, *American Game Mammals and Birds* (1930); and Dean Sage, *A Catalog of the Collection of Books on Angling Belonging to Mr. Dean Sage of Albany, New York* (1896).





## American Angling Books

Although the roots and traditions of angling are embedded in Walton's books and the English works previously described, the Reed Draper Collection of Angling Books provides an enormous resource for understanding early angling in the United States, including Michigan and the Great Lakes region.

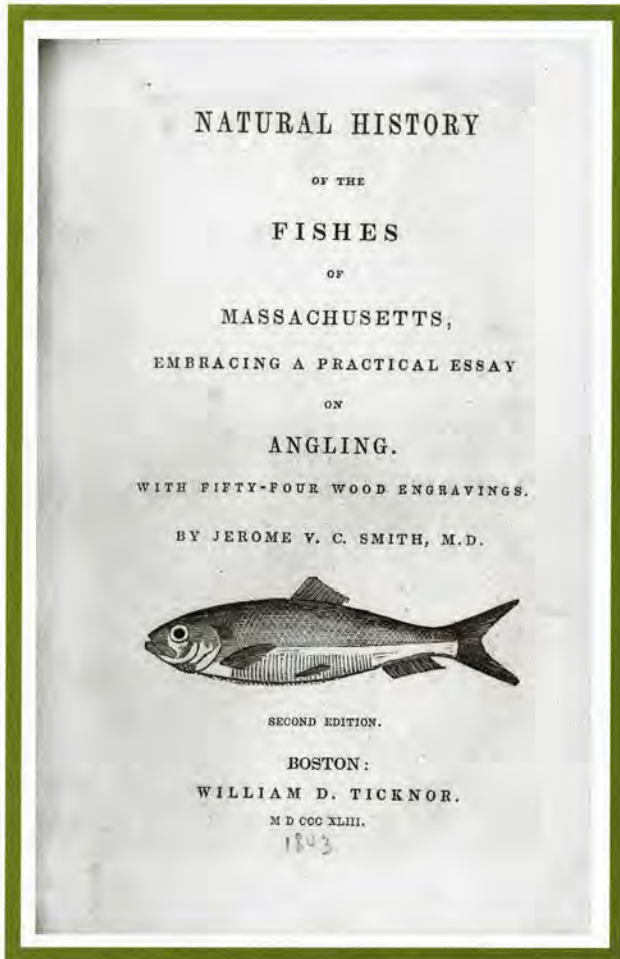
Perhaps the first work to mention sportfishing in America was a book by Richard Franck, *Northern Memoirs* (1694). Franck was an Englishman who described some of his adventures while fishing in the United States. The collection contains an early (1821) reprint of this work.

However, it took more than a hundred years before a book that focused on fishing appeared in this country. In 1833 Jerome V. C. Smith wrote *Natural History of the Fishes of Massachusetts, Embracing a Practical Essay on Angling*, which was the first fishing book published in the United States. A second edition (1845) of this work may be found in the Reed Draper Collection. Smith provides detailed information regarding the fishing rod to be used, the reel, the line, the leader, and fishing flies. Another early American sporting author was William H. Schreiner from Philadelphia, who published *Schreiner's Sporting Manual* (1841). He added much material on tying and casting flies, which was largely based on English practices.

Given the rich tradition of English angling literature, why was there not an earlier and more significant American presence? According to Charles M. Wetzel, author of the noted bibliographical work *American Fishing Books*:

*The explanation of America's failure to produce any angling literature up to this time can be attributed to the fact that fishing was pursued, not as a matter of sport, but rather as a means of a livelihood. In carving their homes out of the wilderness the early settlers had little time for sport fishing, their daily and winter supply being secured principally by the use of spears and nets.<sup>13</sup>*

Written observations by early American anglers first emerged in the periodical literature of the day. Articles on fishing appeared in journals such as *The American Farmer* (1820-1824), *The American Turf Register and Sporting Magazine* (1829-1845), *Cabinet of Natural History* (1830-1834), *Spirit of the Times* (1831-1861), and *Porter's Spirit of the Times* (1856-1861). Although these printed sources of miscellany were often short-lived, they were an important source of information for sportsmen in the pre-Civil-War era. The Clarke Library has a long run of *Spirit of the Times* and other early sporting periodicals available on microfilm. Several are also available through the Library's digital ProQuest access.



Title page from Smith, *Natural History of the Fishes of Massachusetts*

<sup>13</sup> Charles M. Wetzel, *American Fishing Books* (Stone Harbor, N.J.: Meadow Run Press, 1990), 21.



Before the Civil War, several notable works appeared that helped Americans identify with the art of fishing and transition from the English view of the sport. One of the first, John Brown, *The American Angler's Guide*, stated on the title page that it was “a compilation from the works of popular English authors, from Walton to the present time; together with the opinions and practices of the best American anglers.” Brown wrote the book under the pseudonym “An American Angler.” The book was profusely illustrated with woodcuts of fish, fishing scenes, and fishing accoutrements and ultimately was released in further editions in 1846, 1849, 1857, and 1876. The Reed Draper Collection contains the latter two editions. In these works, Brown details how fly-fishing is conducted in America:

*Fly-fishing is usually practiced with a short one handed rod from ten to twelve feet in length, or a two handed rod from fifteen to eighteen feet in length. The first mentioned is the most common in use, and is calculated for the majority of our streams, which are small and require but little length of rod or line. Attached to the rod would be a reel containing from thirty to fifty yards of hair, grass, silk, or silk and hair line—the latter description should be used if it can be procured—tapering from the tenth of an inch almost to a point; to this should be attached a leader of from one to two yards in length; and finally your fly on a slight length of gut: if you wish to use two or three flies, place them on your leader with short gut about twenty-four inches apart.<sup>14</sup>*

In 1848 he also published *Brown's Angler's Almanac, for 1848*, under his own name. This small work gives daily sunrise-to-sunset data and offers short pieces of monthly advice and other interesting tidbits. We find, for example, that:

*“Cheese Cotton” is used as a bait for a fish called the Buffalo, taken in the Ohio River. The two materials are worked up together in the form of a paste, and placed on the hook.<sup>15</sup>*

The foregoing reminds us of Wetzel's previously mentioned observation that not all angling in the New World was of an aristocratic persuasion. However, Brown also tells us of angling's more philosophical roots when he quotes “The American Editor” (the earlier described Reverend George W. Bethune) from the 1847 American edition of *The Complete Angler*:

*The stream side is ever dear to me, and I love to think of the times when I have trudged merrily along it, finding again in the fresh airs and moderate exercise, and devout looks of nature, the strength of nerve, the buoyancy of heart and health of mind, which I had lost in my pent library and town duties; I trust that I have drunk enough of the old angler's spirit (Izaak Walton) not to let such pastime break in upon better things; but, on the other hand, I have worked the harder from thankfulness to Him who taught the brook to wind with musical gurglings, as it rolls on to the Great Sea.<sup>16</sup>*



An illustration from Brown, *The American Angler's Guide*

<sup>14</sup> John Brown, *The American Angler's Guide* (New York: D. Appleton, 1876), 75.

<sup>15</sup> John Brown, *Brown's Angler's Almanac, for 1848* (New York: John J. Brown and Co., 1848), n.p.

<sup>16</sup> Brown, *Angler's Guide*, 340.





