

# A History of Fish

An essay prepared by:

Justin Hanisch

as an entry into

The 2011 National Book Collecting Contest

My fingers travel down the book's spine and the smooth leather gives way to a slight indentation where the binder's stamp applied gold. I briefly trace the gilt ornamentation in the first spine compartment, following an elaborate maze of flourish. My fingers continue to a raised band, which adds not only beauty to the spine but also conceals the binder's chords that have helped hold the book together for 200 years. I think of the bookbinder, the man who bound *this* book that I hold in my hands. He is long dead, likely forgotten, but I hold *his* work in *my* hands. My thoughts linger but my fingers move on to the next compartment containing the book's title, *Histoire des Poissons*. Again, I imagine the bookbinder and this book, new and smelling of fresh leather, text block and binding united for the first time. The binder lays his tools on the spine. "*Histoire des Poissons*" appears new and sparking in gilt. Imagination yields to the present, and I see *Histoire des Poissons* as it is today, slightly chipped and dulled but still proud. I remove the book from between its shelf mates—two other books with their own histories—created decades and continents apart but now united, however briefly, in a collection. I place the book in my lap and smile. Its weight feels familiar. I open the book and the front hinge creaks. I read the title page and feel the bite of the type—*Histoire des Poissons*. A History of Fish.

I collect books on fish and have for nearly as long as I can remember. Specifically, I collect books on fish published before 1901. As a Ph.D. candidate in Ecology who studies fish, I know much of the information contained in my books is, well, antiquated, but that is precisely part of their appeal. My collection satisfies for me three unifying purposes. First, and most generally, collecting satiates the impulse to acquire. For what collector does not enjoy the thrill of the hunt—discovering, obtaining, and integrating a “new” book into a collection? Second, and more specifically, my collection affords the opportunity to immerse myself into the history of my chosen field, to understand better the research and researchers who came before me. Third, and most personally, collecting pre-twentieth century books allows me to appreciate intimately the book as an object. I love everything about a book—binding, paper, type, illustration, provenance—everything. These three unifying principles motivate and focus my collecting. I will explain, with a series of examples, how these principles manifest in specific books from my collection.

I will start with my oldest book, Conrad Gessner's *Fischbuch*, the second German edition printed by Christoffel Froschover in Zürich (1575). *Fischbuch* is bound in recent full vellum. Through the centuries it has lost its original binding, likely oak boards covered in blindstamped pigskin and held shut with metal clasps. The book also has other evidence of brushes with destruction. The margins of several folios contain old repairs to cuts and tears, damage that presumably accumulated as the original binding perished. But, even with repairs and a new binding, oh what a book it is! Gessner's effort on fish, part of a larger *Historiae Animalium*, is a compilation of all extant Western knowledge on “fish” at the date of publication. Many of the book's 500 plus woodcuts are immediately recognizable to zoologist and layman alike. Northern pike, perch, and tuna are all rendered in life-like accuracy. However, fantastical sea monsters and other mythical creatures, such as the “mermonk,” are included. Gessner lived during a time of great scientific upheaval when new theories replaced old myths and superstitions.

Gessner's work is admirable for its relative degree of scientific rigor, including numerous citations. However, the persistence of ancient myth in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, as evidenced by the mermonk and numerous other sea monsters, is clearly evident in the book. *Fischbuch* satisfies all three of my collecting principles. It remains the oldest (and most significant) book I've purchased, and researching editions, auction records, and collations of other copies to assure completeness was just plain fun. Additionally the book provides fascinating insight into the context of 16<sup>th</sup> century natural history, and without doubt, this book, as an object, is beautiful.

My copy of Gessner has numerous imperfections, as do some other books in my collection. Condition is of paramount importance in book collecting, and including damaged or repaired books in one's collection is anathema to some collectors. I do not disagree with the importance assigned to condition. In fact, books in the finest condition will almost always be the rarest examples and hold their monetary value the best. However, there are other ways to ascribe value, and I believe that a book's imperfections can provide valuable insights into an individual book's history. For example, I value the repairs and imperfections in my Gessner, as they are tangible evidence of the book's journey through centuries. I include in my collection another set of books with "condition issues," the first edition of all 4 volumes of Jonathan Couch's *A History of the Fishes of the British Islands*. The books were published in 1862 - 1865 in London by Groombridge and Sons and contain 252 spectacular chromolithographed plates of both fresh and salt water fishes. Each fish also receives a detailed taxonomic and ecological description. These volumes are bound in contemporary marbled boards, but when I purchased them, the joints and spines of all 4 volumes were beset with red rot. Shortly after purchasing the books, I had them rebacked. While a "purist" may prefer a copy of Couch in publisher's cloth, I delighted in purchasing this particular copy. Why? Inside each volume is a bookplate from the Norfolk & Norwich lending library commemorating the books' rescue from a library fire in 1898. I derive a great deal of pleasure from repairing these books, which were snatched from destruction over 100 years ago, and I have hopefully equipped them to navigate successfully their next 100 years. My copy of *A History of the Fishes of the British Islands*, while not "as issued," adds interest and character to my collection, character that would be absent in a pristine set.

While I enjoy purchasing and preserving "character copies" of fish books, not all my books fall into this category. As mentioned, understanding the history of ichthyology is one of my core collecting principles, and several of my books reveal significant historical aspects of fisheries. For example, I include in my collection a copy of William Harris's *The Angler's Guide and Tourists' Gazetteer of the Fishing Waters of the United States and Canada* published in New York in 1884 by the press of the Armchair Angler. While I do not typically include books strictly on fishing in my collection, this book is valuable for its thousands of entries detailing fishing waters and their resident fishes in the latter portion of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In particular, one aspect of this book has special meaning to me. Although I now make Canada my home, I was born and raised in Michigan. *The Angler's Guide* contains several entries on Michigan, including more than 15 cities with notable fishing for the Michigan grayling. Additionally, the book's original publisher's cloth binding features a gilt stamp of the Michigan grayling. The

portrait and mentions of the grayling are poignant, however, as the Michigan grayling, once abundant in 1885, was extinct through anthropogenic actions by the 1930s. This book is a stark reminder of how nature's resources, even those which seem inexhaustible, are still vulnerable. The loss of the Michigan grayling was a tragedy, but its memory is preserved in my collection.

