

**A CATALOGUE OF AN
EXHIBITION OF
ANGLING BOOK PLATES**

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A Catalogue of an Exhibition of Angling Book Plates by Daniel B. Fearing

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DANIEL B. FEARING

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ANGLING BOOK PLATES

**FORMING THE COLLECTION OF
DANIEL B. FEARING
NEWPORT, R. I.**

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AN EXHIBITION OF
ANGLING BOOK PLATES

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DANIEL B. FEARING
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THIS LITTLE ATTEMPT
TO DESCRIBE A COLLECTION, THE
MAKING OF WHICH HAS BEEN A LABOR OF LOVE,
IS MOST HUMBLY AND APPRECIATIVELY
DEDICATED
TO THAT UNSELFISH BAND OF WORKERS
THE RED CROSS OF THE UNITED STATES
AND MORE PARTICULARLY
TO THE NEWPORT, R. I., CHAPTER
OF THE RED CROSS

FOREWORD

FOR the purposes of this collection, book plates showing any of the following attributes have been gathered together:

Primarily, plates showing an angling scene, such as an angler or fisherman engaged in his sport.

Secondly, any of the various articles used in the sport of angling or fishing: a fishing rod, a fish pole, rod case, gaff hook, landing net, creel, reel, line, leaders, box for leaders, float, hooks, spoon and double and triple, bait, bait box or can, artificial flies on gut or on eyed hooks, fly book, eyed fly box, and various receptacles for "liquid bait," from the homely "little brown jug" to the aristocratic silver flask; salmon, eel and fish spears, nets, seines, lobster pots, eel pots, and various basketwork fish-traps.

Thirdly, copies of "The Compleat Angler," first or other editions, copies of other well-known angling and fishing books, portraits of Walton, quotations from him and other angling writers, angling mottoes.

Fourthly, plates showing the so-called sporting fish,—salmon, tarpon, tuna, trout, grayling, etc.; plates showing coarse fish caught with rod and line or hand line, such as cod, eels, flounders, perch, pickerel, pike, etc.

FOREWORD

Book plates exist showing one or more of all the above-mentioned objects. Some owners have been so egotistical as to have their own portraits, engraved by celebrated artists and engravers, upon their book plates. In some cases, and most successfully, the aid of the camera has been evoked, and there are many plates with charming scenes of woodland wilds and tumbling brooks, which show the owner of the plate variously engaged in casting, striking, playing, or landing his fish, and others which represent him peacefully sitting or reclining under the shade of a friendly tree, sometimes intent upon his book, at others asleep, in both cases the world and fish forgot.

Many of these more modern plates made for the devotees of the gentle "Iz. Wa." show delightfully engraved views of their favorite fishing places; these generally have in addition trophies of rod and reel, creel, landing net or gaff hooks to emphasize the owner's preference for the gentle sport.

Many plates exhibit their owner's preference for one particular fish. Thus we find plates with trout, tarpon and tuna, others with pike, perch, etc., and several with mixed lots of fish. In several plates are shown a copy of "The Compleat Angler." Sometimes the owner, proud of his possession, exhibits other volumes of even greater rarity than the "First Walton." One angler exhibits his preference for fly-fishing, another boldly stands with the tell-tale little box of worms hanging to his creel strap.