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Department of Rare Books and Special Collections

Exhibition Catalogues

Number 39
THE GENTLEMAN'S RECREATION

Sporting Books

in the

Princeton University Library

CATALOGUE

of the Exhibition in the

Princeton University Library

February 2 - April 15, 1979

Princeton, New Jersey

1979
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I. INTRODUCTION

CASE ONE


3. Fishing rod of George LaBranche. Gift to the Library by his son. Stored in Kienbusch Room.


CASE THREE: MAJOR DONORS OF SPORTING BOOKS


6. Placards from the Sporting Book Room explaining the collections.


   a. Fresh Water Angling, 1946. Catalogues from Carl Otto von Kienbusch's 1946 angling books exhibition. It was the last major exhibition of sporting books in the Library before the present one.
   b. Bookplate of Carl Otto v. Kienbusch
II. ANGLING

CASE TWO: THE THREE EARLIEST PRINTED BOOKS IN ENGLISH ON ANGLING

9. Book of St. Albans, 1496

The first printed work on angling in English was written by the prioress of Sopwell nunnery near St. Albans, Dame Juliana Berners, probably about 1450. Entitled The Treatyse of Fysshynge wyth an Angle, it was printed in the second edition so-called Book of St. Albans by Wynkyn de Worde at Westminster in 1496. The Treatyse falls into three parts. The first sets forth the superiority of angling over other forms of sport. The second gives detailed instructions for making rods, lines and hooks, gives patterns for twelve artificial flies, and instructs on the use of tackle against certain fishes. The third part is devoted to the mental, ethical, and spirited qualities found in the perfect angler.

10. The Boke of Haukyng, Hyntynge and Fysshynge With All the Properties and Medecynes That are Necessary to Be Kepte. (London, ca. 1550).


Dame Juliana Berners' Treatyse has been continually reprinted since it was first published.
One edition of ca. 1550 from the Kienbusch Collection.
One edition (11) from the Kane Collection.


The second oldest printed book on angling in English, and a source for Izaak Walton's Compleat Angler, this unique copy was presented to the Library in 1954 by Carl Otto von Kienbusch. It was completely unknown before its discovery in this century.

In the facsimile edition published by the Library in 1956, Mr. Kienbusch tells the circumstances of its discovery. "In the late summer of 1954, while engaged in the never-ending search among London's booksellers for rarities in the field of freshwater angling, the present writer was offered a dilapidated little volume from the press, in 1577, of the well-known printer Henry Middleton. It retains what appears to be its original vellum binding, the inside covers faced with part sheets from an earlier rubricated manuscript. The dealer had gotten it through a local 'picker' in a package of odds and ends from the attic of a country house."


The Arte of Angling was reprinted by the Oxford University Press in 1960 in their reissuing of Walton's Compleat Angler, edited by John Buchan, novelist and governor general of Canada.


In the publication of English books on fishing, Leonard Mascall's manual stands third oldest after Dame Juliana and the Arte of Angling. It has been described as "the manual par excellence with lucid organization and copious rubrics and illustrations."


CASE FOUR: EARLY WORKS IN ENGLISH


Seventeenth century English manuscript on fishing.


First published in 1614, Markham's work on angling drew on Dame Juliana Berner's Treatise and two earlier books by Leonard Mascall and John Denny.

"For forty year I in Ambassadours Kitchens learn'd my cookery" writes Thomas Barker in his Arte. His style is personal and friendly and the book is soundly based on his many years of devotion to the sport. Izaak Walton drew heavily on Barker and used his directions for making flies "without much variation."

Barker's Arte was first published in 1651.


One of the best of the practical works on fishing to appear in England during the 18th century. The Bowkers, father and son, were experienced anglers, stressed fly-fishing, and gave detailed descriptions of the appearances and activities of natural flies. They also quote anglers poems and songs.


Discoverer of chlorine and laughing gas, Sir Humphrey Davy wrote Salmonia during a brief convalescence following a severe illness which proved terminal a few months later. First edition.


George Pulman in his Vade Mecum first described the dry fly method, which is the technique of floating artificial flies on the surface of the water as bait. This method was based on Pulman's observation that trout were often seen taking natural flies on the surface, and the conclusion that a way to catch them was by imitating nature.