Many other "fishing books" contain interesting natural history observations of fish, and I include some carefully chosen fishing books in my fish book collection. I include, for example, the first edition (1845) of John J. Brown's *The American Angler's Guide* in original gilt-stamped publisher's cloth. This book is significant, as it is the first book composed and published in North America devoted solely to fishing (Wetzel 113). In addition to tips on fishing, however, the book contains over 150 pages of natural history observations of numerous fish species. Rigorous description of American fishes was in its infancy in this time period, so the observations contained in *The American Angler's Guide* were important additions to the burgeoning knowledge of American fishes.

I also include books in my collection whose historical interest is derived from their provenance. Many scholarly books were inscribed by their authors to other academics, and I include such association copies in my collection. My copy of George Brown Goode's *American Fishes*, published by The Standard Book Company in 1888, is inscribed to another famous author of fish books, Frederick Mather. As well, my copy of Edward Cope's *Synopsis of the Cyprinidae of Pennsylvania*, published by the Transactions of the American Philosophical Society in 1869, is inscribed to an influential scientist, Frederic Ward Putnam. These inscribed copies provide insight into the personal relationships that existed among scientists of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

As I conclude this essay, I think of the numerous books in my collection that I did not treat to detailed descriptions above. My copy of a fragile, mid-19<sup>th</sup> century chapbook, *The Little Fisherman*, tells a cautionary tale of young boy who delights in hooking fish until he himself is impaled on a meat hook! What an interesting insight into how 19<sup>th</sup> century moralists viewed the ethics of catching fish, not to mention the nature of stories presented to children. I also think of Joseph Seabury's *An Ode to Lake Bass*, self-published in 1890. This volume contains saccharine yet endearing verse immortalizing the author's attempts to catch bass; one fish is caught and another eludes the angler's net. I think of my copy of Sir Humphrey Davy's *Salmonia*- a later edition of a common book that happens to be a souvenir of a memorable family vacation to Winnipeg.

All my books, those mentioned above and those detailed only in the attached list, have been individually chosen for my collection. I've purchased books from a diversity of sources, from eBay to British auction houses and from flea markets to books fairs. Each book was a pleasure to acquire, and collectively, I feel my books provide historical context to man's relationship to fish. But moreover, each book also has an intangible, almost primal appeal. In the age of eBooks and eReaders- which do serve a very useful role- many cultural commentators mock the "fetishizing" of printed books. They mock those who love the "feel of the paper" or "the smell of old books." However, the tactile

experience of books is real, important, and moving. I would like to close with a quote from the great book collector, Robert Curzon. This quote summarizes, almost perfectly, the feelings I have upon adding a book to my collection.

Why when I get a new book, (or rather an old one,) I never stop looking at it, inside & out, right side uppermost, & upside down and I torment all the other old volumes, by shoving the new one between them, on the shelf. Heavy broad-backed old MSS. are disturbed, routed out and pushed about, woke up from their slumbers, & poked in the ribs, by the new arrival, till I have found a snug place for him, between 2 other old fellows about his size more or less, & then I pat him on the back & let him alone for a while, but I could never let him remain in the box for ½ an hour after I get him, even under the most desperate circumstance. (Munby 184)

Curzon's vivid description, penned in an 1861 letter to Sir Thomas Phillipps, is timeless. These sentiments, or something very close, have been felt by bibliophiles through the ages, and I look forward to experiencing that moment of bliss for many more years, and many more books, yet to come.

Works Cited:

Munby, A.N.L. *Portrait of an Obsession*. London, Constable and Company, 1967.

Wetzel, Charles. *American Fishing Books*. Mansfield Centre, Maurizio Martino, 1997.

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A list of books collected by:

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Note: Descriptions of all books are presented in the following format:

Author. Title. Date. Place. Publisher. Size. Collation. Edition (when known).

Condition of binding. Condition of text block. Provenance (when known). Citation. Additional comments (when appropriate).

The list:

**1. Agassiz, Louis and C. Vogt.** *Histoire Naturelle des Poissons d'Eau Douce de l'Europe Centrale; Embryologie des Salmones*. 1842. Neuchatel. O. Petitpierre. Text volume and atlas. Text volume: 26 cm x 18 cm; Atlas: 33 cm x 48 cm. Text volume: half-title, title page, [I], I-VI, 1-326, index, errata; Atlas: 23 loose leaves, 14 of which are plates. Contained in custom folding box. First edition.

Text volume: 1/4 leather with marbled boards, gilt titles to spine blue speckled dye to all edges, corners bumped. Portfolio: Original printed wrappers with blue cloth tie. Old paper reinforcements to spine. Edges wrinkled and worn. Library stamps to front cover. Text volume: occasional minor foxing throughout. Atlas: Minor foxing to plates. Dark residue to left-hand side of plate 6. Old library stamps to margins of plate, not affecting images. Nissen 51.

**2. Alexander, Tho[mas]s.** *Fish and Fishing*. 1877. Chicago. Donnelley, Lloyd, & Co. 32.5 cm x 22 cm. [541], 542-571, [572]. First edition. Vol 4, No. 90 of the Lakeside Library.

Recent full cloth binding, gilt stamped spine title. Some staining and minor chipping to a few pages. Overall, quite good. Dean V1 20.

**3. Anonymous.** Single leaf from *Ortus Sanitatis*. 1507. Strassburg. Johan Prüss. Single large quarto leaf (11.5" x 7.75"). Edition unknown.

Leaf is framed in archival mat behind UV blocking glass. Browning to margins. Four hand-colored woodcuts. Capital letters rubricated in red.

**4. Anonymous.** *The History of Curious and Wonderful Fish*. 1847. New York. S.M. Crane. 9.5 cm x 5.5 cm. [1-2], 3- 16. Edition unknown.

Original printed paper wrappers, string bound with some paper missing from spine. Chipping with loss to front cover. Housed in custom leather slipcase. Clean and crisp with chipping to top corners of pages 11-23.

