

Collectors of Aquarium Literature

Number 16
February 1987

Cover Number Four

THE FISH CULTURIST

ISSUED BY



Vol. 10

NOVEMBER, 1930

No. 3

THE FISH CULTURIST
Pennsylvania Fish Culturists' Association

A HISTORY AND INTRODUCTION

At the third meeting of the Pennsylvania Fish Culturists' Association on Jan. 10, 1921, a resolution was passed by those present to publish an official bulletin of the society. In late Feb., 1921, Volume 1, number 1, was published. This $6\frac{1}{2}$ X $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches publication of eight pages was called The Fish Culturist, the name it still carries today. The appearance and style of this bulletin is almost identical to the Aquarium Notes and News published by the Aquarium Society of Phila. from Jan. 1914 until Jun. 1918.

It should also be noted that at the second meeting of the new society, Dec. 13, 1920, the Revised Chart of Gold Fish Points for the Guidance and Regulation of Judges was adopted and subsequently printed by the society and made available to the members for 10¢ each at the Feb. 1921 meeting. This seven page guide with separate grey cover was apparently the first publication of the P.F.C.A. and was prepared by Harry Mackrell, George B. Smith, George E. Wilt, and J. Louis Troemner. The three other Philadelphia fish clubs in existence at that time also adopted this standard, namely: Aquarium Society of Philadelphia, Philadelphia Gold Fish Fanciers' Society, and Kennsington Gold Fish Society.

The second issue (Vol. 1, no. 2, Mar. 1921) was extended to twelve pages to include the Constitution and By-laws which had been adopted originally at the first meeting of Nov. 8, 1920, but had been revised and finally adopted officially on Feb. 14, 1921. These regulations remained in force until 1931, when they were once more revised and adopted on Mar. 5, 1931. This revision was published as a separate booklet ($6\frac{1}{2}$ " X $3\frac{1}{2}$ ") sometime in that year.

Who edited the early issues of The Fish Culturist is not known for certain, however, Vol. 1, no. 1, lists a Publication Committee consisting of Robert L. Harding (Secretary-treasurer); J. Louis Troemner (Chairman & President); and George W. Wilt (Member of the Board of Directors). Perhaps these initial issues were a combined effort. No specific editor was identified within the pages of The Fish Culturist until Sep. 1934, (Vol. 14, no. 1) when J. Louis Troemner was designated as the Editor and assisted by six Associate Editors. Since Mr. Troemner penned numerous requests for articles from the members and copy from the advertisers within the first thirteen volumes, it is assumed that Mr. Troemner was the un-official Editor during these years.

Two other items should be mentioned. The original Volume One was numbered 1 through 15 (Feb. 1921, through Jun. 1922), however, this was corrected with the Sep. 1922, issue numbered Volume 2, no. 4, thus making Volume 1, nos. 13, 14, & 15, actually nos. 1, 2, & 3 of Volume 2. This Sep. 1922, issue was increased in size to 6" X 9" but still remained at eight pages in length. This 6X9 size remained the standard as it is today with two other exceptions: Volumes 14 & 15, (Sep. 34 through Jun. 36) were printed 10" X 7", 24 pages; and Volume 16, (Sep. 36 through Jun. 37) were printed 9" X 12", 8 pages. With the beginning of Volume 17 to the present returning to the standard 6X9



The Fish Culturist - HISTORY AND INTRODUCTION

size with many variations in the number of pages.

Another significant change took place with the Apr. 1922 issue, (Vol. 1, no. 13 or Vol. 2, no. 1) when, after much discussion by the officers and membership, it was decided to open the pages of The Fish Culturist to advertisers. Many of the charter members were commercial dealers and could then financially be of assistance to this expensive project. Over the past 64 years some 312 firms and individuals have placed advertisements in the pages of The Fish Culturist. Some of the most loyal are noted here: Aquarium Stock Company (52 years); Barretts (47 years); Crescent Fish Farm (39 years); E. C. Vahle Company (36 years); and Everglades (28 years).

It should also be noted that Volume 2 consisted of thirteen issues, (Apr. 22 through Jun. 23), so that with the beginning of Volume 3 a regular pattern of ten issues a volume could be maintained, (Sep. through Jun.).

The printing firm responsible for the production of these early issues can not be ascertained by this writer until Volume 9, no. 7, (Apr. 1930), when Jeffers and Manz, 521-527 Vine Street, Phila., Pa., was noted. William T. Innes of Innes & Sons, 113 N. 12th Street, Phila., Pa. was an active member and advertiser and may have helped in this regard. Also an advertiser, Laura S. Greene (Printer), 806 Race Street, Phila., Pa., placed advertisements from Feb. 26 through Dec. 27, and may have been the printer for those issues. Various other printing companies that were contracted through the years are as follows: Jefferies & Manz (Apr. 30-Jun. 32); Smith-Edwards Co. (Sep. 32-May 47); National Stationers (Jun. 47-Jun. 52); Bell Printers (Sep. 52-Feb. 53); Reed Printers (Mar. 53-Jun. 58); Message Printing Co. (Sep. 58-Jun. 72); Priestly Printers (Sep. 72); Rainbow Printers (Oct. 72-Jun. 73); Rapid Rollers (Sep. 73- to date).