Stewart's Practical Angler was one of the most popular texts on angling ever published. He encouraged the use of shorter rods (ten feet instead of fourteen to twenty).
CASE FIVE: RONALDS, HALFORD, & SKUES


Alfred Ronalds' *Fly Fisher's Entomology* is considered the first really successful introduction of scientific knowledge into the art of angling with the fly. Ronalds corrected the deficiencies of earlier verbal descriptions of flies and did colored illustrations of 47 natural flies and 47 artificial flies on nineteen plates. It has been widely read and influential since publication.


This Scribner and Welford edition of Halford's first book firmly informed America about the English "scientific school" of fly fishing, with its emphasis on fine entomology. Between 1886 and 1916 he wrote at least six more works, mainly on the theory and practice of dry-fly fishing.


G.E.M. Skues was one of the great English writers on angling during the first four decades of the present century. He published four books, many articles, and corresponded with many people each day before his death in 1949 at the age of 91.


Manuscript of Skues' autobiography. The typed transcript of the manuscript is in the collection as well.

CASE SIX: LA BRANCHE TO PRESENT


Manuscript and galley proofs of La Branche's *Dry Fly and Fast Water*. The most outstanding American book on the dry fly of its day; its principle contribution to the technique of dry fly fishing was the principle that fish may be made to rise to a dry fly if the dry fly is passed over him enough times, that is by creating an artificial hatch of insects.


Ray Bergman started to fish with the worm as a boy of twelve. His first book, *Just Fishing*, was very successful, going through thirteen printings. *Trout* covers in detail one of the many prey on which he earlier wrote in his first book.

McDonald considers Theodore Gordon to be the link, from a literary point of view "between the central tradition of English fly-fishing and similar, yet distinctive, American methods of today". He considers Gordon's writings to be the most distinctive, historically, in American fly-fishing literature. Gordon never wrote a book but contributed articles to periodicals. His invention of the Quill Gordon fly is in general use especially on Eastern trout streams.


A.J. McClane was onetime fishing editor of Field and Stream and his book has been described as one filled with "creative observations on flies, fly casting and tackle, mixed with first rate studies in stream tactics."


Vincent Marinaro lives in central Pennsylvania and has fished the trout streams of his area. His Modern Dry Fly Code, one authority notes, contains "fresh insights into the behavior of hand-fished trout as well as sophisticated concepts of fly dressing."

CASE SEVEN: IZAAK WALTON


A native of Stafford, Izaak Walton (1593-1683) lived for many years in London, where he kept an ironmongery shop in Fleet Street, and made many distinguished friends, including John Donne. His Compleat Angler, first published in 1653, is a dialogue between a hunter and a fisherman (the author) on the art of fishing.

Noted for its ease and charm of style, the Compleat Angler has been immensely popular, having gone through more than 285 editions over the last three hundred years. It is still in print today.

This work, introduces to the angling world Cotton's great addition to Walton's Compleat Angler. Venables work was subsequently dropped and made its own independent way. Nearly all subsequent editions of the Compleat Angler join Walton and Cotton together as joint authors of the one work.

Cotton was an excellent poet, a country squire, and an experienced angler. Born in Breresford Hall beside the River Dove in Staffordshire, he sought contentment in books and angling. He knew Walton well, addressed him as "my dear father", and was his self-proclaimed disciple. It was on Walton's invitation that he wrote the second part of The Compleat Angler, with its own title, "Instructions how to angle for a Trout or Grayling in a Clear Stream." Using the dialogue form employed by Walton, he completed his work in ten brief days. Yet it has remained to this day the classic work on fishing with a fly. One sentence in particular is quoted time and again in later literature.
"... to fish fine, and far off, is the first and principal rule for trout-angling."

Rockey Collection.

No edition of the Compleat Angler appeared between 1676 and 1750, when this edition was prepared and published by Moses Brown. In his preface, Brown says that he undertook the work at the instigation of his friend, Samuel Johnson.


William Pickering was a London publisher whose skill and taste in typography made his books greatly more handsome than those of his contemporaries. He also enjoyed Walton's Compleat Angler and published his editions of the text first in 1825 and many times thereafter. Pickering's most sumptuous edition was that of 1836, printed with care, on large paper, and in two volumes. The notes were by Sir Harris Nicholas, a leading antiquary of the day. The Library is fortunate to have in the Kienbusch Collection the papers of Harris and Nicholas relating to the preparation of the 1836 edition.