**5. Anonymous.** *The Angler's Hand-Book, Containing Concise Instructions for Every Department of the Art, and Two Coloured Plates of Flies, Including Many Never Before*

*Figured*. 1838. London. Robert Tyas. 11.5 cm x 8.5 cm. Frontis, [i-iii], iv, [9], 10-67, 1 page publisher's advertisements. First edition.

Original limp green cloth binding, cover stamped in gilt. Binding fragile. Housed in custom folding box. All edges gilt, pages clean- in remarkable shape for such a fragile volume. W&S 9.

**6. Anonymous.** *The Whole Art of Fishing. Being a Collection and Improvement of all that has been Written upon this Subject: with many New Experiments. Shewing the Different Ways of Angling, and the Methods of taking Fresh-water Fish. To which is added, The Laws of Angling.* 1714. London. E. Curll. 18 cm x 12 cm. Frontis, [i-vi], 1-111, [112]. First edition.

Rebacked in leather retaining 18th century leather boards and original spine label. Large chips missing from frontis. Occasional closed tears repaired in preliminary leaves. Age toning to edges of text block. W&S 18. Chapters 1-15 each present one species of fish, its natural history, and how to catch it.

**7. Badham, Rev. C. David.** *Prose Halieutics or Ancient and Modern Fish Tattle.* 1854. London. John W. Parker and Son. 19.5 cm x 13.5 cm. [i-vii], viii-xii, [1], 2-552. First edition.

Full polished contemporary leather with blind-stamped designs to covers and spine. Old rebacking with original spine laid down. Marbled endpapers and gilt dentelles to inside of boards. All edges died red. Text bright and clean with no foxing. Dean V1 50.

**8. Bloch, M.E.** *Histoire Naturelle des Poissons, avec les Figures dessinées d'après Nature par Bloch. Ouvrage classé par ordres, genres et espèces, d'après le système de Linné; avec les Caractères Génériques; Par René-Richard Castel, auteur du poème des Plantes.* ANX [1801]. Paris. Chez Deterville. 13.5 cm x 9 cm. 10 volumes with 160 hand-colored plates. Vol 1, half-title, title page, [i], ii-cviii, 1-253; Vol 2. Half-title, title page, 1-360; Vol 3. Half-title, title page, 1-324; Vol 4, half-title, title page, 1-305; Vol 5, half-title, title page, 1-303; Vol 6, half-title, title page, 1-327; Vol 7, half-title, title page, 1-279; Vol 8, half-title, title page, 1-275; Vol 9, half-title, title page, 1-263; Vol 10, half-title, title page, 1-265. Second edition.

All volumes bound in full tree calf. Some wear to edges of some volumes. 5 cm x 1 cm strip of leather lost to front cover of volume 9. Red speckle to edges of text block. Occasional browning to some pages. Dean V1 139, Nissen 58.

**9. Brice, John J.** *A Manual of Fish-Culture, Based on the Methods of the United States Commission of Fish and Fisheries.* 1897. Washington. Government Printing Office. 23 cm x 15 cm. [1-2], 3-261. First edition.

1/4 leather with marbled boards and marbled endpapers. Some wear to edges of spine and boards. Generally clean internally. Some plates loose; binder seems to have incompletely inserted some plates. Bookplate of Jeffrey Norton.

**10. Brookes, R.** *The Art of Angling in Two Parts*. 1799. London. W. Lowndes. 17.5 cm x 11 cm. Frontis, half title, [i-ii], iii-viii, [1], 2-268, 8 leaves publisher's advertisements. "A New Edition" [10th]

18th century full sheep. Very worn, boards held on by cords only. Internally clean with slight age toning. W&S 42. Encyclopedic listing of game and some non-game fish, including natural history observations.

**11. Brown, John J.** *The American Angler's Guide. Being 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: Containing Every Variety of Mode Adopted in Ocean, River, Lake, and Pond Fishing; The Necessary Tackle and Baits Required; Manner of Making Artificial Flies, &C. &C. &C.; with Engravings on Wood*. 1845. New York. Burgess, Stringer & Co. 15.5 cm x 10 cm. [i-iv], v-viii, [9], 10-224, 3 leaves of advertisements. First edition.

Original brown publisher's cloth, gilt stamp to both covers and spine. Some bumping to corners. Very little occasional foxing. Overall, very clean. Wetzel 113. Pages 52-220 contain information on natural history of numerous fish species.

**12. Chambers, E.T.D.** *The Ouananiche and its Canadian Environment*. 1896. New York. Harper & Brothers. 21.5 cm x 15 cm. Frontis, [i-xi], xii-xxii, plate, [1-3], 4-357, 1 leaf publisher's advertisements. First edition.

Original green pictorial publisher's cloth. Binding shaken, first few signatures a little loose. Spine sunned. Internally quite clean with occasional chipping to edges of pages. Dean V1 227.

**13. Cholmondeley-Pennell, H.** *The Fisherman's Magazine and Review*. 1864. London. Chapman and Hall. 22 cm x 14.5 cm. Frontis, title page, [i], ii-v, [vi], [1], 2-432. First edition.

1/2 leather and pebbled cloth. Marbled endpapers. Leather on spine rubbed. Clean with no foxing. From the library of the U.S. Fish Commission with signatures of Spencer F. Baird and F.V. Hayden.

**14. Cope, Edward D.** *Synopsis of the Cyprinidae of Pennsylvania*. 1869. Philadelphia. Transactions of the American Philosophical Society. 30 cm x 24 cm. [351], 352-410, 4 plates, numerous blank leaves bound after text. First edition.

19th century 1/4 leather and cloth. Rubbing to corners, joints starting. Bright and clean. Presentation copy to Professor Putnam from "Edw. D. Cope" Ownership stamp of R. Harry Jr. Dean V1 260.

**15. Couch, Jonathan.** *A History of the Fishes of the British Islands.* 1862-1865. London. Groombridge and Sons. 25 cm x 16.5 cm. Vol. 1: Frontis, [i-iii], iv, [1], 2-245, 57 plates. Vol. 2: [i-v], vi, [1], 2-265, 63 plates. Vol. 3: Frontis, [i-iii], iv, [1], 2-208, 59 plates. Vol. 4: Frontis, [i-iii], iv-vii, [1], 2-439, 73 plates. First edition.