Henry William Herbert was a major transitional figure in writing about American sports, including fishing. Herbert was born in England and came to the United States in 1831. He committed suicide in 1858 after a productive career during which he authored many books and magazine articles under the pseudonym “Frank Forester.” In 1849 he wrote his noteworthy *Frank Forester’s Fish and Fishing of the United States and British Provinces*. The many fine engravings of various fish, along with numerous details associated with the rods, reels, and flies used in America advanced the sport significantly; the popularity of this work is attested to by its many editions.<sup>17</sup>

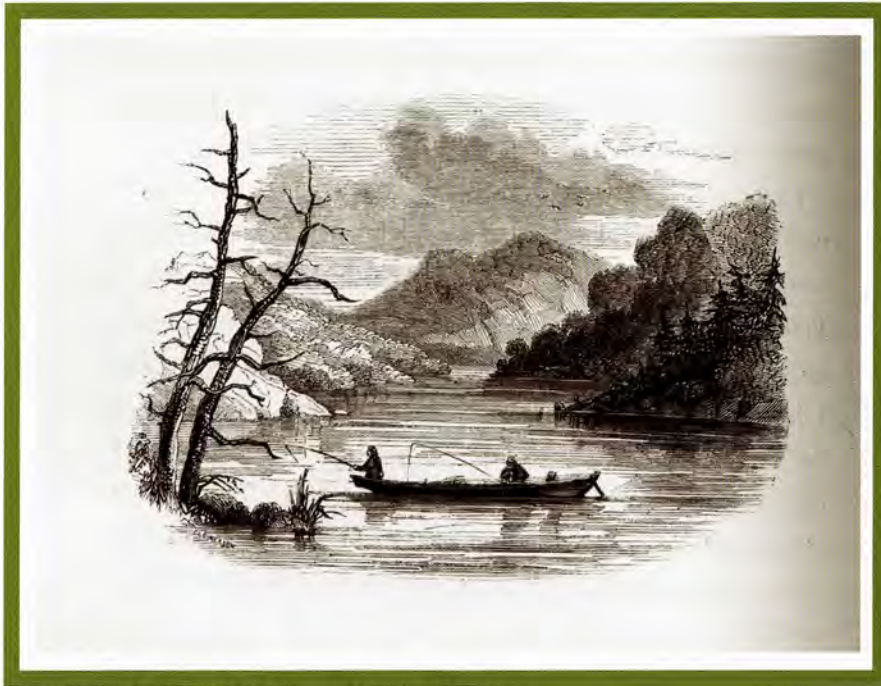
Herbert and Brown saw each other as competitors and worse. In *Fish and Fishing*, Herbert responds in some detail to Brown’s assertions and states:

*[I] have been charged—although anonymously—with plagiarism, the most heinous crime of authorship, to give my readers a chance audire alteram partem (to tell another story). . . . It has been charged on me, that I have stolen from a work entitled “The American Angler’s Guide,” by Mr. Brown, of New York; and that with intent to injure the man, and detract from his book.<sup>18</sup>*

For his part, Brown published a leaflet—today very scarce—titled *Stealing or Stealing* that accused Herbert of plagiarizing from Brown’s own *Angler’s Guide*:

*In his hasty attempt to make a book, the scissors having got the better of his judgment and his sense of right to fellow man, he cuts at perfect random, extracting by wholesale an article written for me by an old and valued friend. . . . The author of “Fish and Fishing” is a person with whom I have no acquaintance, but from whose previous writings I had some respect, although I have now no other feelings than those of contempt and pity. Contempt that he should have the meanness to cut and carve from my book, not only extracts . . . but articles that I had compiled with much labor and research.<sup>19</sup>*

Other pre-Civil-War classic books with content about fishing in the Americas that are found in the Reed Draper Collection include James E. Alexander, *Salmon Fishing in Canada* (1860), and J. T. Headley, *The Adirondack; or, Life in the Woods* (1849, 1875).



An illustration from *Frank Forester’s Fish and Fishing of the United States and British Provinces*

<sup>17</sup> The Reed Draper Collection houses three copies of this important work, published in 1849, 1850, and 1855.

<sup>18</sup> Henry William Herbert, *Frank Forester’s Fish and Fishing of the United States and British Provinces* (New York: Stringer & Townsend, 1855), vii.

<sup>19</sup> Quoted in Henry P. Bruns, *Angling Books of the Americas* (Atlanta: Anglers Press, 1975), plate 18.





Charles Lanman (1819-1895) was an author with Michigan roots who also began his writing career prior to the Civil War. He was born in Monroe, Michigan, and early in life was the editor of *The Monroe Gazette*, the local newspaper. His strong affection for his home state is seen in the following quotation from one of his books, *Essays for Summer Hours*:

*O Michigan! Thou art my own, my native land, and I love thee tenderly. Thy skies are among the most gorgeous—thy soil the most luxuriant—thy birds and flowers the most beautiful . . . and thy animals the most interesting in the world. And when I remember that thou art but a single volume in His library, and that these things are the hand writing of God, my affection of thee becomes still more strong. I believe thou art destined to be distinguished and honored by the nations of the earth. God be with thee and crown thee with blessings.*<sup>20</sup>

Lanman was a prolific author, publishing thirty-two works over the course of his career. Many of these books had significant sporting and angling content and were among the very first such volumes published in the United States. They include, *Adventures of an Angler in Canada, Nova Scotia, and the United States* (1848); *Recollections of Curious Characters and Pleasant Places* (1881); *Essays for Summer Hours* (1841); *Letters from the Allegheny Mountains* (1840); *A Summer in the Wilderness* (1847); *Adventures in the Wilds of North America* (1854); *Adventures in the Wilds of the United States* (1856, 2 vols.); and *A Tour of the River Saguenay in Lower Canada* (1848). The Clarke Historical Library contains first editions of all of these volumes.

The 1860s witnessed a great leap forward for American angling books. Not only were important classic books published, but also an interesting separation developed between some English traditions and American practices in angling, as well as writings on the subject. In particular, two authors stand out.

Robert “Barnwell” Roosevelt (1829-1906) was an uncle of the future American president Theodore Roosevelt and a prominent member of the New York fisheries establishment. He wrote several important angling works, including *Game Fishes of the Northern States of America and British Provinces* (1862), and *Superior Fishing; or, the Striped Bass, Trout and Black Bass of the Northern States* (1865). *Game Fishes* was the first American work to address entomology in the U.S. as it applied to angling. Roosevelt also described salmon fishing and the use of silk fishing line. *Superior Fishing* contains many pages on fishing in the Lake Superior region; it is also notable for a section on “Cookery for Sportsmen,” which includes the first recipes for “Fish House Punch” and “Frank Forester’s Punch.”

Thaddeus Norris (1811-1877) wrote a book called *American Fish Culture* (1868); and in an earlier work titled *The American Angler’s Book* (1864), he provided the definitive treatise on angling in America. “Uncle Thad,” as he was



An illustration from Lanman, *Adventures of an Angler in Canada*

<sup>20</sup> Charles Lanman, *Essays for Summer Hours* (Boston: Hilliard Gray & Co., 1841), 46.





