

**THE TREATYSE OF
FYSSHYNGE
WITH AN ANGLE**

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The Treatyse of Fysshynge with an Angle by Juliana Berners

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JULIANA BERNERS

**THE TREATYSE OF
FYSSHYNGE
WITH AN ANGLE**



Imperfect: - Page xiii. wanting.

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**The Treatyse
Of Fysshynge wyth an Angle.**

ATTRIBUTED TO

Barnes or
DAME JULIANA BERNERS,

REPRINTED FROM

THE BOOK OF ST ALBAN'S.

○
LONDON:

PRINTED WITH THE TYPES OF JOHN BASKERVILLE, FOR

WILLIAM PICKERING.

1827.

~~34.166~~

Aug 14. 96. 2. *

B

1881, Nov. 15.

Gift of
Mrs. James T. Fields,
of Boston.

EMPRYNTED AT WESTMESTER,
BY WYNKYN THE WORDE,
THE YERE OF TRYNCARNAGON OF OUR LORDE
MCCCCXXXVI.

REPRINTED BY THOMAS WHITE, CRANE COURT,
MDCCLXXVII.

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE following "Treatyse of Fysshynge wyth an angle," is not only the earliest, but by far the most curious essay upon the subject which has ever appeared in the English, or perhaps in any other language.

It seems to have been first printed by Wynkyn de Worde, in his edition of the Book of St. Alban's in 1496; and, judging from its orthography and language, it was evidently written in the middle of the fifteenth century. An attempt has been made by the editor of the reprint of that work, to prove, from the following passage, that it was originally composed about that time, "Now thenne woll I dyscryve the fayd dysportes and gamys to fynde the beste of theym as veryly as I can: alle be it that the ryght noble and full worthy prynce the duke of Yorke late callid mayster of game, hath dyscryved the myrthes of huntynge lyke as I thinke to dyscryve of it," &c. but the evidence

which it affords is of a very doubtful character. The treatise alluded to was written by Edmond of Langley Duke of York who died in 1402 and whose situation of "Mayster of the Game" is thus noticed by Hardyng,

"The Kyng then made the duke of Yorke by name
Maister of the new house, and his haukes fayre
Of his venery and Mayster of his game."

but the only positive inference which that sentence allows, is, that the writer had seen the treatise on Hunting, and that the royal author of it was then deceased; for from the great laxity of language at that period it would be very unsafe to consider that "*late* called Mayster of Game" meant, either that the Duke was then living, but no longer "Mayster of Game," or that "his name and person were recent in memory in time of the author."

Unfortunately there are no means by which the name of the Author of the *Treatyse* can be ascertained; and the opinion, expressed by Sir John Hawkins that, it was written by Dame Julian de Berners, is not only unsupported by even a shadow of proof, but it is negatived by the following circumstances. It does not occur in the first edition of the "Boke of St. Alban's" in 1488, and upon its introduction into that

work by Wynkyn de Worde, he explains his motives for inserting it in a manner which almost establishes that it was not the production of that celebrated woman, or of either of those by whom she is supposed to have been assisted.

“ Here we shall make an ende of the moost specyall thynges of the boke of the lygnage of cote armurys, and how gentlymen shall be knowen from ungentylmen. And consequently shall folowe a compendyous treatyse of fysshynge wyth an angle, whiche is right necessary to be had in this present volume: by cause it shewyth afore the manere of hawkyng and huntynge wyth other dyvers maters right necessary to be knowen of noble men and also for it is one of the dysportes that gentylmen use. And also it is not soo labororyous ne soo dishonest to fysshe in this wyse as it is wth nettes and other engynes whyche crafty men do ne use for theyr dayly encrease of goodes.” But the conclusion is still more convincing, “ And for by cause that this present treatyse sholde not come to the hondys of eche ydle persone whyche wolde desire it yf it were enprynted allone by itself and put in a lytyll plaunflet therefore I have compyld it in a greter volume of dyverse bokys concernynge to gentyll and noble men, to the entent that the for-

sayd ydle perfoncs whyche sholde have but lytyll mcfure in the sayd dysporte of ffyflhyng sholde not by this meane utterly dyftroye it."

The latter paffage, befides its importance in being, it is prefumed, decifive of the point which it is cited to prove, is deferving of attention from the wifh which it avows to confine information on Angling to the upper claffes, who only could then afford to purchafe a large volume; left, if it was diftributed among "ydle perfoncs," by which the lower orders were probably meant, there would be fo many skilful anglers as to leave but little fport for "gentylmen," who alone, in the writer's eftimation, were entitled to fuch an amufement. The remark relative to a "lytyll plaunflet" favours the idea that a much greater number of articles of that defcription were then printed, and confequently that many more perfons were able to read, than is commonly imagined.

The only MS. of the *Treatyfe* which is known to be extant, is a fragment now in the poffeffion of Jofeph Hafflewood, Efq. and which formerly belonged to Mr. William Herbert. It does not extend farther than the inftructions relating to the bait for trout; and the different readings between it and the printed copies,