Rebacked with new spines, retaining original marbled boards. New endpapers. Some rubbing with minor loss to marbled boards. Very clean internally. Plates bright and mostly unblemished. Bookplates from Norfolk & Norwich lending library stating that books were salvaged from a fire in 1898. Dean V1 276.

**16. Davy, Sir Humphrey.** *Salmonia; or, Days of Fly Fishing. With Some Account of the Habits of Fishes Belonging to the Genus Salmo.* 1869. London. John Murray. 17 cm x 11.5 cm. [i-vii], viii-xvi, [1-3], 4-305, 1 leaf publisher's advertisement. Fourth edition.

Original limp blue publisher's cloth. Marbled endpapers. Minor wear, binding slightly shaken, first few signatures a bit loose. Top edge marbled. Occasional pencil underlining and notes by contemporary owner. Dean V1 301. A mixture of natural history observations and angling advice on salmonids.

**17. Day, Francis.** *British and Irish Salmonidae.* 1887. London. G. Norman and Son. 27.5 cm x 19.5 cm. [i-v], vi-viii, 1-298, [i-ii], 12 plates. First edition.

Full publisher's cloth, gilt title. Front hinge starting. Some foxing to text and plates. Ownership stamp of R. Harry Jr. Dean V1 307.

**18. Evans, W.** *The Art of Angling or Complete Fly Fisher: Describing the Different Kinds of Fish, Their Haunts, Places of Feeding, &c. &c. Also, Observations on the Breeding of Carp; and the Regulating of Pools or Ponds. To which are Added the Various Kinds of Baits, and Diversity of Flies which Nature Produces; together with Ample Directions for Making Artificial Flies.* [1820] London. J. Richardson. 18 cm x 11 cm. [i-iii], iv-xiii, [1], 2-95. New edition, Revised and Corrected [Second].

Recent full calf, red spine label. New endpapers, red speckling to all edges. Internally bright and clean. W&S 205. Book lists various game fishes, their habitats, food, and spawning times as well as how to catch them.

**19. Ford, Henry C., et al.** *Report of the State Commissioners of Fisheries for the Years 1892-93-94.* 1895. n.p. Clarence M. Bush. 24.5 cm x 17 cm. Frontis, title page, [1-3], 4-450, 20 leaves of plates, 451. First edition.

Original blue cloth, recased. Minor spotting to covers. New endpapers. Clean, occasionally chipping to page margins. Not in Dean.

**20. Francis, Francis.** *Fish-Culture: A Practical Guide to the Modern System of Breeding and Rearing Fish.* 1863. London. Routledge, Warne, and Routledge. 18.5 cm x 13 cm. Half title, [i-v], vi-xviii, [1], 2-267. First edition.

3/4 leather and marbled boards. Marbled endpapers; minor wear to corners and spine. Some age toning but clean. Dean V1 414.

**21. Fry, W.H.** *A Complete Treatise on Artificial Fish Breeding: Including the Reports on the Subject Made to the French Academy and the French Government; and Particulars of the Discovery as Published in England.* 1854. New York. D. Appleton and Company. 19.5 cm x 12.5 cm. 2 pages advertisements, [i-iv], v-ix, [x], [1-7], 8-188, 4 leaves of advertisements. First edition.

Green patterned publisher's cloth, light bumping to corners; newspaper article from 1872 pasted to front pastedown. Minor foxing throughout. Staining to advertisements at end of book. Dean V1 425.

**22. Garlick, Theodatus.** *A Treatise on the Artificial Propagation of Fish with Descriptions and Habits of Such Kinds as are Suitable for Domestic Fish-Culture.* 1880. Cleveland. J.B. Savage. 23.5 cm x 15.5 cm. [1-9], 10-128. Second Edition.

Original publisher's pictorial cloth. Spine worn, front board starting. Some age toning but generally clean. Dean V1 447.

**23. Gessner, Conrad.** *Fiszbuch.* 1575. Zürich. Christoffel Froschover. 40 cm x 26 cm. [i-xii], I-CCII (each leaf numbered on verso with Roman numeral). Second German edition.

Modern full vellum binding, new endpapers, unlabelled spine. Text leaves slightly browned and occasionally stained. Sixty leaves with older restoration to margins. Leaf I with substantial loss; repaired and text provided in facsimile. Leaf 40, 184 repaired with some loss of text. Nissen 68.

**24. Goode, George Brown.** *The Fisheries and Fisheries Industries of the United States. Section 1 Natural History of Useful Aquatic Animals with an Atlas of Two Hundred and Seventy-Seven Plates.* 1884. Washington. Government Printing Office. 30 cm x 24.5 cm. Text volume: [i-iv], v-xxxiv, [1-2], 3-895. Atlas: [i-ii], iii-xx, 277 single-page plates. First edition.

Original publisher's cloth. Sunning to cloth of both volumes. Some staining to covers. Front board of text volume starting to loosen. Generally clean and bright. Bookplate of M. Engelmann. Dean V1 488.

**25. Goode, George Brown.** *American Fishes. A Popular Treatise upon the Game and Food Fishes of North America with Special Reference to Habits and Methods of Capture.*

1888. New York. Standard Book Co. 23.5 cm x 18.5 cm. Half title, [i-ix], x-xv, [xvi], [1], 2-496. First edition.

Original blue pictorial publisher's cloth. Spine sunned, small gouge marks to front cover. Old water stain to rear cover. Binding shaken. All edges gilt, clean with no foxing. Association copy. Presented to Frederick Mather, biologist and author of fish books, by G. Goode Brown. Dean V1 489.

**26. Gosse, P.H.** *Natural History. Fishes.* 1851. London. The Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge. 17 cm x 11 cm. [i-v], vi-viii, [1], 2-327. First edition.

Full blue morocco; rebacked retaining spine leather, new red leather title added; marbled endpapers. Chipping to both front and rear endpapers, occasional spotting to text. Little foxing and overall clean. Fraktur gift inscription. Dean V1 494.

