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The
MUSEUM OF
AQUARIUM & PET
HISTORY

AQUARIUM ARTICLES OF THE 1800s: AN 1877 VIEW OF THE NEW YORK AQUARIUM, FIVE MONTHS AFTER IT OPENED

by Dale Speirs

Those who search for aquarium articles only in aquarium magazines will miss a considerable number of good articles in other publications. This is particularly true for the era before World War One. The lack of aquarium magazines in the Victorian Age meant that most aquarium articles appeared in scientific journals or the general magazines of the time such as Scribner's.

Shown here is the first page of a long and detailed article on the New York Aquarium, opened on October 11, 1876. The citation for this is: Ward, WS (1877) The New York Aquarium. SCRIBNER'S MONTHLY 13:577-591.

Ward begins with a history of the New York Aquarium, which was built by WC Coup. Details of the building are given in great length. Equipment is discussed and an account is given of the fish.

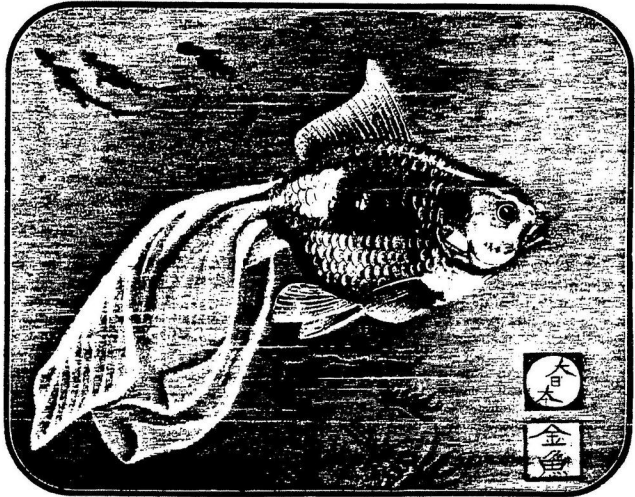
SCRIBNER'S MONTHLY.

VOL. XIII

MARCH, 1877.

No. 5.

THE NEW YORK AQUARIUM.



THE KINGYO (SEE PAGE 590).

THE recognized value of aquaria as aids to the study of natural history, and the evident popular favor with which they are regarded abroad, render the final establishment of a kindred institution in America an event worthy of special congratulation.

The history of his initial efforts in behalf of the New York Aquarium was given to the public by Mr. W. C. Coup, the manager of the enterprise, on the occasion of the opening of the Aquarium, October 11th, 1876. From this communication we learn that it was during a European tour made four years since, that the writer's attention was first attracted and his interest engaged by the number of great public aquaria there established; and so impressed

was he with the value of these institutions that he at once determined to secure the establishment of one in New York. His first proposition was to construct one in the Central Park, defraying all the expense, but claiming the privilege of retaining, for a given period, such profit as might be obtained from a small fee for admission; and when compensated for the outlay, to present the institution to the city as a gift. The Park Commission was not able to accept this proposition, owing to certain legal restraints forbidding the use of public grounds under these conditions. Having, however, become convinced of the importance of such an institution, Mr. Coup finally determined to undertake the work alone. The large plot



The article from Scribner's Monthly will be in a future issue of CAL in full.

The Nature Magazine has articles about tropical fish and native fish that you may be interested in. I have given you one of a few I have found, I'm sure there are many more. Here is a list of what I found.

Vol. 12 No. 5 Nov. 1928 Home Aquarium Fish From Tropical Waters
by William M. Mann 1 page of 6 color plates by R. Bruce Horsfall

Guppies is Guppies by Eunice E. Myers

Vol. 8 No. 5 1926 Some Advice on the Home Aquarium
by Frances Brinckle Zerbee

The Mud-Skipper by Edward A. Preble

Vol. 17 No. 4 April 1931 How to make your fish like you
by Clara Cutler Chapin

It also has a nice back page of advertisements by Beldt's Aquarium.
I have a few that have nice covers only.

I want to thank everybody for all the fine articles CAL has printed in the past. I'm looking forward to next year when we go to 6 issues Feb., April, June, Aug., Oct., Dec.

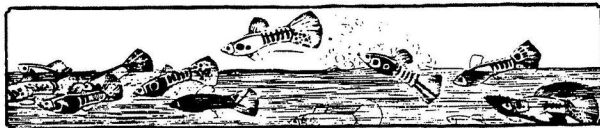
Thank you for all the want ads in the past. I hope CAL will get many more next year, I will need a new want ad for each issue. Please have it typed and remember 20 lines are free which is about 1/3 of a page. For those who would like more space, say a page or two, please write. I will not print ads that are not typed.