Various covers and mastheads have been utilized through the years. Some of these are reproduced later in this history; Cover Number One: began with Volume 1, number 1, (Feb. 1921) through Volume 2, number 3, (Jun. 1922).

Cover Number Two: began Volume 2, number 4, (Sep. 1922) through Volume 8, number 10, (Jun. 1929).

Cover Number Three: began Volume 9, number 1, (Sep. 1929) through Volume 9, number 10, (Jun. 1930). Cover designed by D. Y. Williams, a member.

Cover Number Four: began Volume 10, number 1, (Sep. 1930) through Volume 13, number 6, (Feb. 1934). Illustration on cover is signed "T" and was probably a painting created by J. Louis Troemner well known for his artistic abilities. This picture was used to create a medal for the society and depicts an Angel Fish and a Gold Fish. It was the original purpose of the society to bring together the culturists of both the Goldfish and the "Exotic" tropical and native fish keepers.

Cover Number Five: began Volume 13, number 7, (Mar. 1934) through Volume 13, number 10, (Jun. 1934). Cover designed by Ralph George Ebeling and was also made into a poster which was sent to fish dealers across the country along with sample copies and membership blanks.



The Fish Culturist - HISTORY AND INTRODUCTION

This was an all out effort to increase the membership nationwide. A picture of the clubs official medal appears on the upper left corner, This cover was also used on the 30th Anniversary issue, Volume 30, number 3, (Nov. 1950).

Cover Number Six: began Volume 14, number 1, (Sep. 1934) through Volume 15, number 10, (Jun. 1936). Photograph of Scalare was taken by member, William Nagel, 4911 Morris Street, Phila., Pa. A special 9" X 11" print for framing was distributed at the Sept. 1934, meeting. This cover was also used on the issues of Volume 17, (Sep. through Jun. 1937-38).

Masthead One: began Volume 16, number 1, (Sep. 1936) through Volume 16, number 10, (Jun. 1937). These issues were the only ones printed in a 9 X 12 size.

Masthead Two: began Volume 18, number 1, (Sep. 1938) through Volume 26, number 10, (Jun. 1947).

Masthead Three: began Volume 27, number 1, (Sep. 1947) through Volume 52, number 1, (Sep. 1972).

Masthead Four: began Volume 52, number 2, (Oct. 1972) and is the present masthead.

Sizes of The Fish Culturist:

6½" X 3½" Vol. 1, no. 1 to Vol. 2, no. 3 (Feb. 1921-Jun. 1922), 8-16 pgs.
6" X 9" Vol. 2, no. 4 to Vol. 13, no. 10 (Sep. 1922-Jun. 1934) 8-28 pgs.
10" X 7" Vol. 14, no. 1 to Vol. 15, no. 10 (Sep. 1934-Jun. 1936), 24 pgs.
9" X 12" Vol. 16, no. 1 to Vol. 16, no. 10 (Sep. 1936-Jun. 1937), 8 pgs.
6" X 9" Vol. 17, no. 1 to date, (Sep. 1937-Jun. 1965), 16-8 pgs.

The following index of the 645 issues published to date has been prepared in four parts: Titles; Authors; Club Business; and Advertisers. It is my sincere wish that this index will make these issues much more available and useful to both the researcher and the hobbyist.

Jare A. Sausaman
August, 1965.

Pennsylvania Fish Culturist Index

by Jare Sausaman

I recently received this index in the mail from Jare Sausaman. It reflects the scholarly approach of the author in that it is both accurate and comprehensive. Especially appealing to me was a listing of the special publications and ephemeral items. Most, but not all, were a pleasant surprise to me as I have five of them in my collection. Jare takes several paragraphs to correctly review the actual numbering of the issues in volume one and volume two of The Fish Culturist. In addition, a chart is provided that shows all of the issues in the first sixty-four volumes. The author describes the various covers and mastheads of The Fish Culturist and provides illustrations of them. Finally, a lot of effort was placed in an index to the six hundred and forty-five issues of the magazine in four parts-Titles, Authors, Club Business, and Advertisers. Congratulations to Jare Sausaman for publishing a quality work about the longest continuous club publication in the aquarium hobby, The Pennsylvania Fish Culturist.



SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS AND EPHEMERA

- 1920 Standard Chart of Points of Goldfish: for the guidance and regulation of judges, 8 pages with grey cover, 6 line drawings.
- 1930 First Exhibition Program, Academy of Natural Sciences, October 10, 11, 12, 1930.
- 1931 Rvised Constitution & By-laws, adopted March 5, 1931, 6½X3¼.
- 1931 Second Exhibition Program, Academy of Natural Sciences, September 18, 19, 20, 1931, text by William T. Innes.
- 1932 Third Exhibition Program, Academy of Natural Sciences, September 30 - October 2, 1932, text and sketches by Ralph George Ebeling.
- 1933 Fourth Exhibition Program, Academy of Natural Sciences, October 13, 14, 15, 1933. text by Dr. James H. McKee, cuts provided by Aquatic Life.
- 1934 Photograph of Scalare by William Nagel, distributed at the meeting, September, 1934, 9½" X 11".
- 1934 Fifth Exhibition Program, Academy of Natural Sciences, October, 12, 13, 14, 15, 1934, text by Howard R. Detweiler.
- 1935 Sixth Exhibition Program, Academy of Natural Sciences, October 11, 12, 13, 14, 1935, prepared by William T. Innes.
- 1936 Seventh Exhibition Program, Academy of Natural Sciences, October 23, 24, 25, 26, 1936,
- 1948 Pamphlet about P.F.C.A., World's Hobby Exposition, Convention Hall, Philadelphia, November 15-20, 1948.
- 1966 100 Badges made by Phila. Badge Co.



THE FISH CULTURIST
 Pennsylvania Fish Culturists' Association

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1978-79	58										
1979-80	59										
1980-81	60										
1981-82	61										
1982-83	62										
1983-84	63										
1984-85	64										



THE FISH CULTURIST

Devoted to the Study
of Fishes,—Especially
Gold Fish, Tropical Fish
and Our Native Fish,
and Including Therewith
the Fauna and Flora of
the Fresh Waters in
General and of the
Aquarium in Particular.

ISSUED MONTHLY BY
THE PENN'A. FISH CULTURISTS' ASSOCIATION

Founded in the City of Philadelphia, December 1920.

FEBRUARY, 1921

Vol. I

No. I

Cover Number One



The FISH CULTURIST

NO. 1

PHILADELPHIA, SEPTEMBER, 1936

NO. XVI

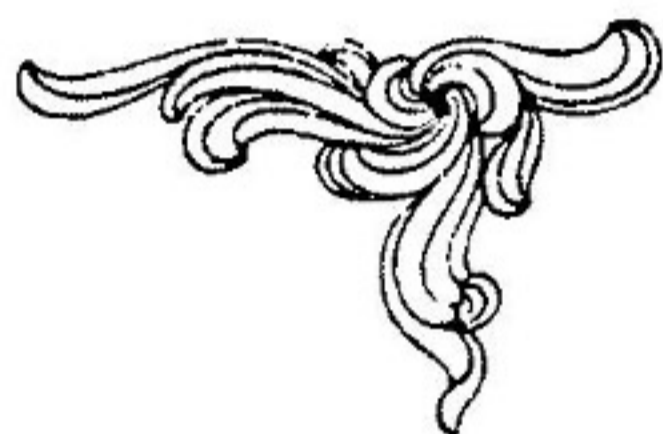
Mast-head Number One



Cover Number Two

THE FISH CULTURIST

Devoted to the Study of Fishes,
Especially Gold Fish, Tropical Fish and Our Native Fish,
and Including Therewith the Fauna and Flora of
the Fresh Waters in General and of the
Aquarium in Particular.