**27. Goüan, Antoine.** *Historia Piscium.* 1770. Strasbourg. Amand König. 22.5 cm x 18.5 cm. [i-iii], iv-xviii, [1], 2-252 (alternate pages in Latin and French), [i-iii], 4 folding plates. First edition.

Contemporary full leather laid onto rather crude synthetic leather rebacking. Six gilt compartments with red leather title label. First few signatures separating. Text clean with only occasional, minor spotting and staining. Bookplate of Charles Wetzel laid in. Dean V1 495.

**28. Green, Seth and R.B. Roosevelt.** *Fish Hatching, and Fish Catching.* 1879. Rochester, N.Y. Union and Advertiser Co.'s Book and Job Print. 18.5 cm x 12.5 cm. [1-3], 4-245. First edition.

Original maroon publisher's cloth. Spotting to front cover. Hinges loose and binding shaken. Slight chipping to foredge. Mostly clean with no foxing. Dean V2 360

**29. Gronovius, Laurentius.** *Museum ichthyologicum sistens piscium indigenorum & quorundam, qui in museo Laurentii Theodori Gronovii, J.U.D. adservantur, descriptiones ordine systematico Accedunt nonnullorum exoticorum Piscium icones aeri incisae.* 1754-1756. Lugduni Batavorum [Leiden]. Theodorum Haak. 41cm x 25.5 cm. Two parts bound as 1. Part 1: [i-x], 1-70, 4 plates. Part 2: [i-vii], 1-88, 3 plates. First edition.

Contemporary full calf, spine with 7 compartments with gilt decorations. Marbled endpapers. Old rebacking, corners bumped and rounded. Head and foot of spine rubbed with loss of leather. All edges stained red. Occasional browning throughout. Old water stain to title page. Later pages wrinkled. Nissen 69.

**30. Hackle, Palmer.** *Hints on Angling, with Suggestions for Angling Excursions in France and Belgium, to which are Appended some Brief Notices of the English, Scottish,*

*and Irish Waters*. 1846. London. W.W. Robinson. 22.5 cm x 14.5 cm. [i-vii], viii-xvi, [1], 2-339, 1 page publisher's advertisements. First edition.

Full green morocco, gilt fish ornaments to spine compartments. Spine sunned. Top edge gilt. Heavy foxing to endpapers. Internally bright and clean. Bookplate of Alfred Harmsworth. W&S 33.

**31. Harris, William C.** *The Angler's Guide and Tourists' Gazetteer of the Fishing Waters of the United States and Canada 1885*. 1884. New York. The American Angler. 19.5 cm x 12 cm. [1-9], 10-249, 18 pages advertisements. First edition.

Publisher's cloth with gilt title and grayling stamped to front cover. Front hinge cracking. Binding clean and gilt vibrant. Text block clean. Little to no foxing. Wetzel 153. Contains information on hundreds of bodies of water and the fishes they contain across North America as of 1884.

**32. Henshall, James A.** *Book of the Black Bass Comprising its Complete Scientific and Life History together with a Practical Treatise on Angling and Fly Fishing and a Full Description of Tools, Tackle and Implements*. 1881. Cincinnati. Robert Clarke & Co. 20 cm x 14 cm. Frontis, [i-iv], v-viii, [9-10], 11-463, 6 leaves of advertisements. First edition.

Original green publisher's cloth with gilt stamp of bass, worn with back cover stained. Binding a bit shaken. First few leaves stained, minor foxing throughout. Bookplate of Woodmont Rod and Gun Club, presented to the club by Thomas Russell Wines, Liquors, and Segars. Dean V1 565.

**33. Henshall, James A.** *More About the Black Bass being a Supplement to The Book of the Black Bass*. 1889. Cincinnati. Robert Clarke & Co. 20 cm x 13.5 cm. Frontis, [i-iv], v-viii, [9-10], 11-204. First edition.

Original green, pictorial publisher's cloth. Some wear with staining to lower right of front board. Binding slightly shaken. Quarter-sized black stain to fore edge. Internally clean with little foxing. Dean V1 565.

**34. Herbert, Henry William.** *Frank Forester's Fish and Fishing of the United States and British Provinces of North America Illustrated from Nature by the Author*. 1851. New York. Stringer & Townsend. 21.5 cm x 16 cm. Frontis, [i-v], vi-xviii, 18-359. Supplement: [i-iii], iv-vi, [7-9], 10-86. Third edition.

Recent 1/2 calf and marbled boards. Foxing to title page and some interior pages. Old water stain to gutter-corner of several plates. Dean V1 566. A "fishing book" with extensive natural history coverage of many fish species.

**35. Hershall, Whitacker, et al.** *Ninth Biennial Report of the State Board of Fish Commissioners from Dec. 1, 1888 to Oct. 1, 1890.* 1890. Lansing. Robert Smith & Co. 23.5 cm x 16.5 cm. [i-iv], [1], 2-216. First edition.

Original black cloth binding. Some loss of cloth to rear joint of spine. Some age toning but generally clean. Not in Dean.

**36. Hetting, M.G.** *Fisch-Cultur Norwegens.* 1872. Christiania [Oslo]. H.J. Jensen. 25.5 cm x 16.6 cm. [1], 2-20. First edition.

Printed decorative paper wrappers, bound with single string. Numerous library cancellation stamps on front wrapper, text pages good. Stamp of Robert Roffen. Dean V1 574.

**37. Houghton, Rev. W.** *British Fresh-Water Fishes.* 1879. London. William MacKenzie. 36.5 cm x 28.5 cm. Two volumes with 42 color plates. Vol. 1: [i-vii], viii-xxvi, [1], 2-92. Vol. 2: Half-title, frontis, title page, [93], 94-204. First edition.

Original pictorial publisher's cloth. Cover of Vol. 2 stained. Foot of spines heavily worn with loss of cloth. Loss of cloth to bottom of front cover of Vol 1. All edges gilt. Some damp staining to text and plates- generally not obtrusive. Dean V1 605.

**38. Hughes, William.** *The Practical Angler.* 1842. London. Simpkin, Marshall, & Co. 22.5 cm x 14.5 cm. Frontis, [i-iii], iv-v, [1], 2-293, errata. First edition.