For those who have ordered books or want to, write to Paul Harvey.

Don't forget to get those articles to me or Ross S.. Ross has moved but the P.O.Box 1987, Bradento, Fl. 33506 is good.

Thank you CAL members,





HOW TO MAKE YOUR FISHES LIKE YOU

FRIENDLY ADVICE ON KEEPING YOUR LIVING ROOM GAY

BY CLARA CUTLER CHAPIN

ILLUSTRATED BY JEX

A WASHINGTON housewife, not long ago, happened into her living room to find her maid industriously scrubbing out the goldfish tank. Not seeing the fish, she inquired for them, and the girl, without ceasing her work, nodded toward the sideboard. The lady screamed. There were the fish, all right—each one carefully wedged, head down, in a slender iced-tea glass! After the pets, still alive, were back in their tank and the excitement had died down, the girl explained, "You see, mam, I was afeared they would get away. I didn't think they'd mind for jest a minute."

Goldfish, and other aquarium fishes, are touchy, however, about certain types of treatment, and show their displeasure by promptly dying. They do not demand too much care—in fact, so little is the trouble of keeping them compared to the satisfaction they give that they are almost ideal pets. They do not leave mud tracks on the floors or lead to hard words with the neighbors. They never ask for a walk at bedtime or insist on putting their paws on the family roast. Yet they are friendly in a way that satisfies that craving for personal recognition so deep a part of all of us, and require just enough intelligent handling to appeal to those who like mental stimulus freed from boring routine with their hobbies. In many ways the brilliance they add to a living room is but a sidelight of the fun they offer.

If the fish should ever issue a Bill of Rights, the first plank would be, "We demand a tank, and not a bowl!" Globes are good to look at, but not to live in. The fish need a rectangular shallow aquarium so they will not be exposed to the sudden heat of focussed sunlight, and even more to give them all the air they need. This supply is dependent on the surface area of the water, which must be large in proportion to the

volume. The ideal tank has a slate bottom with plate glass sides supported in a metal or concrete frame. The best of glass permits watching the little swimmers showing off their tricks against the light. A good small aquarium about eighteen inches long and a foot deep and wide will hold about ten gallons of water, and give comfortable accommodation to eight or ten pairs of the smaller tropical fishes. If one is limited in space, an all-glass tank holding about two gallons will serve.

Cleanliness is as imperative to fish life as it is to human welfare, and the gay bits of color that decorate the home ask for a spotless tank and immaculate sand. The first requirement may be met by washing the aquarium with whiting and rinsing thoroughly. The sand—or the mixture of sand and gravel—should be cleaned until it can be shaken with water without the least trace of cloudiness appearing in the liquid after it

has settled. One efficacious method is to fill a preserve jar with one-third sand and two-thirds water, then shake hard, and pour off the cloudy water quickly. Perhaps a dozen washings will be made before the desired cleanliness is obtained, but the time is repaid in healthy plants and active fish.

A third tenet the fish would insist upon would be plenty of plants. These supply part of the necessary air and automatically sweeten the aquarium. There is never any odor from the pet's home if green things are growing in profusion. The plants capture the carbon dioxide the fish exhale and give off oxygen they can breathe, and the way to establish the proper equilibrium is to have plenty of them. Fish can stand too many plants but if they are too few the fish will express their disapproval by an early decline.

A few of the floating plants, just because they are so pretty, should be in every aquarium. The fernlike *Azolla*

No Nature hobby strikes deeper or arouses greater enthusiasm than the increasingly popular sport of raising fishes for pets. A large volume of inquiry on this subject has prompted this delightful and complete article on the essentials of aquarium keeping, which we present with the hope that it will make new enthusiasts as well as give older ones the information they desire



or the graceful *Salvinia* with its feathery roots and its broad hairy green leaves that are so purple and smooth on their under sides are excellent. Duckweed is a poor choice because it multiplies too fast and kills off more desirable plants.

These delightful floaters have their place in the well-appointed aquarium, but they do not do the important work of keeping the tank fresh and sweet. The air-makers are the attached plants, the ones that are moored to the sand on the bottom. And of these there should be a goodly number. *Sagittaria* and *Ludwigia* are attached plants that look well and grow well. Another is *Anacharis canadensis*, which requires an occasional pruning and replanting of the long growing tops. *Valisneria spiralis*, or eel-grass, with its long ribbons of leaves that grow straight up from the bottom and float a little on top of the water, is a favorite. The bladderwort, *Utricularia*, is efficient as an oxygen-producer, but only the smaller species are useful because the plant is carnivorous, and with the larger species there is danger that very young fish may be caught and killed in the bladders of the plant.