This is the first Compleat Angler to have been edited, published and printed in America. G.W. Bethune (the American editor) whose name appears nowhere in the book was a Philadelphia clergyman. "Owing to the public feeling against the propriety of such a book by a clergyman, it was published anonymously".

The Compleat Angler's status as a classic of English literature has brought it to the attention of such writers and artists as James Russell Lowell, John Buchan, Arthur Rackham, and W.A. Dwiggins.


CASE EIGHTEEN: ARTIFICIAL FLIES

Using artificial flies as bait for fish dates back at least to late medieval times, as evidenced by Dame Juliana Berner's Trefteys. Flies were (and still are) floated in the water (dry) in an attempt to imitate the natural "buggy" diet of fish.

In the Kienbusch, Rockey, and Connett Collections are examples of many books on natural and artificial flies, often illustrated with colored plates. The most spectacular and unusual books on flies, however, are those few illustrated with actual flies, sometimes tied by the author.


III. THE GENTLEMAN SPORTSMAN

CASE EIGHT: THOMAS GOSDEN

Thomas Gosden was a versatile sportsman, bookseller, book-binder, print seller, antiquary, artist and versifier who died bankrupt in 1840. The Kienbusch Collection has several books, manuscripts, and other materials relating to him, all of considerable interest.

To the right we show a manuscript of verses by Gosden for Piscatory Ballads, the manuscript of a projected book The Art of Angling Epitomized, and other verses in his hand.


"One binding for which Gosden is made sponsor and held responsible must be pronounced a libel upon bibliopagy. The book is enclosed in boards a quarter of an inch thick, bevelled at the edges, and encrusted with heavy bronze medals of Walton and Cotton. This uncouth piece of workmanship might have been the tour de force of a village cobbler with the aid of his muscular neighbor the blacksmith."

This was the opinion of William Loring Andrews seventy-five years ago, but tastes have changed in the meanwhile. The binding covers an elaborately illustrated edition of Walton issued by Gosden in 1825.


A pressed leather binding by Gosden over the 1922 Hawkins edition of Walton's Angler. On front cover is a portrait of Walton; on the back is that of Cotton. Gosden called this style "antique" and made the panels by stamping them from a die, giving an embossed effect.


60. The Walton and Cotton silver medals in their original case issued by Gosden circa 1827. Kienbusch Collection.
IV. THE DERRYDALE PRESS

CASE NINE

The Derrydale Press was a publishing venture unique in this country. Founded in the boom days of 1927, it flourished through depression and recovery until the advent of war, publishing a remarkable series of sporting books in limited editions. Its handsome reprints of long-unavailable American sporting classics published before 1945 and its new volumes on contemporary field sports constitute as the publisher intended "a record of the greatest period of sport the world has yet seen -- even greater than in England after the Napoleonic wars."

Eugene V. Connett III '12, the founder and president of the Derrydale Press, presented to the Princeton University Library his complete personal collection of Derrydale books, many of them inscribed by the authors and extra-illustrated. In addition, the Library received from Mr. Connett copies of the sporting books written by him and published by others, and the correspondence files and scrapbooks of the Derrydale Press. A complete set of the sporting books edited by Mr. Connett for the D. Van Nostrand Company has been presented by Edward M. Crane '18, the president of that publishing house. The books, more than 250 volumes in all, are shelved together in the room for sporting book collections in the Firestone Library.

The collection as a whole represents not only an important and handsome addition to the Princeton collection on sport and social history but provides as well another archive for the study of American book publishing to supplement the files of Henry Holt and Company, Pynson Printers, and Charles Scribner.

After fourteen years working the family hat manufacturing company, E.V. Connett became a printer and publisher. He studied typography with one of the leading printers in America at the time, Daniel Berkeley Updike of the Merrymount Press, Boston.

61. A letter soliciting Henry van Dyke to write an introduction to Magic Hours.


Magic Hours was the first book printed by Connett on his own press.


CASE TEN


Scrapbooks covering the early years of the Press and filled with many brochures, newspaper clippings and book reviews.