19th century 3/4 leather and marbled boards, marbled endpapers. Decorative gilt spine compartments with leather label. Bumping to corners. Boards holding but a bit loose. Cancellation stamp of Field Museum to title page. Stamp from Newberry Library in Chicago. Text block clean and bright. W&S 171. Book gives natural history of fish species and how to catch them.

**39. Isys, Cotswold.** *Lyra Piscatoria. Original Lyrics on Fish, Flies, Fishing and Fishermen, including Poems on all the British Freshwater Fish.* 1895. London. Horace Cox. 17 cm x 11.5 cm. [i-v], vi-xvi, [1-3], 4-173. First edition.

Original green publisher's cloth. Binding a bit shaken. Floral endpapers. Bright and clean. W&S Sup. 248. Poems about 19 species of fish.

**40. Jardine, William.** *The Naturalist's Library. Ichthyology, Fishes of the Perch Family.* [1852]. Edinburgh. W.H. Lizars. 16 cm x 11 cm. 35 color plates; [i-vii], viii-xiii, [14-17], 18-207. Second edition.

1/2 leather and marbled boards, leather worn with parts missing. Spine label perished; decorative gilt compartments, boards holding strong. Occasional spotting; generally clean. Dean V1 630.

**41. Knobel, E.** *Fresh-Water Fishes of New England and Those Ascending the Streams from the Sea.* 1896. Boston. 14.5 cm x 21.5 cm. [1-2], 3-40. First edition.

Printed wrappers with string binding. Wrapper split and loose, but present. Some chipping to edges, ownership signature in pen to front cover. Some staining and minor chip to title page, otherwise clean and crisp throughout. Ownership signature of Rosalind May Bailey. Wetzel 172

**42. Lacepède, M. le Comte de.** *Histoire Naturelle des Poissons.* 1819. Paris. Rapet. 20.5 cm x 13 cm. Half title, frontis, [1], 2-585. First edition thus.

19th century marbled boards with leather spine. Decorative gilt spine compartments with red leather labels. Bumping to corners. All edges marbled. Occasional spotting but mostly clean. Dean V2 3. Volume 4 only of a 5 volume set.

**43. March, J.** *The Jolly Angler; or Water Side Companion. Containing an Account of All the Best Places for Angling, the Means Used to Obtain Permission. As Well as an Account of The Different Sorts of Fish Contained Therein; the Tackle, Baits & other Requisites to form an Expert Angler: with Correct Descriptions of Tying Hooks, Making Artificial Flies, Repairing Tackle, &c.* 1833. London. Effingham Wilson. 18 cm x 11.5 cm. Frontis, 3 unnumbered leaves, [i], ii, [3], 4-96. First edition.

Contemporary paper boards, 1/4 cloth spine. Spotting to spine. Age toning to preliminary leaves, but overall clean and bright. Armorial bookplate of Richard Day Squire. W&S 143. Pages 19-48 list species of fish, their natural histories, and how to catch them.

**44. Marsh, George P.** *Report on the Artificial Propagation of Fish.* 1857. Burlington, VT. Free Press Print. 23.5 cm x 15 cm. [1-5], 6-62, 2 page index. First edition.

Original paper wrappers, age toned with some chipping and loss. Housed in custom folding paper box. Clean, no foxing. Bookplate of Jeffrey Norton. Dean V2 105.

**45. McCarthy, Eugene.** *Familiar Fish, Their Habitats and Capture, A Practical Book on Fresh-Water Game Fish.* 1900. New York. D. Appleton and Company. 19.5 cm x 13.5 cm. Frontis, [i-iv], v-xiv, 1-216, 4 leaves of publisher's advertisements. First edition.

Pictorial green publisher's cloth. Clean and bright with very little wear and no foxing. Dean V2 77.

**46. Monro, Alexander.** *The Structure and Physiology of Fishes Explained and Compared with those of Man and Other Animals.* 1785. Edinburgh. Charles Elliot. 47 cm x 30 cm. [1-5], 6-128, 44 plates (11 folding). First edition.

Mid 19th century half-roan with marbled boards. Foot of spine worn. Marbled endpapers, occasional browning and staining. Folding plates are laid on linen. Some pencil notations throughout. Nissen 78.

**47. Montpetit, A.-N.** *Les Poissons d'Eau Douce du Canada*. 1897. Montréal. C.-O. Beauchemin & Fils. 25 cm x 18 cm. Half title, [i-v], vi-xiv, [1], 2-552, errata. First edition.

Original green publisher's cloth with red leather spine labels. Floral endpapers. Spine and boards heavily sunned. Frontis plate has come loose from binding. Book slightly age-toned but free of foxing. Dean V1 151.

**48. Norris, Thaddeus.** *American Fish-Culture, Embracing all the Details of Artificial Breeding and Rearing of Trout; the Culture of Salmon, Shad and Other Fishes*. 1868. Philadelphia. Porter & Coats. 19.5 cm x 13.5 cm. [i-v], vi-xii, 13-304, errata slip. First edition.

Green publisher's cloth, edges bumped and worn, middle signatures a tad loose. Moderate foxing throughout, especially to title page, preliminary leaves, and index. Dean V2 199.

**49. Norris, Thaddeus.** *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 Pleasures of Solitary Fly-Fishing*. 1865. Philadelphia. E.H. Butler & Co. 21.5 cm x 16.5 cm. Half title, [i-vii], viii-xxiii, [24-27], 28-701. Second edition.

1/2 leather binding with contemporary pebbled cloth boards. Recent rebacking, retaining original spine labels. Minor foxing and chipping to preliminary leaves. Ownership signature of E. Titus Jr. to front free endpaper. Old pencil drawing of trout to final endpaper. Overall clean with little foxing. Dean V2 199. Pages 39-322 cover natural history of fish.

**50. Oppian.** *Oppian's Halieuticks of the Nature of Fishes and Fishing of the Ancients in V. Books. Translated from the Greek, with an Account of Oppian's Life and Writings, and a Catalogue of his Fishes*. 1722. Oxford. Ro[bert] Shippen. 22.5 cm x 14.5 cm. [i-viii], 1-232, 4 leaves list of subscribers. First edition thus.