Cubomba is ornamental, and goldfish like to eat it; but unless you have many plants of other kinds it is a mistake, because it does not lend much assistance in renewing the air of the aquarium. The fish will offer no thanks to one so careless as to depend on *Cubomba* to keep them in air. One experienced fish raiser whose fishes enjoy the best of health recommends that a beginner stock his first aquarium with *Valisneria* or small *Sagittaria* to the extent of about a dozen plants to each square foot of bottom, and then add a few bunches of *Anacharis*.

The plants need not be distributed evenly. It is better to group them in one corner of the aquarium so they will grow up and out and leave some clear space at the bottom. An easy way is to poke the ends of the plants into the sand and anchor them with a piece of lead; lead is practically insoluble and will not hurt the fishes as some metals might. Little receptacles may be made for them and have the advantage of being removable. A devoted fish grower of my acquaintance keeps his plants in quaint rustic pots of odd shapes. He makes these out of very small flower pots, which he disguises by covering them completely with a mixture of one-third cement and two-thirds clean white sand. He molds this mixture around

the pots in picturesque shapes and then leaves them in a damp place; after two days he sprinkles them with dry white sand and fills them half full of aquarium sand for the plants. These attractive holders do not hurt the fishes because he is always careful to soak them thoroughly before he puts them in the tank.

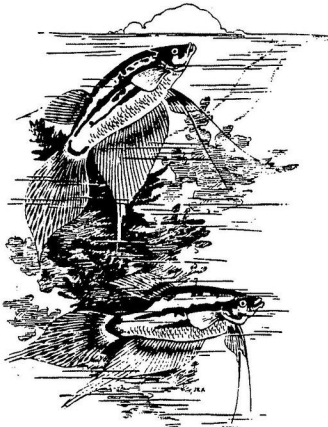
With clean sand, rain water and well-chosen plants, your aquarium is ready for its tenants. It goes without saying that these should not be placed in the tank as soon as they arrive at the house because fishes like being poured from warm water into cold or from cold into warm just about as much as humans would. A simple way of allowing them to adjust themselves is to leave the pail or pitcher in which they came from their native brook or pond beside the aquarium for about twenty-four hours. During that time the water in both pail and tank will be slowly reaching room temperature, and the fishes, when gently poured into their new home, will be comfortable at once.

What kind of fishes to have—goldfish or guppy, swordtail or sailfin? Goldfish are the first considered, because they have been kept in home aquaria longer than any other kind. Today they have plenty of competition amid the trop-

ical fishes, which range from the expensive to the cheap and from the robust to the delicate.

Consider the guppy, *Lebistes reticulatus*. He is a fish of good constitution, vivacious movement and delightful appearance. Being smaller than goldfish, about twenty of his lively kind can be kept in a ten-gallon tank which would cramp four goldfish of ordinary size. The female is almost two inches long, and she is olive drab in color, but the males, hardly more than half her length, are sparkling little bits of color iridescent with lavenders and purples. They usually have a black spot in front of the tail and another behind the head, and often the dorsal fin and the tail are yellow or edged with yellow, and dotted with black; but no two are alike.

The guppy is one of the live-bearing fishes, whose young are born as tiny fishes, not as eggs. This type is a safer choice for the beginner than the oviparous variety. The young coming from eggs must be fed at first on live food—on *Infusoria* and on the tiny crustacea called *Daphnia* and the little white worms named *Enchytraeidæ*. Naturally this makes the diet as complicated in



"THEY ARE IDEAL PETS. THEY DO NOT LEAVE MUD ON THE FLOOR OR ASK FOR WALKS AT BEDTIME"



administration as in orthography. The young of the live-bearing fishes, on the other hand, are quite contented with the prepared fish food which can be bought so easily and cheaply at any aquarium or pet store.

The swordtail, *Xiphophorus helleri*, is another good live-bearing fish. He is a cousin to the guppy, but he grows to be a trifle larger. A gaudy-colored creature, striped in red or green, with a bright red line down the length of him, he adds plenty of color. When the male is mature his tail grows to be almost as long as his body, and is narrow and sharp like a sword. It is a bright-colored weapon, usually edged with yellow and sometimes striped with red.

The sailfin, *Mollienia latipinna*, is distinguished by an odd-shaped fin, which in the male is fashioned a little like a sail. When he is greatly excited that dorsal fin rises up and spreads itself like a crest. If you have ever been acquainted with one of those small wooden dolls whose stiff black bobs shoot to the horizontal, then to the perpendicular, when a spring is pressed in the doll's back, you will find its counterpart in a sailfin trying to register emotion.