CASE NINETEEN


The author, Roderick L. Haig-Brown, to his publisher, Eugene V. Connett, about the publication of Western Angler. Born and educated in England, Haig-Brown was thirty-one when Western Angler was published. It is part guide book, part instruction manual and part plea for fish conservation.


Some of the more spectacular books issued by the Press, including Hemingway on fishing for marlin, and reprints of some of the earliest American fishing books in America (Forester and Smith).

V. SOME AMERICAN SPORTING AUTHORS

CASE ELEVEN


This part contains Irving's essay "The Angler", in which he, as Geoffrey Crayon, writes:
"(At the brook) I hooked myself instead of the fish; tangled my line in every tree; lost my bait; broke my rod, until I gave up the attempt in despair, and passed the day under the trees reading old Walton; . . ."


The American Turf Register and Sporting Magazine was the first successful American sporting periodical. Its primary purpose was to record pedigrees of race horses, names of champions, and the like, but it soon grew to include other sporting news. J.J. Audubon contributed to it; a story about the first American archery club is found in its pages.


The American Angler's Book a monumental achievement. Norris knew the angling literature of the past, brought fresh knowledge and new techniques to the American angler, and ranged far and wide in his many expeditions. He fished for trout in New Hampshire, in the Adirondacks, and in the Lake Superior region; he fished for salmon in Canadian rivers. In the section of his work entitled Dies Piscatoriae, he is a genuine Waltonian. These essays often use the dialogue form and are written with great charm and obvious enthusiasm. He enjoys solitary fishing, "born of a longing for that which is quiet and peaceful, and fostered by an inbred love of communing with nature."


Henry William Herbert (known as Frank Forester), 1807-1858, was a leading American writer on field sports of the nineteenth
century. Born in England, educated at Eton and Cambridge, he came to the United States in 1831 in order to escape financial difficulties. Settling in New York, before moving to New Jersey in 1845, he taught classics, wrote books and articles, and enjoyed numerous hunting and fishing expeditions. He wrote mainly on angling and hunting, but also published a translation of Aeschylus, histories, a novel, and poems. Noted for his appearing in colorful outfits on the street (cavalier boots, massive King Charles' spurs, checked suits), he was mercurial in temperament. When his second wife deserted him a few weeks after the wedding, he went into deep depression and, in a New York hotel, he shot himself.

H.W. Herbert was an accomplished artist and of fish and Fishing he stated: "All the cuts were drawn by myself, on wood, either from dead fishes themselves, or from original drawings in the possession of Professor Agasiz."


86. The Newark Herbert Association to Frank Forester. In Memoriam, May 19, 1876. Newark, N.J., Ward & Tichenor, 1876.


A single long poem with an original mixed media print by William Weege da Barba. Limited edition of fifty copies signed and numbered by the artist. The type is hand set sabon antiqua on shadwell papers made by hand.
VI. PRINCETON SPORTING AUTHORS

CASE TWELVE


Edward Ringwood Hewitt, Class of 1889: Inventor of the Mack Truck and, for fisherman, of a dry fly called the Neversink Skater. His Secrets of the Salmon popularized the dry fly for salmon fishing. His Trout and Salmon Fisherman for 75 Years is among the great works on American angling literature. He also wrote memoirs of the early years of this century in New York City. He died at the age of 89 in 1957.


John Fennelly, Class of 1920: Lived in Illinois, where he died in 1974. Steelhead Paradise is his account of fishing for sea-run rainbows in the wilderness of the Pacific Northwest.


Dana S. Lamb, Class of 1923: Lives on Long Island and since retiring from the brokerage business has published six books on trout and salmon fishing.


100. Dana S. Lamb. Where the Pools are Bright and Deep. Winchester Press.


George Reiger, Class of 1960: Conservation editor of Field & Stream magazine.


Class of 1955.

CASE THIRTEEN


Henry Van Dyke, Class of 1873: Professor of English at Princeton, Ambassador to the Netherlands under Woodrow Wilson, author.

Charles Scribner's Sons published all of Henry van Dyke's fishing books.

Undergraduates at Princeton were always welcome to visit Van Dyke and talk about fishing or literature. Such Princetonians as John Libberger Davis '00, E.V. Connett '12, John Easton '26, and classmate Victor Cody '26 did so.