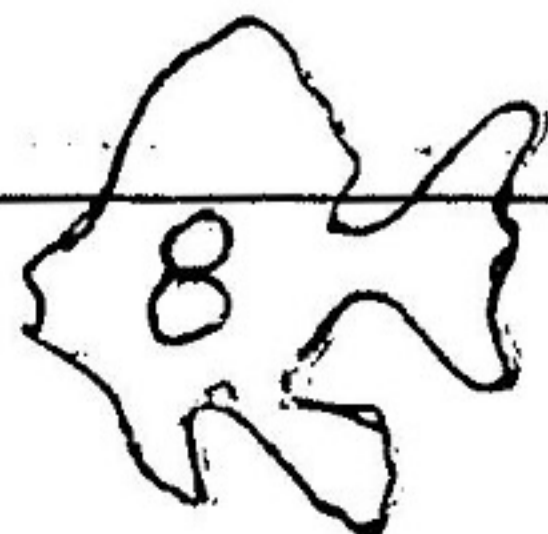


ISSUED MONTHLY BY
THE PENN'A. FISH CULTURISTS' ASSOCIATION

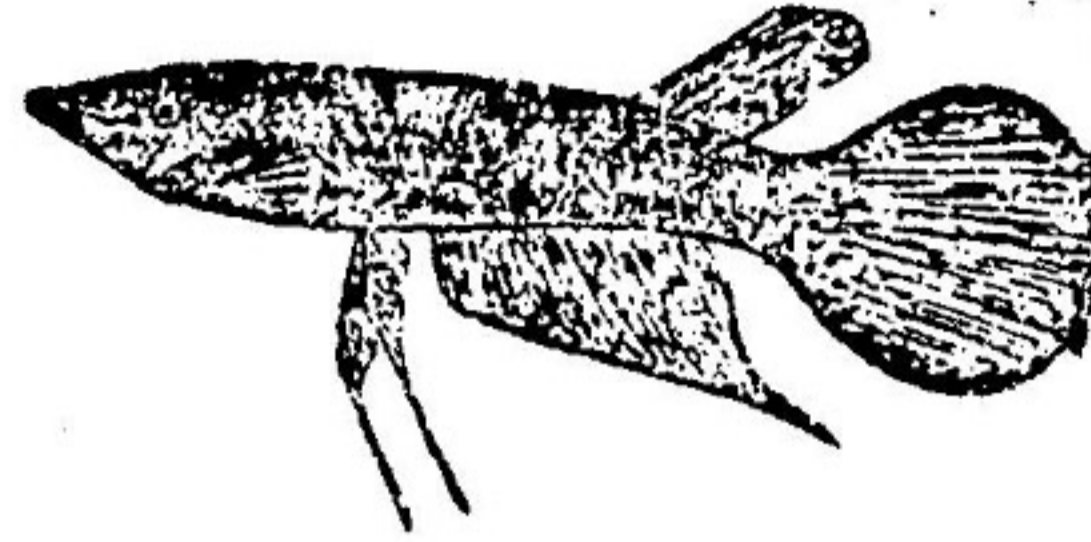
Founded in the City of Philadelphia, December 1920.

SEPTEMBER, 1922

Vol. 2



Cover Number Three



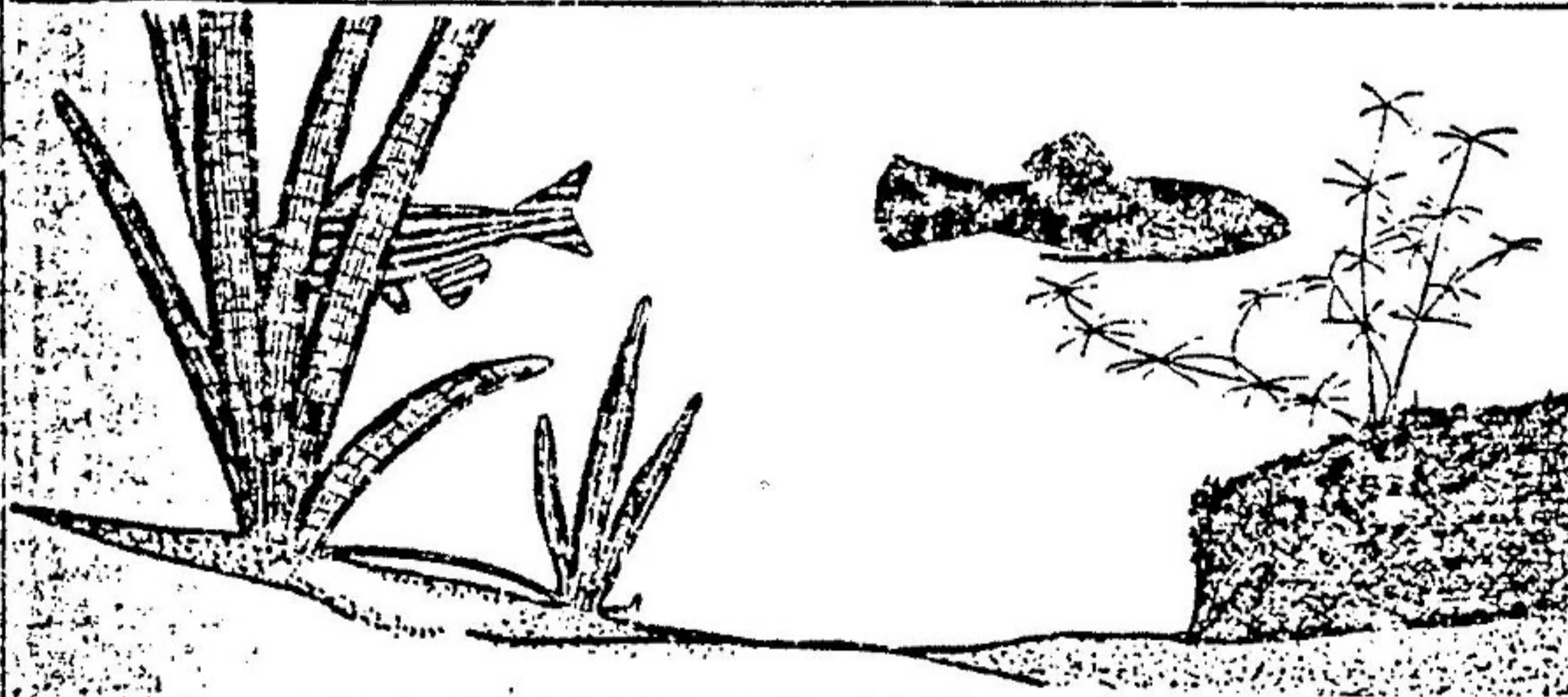
THE FISH CULTURIST

*Devoted to the Study of Fishes,
Especially Gold Fish, Tropical Fish and Our Native Fish,
and Including Therewith the Fauna and Flora of
the Fresh Waters in General and of the
Aquarium in Particular*