19th century 1/4 leather with marbled boards and endpaper. Wear to corners; most spine leather perished. Front board held on by cords. All edges died red. Internally clean with occasional, minor staining. Book plate of Dickinson Sogau. W&S 164.

**51. Perry, W.A., and 19 others.** *American Game Fishes, Their Habits, Habitat, and Peculiarities; How, When, and Where to Angle for Them*. 1892. Chicago & New York. Rand, McNally & Company. 20 cm x 14.5 cm. [1-10], 11-580, 4 leaves of publisher's advertisements. First edition.

Original publisher's pictorial cloth, spine very sunned with some chipping to cloth. Binding a bit shaken. Internally clean. Dean V1 252.

**52. Rennie, James.** *Alphabet of Scientific Angling for the Use of Beginners.* 1833. London. William Orr. 15.5 cm x 10.5 cm. [i-v], vi-xviii, [1], 2-138. First edition.

Contemporary green pebbled cloth, paper label on front cover. Corners a bit bumped. Some age toning. W&S 176.

**53. Roosevelt, Robert B.** *The Game Fish of Northern States and British Provinces with an Account of the Salmon and Sea-Trout Fishing of Canada and New-Brunswick, together with Simple Directions for Tying Artificial Flies, Etc., Etc.* 1869. New York. Carleton. 19 cm x 13.5 cm. [1-4], 5-324. Third edition.

Original red publisher's cloth. Some staining to front cover. Spine sunned. Moderate to heavy foxing throughout. Old water stain to gutters of some pages. Dean V2 359.

**54. Roosevelt, Robert B.** *Superior Fishing; or, The Striped Bass, Trout, and Black Bass of the Northern States. Embracing Full Directions for Dressing Artificial Flies with the Feathers of American Birds; An Account of a Sporting Visit to Lake Superior, Etc., Etc., Etc.* 1865. New York. Carleton. 19 cm x 14 cm. [i-iii], iv-vi, [9], 10-304, 4 leaves of publisher's advertisements. First edition.

Original blue publisher's cloth, corners worn through. Spine sunned, rear board loose. Internally bright and clean. Very little foxing. Dean V2 359

**55. Salter, T.F.** *The Angler's Guide, being a Complete Practical Treatise on Angling: containing the Whole Art of Trolling, Bottom, and Float-Fishing, Fly-Fishing, and Trimmer-Angling, for, Sea, River, and Pond Fish; Founded on Forty Years' Practice and Observation.* 1816. London. Carpenter and Son. 18.5 cm x 11 cm. Frontis, 5 unnumbered leaves, [i], ii-xxvi, [1], 2-309. Fourth edition.

19th century 1/4 leather and pebbled cloth. Slight bumping to corners. Internally clean with some spotting. W&S 186. Book begins with an "Apology for Anglers," explaining why angling is not cruel- a debate that continues today. Pages 38-146 list species of fish, their natural histories, and how to catch them.

**56. Scott, Genio.** *Fishing in American Waters.* 1869. New York. Harper & Brothers. 21 cm x 14.5 cm. [i-vii], viii-xiv, [15-17], 18-484, 2 leaves publisher's advertisements. First edition.

Original purple publisher's cloth. Heavy sunning to spine and boards; some cloth from spine perished. Binding very loose with some stains. Some staining to edges of text block, internally quite clean. Dean V2 429. Book contains mixture of natural history and angling information.

**57. Seabury, George J.** *An Ode to Lake Bass.* [1890]. [New York]. [Privately printed]. 15.5 cm x 24.5 cm. 17 leaves, printed on rectos only. First edition.

Covers stained, spine a bit chipped. Silk endpapers, binding shaken. Internally, generally clean with some damp staining to gutter-edge of all pages. Wetzel 209.

**58. Shaw, George.** *General Zoology or Systematic Natural History, Pisces.* Vol IV., Part 1 - Vol V, Part 2. 1803-1804. London. Thomas Davison, White-Friars. 23.5 cm x 17 cm. 2 volumes bound in 4. Vol IV, Part 1: [i-iii], iv-v, [vi-viii], 1-186-, 25 plates. Vol IV, Part 2: [i-iii], iv-xiii, [xiv-xix], [187], 188-632, 68 plates. Vol V, Part 1: [i], ii-v, [vi-xii], 1-250-, 37 plates. Vol V, Part 2:[i-iii], iv-vi, [vii-x], [251], 252-463, 50 plates. First edition.

19<sup>th</sup> century 1/2 calf with marbled boards. Boards detached from Vol IV, Part 2 and Vol V Parts 1-2. Red calf spine labels- partially perished from Vol 5, Part 1. All edges marbled. Foxing throughout. Stamp of R. Harry Jr. Dean V2 441.

**59. Slack, J.H.** *Practical Trout Culture.* 1872. New York. The American News Company. 19 cm x 13 cm. Frontis, [i-v], vi-x, [11], 12-143. First edition.

Original green publisher's cloth, a bit worn, corners bumped. Floral endpapers. First free endpaper torn out. Some chipping to preliminary leaves. No foxing. Book plate of Jeffrey Norton. Dean V2 453.

**60. Smith, Jerome V. C.** *Natural History of the Fishes of Massachusetts, Embracing a Practical Essay on Angling.* 1833. Boston. Allen and Ticknor. 18.5 cm x 12.5 cm. [i-v], vi-vii, [1], 2-399, errata. First edition.

Contemporary blue cloth with orange paper spine label, staining to boards and sunning to spine. Foxing throughout. Ownership signature of David Benis. Dean V2 461.

**61. Stone, Livingston.** *Domesticated Trout, How to Breed and Grow Them.* 1873. Boston. James R. Osgood and Company. 17.5 cm x 13 cm. [i-v], vi-x, [1-3], 4-347. Second edition.

Red publisher's cloth with gilt stamp of trout to front cover. Binding clean and bright, front hinge a little loose. Crisp and clean- very little foxing. Dean V2 503.