107. Van Dyke to Scribner concerning the second printing of *Fisherman's Luck*. Scribner Archives at Princeton.


William Cowper Prime, Class of 1843: Lawyer; Editor and Co-owner of New York Journal of Commerce; Professor of Art History at Princeton, 1883-1905. Donated the Trumbull-Prime Collection of Pottery and Porcelain which together with Professor Alan Marquand's collection founded the University's Museum of Art.


CASE SEVENTEEN


Another Princeton sporting author is Ernest Schwiebert, a planning consultant with a Ph.D. in architecture from Princeton (1966). His book *Trout* published in December 1976 is 1,745 pages long and is the most up-to-date and comprehensive book on the subject of fly fishing for trout currently in print. *Trout* is divided into six books, each covering in great detail the major aspects of the sport: biology of trout, history of the sport, fishing tackle, techniques of casting and wading, as well as the strategies and tactics of angling. His publisher reports that the first printing of 10,000 copies has sold out and a second printing has been ordered. Dr. Schwiebert lives in Princeton.


Two of Dr. Schwiebert's four earlier books: *Nymphs* (1973) and *Matching the Hatch* (1955), also entirely illustrated by him.
VII. HUNTING

CASE FOURTEEN: GENERAL


Horsemanship is the fundamental skill of the huntsman, and the Carton Collection contains many works on farriery, horse breeding, and riding. Examples of such manuals are these books by Gervase Markham, a seventeenth century English writer of numerous and popular text books on many subjects.


Included in a 1688 edition of the Gentleman's Recreation is this broadsheet engraving giving "The Ancient Hunting Noats" as well as advertising Michael Marsh's lessons on the hunting horn.


Nineteenth century facsimile.


An eighteenth century spoof of the commonplace horsemanship's manual. Thomas Rowlandson etched the illustrations drawn by Henry Bunbury.


Together with horsemanship, the huntsman must know the care, breeding and training of hounds. Colonel Cook's Observations was the leading book of its day on the topic.


Years ago, rabies threatened dogs as much as today. On the free endpaper of this early eighteenth century English book are two cures for mad dogs.


128. Peter Beckford. Thoughts upon Hare and Fox Hunting. London, 1796.


Peter Beckford in his Thoughts on Hunting was the first English writer to describe minutely and accurately the whole sport of hunting with fox-hounds. The date of the establishment of the first English pack of hounds kept entirely for fox hunting is not known, but evidence indicates that it was about 1700. Beckford's Thoughts was first published in 1781.

CASE FIFTEEN


Henry Alken came from a family of artists (father, brother, and his son Henry Gordon, either drew or painted) and first signed his work "Ben Tally O!" Nearly all of his works are, as one English authority states, "devoted to the humours of the hunting field."


R.S. Surtees, 1803-64, was trained as a lawyer, but when he inherited the family property of Hamsterley Hall in 1838, he retired to the life of a writer and country squire. In his novels and stories, he created the amusing characters of John Jorrocks, Scapey Sponge, and others.
Many of his novels were illustrated by the leading comic artists of the day; "Phiz" (Hablot K. Browne), John Leech, and others.

A letter from R.S. Surtees to Cook, A Fleet Street printer, about copy for the Analysis of the Hunting Field.


First edition of R. S. Surtees' *Jorrocks' Jaunts and Jollities*, London, 1838, with drawings by "Phiz". Presentation copy from the author to John Scott, the dedicatee of Surtees' *Handley Cross*, which carries on the story of Jorrocks.


For this edition of Apperley's *Memoirs of John Mytton*, R.S. Surtees wrote a memoir of the author, who published under the name Nimrod. Like Surtees, Apperley lived the life of the country squire, at least until extravagance caught up with him in 1830, when he was forced to remove to Calais. There he wrote more than ever and did not return to England with his family until the year of his death.


An Englishman finds the wild West as a place for a sportsman.


CASE SIXTEEN: THE STONY BROOK HUNT, PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY 1928-39

The Stony Brook Hunt organized in Princeton in 1928 and disbanded in 1939. From a group of seventeen ladies and gentlemen, the Hunt grew in membership to more than seventy members during its early years.