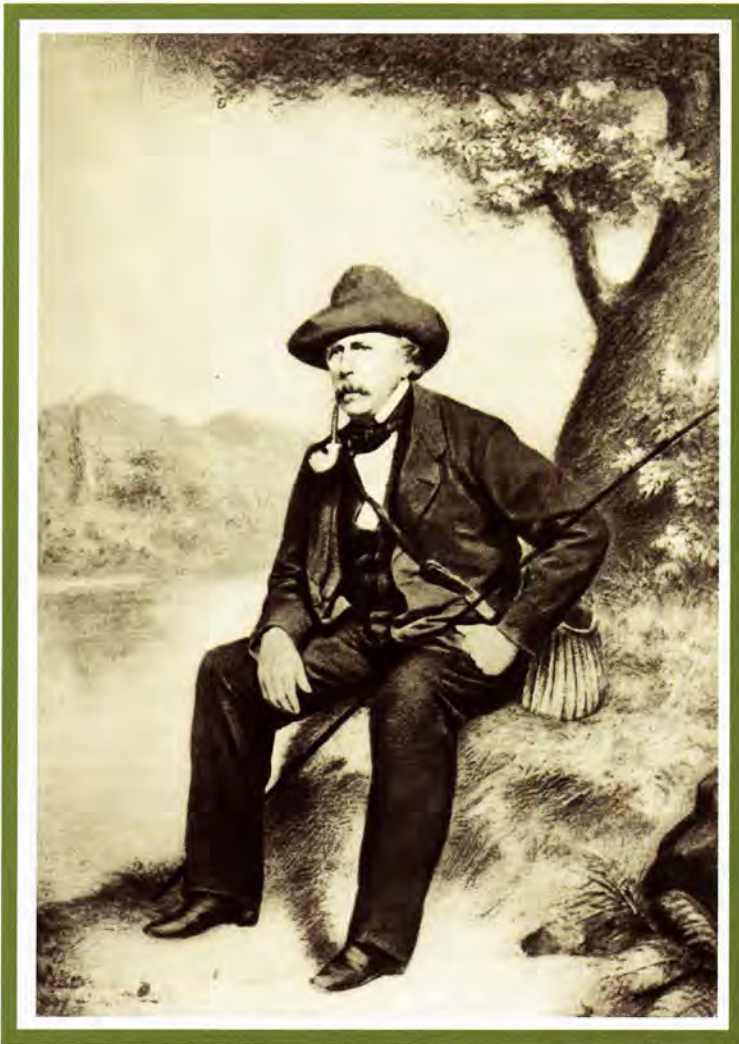
known, owned a tackle shop in Logan Square in Philadelphia, and the fishing rods that he built were the standard of the day. They were approximately twelve to thirteen feet long, weighed at least twelve ounces, and were comprised of a butt section made out of ash, a middle section made of ironwood, with a tip of spliced bamboo. Where brook fishing was desired, “Uncle Thad” advocated a lighter rod—weighing only seven to nine ounces. He may even have been the first American to manufacture fishing rods constructed completely out of split bamboo. Why is his book so compelling? Perhaps it is the book’s outstanding quality, which is suggested by its full title: *The American Angler’s Book: Embracing The Natural History of Sporting Fish, and the Art of Taking Them. With Instructions in Fly-Fishing, Fly-Making, and Rod-Making; and Directions for Fish-Breeding. To Which is Added, Dies Piscatoriae; Describing Noted Fishing Places, and the Pleasure of Solitary Fly-Fishing. Illustrated with Eighty Engravings on Wood.*

Norris talks about the need for an “American” angling book, and he hints at the emphasis on conservation of natural resources that would come later:

*Every true lover of angling knows that the pleasure it brings with it, does not end with the day’s sport; that besides being a “calmer of unquiet thoughts,” for the time, it impresses happy memories on the mind; and he looks back to many a day, and many a scene, as an oasis by the wayside in the rough journey of life; . . . Notwithstanding the many books on angling by British authors, but few American works on the subject have yet been offered to the reading public; and this in the face of the fact that we are an angling people, and that our thousands of brooks, creeks, rivers, lakes, bays, and inlets abound in game-fish.*

*The best informed of those who have written on American fishes, have omitted many important species, and treated slightly of others which are worthy of a more extended notice. Since the publication of Dr. Bethune’s “Walton,” and subsequently Frank Forester’s “Fish and Fishing,” sporting fish have decreased in some parts of the country where they were once abundant. In the mean while, the opening of new lines of travel has brought within reach of the angler many teeming waters that were then almost inaccessible.*

*With a view of filling up the blank left by my predecessors, of correcting some erroneous ideas that have been imparted, not only concerning fish, but the adaptation of English rules and theories with qualification, to our waters; and with the object of making the angler self-reliant . . . I have devoted many spare hours to the following pages . . . [and] hope that my simple narrations or allusions . . . will touch a chord of sympathy of good-natured readers “who love to be quiet and go a-angling.”<sup>21</sup>*



Thaddeus Norris as printed in Fred Mather, *My Angling Friends*

<sup>21</sup> Thaddeus Norris, *The American Angler’s Book* (Philadelphia: Porter and Coates, 1865), vii–viii.



The importance of Norris's book derives from its comprehensive nature and its American perspective. It also recognizes the need to conserve stocks of fish and emphasizes the qualitative and reflective nature of the sport. In a section titled "Fly-Fishing Alone," he states:

*With many persons fishing is a mere recreation, a pleasant way of killing time. To the true angler, however, the sensation it produces is a deep unspoken joy, born of a longing for that which is quiet and peaceful, and fostered by an inbred love of communing with nature, as he walks through grassy meads, or listens to the music of the mountain torrent. This is why he loves occasionally—whatever may be his social propensity in-doors—to shun the habitations and usual haunts of men, and wander alone by the stream, casting his flies over its bright waters; or in his lone canoe to skim the unruffled surface of the inland lake, where no sound comes to his ear but the wild, flute-like cry of the loon, and where no human form is seen but his own, mirrored in the glassy water.*

*No wonder, then, that the fly-fisher loves at times to take a day, all by himself; for his very loneliness begets a comfortable feeling of independence and leisure, and a quite assurance of resources with himself to meet all difficulties that may arise.*<sup>22</sup>

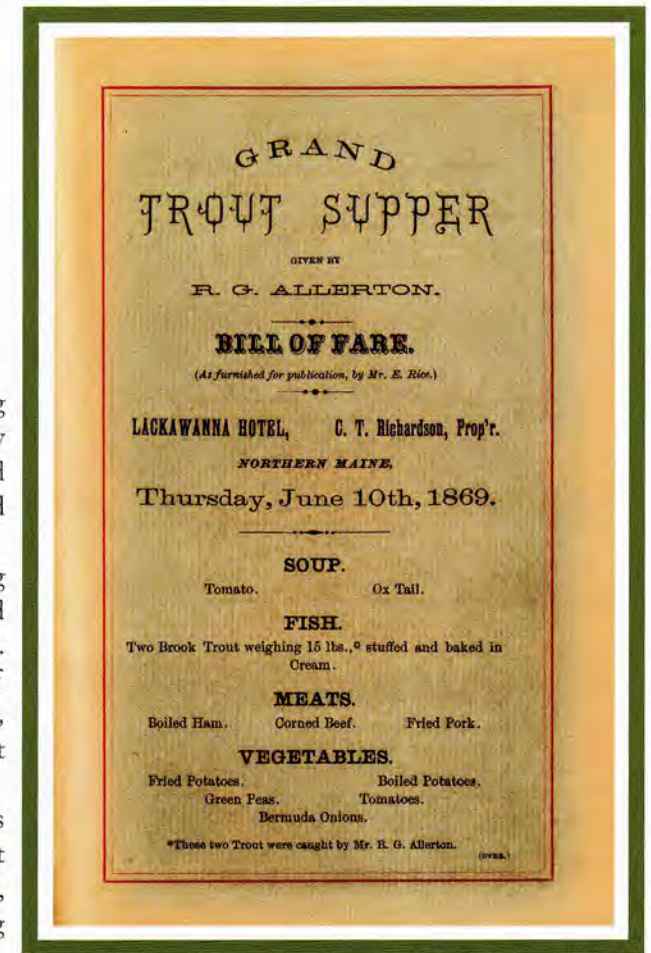
After the 1864 printing of the *American Angler's Book*, there was a rapid growth in additional American angling publications, both books and magazines. As Norris mentioned, the "new lines of travel"—railroads—brought new waters teeming with fish to the attention of intrepid fishermen; and, in addition, the post-Civil-War era afforded more time for leisure pursuits. Moreover, advances in printing and paper and other technological changes encouraged an explosive growth in the sport.<sup>23</sup>