The black sailfin is an expensive fish, and rather fragile. A pair of night-colored *Mollienia latipinna* cost about a dollar and a half or more, depending on their size and on the intensity of the black. They are real beauties, however, and their velvety jet coat marks them at once as among the best born of findom. These are about two and a half inches long, and viviparous, like the guppy, the swordtail and all the moonfishes. They are a peaceable lot, too, and quite willing to share their aquarium home with other fish families.

The top minnow, *Gambusia affinis*, is another comely fish whose young do not have to be hatched from eggs. He is black with white spots. Unfortunately he is of bad disposition and must have a whole tank for himself.

If one is in an adventuresome mood, and desires to try egg-laying fishes, there is none more interesting to observe than the Paradise fish. The father in this family is the most diligent parent. As the mother lays the eggs he picks them up in his mouth and deposits them with greatest care in the nursery that he has already provided for them in one corner of the aquarium—a nursery that consists of tiny bubbles of air that he has blown all by himself. After making the collection, he takes up his

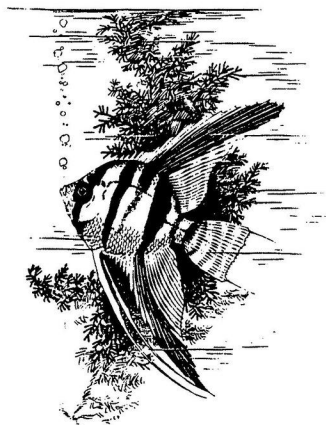
position as chief sentry, and nobody, not even the mother, is allowed to come anywhere near those precious eggs. If any fish swims nearer than he thinks is respectful, he warns it away by a well-placed blow of his tail. This affectionate parental solicitude, however, is not of lifelong duration. As an anti-climax to all his tender care the father is quite likely to turn on his offspring the minute they are out of their eggs and gobble them down with gusto. The Paradise fish is a quarrelsome creature, too,

and an impossible neighbor. He will worry other kinds of fish placed in a tank with him, and so vigorously drive them away from their food that they will die of starvation.

Taking good care of fishes is chiefly a matter of feeding them wisely and not too often, and making sure that their dining-room is properly cleaned up after each meal. It is not, as was once wrongly believed, a matter of keeping the water changed. If all is going well the water need not be changed as often as once a year. If something is not right, an odor gives fair warning, and a new start must be made.

If the water need be altered, the cause of the trouble must be first removed. Perhaps one of the original fishes has died, or some of the ones born in the tank have ceased to live. Perhaps the fishes have not eaten all their food and the uneaten fragments are still in the tank, polluting the water. Perhaps it is simply a matter of plants—too much *Cambusia* and not enough of wholesome *Valisneria*. Whatever is the trouble, a remedy must be found before the new water is put in.

A siphon offers the easiest way to empty the tank. A piece of rubber tubing more than twice as long as the depth of the tank and about a quarter of an inch in diameter will serve. A method of starting the siphon working that improves on the usual unhealthy sucking is to place the entire tube under water for a long enough period to allow it to fill completely. Then, with both ends pinched to prevent leakage, the tube is transferred to the aquarium, one end quickly inserted in the water and the other allowed to hang at a lower level directly over the receiving receptacle. The ends are then released and the flow will be immediate and steady until the tank is emptied. If one of the fish swims too near and seems in danger of being sucked up, the flow can be stopped by pinching the lower end of the tube while he is removed.



"CONSTANT TEMPERATURE, VARIETY OF FOOD, CLEANLINESS AFTER MEALS—IT ISN'T MUCH FOR A FISH TO ASK"



This siphon method not only removes the water quickly and without splattering the furniture, but in addition it cleans the fishes' home by suction, just as a vacuum cleaner cleans a rug.

When about two-thirds of the water in the tank is siphoned off, catch the fishes and put them in a bowl or jar of clean water of room temperature. Then draw off the rest of the tank water and put in about a gallon of fresh water. After this has stood in the aquarium an hour or two, siphon it off and fill the aquarium with clean water, leaving it to come to room temperature before returning the pets.

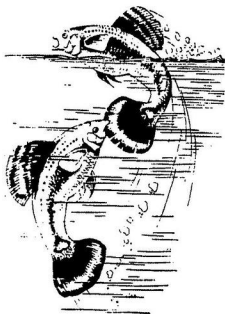
The fishes should be fed only once a day at some regular time, and always in the same part of the tank. A feeding ring, a hollow glass ring which floats on top of the water, is a great help. At feeding time the food is placed on the surface of the water within the ring, and the fish soon learn where to find it promptly. Give them about ten minutes to eat their meal and then take out all that is left.