The Hunt clubhouse was a Rosendale Road farmhouse which today is the Laurie Chauncey Guesthouse for the Educational Testing Service. There the Hunt kept many couples of foxhounds, cared for first by Mr. George Travis, an Englishman and later by another Englishman, Mr. John Harris.

Hunting season started in the fall and meets rode through farmers fields in the area. (A picnic party was held annually for these farmers.) Events of the Hunt included not only so-called drag hunts (fox scent dragged through a course several hours before riding), but horse shows, as well as Hunt Balls and breakfasts after a typical early morning meet.

140. Masters of Foxhounds Association of America. Boston, Mass.,
  Henry G. Vaughan, 1932.
  Lent by Mrs. Ferdinand R. White.

141. Albums of Hunt photographs and maps showing the territory of
  the Hunt in 1931.
  Lent by Mrs. Ferdinand R. White.

142. Minutebook and other papers of the Stony Brook Hunt,
  including minutes of the organizational meeting of
  Stony Brook Hounds held at the residence of Howard Froelick,
  Esq., Princeton, N.J., Saturday, December 1, 1928 at five p.m.
  Lent by Mrs. Ferdinand R. White.

143. Photographs of the Farmer's Party given by the Stony Brook
  Hunt, 1930's, and Joint Meet of the Stony Brook and Harmony
  Hollow Hunts from the estate of Col. and Mrs. Edward C. Rose.
VIII. AUDUBON

CASE TWENTY-ONE


Everyone engaged in field sports must be a naturalist to some extent, and when thinking of naturalists, one cannot help but think of Audubon and his great portfolios of birds and other animals.

Before coming to America in 1903, Audubon lived in France where he studied drawing briefly in the Paris studio of Jacques-Louis David and learned the systematic study of nature from the writings of Buffon and other great eighteenth-century naturalists. Except for one year, between 1803 and 1826 Audubon lived in the United States and did a great number of things -- keeping a store, trading in lands, managing a steam mill, and finally drawing the birds of America.
IX. ART

CASE TWENTY: HUMOROUS SPORTING PRINTS


Rowlandson ridicules "The Old English Squire" in illustrations to a mock-heroic poem of that name published in 1821.


A scene from a panorama of the life of Mister O'Squat by Rowlandson in 1922. Surely riding and fishing were too vigorous for Mister O'Squat, so he only played billiards.


Thomas Rowlandson and other artists of his age view the sporting life.

BETWEEN CASES 3 AND 4: STEARNS PAINTING


At the left in the painting opposite is Charles Loring Elliott, portrait painter; right, F.S. Cozzens, 1818-1869, author of the Sparrowgrass Papers (1856) and in center, Lewis Gaylord Clark, 1808-1873, editor of the Knickerbocker Magazine. The painting was in the National Academy exhibition of 1856, No. 608, as Elliot and His Friends. The scene is probably at Trenton High Falls in the foothills of the Adirondacks where there was a hotel popular with sportsmen and artists.

PRINTS AND PAINTINGS ON WALLS


152. Other miscellaneous prints from Cruickshank collection.
Library Notes

THE GENTLEMAN'S RECREATION: SPORTING BOOKS IN 
THE PRINCETON UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

On February 2, 1979, the Library's winter exhibition opened at an evening reception for the Friends of the Library and other guests. On display in the Gould Gallery were books, paintings, manuscripts, prints, and other objects selected largely from the Library's four major collections of sporting books: the Hunting Library of Laurence R. Carton '07; the Isabelle A. Rockey Memorial Collection on Angling, given by Kenneth H. Rockey '16; the Sporting Books of Eugene V. Connett III '12; and the Carl Otto v. Kienbusch '06 Angling Collection.¹

The exhibition was arranged topically, with one to several cases devoted to the following subjects: angling literature in English including a special display of the three earliest printed books in English on angling; Izaak Walton; Thomas Gosden; the Derrydale Press; American sporting authors; Princeton authors on angling; major donors of sporting books to the Library; fox hunting; the Stony Brook Hunt; the double elephant folio of John James Audubon; artificial flies; and comic sporting prints of Thomas Rowlandson, Henry Bunbury, and others.