There are many titles in the Draper Collection that reflect the remarkable post-Civil-War era interest in angling as an increasingly important American sport. As the rainbow and brown trout were to come to the eastern United States later in the nineteenth century, the stream trout of choice for early American fishermen was the brook trout. One of the places in the world where the largest brook trout could be caught was the Rangeley Lake region of Maine. R. G. Allerton, *Brook Trout Fishing, An Account of a Trip of the Oquossoc Angling Association to Northern Maine, in June 1869* (1869), reported the extraordinary success of members of that club in catching thirty brook trout averaging more than six pounds each! This work contains a beautiful colored plate picturing one of these trout.

Other important titles of this era include William H. H. Murray, *Adventures in the Wilderness* (1869). Murray's critics, Allerton being one, accused him of writing puffery that would attract so many city folks to fishing that they would denude the Adirondacks of its fishery resources. Genio Scott's work, *Fishing in American Waters* (1869, 1875), has wonderful woodcuts and mentions the use of split bamboo rods and the importance of matching living

<sup>22</sup> Ibid., 567.

<sup>23</sup> Among the myriad sporting periodicals founded during this period was the weekly folio journal *Forest and Stream*, which began in 1873. A Victorian entrepreneur, Charles Hallock, founded this sporting newspaper that was "devoted to Field and Aquatic Sports, Practical Natural History, Fish Culture, the Protection of Game, Preservations for Forests, and the Inculcation in Men and Women of a Healthy Interest in Out-Door Recreation and Study." As indicated, the stated objective of this journal also included reaching out to women, who were becoming an increasing part of the American angling scene. By the turn of the century, this journal reached more than one hundred thousand subscribers and, through several mergers, ultimately evolved into today's *Field and Stream* magazine.



Menu from Allerton,  
*Brook Trout Fishing*





insects while fishing with the fly. The Englishman Parker Gilmore or “Ubique” in *Accessible Field Sports* (1869) discusses salmon fishing in Canada and trout fishing in Maine and comments on the high quality of American fishing equipment and artificial lures.

W. C. Prime, *I Go A-Fishing* (1873, 1874), produced a book that became a classic; it contains wonderful reviews of the light fishing rods made by Thad Norris. George Dawson, editor of *The Albany Evening Journal*, wrote the first American book on fly-fishing. It is called *Pleasures of Angling with Rod and Reel for Trout and Salmon* (1876). Overall, the 1870s saw continued growth in the numbers of books and other angling publications published in America. Most importantly, many of these works described the expansion of this sport beyond the geographical confines of the eastern United States.

## The Michigan Grayling



From Hallock, *The Fishing Tourist*

Perhaps the most important of these efforts to describe fishing beyond the East Coast was by the editor of *Forest and Stream*, Charles Hallock, in his *The Fishing Tourist* (1873). Hallock describes his travels across much of the United States in search of salmon and trout. Of particular importance to us is a chapter titled “The Michigan Peninsula.” In this chapter Hallock provides the first published description of the Michigan grayling, *thymallus tricolor*, as a sport fish. This and succeeding books were so successful in extolling the virtues of this fish and attracting increased angling pressure that the species was essentially extinct in the Lower Peninsula by 1900. Today it is difficult to imagine that in 1874 an angler could board a train in New York City, ride to Fort Wayne, Indiana, and then switch to the Grand Rapids and Indiana Railroad—“The Fishing Line”—with Reed City, Michigan, as his ultimate destination in order to angle for the Michigan grayling. But both *The Fishing Tourist* and the popular *Forest and Stream* inspired exactly that type of adventure. The Clarke Historical Library also owns a very scarce copy of Charles Hallock, *Vacation Rambles in Michigan* (1878), which describes his own trip through the state via the Grand Rapids and Indiana Railroad in search of the Michigan grayling.<sup>24</sup>

Hallock was not the only author to reveal the secret of the Michigan grayling to the sporting public. George Dawson, *Angling Talks* (1883), and A. Judd Northrup, *Camps and Tramps in the Adirondacks and Grayling Fishing in Michigan* (1880), provided significant books about the grayling.

Some two years after the death of the esteemed Thaddeus Norris in 1879, an article attributed to him titled “The Michigan Grayling” was published in *Scribner's Monthly*. It is not clear that “Uncle Thad” authorized the publication of this article before his death.

<sup>24</sup> Hallock later published many other works, including *Camp Life in Florida* (1876), *The Salmon Fisher* (1890), and the 688-page encyclopedic *Sportsman's Gazetteer* (1878, 1883).





## Other Late-Nineteenth-Century Works of Importance

Many other classic works on fishing followed in the 1870s and 1880s. John Lyle King, *Trouting on the Brulé River* (1879), relates the tale of a group of Chicago lawyers fishing for brook trout on the river bordering Michigan and Wisconsin. Charles Stevens, *Fly Fishing in Maine Lakes* (1881), and D. W. Cross, *Fifty Years with the Gun and Rod* (1880), were both important works of this period. Alfred Mayer, *Sport with Gun and Rod* (1883), reprinted many significant magazine articles of the time, including the previously mentioned article on Michigan grayling by Thad Norris. L. B. France, *With Rod and Line in Colorado Waters* (1884), is an example of classic angling literature from the western portion of the United States.

James Henshall, *The Book of Black Bass* (1881, 1889), and *More About the Black Bass* (1889), provided an important new emphasis in American sportfishing for this species. In the 1881 edition, he extols the bass, describing it in his famous quotation as “inch for inch and pound for pound the gamest fish that swims. The royal Salmon and the lordly Trout must yield the palm to a Black Bass of equal weight.”<sup>25</sup>

Charles Orvis and Frank Cheney, *Fishing with the Fly* (1883), followed by *Favorite Flies and Their Histories* (1892), compiled by Orvis’s daughter, Mary Orvis Marbury, provided some of the first colored representations of American fishing flies. Of equal importance is the fact that these authors also invited contributions from anglers around the country, who described their favorite patterns and successes. In *Fishing with the Fly*, Henry Vail of Cincinnati writes about “Fly-Fishing on the Nipigon” in the Lake Superior region for the world’s largest brook trout. “I believe that trout in the Nipigon River would rise to a moderate-sized canary bird if it could be properly cast,” he asserts at one point. In another chapter, the famous fish culturist Fred Mather details the history of the Michigan grayling.

In *Favorite Flies and Their Histories*, Mary Orvis Marbury gathered comments from many anglers regarding effective fly patterns and illustrated them with wonderful colored plates. Not only was she one of the first American female angling-book authors, but also in this book she wrote about the large number of women fly tyers who labored to create the many colorful patterns in use during the latter part of the nineteenth century.



Sample flies from Mary Orvis Marbury,  
*Favorite Flies and Their Histories*

<sup>25</sup> James A. Henshall, *Book of the Black Bass* (Cincinnati: Robert Clarke & Co., 1881), 380.