Some of the feeding rings have a little dish suspended underneath. The dish is slightly larger than the diameter of the ring, so that it catches all the uneaten food as it becomes waterlogged and sinks, and it is then a simple matter to take out the ring and dish and clean it of all food. Without one of these little dishes the uneaten food sinks to the bottom of the aquarium under the feeding spot; but it can be removed by a dip tube.

A dip tube is simply a hollow glass tube four or five inches longer than the depth of the tank. It should be about a quarter of an inch in diameter, with rounded ends. The operation consists of sticking the dip tube vertically in the water, and holding it so that the bottom end completely encloses the crumb that is to be removed. The top end of the tube is then tightly closed with a finger, and up comes the crumb with the water when the tube is lifted, thanks to the vacuum.

Variety in diet is the spice that makes fish lively. Just as human beings do not expand to their best possibilities on a constant diet of bread and meat and potatoes, so fishes fail to thrive on weeks and months of rice wafer feeding. One may buy at small cost a kind of prepared fish food that does have a fairly good variety in itself; it is made of ground shrimp, meal and dried *Daphnia*. For the tropical fishes one can vary this prepared food by giving occasionally some chopped earthworms, some finely minced beef heart, or some raw beef or lamb cut very fine with scissors.

Fly larvae such as are found in mushrooms make a



"THE BRILLIANCE THEY ADD IS BUT A SIDELIGHT TO THE FUN THEY OFFER"

toothsome tidbit. Or you might delight your fishes with some Enchytraeids dug out of sand or mud, or with red gnat larvae to be found in surface water polluted by organic substances. Such food usually exists in quantities in the water from a laundry, tannery or packing plant. Treats of cheese, baked beans, clams, chicken liver, or vegetables, or any fish that is not oily,—all very finely minced, of course,—are quickly gobbled. A few grains of plain boiled rice will look very good to the goldfish. He likes to eat *Cabomba*, too; give him all the *Cabomba* he wants and meanwhile keep the tank well stocked with the other attached plants, the ones which do the work of providing oxygen. The goldfish is of the same family as the carp, and in his native haunts, he eats much vegetable matter as well as many in-

sects and worms and his life may be made gay easily.

Don't make the mistake of offering any of the aquatic insects, or you may find the tables turned and the insects calmly proceeding to eat the fishes. It is wise to examine all the water plants before putting them in the aquarium, lest some of these aquatic insects intrude themselves by the stowaway route. Almost anything else in the food line, animal or vegetable, will be welcome, but don't give the variety at one meal. Give one kind of food one day and another kind the next.

There is one other point on fish care which may or may not have to be considered, depending on the degree of fluctuation in temperature in the room where the aquarium is kept. If there is one thing a fish dislikes above all else it is a sharp change in temperature. Some fishes can survive the hot summers of the South, and some have been known to come safely through a night in which room temperature dropped almost to freezing, but as a safe rule the water in the aquarium ought never to go below fifty degrees or much above seventy-five degrees. The water may be warmed with an expensive tank-heating apparatus sold for this special purpose, or a lighted electric light bulb will do, if held in the water until the temperature reaches seventy degrees.

Constant temperature, variety of food, and tidiness after the daily meal— it doesn't sound arduous, does it? It isn't. Like ever so many other things it is simple as can be when small matters are attended to regularly; only when these trifles are neglected do they exact penalties in the way of extra work. Yet the returns are large; you will have no doubts about that when once your gracefully moving little rainbow-tinted charges have become your friends. Their iridescent forms, gliding through the tank against the sunlight, will be ample reward for giving them the few details of care that their life demands.



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MAGAZINE HOLDERS: other ideas

Neil Frank

I was intrigued by Thomas Tilles' idea about using old TFH binders (5 1/2" x 8") for holding many small format magazines (ref. CAL #13, 5/86). I called TFH to inquire, but found out that these binders are no longer available. I would like to propose a few alternatives for keeping small format magazines.

First is to make a magazine sleeve. Using corrugated fiber board from any shipping box, you can make a neat self-contained magazine holder. The following diagram presents the cutout dimensions for a 9 x 5.75 x 2.75 sleeve which will produce a self supporting holder for 12 issues of small format TFH or up to 5 years of Buntbarsche Bulletin. Scaled versions can accommodate different sizes or numbers of issues.

Corrugated cardboard is a sandwich of "wavy" paper between 2 flat sheets of paper. The trick to working with this material is to remove all but the flat sheet of paper on one side in selected areas. First, this makes the board thinner in places where you need to make folds. Second, this creates pieces of paper which can be used to overlap folded material, thereby hiding seams and adding additional strength. In Figure B., areas which have corrugated layers removed are indicated by shading; it should be obvious where folding and glueing is necessary. For glue, I used white (e.g. Elmer's) paper cement. Rest assured that making the box is easier than reading the description and was certainly easier than writing it. I would certainly suggest using photocopies of Tilles' ID labels to be placed on the spine of the holder, to complete the job.