ISSUED BY

THE PENN'A. FISH CULTURISTS' ASSOCIATION

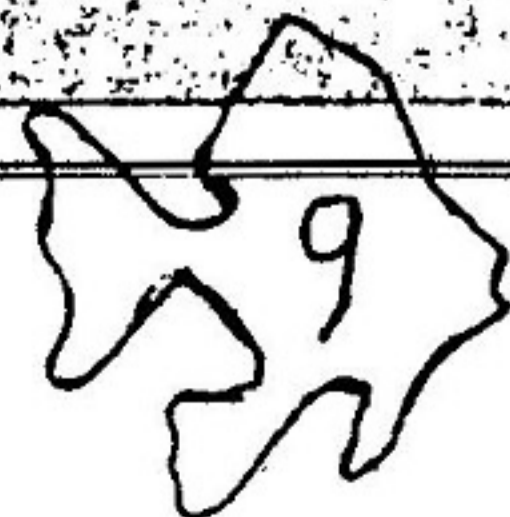
Founded in the City of Philadelphia, December, 1920



Vol. 9

JUNE, 1930

No. 10



Cover Number Five



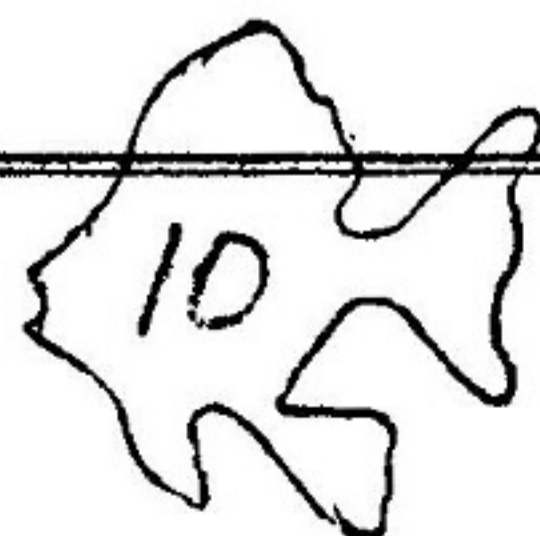
THE FISH CULTURIST

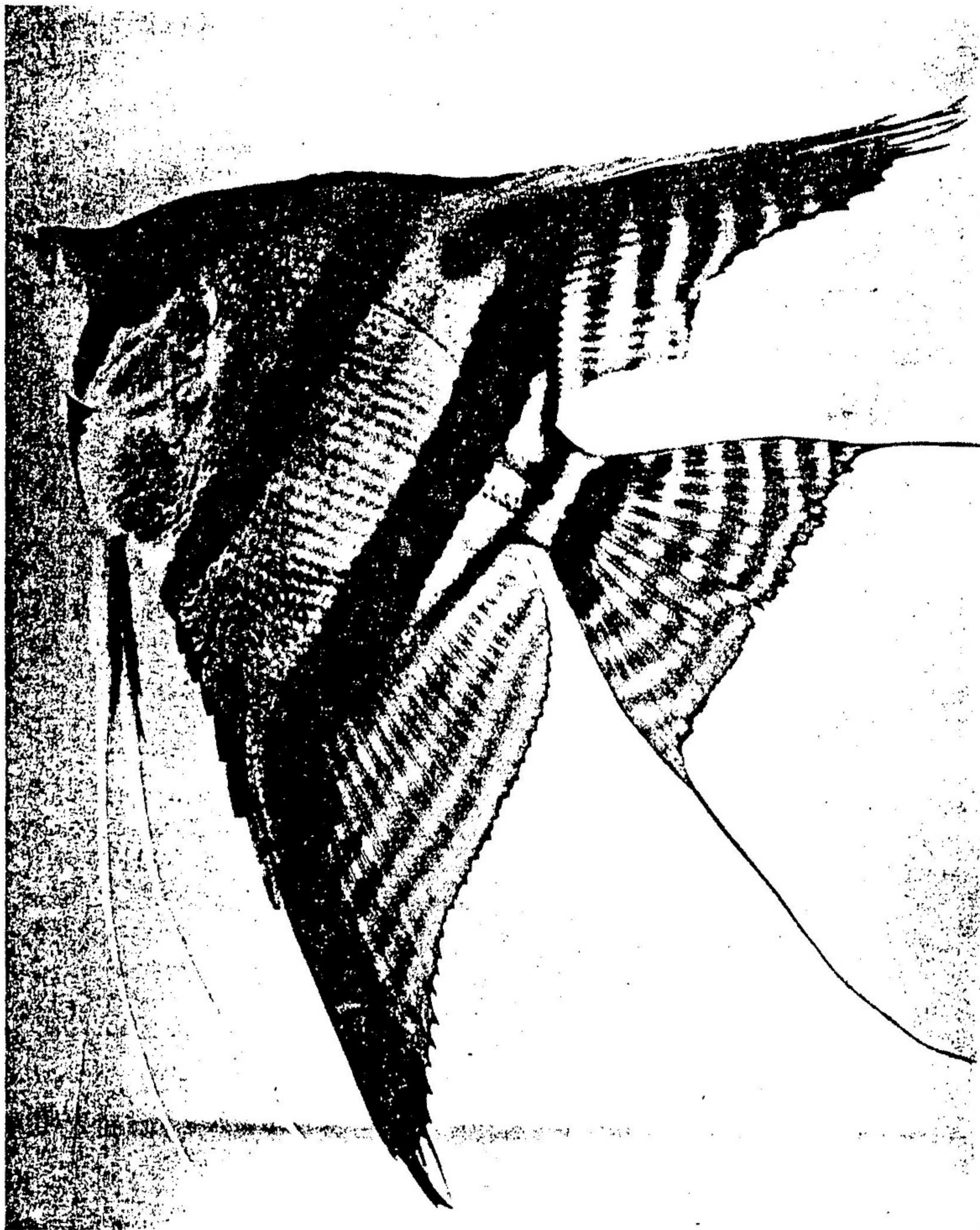
THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY

NOVEMBER - 1950

Volume XXX

No. 3



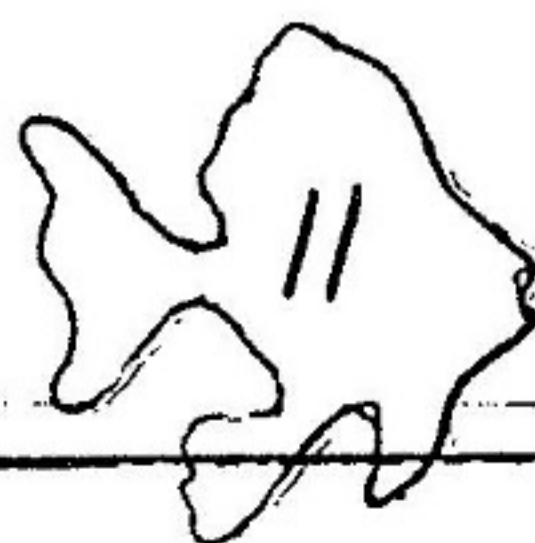


Photo—Wm. J. Nagel

The FISH CULTURIST

VOL. XIV NO. 1

SEPTEMBER, 1934



The
MUSEUM OF
AQUARIUM & PET
HISTORY

AMERICAN FOOD AND GAME FISHES by David Starr Jordan and Barton Warren Evermann, New York: Doubleday, Page & Co. First published May, 1902. 572 pp., 10 chromolithographed plates, 101 photographic plates, hundreds of text illustrations.

Despite the suitability of the subjects, few really fine color-illustrated fish books are easily available to the collector. Of course, virtually every fish book published in the last twenty-five years boasts four-color photo illustrations, but very few have even the slightest pretense of quality.

One truly outstanding work is, however, widely available and reasonably priced. Written by two of the finest ichthyologists of their day, the first edition of American Food and Game Fishes has ten chromolithographic plates that rank among the finest printed in this country. In addition to these color plates, the work boasts 101 black and white photographic plates by one of the real pioneers in fish photography, A.R. Dugmore, and hundreds of text illustrations (line cuts) from the authors' magnificent The Fishes of North and Middle America. All in all, truly a feast for the eyes.

The first (and most desirable) edition appeared in a number of bindings and printings. The first printing, 1902 (all printings are clearly indicated on the title page) appeared in two bindings; the standard binding in green cloth with gold stamped spine, and the deluxe binding in tan buckram with a leather spine label. Both of these bindings are uniform with the other marvelous natural history books published by Doubleday, Page & Co. (The Butterfly Book by Holland, Bird Neighbors by Blanchan, The Frog Book by Dickerson, Bird Homes by Dugmore [the photographer for Jordan & Evermann], and many distinguished others), but they do not have any "series" indicated on the spine.

Additional printings of the first edition appeared in 1903, 1904, and 1905 (and 1906 ??). Most of these did not indicate the actual title on the spine, but had instead a "series" title. A 1904 printing, for example, is bound in brown buckram, with a green and gold stamped spine. It is titled "The Nature Library: Fishes: Jordan and Evermann". The spine is also stamped with a picture of a fish and the Roman numeral "V". There are two title pages; the first appears overprinted with the "Nature Library" title; the second has the full and correct book title.