## Fish Culture

The Draper Collection houses some unique materials from the nineteenth century. Although New York State is famous for its *Fish and Forest Commission Reports* (1895-1904) that contain many outstanding Denton fish prints and bird and animal illustrations by other artists, earlier it published a very scarce twenty-three-volume set of *Report of the Commissioners of Fisheries of the State of New York* (1869-1894). These volumes are particularly useful because they detail the increasing practice of fish culture and the development of the trade of fertilized eggs and young fry

of trout, grayling, whitefish, and other species between various state agencies. One of the first plates of a Michigan grayling is found in these reports, as is one of the first illustrations of a rainbow trout that had been transplanted from California to the eastern United States.

There were many important volumes published in the nineteenth century on the practice of fish culture. There were few laws regulating the distribution of eggs and fish, and the practice was widely hailed as augmenting the sport of angling. In addition to the 1868 book by Thad Norris, we find works by Theodatus Garlick, *A Treatise on the Artificial Propagation of Fish* (1857); Seth Green, *Trout Culture* (1870), and *Home Fishing and Home Waters* (1887); H. Slack, *Practical Trout Culture* (1872); Livingston Stone, *Domesticated Trout* (1872, 1877); Seth Green and Robert Roosevelt, *Fish Hatching and Fish Catching* (1879); and Fred

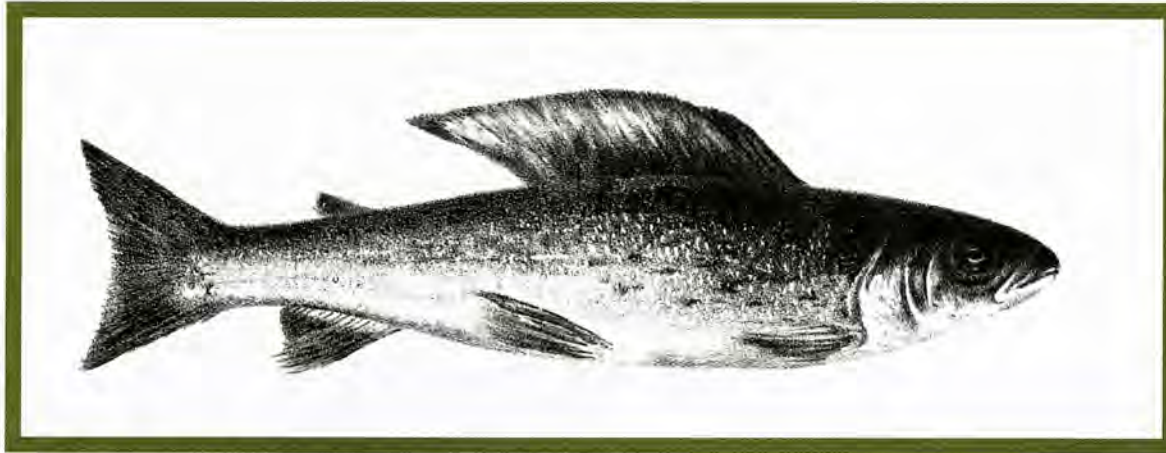
Mather, *Fish Culture* (1900). In addition, the United States Fish Commission began its annual *Reports* in 1871, and the Michigan Commission on Fisheries provided its first report in 1873-1874 (published in 1875).

During the early 1870s, Michigan lakes and streams were planted with many varieties of salmon. It has been claimed that the very first brook trout to be planted in Michigan's Lower Peninsula was deposited in the Tobacco River in Clare County in 1870 by the father of the famous turn-of-the-century lumber baron, author, and conservationist from Saginaw, William Mershon.

Shortly after 1870, brook trout became widely distributed throughout the Lower Peninsula, while rainbow trout (1876) and brown trout (1884) were later planted in Michigan waters. The brown trout planted in the Pere Marquette River represented the first planting of this species in the United States.

## Fishing Clubs

Although Norris described angling as an individual experience, American fishing clubs began to emerge as social organizations even before the Revolutionary War. The Schuylkill Fishing Company of Philadelphia was founded in 1731, and a memoir of this club was first published in 1830. Sportsmen's clubs were often created for



Early image of a grayling, *New York State Fish and Forest Commission Reports*, 1874





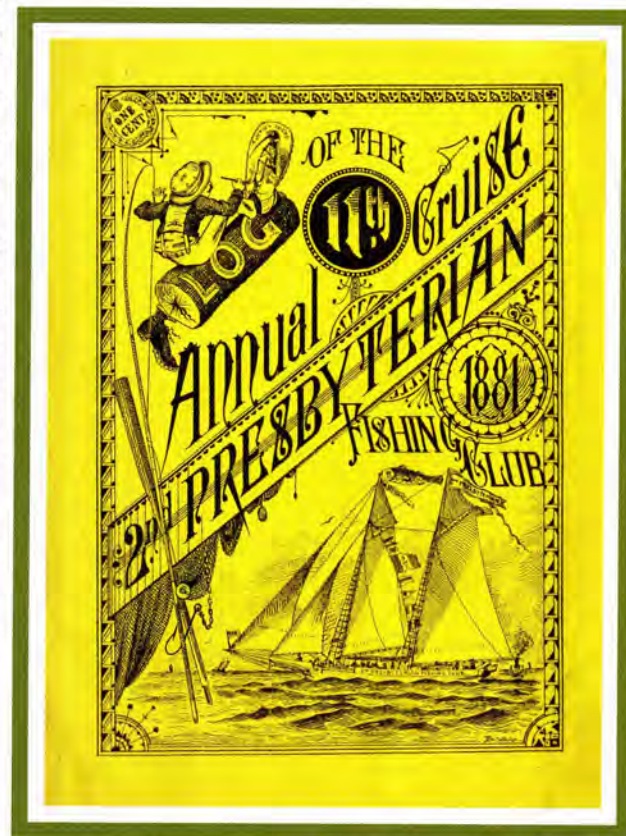
purposes of natural-resource protection and, in the latter part of the nineteenth century, occasionally provided sites for fly-casting competitions. However, many of these clubs were simply places where like-minded men could come together for convivial and sporting purposes. An example of such an organization is the Pere Marquette Club, which was founded in 1892 by William B. Mershon and his associates from Saginaw. Such clubs were common throughout the United States. Mershon also bought or leased three different railroad cars that served as both the transportation and the “clubhouse” for his well-known “Saginaw Crowd” for the group’s fishing and hunting trips around the United States.

Mershon was an extraordinary sportsman and conservationist. He authored two wonderful volumes that focused on conservation. The first book, *The Passenger Pigeon* (1907), chronicled the years leading up to the extinction of this species, including some almost unbelievable descriptions of Michigan hunting scenes. His second book, *Recollections of My Fifty Years Hunting and Fishing in Michigan* (1923), is the best available account in book form of the extinction of the Michigan grayling. Mershon also published hundreds of articles in sportsmen’s magazines around the country and helped found *The Michigan Sportsman*. William Mershon labored unsuccessfully for many years to encourage Michigan to reform its game-warden system and also to pass laws restricting the open season for grayling fishing. In 1907 he established the first flies-only waters in Michigan on the North Branch of the Au Sable River.