The second idea is to store your mazazines in boxes which can accomodate 4 to 6 years of issues. A box which is almost perfect for small format mazazines is the box sold to hold 45 rpm records. I found them sold in bookstores which sell used comic books and records, which are probably stores most CAL members are already familiar. The 45 box measures 8 1/2 high by 7 3/4 wide by 9" long. A larger version is 15" long. They cost \$3-4. and hold 45 - 75 TFH style mazazines. They are sturdy, have lids and cutouts at the ends for holding. The box is less desirable than binders or magazine sleeves, but is better than stuffing the mazazines on a bookshelf.

The last idea is to find used binders. Recently, while checking out the "25 cent selection" of books at a shop, I discovered a binder holding 10 pamphlets of business course booklets. The binder was metal rod style and now holds 10 issues of BB, with a Tilles label on its spine.



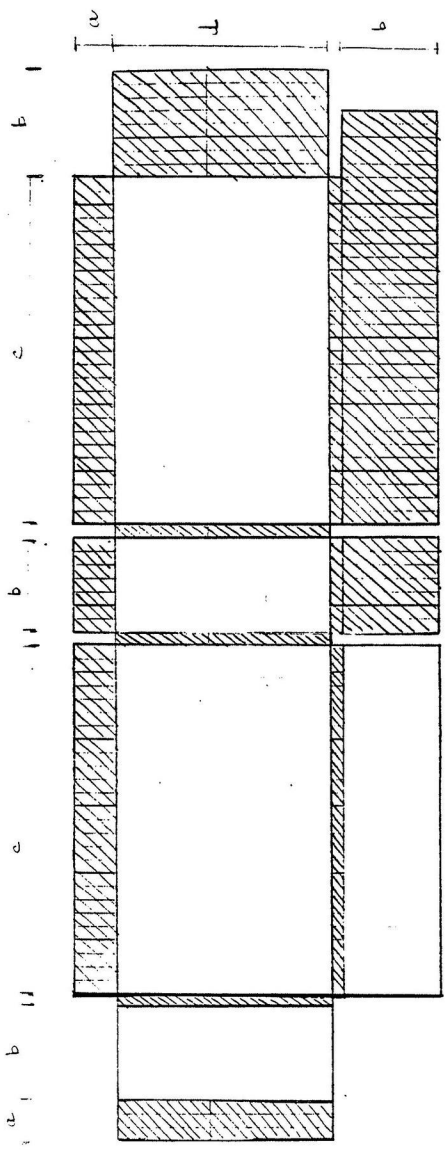


Diagram for magnetic sleeve (Neil Frank, 1986)

- a = 1"
- b = 2.75"
- c = 8.75"
- d = 5.5"



BOOK REVIEW: THE CICHLID AQUARIUM, by Dr. Paul V. Loiselle. 1985. 6X8 1/2"; 297 pages; hardcover. Tetra-Press.

by Dr. Keith E. Taylor

An easy way of amassing a collection of aquarium literature is to purchase new books and magazines as they are published. This way you can acquire mint condition materials at what is hoped to be a fraction of the collecting price many years hence. One drawback to this is that you may become an antique long before your collection does! However a new book is out this year that will be a valuable addition to your collection right from the start, it's Paul Loiselle's: THE CICHLID AQUARIUM.

This book provides what we've come to expect from Tetra-Press, high gloss paper, color photos throughout, but it's Loiselle's treatment of the Family Cichlidae that sets it apart from other books. The opening pages introduces the reader to cichlid evolution and dispersion, a subject usually couched in scientific jargon. Instead, Loiselle distills this into a readable easy to understand style that sets the stage for cichlid behavior. Subsequent chapters go on to dispell common misconceptions about predation, aggression and manipulation. Loiselle shows us that any cichlid can be antagonistic to its environment if its specific needs are not met. The same fish that may be taught to toss ping pong balls out of the tank could just as likely "kill" your thermostatic heater!

Loiselle apologizes for his scanty treatment on aquarium setup and maintenance. This couldn't be further from the truth! THE CICHLID AQUARIUM is a book for the advanced aquarist. It dispenses with all those annoyingly repetitious discussions on water changes and filter floss. His treatment of chloramine intoxication, which includes two practical methods for detoxification, should be required reading for any hobbyist. And yet this is only the first third of the book, more than half is devoted to a catalogue of Old and New World Cichlids. Here Loiselle departs from the traditional long list of "alphabetized" fish found in so many species books. Instead he's selected the more desirable and available aquarium cichlids to review, tying together behavior, breeding techniques and management.