As a genre, writing on field sports has a long and illustrious tradition—the first angling book in English, Dame Juliana Berner's A Treatysse on Fysshyng Wyth an Angle was first published in 1496 by Wynkyn de Worde, assistant to England's first printer, William Caxton, and successor in Caxton's business at his death. The Library's copy of the Treatysse has a distinguished provenance, being the Thoresby-White Knights-Ashburnham-Gilbey-Lynn-Kienbusch copy.

Outstanding among the Library's angling books and on display together with Dame Juliana Berner's Treatysse was the unique

copy of the second oldest printed book in English on angling, which was discovered in the summer of 1954 in a London book shop by Carl Otto v. Kienbusch. Entitled The Arte of Angling it was printed by Henry Middleton in London in 1577. Published anonymously, it was probably a source used by Izaak Walton in writing his Compleat Angler. The Library published a facsimile of the Arte in 1956, together with notes and commentary by Professor Gerald E. Bentley and Henry L. Savage, archivist in the University Library.

Since two of the four major sporting book collections at Princeton are on angling, the selection of English and American angling books was particularly rich, including books on angling by many great writers: Leonard Mascall, Thomas Barker, Richard and Charles Bowler, George Pulman, W. C. Stewart, Alfred Ronalds, Frederic M. Haldorf, G.E.M. Skues, Theodore Gordon, George M. L. LaBranche, Ray Bergman, A. J. McClane, and others. Izaak Walton was given special treatment since the Rockey Collection allowed many of the important editions of his Compleat Angler to be shown, such as the first American edition edited by James Russell Lowell.

Coveted by many sporting book collectors today are the publications of the Derrylde Press, 1927-41, established and operated by Eugene V. Connett in '12. In 1951, Mr. Connett gave the Library the business papers of the Press, together with a complete set of its publications, including many deluxe issues of editions, as well as a set of all books edited by him during his years as sporting editor with Van Nostrand & Co. From these materials were shown many books, artwork, proofs printed by Connett on his own press, scrapbooks, and bindings. The Derrylde Press also issued numerous prints but none of these could be shown since, alas, the Library does not own any.

Princeton's long connection with sporting authors was further emphasized by the display of selected works of angler-alumni, reaching back to 1873, when William Cowper Prime, Class of 1843, published his I Go A-Fishing. One Princeton author, Ernest Schwiebert GS '66, lent color drawings, proofs, and sections of the manuscript of his recently published Trout. Covering in 1,745 pages all aspects of the subject of angling for trout with artificial flies, his book is the most comprehensive publication of its kind currently available.

To augment the display on fox hunting, Mrs. Ferdinand R.
White loaned photograph albums, minute books, and other papers of the Stony Brook Hunt. Organized in 1928, the Hunt grew from a group of 17 ladies and gentlemen to more than 70 members during its early years. The Hunt kept many couples of hounds under the care of a huntsman at its clubhouse on Rosedale Road. Hunt events included drag hunts, horse shows, Hunt Balls, and breakfasts after an early morning meet as well as standard fox hunts. The Hunt disbanded in 1939.

Also on display were examples of pictorial art found in various special collections in the Library. From the Thomas Rowlandson collection, presented to the Library by Dickson Q. Brown, Class of 1895, were such prints as "An Irish Fishing Lodge," the billiards scene from the panorama "Tom O'Squat," and prints by Henry Bunbury on fox hunting. Other fox hunting prints on display were those of Henry Alken for his portfolio Hunting Discoveries and Robert Surtees's The Analysis of the Hunting Field. Several paintings from the Kienbusch Collection were also on display, including Junius Brutus Stearns's "Elliott and his Friends" (ca. 1858) showing the portrait painter Charles Loring Elliott with two other sportsmen at Trenton High Falls in the foothills of the Adirondacks where there was a hotel popular with sportsmen and artists. Rounding out the pictorial art was the double elephant folio of Audubon, opened to the plate of a popular American game bird of latter days, the giant wild turkey.

—S.F.