The Draper Collection contains a unique holding of paper booklets from the Second Presbyterian Fishing Club, which sponsored annual cruises from Philadelphia down to Delaware Bay. A hilarious comic summary was published annually as a log of these adventures. These works were titled *Log of the “number” Annual Cruise of the Second Presbyterian Fishing Club of Philadelphia on the Schooner “boat’s name.”* There appear to have been twenty-one annual cruises; and, according to Henry P. Bruns and his definitive *Angling Books of the Americas* (1975), the first eight logs existed only in manuscript form. While he had never seen volume eighteen, he thought that volume nineteen was the last published. The Draper Collection contains fourteen copies (1882-1892) of these extremely rare club logs, including at least four different logs that Bruns never saw.

Many other important angling books of the late-nineteenth century represent advancements in fly-fishing. J. Harrington Keene, a transplanted Englishman, authored *Fly Fishing and Fly Making* (1887, two copies), which contains actual fly-tying materials pasted onto the pages of the book. Frederic M. Halford (1886), an Englishman, wrote *Floating Flies* (1886), and *Modern Development of the Dry Fly* (1923). His work emphasized the use of dry flies and was instrumental in shaping the work of others. Mary Orvis Marbury’s book illustrated twelve of his patterns.<sup>26</sup>

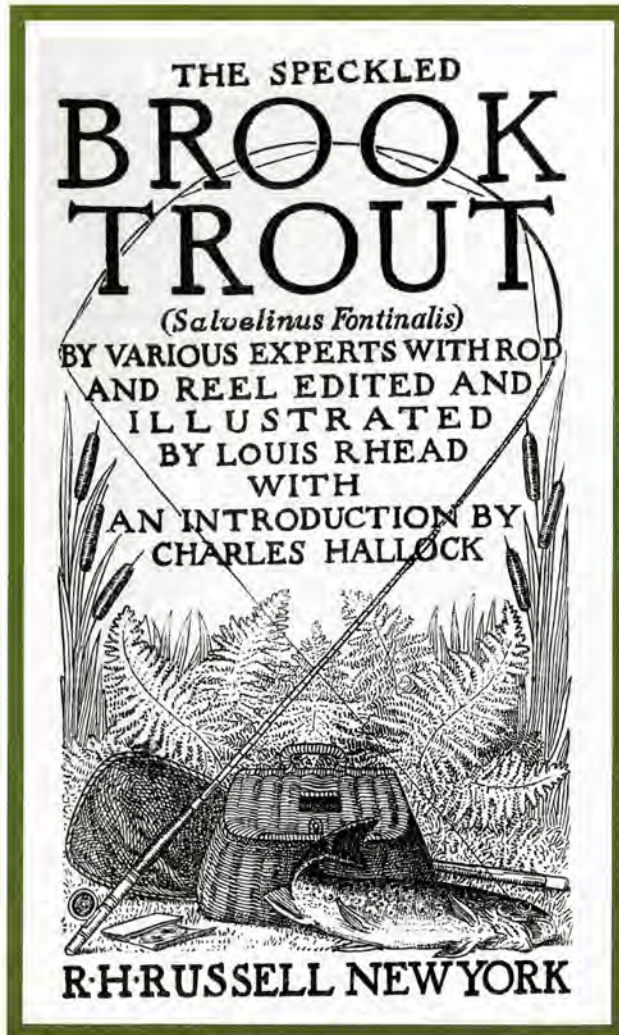
<sup>26</sup> Space limits our ability to recognize all of the American angling works that were published toward the end of the nineteenth century and which grace the Draper Collection. However, a few classic works must be mentioned, including G. O. Shields, *American Game Fishes* (1892); Henry Van Dyke, *Little Rivers* (1895) and his *Fishermen’s Luck* (1899). Dean Sage, of Bay City fame, authored *Salmon and Trout* (1902). Charles Hallock, *An Angler’s Reminiscences* (1913); and Fred Mather, *Men I Have Fished With* (1897), and *My Angling Friends* (1901), provide exceptional portraits of prominent fisherman of that era. John D. Quackenbos, *Geological Ancestors of the Brook Trout and Recent Saibling Forms from Which It Evolved* (1916), provides interesting commentary on the char family tree, and the book’s colored plates of trout evoke memories of Allerton’s 1869 book.



Cover, 2nd Presbyterian Fishing Club, 1881 Cruise







Title page, Rhead, *The Speckled Brook Trout*

In the early part of the twentieth century in the United States, perhaps due either to the diminishing number of new frontiers or locales with easy-to-catch trout or to the greater population of finicky brown trout in many streams, American angling literature increasingly focused on fly-fishing and “matching the hatch” of natural trout-stream insects. Emlyn M. Gill, *Practical Dry-Fly Fishing* (1912), focused entirely on dry fly-fishing; and George M. L. LaBranch, *The Dry Fly and Fast Water* (1914), and *The Salmon and the Dry Fly* (1924), furthered that emphasis. The Englishman G. E. M. Skues, in *The Way of a Trout with a Fly* (1921), advanced the use of nymphs. Edward R. Hewitt, *Telling on the Trout* (1926), *Better Trout Streams* (1931), and *Secrets of the Salmon* (1922), expanded the knowledge of fish vision underwater and how such knowledge should influence the development of fly patterns.

Louis Rhead was one of the most talented angling illustrators, writers, and innovative fly tyers of the early twentieth century. His *Speckled Brook Trout* (1902), is a lovely book, while *American Trout Stream Insects* (1916), contains beautiful and detailed examples of what he called “natural” flies.<sup>27</sup> Although Rhead’s influence on twentieth-century angling literature was immense, he drew much criticism for his willingness to abandon entomological classification schemes in favor of his own nomenclature. He also omitted the details of how to tie his flies and restricted the availability of his patterns to firms such as William Mills and Son in New York City. Today, Rhead is also known for his very rare magazine posters from the 1890s—for *Century*, *Scribners*, and *Bookman*—as well as for his many illustrations in early children’s books.

Many fine books from the mid-twentieth century are represented in the Draper Collection: James E. Leisenring, *The Art of Tying the Wet Fly* (1944); W. H. Lawrie, *All-Fur Flies and How to Dress Them* (1944); John Alden Knight, *Modern Fly Casting* (1942); Preston J. Jennings, *A Book of Trout Flies* (1935, 1971); Art Flick, *The Streamside Guide* (1947); Charles K. Fox, *Rising Trout* (1967); Ray Bergman, *Trout* (1952, 1959), and *Just Fishing* (1952); John Atherton, *The Fly and The Fish* (1951); William F. Blades, *Fishing Flies and Fly Tying* (1951); Vincent Marinaro, *A Modern Dry Fly Code* (1950); Ray Ovington, *How to Take Trout on Wet Flies and Nymphs* (1951); Charles M. Wetzel, *Trout Flies, Naturals and Imitations* (1955); Harold H. Smedley, *Fly Patterns and Their Origins* (1943, 1944, 1946, and 1950); and Helen Shaw, *Fly-Tying Materials, Tools, and Techniques* (1963).

There are also a series of more recent books that evoke memories of Walton and Norris in their references to the aesthetic values of fly-fishing. Frank Pennell, *Thread of Tranquility: Essays, Observations, and Reflections* (1967); Dana Lamb, *Not Far from the River* (1967), *On Trout Streams and Salmon Rivers* (1963), and *Woodsmoke and Water Cress* (1965); and Herbert Hoover, *Fishing for Fun* (1963), are examples—as are several of the books of Roderick Haig-Brown, including his books of the seasons, *A Primer of Fly Fishing* (1964), and *A River Never Sleeps* (1946). Reflection often turns to commitment, and Alexander MacDonald, *Design for Angling* (1947—two copies), provides an excellent

<sup>27</sup> Other works by Rhead include, *Bait Angling for Common Fishes* (1907), *The Basses, Fresh Water and Marine* (1905), *The Book of Fish and Fishing* (1908), and *Fisherman’s Lures and Game-Fish Food* (1920).