Of special interest to collectors of aquarium literature is Loiselle's rich abundance of bibliographical notes, citing well known authors as: Bloch, Boulenger and Bleeker just to name a few. A description on how to use the Biological Abstracts in the section on "Learning More About Cichlids" is valuable to anyone seeking out more information on their favorite fish. And to top this all off Loiselle leaves the reader with a forty-eight source bibliography on where to hunt down even more information on cichlids.

All this is not to say the book is perfect, there is a reversed picture of the world map on page twenty-three, which will most likely be corrected in later editions. Nevertheless I'm quite sure the book will survive this one shortcoming! If THE CICHLID AQUARIUM is not at your local dealer, it is available through Lewis Books for \$17.50 by mail. It's also available to members of the American Cichlid Association at a slightly lower price, which is a good incentive for joining this terrific society. So even if cichlids are not your favorite aquarium fish (shame on you!), this book has much to offer even the most discriminating of fish lovers. I would seriously consider THE CICHLID AQUARIUM for your collection.



The Paul Harvey method of finding magazines and books.

I. FELLOW CLUB MEMBERS

I have infrequently traded with fellow club members for a single book or magazine. Remember club members casually look for aquarium literature like you. So, I sell my damaged/incomplete issues to them at the monthly club meetings or via the monthly club auctions. I feel having lots of duplicate issues on hand is a handicap in terms of storage space and time unless you regularly sell or swap them. An attractive feature with respect to this club activity has been the development of three club members into serious collectors of TFH/FAMA.

II. PAST CLUB MEMBERS

I always call on past club members to purchase all books and magazines. It is my opinion that duplicates for trade are a convenient way to avoid paying cash. I buy most issues of magazines at 35 cents each and \$3.00 per book. I believe you cannot afford to pass up material which will help you someday. In 1979, I traded 36 magazines worth \$12.60 to me for two issues that completed my sets of Aquarium Hobbyist and Tropical Fish Hobbyist in one night. I have never been offered those two issues since that night.

Also, always ask past club members who liked to read that they knew in the club. The answer has twice provided me with collections.

Finally, ask past club members the name of the oldest club members known to them. The answer to this question has led to three people each who sold me books for my collection.

III. USED BOOK STORES

Both magazines and books are found at a used book store provided the owner is aware of what you want to buy, i.e., books on fish, tropical fish, aquariums, natural history. Otherwise, the owner will not buy them and so you will never find them in the store. A word to the wise is buy something from the used book store, westerns or mysteries, so the owner knows you support their business. Also, visit with him regularly to let him know you are seriously collecting rather than an infrequent visitor.

IV. FELLOW COLLECTORS

Recently, I traded 250 duplicates of mine for 250 duplicates of another collector. I turned around and sold 50 "new duplicates" for \$180 and traded 20 more for 12 issues which I needed for my own collection.

I also trade/buy duplicates from fellow collectors and sell them at my cost. This is done to whet the demand of people for material for me which I then sell/trade at a profit.

In closing, tell everyone about your collection. Four years ago, I walked into a meeting of the San Francisco Aquarium Society. A member came up to me and handed me an envelope since he knew I was a serious collector of aquarium literature. The envelope contained the first and last issues of the "Aquarium" 1912-1914 series. Three months ago, I received a telephone call from a long time aquarist and friend. He verified that I still collected aquarium magazines and offered the first twenty volumes of the Aquarium including six bound by Innes to me. In closing, tell everyone about your collection and it will pay off!



Notes from Jare Sausamen

an interesting quote from a recent letter from Poland...

Now, a few words about Polish Union of Aquarists. The first Polish Aquaristic Organization named "Agrion" originated in August, 1909. Members of this organization took up not only the culture of fishes and aquatic plants, but also the preservation of nature. The "Agrion" association existed also in the interwar period. After the Second World War" (in 1952) the section "Skalar" arose. In February 1954 it turned into "Polish Union of Aquarists". This union began to issue an Akwarium magazine in 1959. P.U.A. is the only aquaristic organization in Poland. There are a few departments of this union in different towns of Poland.

You asked me which fishes were the most popular in Poland. Goldfishes are bred in Poland very rarely and we have no valuable varieties of this fish. In our department are a few zealous breeders of fishes from the Characidae family. Many people culture viviparous fishes, but the most popular in Poland are fishes from the Cichlidae family. I especially am interested just in this family. I culture and reproduce some fishes: Aequidens multispinose, Pterophyllum scalare, Melanochromis auratus, Pseudotropheus trewavasae, Haplochromis burtoni, and Julidochromis regani. I also observe fishes occurring in Polish lakes and rivers adapted to aquarium conditions, among others, Perca fluviatilis, Anguilla anguilla, Cyprinus carpio, Esox lucius, Tinca tinca.