All of the above printings are true first editions, printed apparently from the same plates, and are well worth owning. There appears to be absolutely no difference in the color plates between the various printings.

However, subsequent editions did not use the same color plates. In 1904, Charles Bradford Hudson painted ten new plates for this work. Unfortunately, some of the fish selected were not especially attractive, and the set as a whole was not as well printed. As to why the old plates were abandoned, one can only speculate. Perhaps they were somehow lost or damaged (stock for the 1905 printing could have been printed earlier by a different printer).



The earliest edition I have that contains the new color plates is a "hybrid" dated 1914. Bound in green cloth, stamped in gold, it is titled "The New Nature Library: Volume VI: Fishes/Frogs" on the spine. This volume contains "American Food and Game Fishes" (the first edition text and the new color plates; the only copyright is 1902) as part one, and "The Frog Book" by Mary C. Dickerson as part two (with its original color plates). This edition is printed on very thin paper and this double volume is no thicker than other editions.

The "official" second edition was published in 1923 (and is copyright 1923) as part of "The New Nature Library" series, this time as vol. III: Fishes (so indicated on the spine). The binding is a sumptuous example of publisher's cloth; light green buckram embellished on the spine and front with black and gold designs representing the various aspects of natural history. This is the edition which was reprinted by Dover (in paperback, with the color illustrations in black and white) in 1969 and kept in print for about ten years.

Finally, there was a 1935 edition which I've seen but do not have at hand. It seemed to be another reprint of the 1923 edition. No doubt there were others of which I am not aware.

Certainly the first edition is the most desirable to own, in any of its printings or binding variants. However, there are two things you must look for when examining a copy in a book store. First, look to see that each of the ten plates is present (see chart following). Second, if the book is rebound, examine the plates carefully to be sure that the binder's trim has not cut into the fish (several of them extend quite close to the edge of the original plate, and are easily shaved). These color plates are very desirable to those who mount and sell prints, and it is common to find volumes for sale with the plates missing. This sort of thing should be noted by the dealer inside the front cover (or elsewhere) but very commonly is not. (Years ago, the very first volume I bought was missing the color plates; it was some months before I realized it. Their removal was nearly undetectable. Now the color plate chart is part of my wallet list).

With these two caveats in mind, I recommend you look in your local "used and rare" for this volume. It is commonly available, usually in the \$20 to \$35 range (although I have bought copies at \$10). Because of the obvious quality some bookdealers who do not know how common the book is, will price it as much as \$50 to \$75. Pass it up at these prices. Good copies are readily available in the \$20-\$35 range. Even if it takes a bit of looking on your part, it is well worth your while.

10 COLOR PLATES IN
JORDAN AND EVERMANN:
1902 (1903, 1904, 1905) ed.
AMERICAN FOOD AND GAME FISHES

Frontpiece (Trout)
p.76 (Eel)
p.120 (Rock Hind)
p.318 (Pompano)
p.388 (Grouper)
p.406 (Snapper)
p.410 (Schoolmaster)
p.414 (Pargo)
p.424 (Margate-Fish)
p.488 (Rock Beauty)



John Mangan, 9770 Oleander Ave., Vienna, VA 22180

Have for sale or trade- various issues of Aquarium, ADI, Aquarium Journal, Aquarium News, Delta Tale, FAMA, Pet Age Pet Business, Pet Dealer, PSM, Today's Aquarist, TFH, Nat. Aq. Club News, Water Life, Aq. & Pondkeeper. Send SASE for current list.

Want- various issues of Af. Aquarist, Am. Currents, Aquariana, Aq. & Pondkeeper, Aq. Journal, Aquatic Life, Delta Tale, Finchat, Flare, JAKA, Lateral Line, The Livebearer World, NAC News, FTFI Trader, Tropicals, write for more detailed list.

Anchor- 1967- jan. feb, march, april.

Aquarium- 1932- may thru aug; 1941-july; 1944-jan; 1945-sept.; 1946-feb,march;

Buntbarsche Bullitin- #s 1-20, 65,

Marine Fish Monthly- vol. 1 #3

Today's Aquarist- vol. 2 #3

Modes of Reproduction of Fishes (TFH book)

WANT LIST : -- ROBERT HARRIS

P.O. BOX 257, Station "D", Scarborough, Ontario. Canada. M1R 5B7. (416) 447-2237

AQUARIANA, V. 1. N. 3,5, and 7. V. 2. N. 1 and 2. (1932-33)

AQUARIST'S GAZETTE (Black & White newspaper) V. 1. N. 2 and 4. (1973)

The AQUARIUM (Innes) V. 1. N. 1,2, and 3. (May, June and July, 1932)

FRESHWATER AND MARINE AQUARIUM (FAMA) V. 1. N. 2. (February, 1978)

The TRADER The last twelve (12) issues. (December, 1971 to October, 1973)

THE MARINE AQUARIST V. 1. N. 1,2,3,4, and 6. Bi-Monthly issues, in 1970.