Release
January 25, 1979

City's sporting
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feature books,
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Fire Insurance in England

A gift from Mrs. John Guinness of Hopewell, New Jersey is a fascinating collection of eight broadsides and pamphlets published by the first English fire insurance companies, established in London as a result of the famous catastrophic fire of 1666. By no means a complete collection of the numerous proposals, advertisements, policies, and pamphlets issued by the early companies, they give us, nevertheless, an idea of the cost and means of fire protection at the time as well as the variety of firms, their competitiveness among each other, and their employment of firemen to protect insured buildings. Like today, the firms’ numbers seemed legion, with each one offering different terms and advantages. Included are publications from the following companies: London Assurance (proposals for 1724); Transylvania Friendly Society (proposals of 1666); The Amicable Contribution, also known by their emblem as Hand in Hand (prospectus issued ca. 1696-1698); The Friendly Society (proposals issued ca. 1682, ca. 1701-1703, and a pamphlet possibly issued by them and written by a former employee advising on the relative merits of the various insuring friendly societies); the Insurance Department of the Corporation of London (1685 pamphlet supporting establishment of government insurance); and the Gentlemen of the Insurance Office in the Backside of the Royal Exchange (a pamphlet attacking the Corporation of London proposal issued about 1681). Some of the pieces are not listed in Wing.

A Thomas Hollis Book

In 1962, Professor James Holly Hanford last reported to readers of the Chronicle about the Library's holdings of Thomas Hollis books. At that time, two additions had brought the Princeton holdings of Hollis books to seven. In recent months, an eighth volume has been added, having been located in the stock of a New England bookseller.

The book is what Thomas Hollis called “Molesworth’s Pieces,”
PRINCETON, N. J., Jan. — An exhibit of Princeton University's sporting books will go on display in Firestone Library beginning Saturday, Feb. 3 and running through April 15.

Entitled "The Gentleman's Recreation," the exhibit will feature books, manuscripts, paintings and other materials from the university library's extensive holdings in the literature of fishing and hunting. As a genre, writing on field sports has a long and illustrious tradition—the first fishing book in English, Dame Juliana Berners's A Treatysse on Fysshynge Wyth an Angle, was published in 1496, a century before Shakespeare.

The exhibit has been organized by Steve Ferguson, curator of rare books, and will highlight several aspects of the university's estimated 7,500 holdings in the sporting field. Most of the material will be drawn from the angling collections of Kenneth H. Rockey '16 and Carl Otto von Kienbusch '06, the Lawrence R. Carton '07 collection on hunting, and the Eugene V. Connett '12 collection of the Derrydale Press.

"The Kienbusch collection has provided us with some of the most spectacular materials," said Ferguson, who hopes the exhibit will focus greater attention on the many treasures in the sporting book collections. "Mr. Kienbusch was an avid book collector all his life, and just about every important early English book on angling is represented in his collection." This includes the 1577 Arte of Angling, a book unknown to the literary world until discovered in the attic of a British country estate in 1954 and subsequently purchased by Kienbusch; a probable source for Izaak Walton, it was later edited by Professor Emeritus Gerald E. Bentley and published by Princeton University Press.
Other items to be displayed include:

--copies of the *Turf Register* (1829-44), the first successful American sporting magazine, which premiered as a stud registry but eventually encompassed other sporting topics and included John James Audubon among its contributors;

--pictures from the Stony Brook Hunt, which flourished in the Princeton area from 1928 to 1938;

--various editions of Walton's *Compleat Angler*, the best known and probably the greatest book on the outdoors ever written;

--books by Princeton sporting authors, a diverse group that includes professors William Cowper Prime 1849 and Henry van Dyke 1873, Edward R. Hewitt 1889, John Fennelly '20, Dana S. Lamb '23, Austin Francis '56, George Reiger '60 and Ernest Schwiebert GS66.

Putting the exhibit together was something of an education for Ferguson, who plays golf and squash but neither hunts nor fishes. "One of the things I've learned is how important field sports were in 18th- and 19th-century America, when we were largely an agrarian society," he said. "Today people think of recreation in terms of 'ball' sports---baseball, tennis, golf---but these have been much more recent developments."

Princeton's sporting book collection is among the finest in the country, and the great bulk of it was contributed by alumni sportsmen who were also bibliophiles. "It's interesting to note," Ferguson added, "that the temperament required of field sportsmen---patience, precision of observation and a certain contemplative quality---are all attributes that one also associates with book collectors."

The exhibition gallery of Firestone Library is open 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Sunday.

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