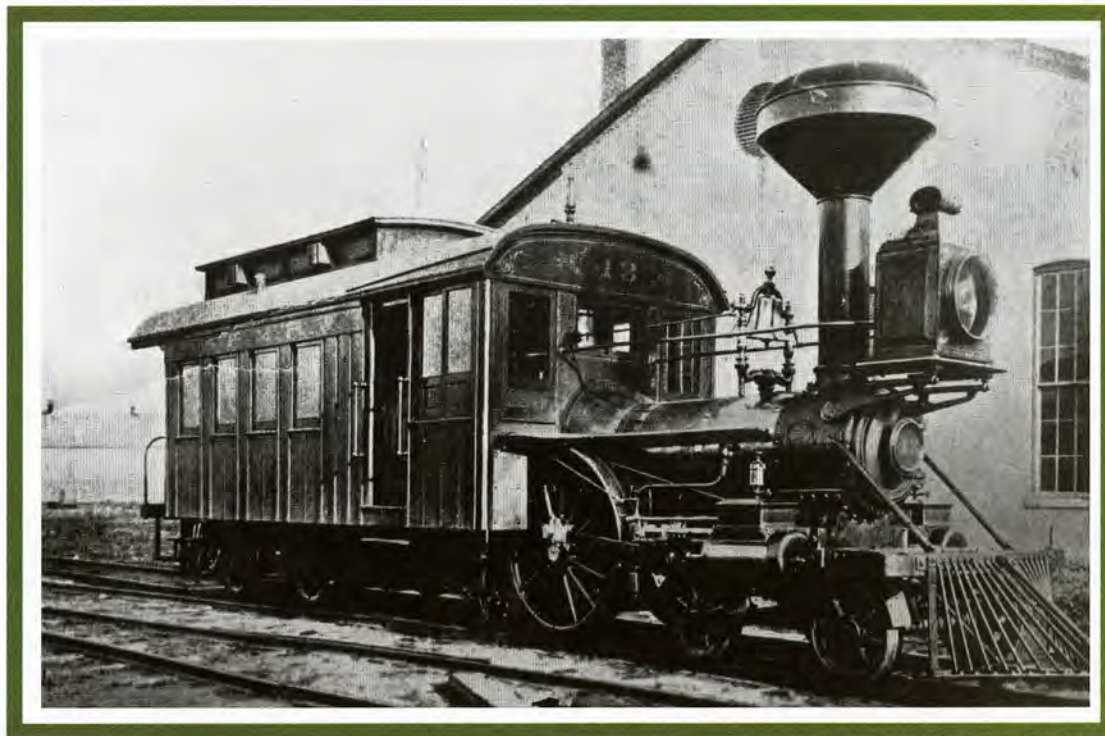
classic work on fly-fishing in the western United States. He also writes humorously about those who are faint of heart in their approach to angling. In a chapter titled “The Trials of the Faithful,” MacDonald reveals that he has standards for his fishing companions:

*They should all be anglers, and by that I do not mean those who merely enjoy the sport in a half-hearted way, but those who love it above all else. They should not only be willing to spend long hours upon the stream, and when not so occupied should limit their conversation to fishing topics. Ordinarily I do not approve of garrulity in a bridge game, but I see no objection to interrupting the progress of a rubber with an anecdote about fishing. Finally, our ideal companions should have no inhibitions against a “wee drappie” when the day is done and before the evening meal.*

*[Once, a companion of MacDonald’s] suggested naively that we should take a day off and go to see Old Faithful Geyser in Yellowstone National Park. Aside from the fact that we had already seen this wonder, any angler knows that the only importance Old Faithful has in the scheme of things is its proximity to the Firehole River.<sup>28</sup>*

In addition to those works previously mentioned, books on Michigan and the Great Lakes are well represented in the Draper Collection. For example, Edward Cummings of Flint wrote *Fly Fishing* (1934); the previously mentioned William B. Mershon wrote *Recollections of My Fifty Years Hunting and Fishing* (1923); and more recently Hazen Miller produced a companion book, *The Old Au Sable* (1963). Art Neumann, the former owner of the Wanigas Rod Company in Saginaw, is represented by *Michigan Fly Hatches and Their Imitations*. Ernest Schwiebert, *Matching the Hatch, a Practical Guide to Imitation of Insects Found on Eastern and Western Trout Waters* (1955); and Harold Smedley, *Trout of Michigan* (1938), are among other works with Michigan content.

Finally, one looks back at the wonderful writings of former Michigan Supreme Court Justice John Voelker. His writings, under the pseudonym “Robert Traver,” properly capture the true mood and spirit of fishing to which one should aspire while immersed in the Reed Draper Collection of Angling Books. His writings in *Trout Madness* (1960), *Trout Magic* (1974), and *Anatomy of a Fisherman* (1964) all convey a sense of humor about the business of angling.



“The Peggy,” from Mershon,  
*Recollections of My Fifty Years Hunting and Fishing*

<sup>28</sup> Alexander MacDonald, *Design for Angling* (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin, 1947), 101, 102.





He notes that fishing is older than even love and chess; he muses that fly-fishing is so much fun that it should be done in bed; he states that all fishermen are probably a little mad; he keeps big “gram paw” trout to eat; he assails the arrogance of trout swamis; and he assiduously avoids any notion of being pretentious. He writes:

*Trout Fisherman, like Gaul, may be divided into three parts; those who fish mainly to get fish; those who fish mainly to get away; and those who fish because they love the act of fishing and love to be where trout are found. This fisherman counts himself among the last breed, where I suspect most true trout fisherman belong. For trout, unlike men, will not—indeed cannot—live except where beauty dwells, so that any man who would catch a trout finds himself inevitably surrounded by beauty; he can't help himself.<sup>29</sup>*

In his “Testament of a Fisherman,” he adds:

*I fish because I love to;  
because I love the environs where trout are found, which are  
invariably beautiful, and hate the environs where crowds of  
people are found, which are invariably ugly;  
because of all the television commercials, cocktail parties, and assorted social posturing I thus escape;  
because in a world where most men seem to spend their lives doing things they hate, my fishing is at once an endless  
source of delight and an act of small rebellion;  
because trout do not lie or cheat and cannot be bought or bribed or impressed with power, but respond only to  
quietude and humility and endless patience;  
because I suspect that men are going along this way for the last time, and I for one don't want to waste the trip;  
because mercifully there are no telephones on trout waters;  
because only in the woods can I find solitude without loneliness;  
because bourbon out of an old tin cup always tastes better out there;  
because maybe one day I will catch a mermaid;  
and, finally, not because I regard fishing as being so terribly important but because I suspect that so many of the  
other concerns of men are equally unimportant—and not nearly so much fun.<sup>30</sup>*

We have traveled a long way, only to return to the beginning of the Draper Collection: Robert Traver restating the very views of nature expressed by Izaak Walton more than 350 years ago in his streamside escape from lawyers and businessmen. In the spirit of Traver and Walton, we invite you to enjoy the wonders of the Reed Draper Collection of Angling Books in the Clarke Historical Library. We regret that a tin cup of bourbon is not allowed in the reading room, but we think you will find that a symbolic cast into the collection will be a great deal of fun and at least as important as anything else you might be inclined to do—except angling.