Thank you for the information on the charts.

Does anybody else have any thing?

....Concerning charts - Have several comments. Aquarist & Pondkeeper Vol 3 has 8 issues - (I have them that's why I say it?) Vol 5 Jun/Aug combined, Vol 7 June/ Aug combined issue. Vol 20 no 12 does not exist it is marked Vol 21, no 1 Mar/Apr 1956 so blacked out square should be in V20 no 12 spot. Vol 24 triple issue was due to printers' strike in England. A note about Aquarist's Notebook - I own 2 different issues marked Vol 2, no 9 - perhaps one is really no 10 but am not sure. Also the Aquarist Annual that I own is dated 1969 with 51 pages - on chart it appears to have been published after Vol. 9.... Also All Cichlids chart looks as if Jan thru Apr 1980 was no 1 when in fact it began with May - guess those squares should be blacked out. Aquarier Terrarien - A Yearbook was published after vols 1,2,3 in addition to the 6 issues - also there were NO issues printed in 1953 - it began in 1954. Also Vol 10 of 6 issues, covers were numbered 2,3,6,8,10,12 but inside on legend they were numbered 1 thru 6; Also in Vol 11 of 6 issues covers were numbered nos 1,3, 5,7,9,11 with insides no 1 thru 6 - doesn't make a lot of sense but.... All other charts I agree with so far as my records go...



Antiquarian Bookman

Describing Condition

A thriving antiquarian book trade is largely dependent on the effectiveness of catalogue and mail-order bookselling. Transactions by mail are possible as long as buyer and seller recognize the importance of accuracy in describing the condition of the books offered for sale.

Terms used to describe condition of books are as varied and numerous as the creativity and imagination of bookmen can produce. When confusion reigns over descriptions by advertisers or quoters, dissatisfaction is the inevitable result.

In an effort to promote agreement between buyer and seller in the descriptions used for the condition of books, **AB** first proposed in 1949 a set of terms that could serve as a standard in catalogue and mail-order transactions.

The list was published again in the 1975 edition of **ABC of the Book Trade** by Sol. M. Malkin (the 1975 **AB Yearbook**, Part Two, \$10 ppd., as long as supply lasts, from **AB**, P.O. Box **AB**, Clifton, N.J. 07015). A revised list of terms used in describing books is now published here in each weekly issue of **AB** to serve as a suggested guide and reference for bookmen:

1. **As New** is to be used only when the book is in the same immaculate condition in which it was published. There can be no defects, no missing pages, no library stamps, etc., and the dust jacket (if it was issued with one) must be perfect without any tears. (The term **As New** is preferred over an alternative term **Mint** to describe a copy that is perfect in every respect, including jacket.)

2. **Fine** approaches the condition of **As New**, but without being crisp. For the use of the term **Fine** there must also be no defects, etc., and if the jacket has a small tear, or other defect, or looks worn, those should be noted.

3. **Very Good** can describe a used book that does show some small signs of wear — but no tears — on binding, paper or dust jacket. There must be no defects.

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6. **Poor** describes a book that is sufficiently worn that its only merit is as a **Reading Copy** because it does have the complete text which must be legible. Any missing maps or plates should still be noted. This copy may be soiled, scuffed, stained or spotted and may have loose joints, hinges, pages, etc.

7. **Ex-library** copies must always be designated as such *no matter what the condition of the book*.

8. **Book Club** editions must always be noted as such *no matter what the condition of the book*.

9. **Binding Copy** describes a book in which the pages or leaves are perfect, but the binding is very bad, loose, off or non-existent.

In all cases, the lack of a dust jacket should be noted if the book was issued with one.

These terms may be arbitrary, but whatever terms are employed, they may be useless or misleading *unless both buyer and seller both agree on what they mean in actually describing the book*.

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Always bear in mind that a bookseller's reputation and credibility are his most valuable assets, and accurate description preserves that credibility.



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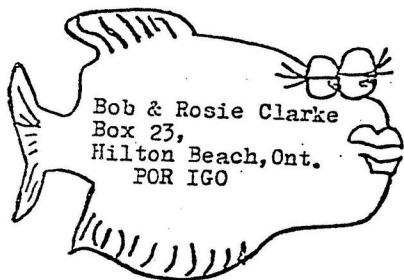
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Collier, J.H. and J.Hooper, 1866. The American Parlor Aquarium

Damon, W.E., 1879. Ocean Wonders

Hibbert, S.H., 1856, The Book of the Freshwater Aquarium

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