**62. Storer, D. Humphreys.** *A Report on the Fishes of Massachusetts.* 1839. Boston. Charles C. Little and James Brown. 22.5 cm x 14.5 cm. Title page, Contents, [289], 290-570, 3 pages plates. First edition.

Original paper wrappers, very worn with pieces missing. Housed in folding paper box and cloth portfolio. Some foxing, lower left corner of first several leaves curled. From collection of Jeffrey Norton but without his bookplate. Dean V2 506. Offprint from Boston Journal of Natural History.

**63. Storer, David Humphreys.** *A Synopsis of the Fishes of North America.* 1864. Cambridge, MA. Metcalf and Company. 29 cm x 24 cm. Title page, [1], 2-298. First edition.

19th century 1/4 leather and marbled boards, decorative endpapers. Rubbing to corners and spine. Some loss to marbled boards. Some age toning and spotting but generally clean. Presentation copy to "Prof Gibbs with the respect of the author." Ownership stamp of David K Caldwell, bookplate of Jeffrey Norton. Dean V2 507.

**64. [Taylor, Jane].** *The Little Fisherman.* n.d. but before 1848. Baker, Crane & Day. 7.5 cm x 4.5 cm. [1], 2-8. Unknown edition.

Original printed paper wrappers, bound by single string. Small chapbook- very fragile but still bound as issued. Minor staining to front cover. Housed in custom leather slipcase. No foxing, clean and crisp with slight bumping to corners.

**65. Vaillant, Léon.** *Mission Scientifique du Cap Horn. 1882-1883. Tome VI. Zoologie Poissons.* 1888. Paris. Gauthier-Villars. 28 cm x 23 cm. [1-3], 4-35, 4 plates tipped in after text (2 folding color). First edition.

Original printed paper wrappers, printed title to spine. Some chipping to head and foot of spine. Unopened. Leaves immaculate, crisp and clean. Ink stamp of The George Vanderbilt Foundation to cover and half title. Accession date of 8 March 1956. Dean V2 571.

**66. Vallot, J.-N.** *Ichthyologie Française; ou Histoire Naturelle des Poissons d'Eau Douce de la France.* 1837. Dijon. E. Frantin. 22.5 cm x 14 cm. [1-5], 6-321. First edition.

Green printed wrappers- slight bumping to edges but still crisp and clean. Occasional foxing, edges uncut. Dean V2 577.

**67. Walker, Charles Edward and Charles S. Patterson.** *The Rainbow Trout.* 1898. London. Lawrence & Bullen, Ltd. 19.5 cm x 13.5 cm. Frontis, [i-vi], [1], 2-64. First edition.

Original purple publisher's cloth. Minor rubbing to corners. Clean with only minor wear. W& S Sup. 255.

**68. Weidmeyer, M.C.** *American Fish and How to Catch Them: A Hand-Book for Fishing.* 1885. New York. Francis P. Harper. 20 cm x 15 cm. [1-2], 3-95. First edition.

Original green publisher's cloth, corners slightly bumped. Front hinge a little loose. Internally clean but slightly yellowed. Book plate of Jeffrey Norton. Wetzel 229.

**69. Whitcher, W.F.** *Supplement No 2 to the Fourteenth Annual Report of the Department of Marine and Fisheries for the Year 1881. Fisheries Statements for the*

*Year 1881. 1882. Ottawa. Maclean, Roger, & Co. 24.5 cm x 16.5 cm. [i-v], vi-xxxix, [1], 2-260. First edition.*

3/4 leather with marbled boards, marbled endpapers. Some sunning and wear to spine. Internally clean with no foxing. Bookplate of Dean Sage. This volume from lot 112 of the sale of Dean Sage's angling library. Parke-Bernet Galleries 1942.

**70. Williamson, John.** *The British Angler: Or, a Pocket-Companion for Gentlemen Fishers.* 1740. London. J. Hodges. 17.5 cm x 10.5 cm. Frontis, [i-ii], iii-viii, [1], 2-318, 5 leaf index, 3 folding plates of fish. First edition.

18th century speckled calf, rebacked with new spine label. Some wear to corners. Some age toning, repaired tear to second folding plate. W&S 241. Pages 128-249 contain natural history descriptions of fish.

**71. Yarrell, William.** *A History of British Fishes with Supplement to the History of British Fishes.* 1836; 1839. London. John van Vorst. 2 volumes plus supplement. 21.5 cm x 15 cm. Supplement: 23 cm x 15 cm. Vol 1: [i-v], vi-xxvi, [1], 2-408; Vol 2: [i-iv], [1], 2-472, [xxvii], xxviii-xxxvii, errata, 1 leaf of publisher's advertisements; Supplement: [i-iii], iv, [1], 2-72, 2 leaves of publisher's advertisements. First edition.

Volumes 1&2: Contemporary 1/2 leather with marbled boards. Rebacked with new leather spine, decorative gilt compartments with red leather spine label. Some wear to marbled boards. Supplement: Rebound in recent 1/2 leather with marbled boards and red leather spine label. Vol 1&2: All edges gilt, internally clean. Supplement: A little spotting but mostly clean and bright. Dean V2 661

**72. Yarrell, William.** *On the Growth of Salmon in Fresh Water.* 1839. London. John van Vorst. 31 cm x 43 cm. Title page, 3 color plates interleaved by 1 leaf of paper, 3 pages text. First edition.

Original paper wraps bound in later 1/2 leather with green cloth. Gilt title to spine. Internally, minor spotting, generally bright and clean. Dean V2 661

Works cited:

Dean, Bashford. *A Bibliography of Fishes*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. New York: The American Museum of Natural History, 1916. *Archive.org*. Web. 24 March 2009.

Nissen, Claus. *Schöne Fischbücher*. Stuttgart: Lothar Hempe Verlag, 1951.

Parke-Bernet Galleries. *The Angling Library of Dean Sage*. New York, Parke-Bernet Galleries. 1942.

Westwood, Thomas, and Thomas Satchell. *Bibliotheca Piscatoria*. Mansfield Centre, Maurizio Martino, 1999.

Wetzel, Charles. *American Fishing Books*. Mansfield Centre, Maurizio Martino, 1997.