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<sup>29</sup> John Voelker, *Anatomy of a Fisherman* (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1964), 9.

<sup>30</sup> *Ibid.*, 10.





## A Selected Bibliography of Books on Angling from the Reed Draper Collection in the Clarke Historical Library

This listing provides a small but representative sample of the many books in the collection.

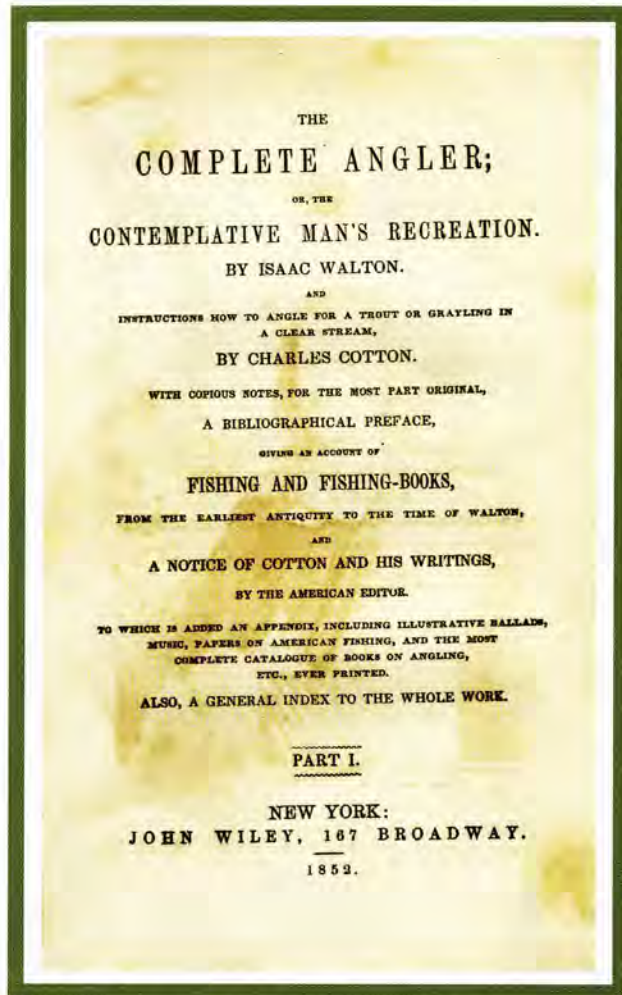
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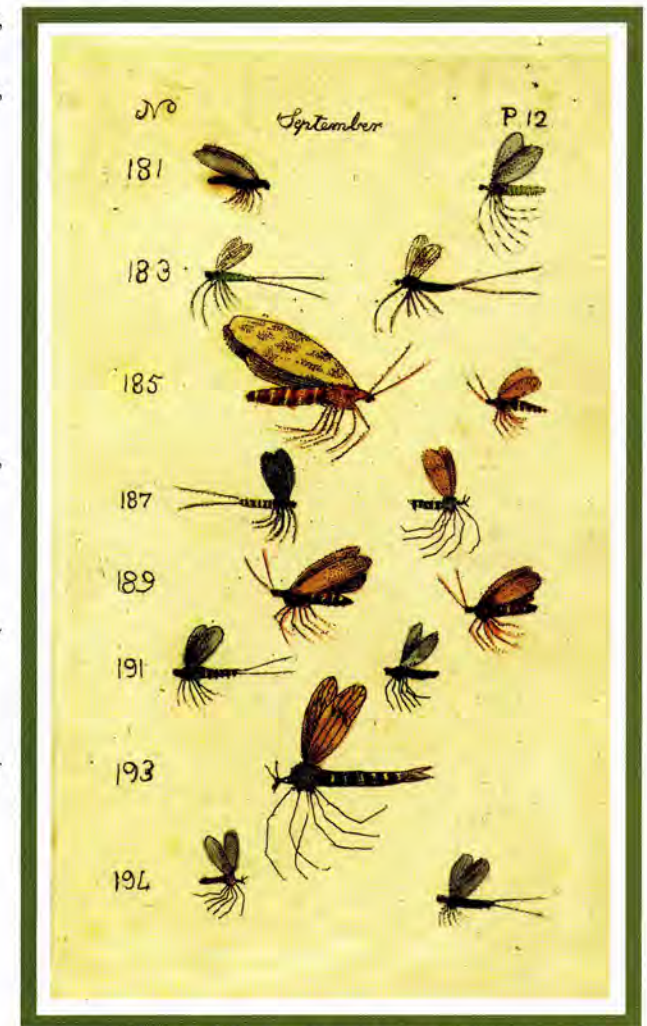
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Illustration from Headley,  
*The Adirondack or, Life in the Woods*







Brook trout from Rhead,  
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## Afterword

Exhibits originate in many ways. Some celebrate newly acquired treasures. Other exhibits commemorate the passage of time and the arrival of a particularly significant anniversary. The Reed Draper exhibit, however, recalls a past act of considerable generosity. It is to the late Reed Draper and his wife Joanne Draper, who presented to the Library many of the sportfishing books displayed in this exhibit, that our first, and undoubtedly largest, debt of gratitude is owed.

Robert Kohrman remembered both the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Draper and recognized the importance of their gift to a wide variety of library users. Dr. Kohrman shared his vision regarding the collection's importance and its suitability for an exhibit with a library staff not well versed in subjects relating to rod and reel. His gentle education and consistent passion helped make this exhibit a reality. His knowledge of both the practice and literature of fly-fishing also led to this catalog. We are extremely grateful to him for his help in bringing this exhibit and this catalog to fruition.

If Dr. Kohrman brought to the project vision and a knowledge of both the practice and literature of sportfishing, several others brought additional talents that helped to complete this exhibit. Student intern Julie Herringa leafed through thousands of pages of angling books, flagging potential illustrations. Rebecca Zeiss used those illustrations, as well as others she selected, to create the exhibit's visual appeal. Similarly, Amy Motz used the illustrations, as well as her talent in arranging print, to create the final version of the catalog. Through it all Mary Graham ensured that our grammar was correct and our spelling accurate (not an easy task when quoting from publications published over four centuries), as well as saving us from other errors too numerous to mention. As always, our friends at CMU Printing Services delivered to us a high-quality publication. Pat Thelen brought the web version of this document to the Clarke's website.

As always, a debt of gratitude must also be acknowledged to my family, including my children Matt and Nick, as well as my wife Valerie, who participated in the process, supplied many good ideas, helped sink a few awful ideas of mine, and suffered through the creation of an exhibit. My sincerest thanks to my family and everyone else involved in the process of completing this project.

Frank Boles



Illustration from Scott,  
*Fishing in American Waters*





## List of Flies Used as Page Art

Flies used at the bottoms of pages throughout this book were scanned from Mary Orvis Marbury's *Favorite Flies*.



Grizzly King

Opening Page



Chantrey

Page 9



Black Ant

Page 1



Bissett

Page 10



Black Gnat

Page 2



Bicknell

Page 11



Black Gnat

Page 3



Caperer

Page 12



Blue Dun

Page 4



Cheney

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Bright Fox

Page 5



Cinnamon

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Beaverkill

Page 6



Coachman

Page 15



Bluebottle

Page 7



Gilt Coachman

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Brown Caughlan

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Orange Coachman

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	Leadwing Coachman	Page 18		Deer Fly	Page 27
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	Carmen	Page 20		Dorset	Page 29
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	Equinox Gnat	Page 24		Fin Fly	Page 33
	Emerald Gnat	Page 25			
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