MARINE AQUARIUM REVIEW (Black & White newspaper) V. 1. N. 1., July, 1977.

MARINE LIFE (British Magazine) All eight (8) issues. early 1970s.

MARINE FISH MONTHLY V. 1. N. 3. (September, 1985) and any after V. 1. N. 6.

The SALTWATER AQUARIUM V. 1. N. 2 & 3. V. 2. N. 2,3 & 5. V. 4. N. 3.

TODAY'S AQUARIST V. 1. N. 1,2,3 &4. and V. 2. N. 3.

TROPICAL FISH HOBBYIST (T.F.H.) V. 3. N. 2 & 4. and V. 5. N. 1.

MODERN AQUARIUM V. 1. N. 1,2 and 4. (November & December, 1968, February, 1969

OCTOPUS All issues wanted. (1974 - 1976)

SEA SCOPE All issues wanted. (1970 - 1973) and quarterly issues since 1984.

AQUARIUM NEWS and HOME AQUARIUM BULLETIN, 1930s, all issues wanted.

WATER LIFE (Post War) V. 1. complete. (April, 1946 to February, 1947)

All pre-1930 aquarium magazines and early books on aquarium plants & marine fish

WANTED TO BUY - Clean, unmarked copies of the following. Write first to Dale Speirs, Box 6830, Stn D, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, T2P 2E7.

Buntbarsche Bulletin #40, 42, 50, 60, 63 to 66 inclusive

TFH 1965 all except Sept and Dec

1964 all except Sept and Nov

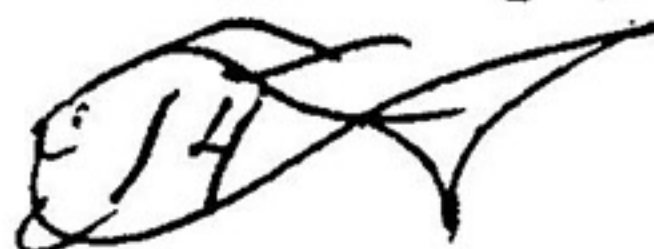
1963 April, Sept, Nov, Dec

Calquarium 1972 and earlier - all issues needed

John Brown, Box 3337 Main P.O., Vancouver B.C., Canada V6B 3Y3

WANT : Several copies of Vol.1#3 of Marine Fish Monthly in good condition (this magazine was just published last year).

I can offer in return old issues of TFH, FAMA, Aquarium, Aq. Journal, Marine Aq., Salt Water Aq., etc.



Wants List : Wayne S. Leibel, Biology Dept., Lafayette College,
Easton, Pa. 18042 U.S.A.

History of the Aquarium

Ladiges, W., 1934. Tropical Fish

Lederer, N., 1934. Tropical Fish and their Care

Lloyd, W.A., 1858. A List, with Descriptions, Illustrations, and
Prices of Whatever Relates to Aquaria.

Mann, L. Quarry, 1934. Tropical Fish

Martin, J.H. and J. Weston, 1883. A Handbook to the Aquarium

Mellen, I.M. and R.J. Lanier, 1935. 1001 Questions Answered about
your Aquarium

Seal, W.P., 1887. The Aquarium, A Brief Exposition of its Principles
and Management

Sowerby, G.B., 1859. History of the Aquarium

For Sale;

" Aquatic Life "- Bound Volumes, Volumes I Thru.20
1915 thru. 1936. Binding in excellent condition.
Please send S.A.S.E. with offer.

Want's

Will pay \$ 40.00 each for the following issues.
Please describe condition of same.

" The Aquarium " (1912-1914)

Vol. II # 10 March, 14, 1914

" The Aquarium " (Innes)

Vol. I # 2 June, 1932

John Lind

2064 Bragg ST.

BKLYN. N.Y. 11229

David Hopp, 3604 Agate Dr. , Modesto, Ca. 95356, ph 209-577-3596

Looking for F.T.F.I. TRADER Vol 4 # 1,3,4. 1973
also want Advanced Aquarist of Atlanta any issues.
The Marine Aquarist need Vol.1 #1.
Looking for The Home Aquarium Bulletin most issues.

WANT : Marine Fish Monthly Vol.1 #3 1985

CAL needs your ads. for next issue. Page 14 is how you should do it.



I have for many years wondered if there was more than one printing of this book. I stumbled on something today that I would like to share. I have in front of me now three different types. In addition to this to keep things confused the book has been bound in two different colors. The brownish olive copies also have on the spine at the bottom the legend "The Baker and Taylor Co." The pale green to gray bound copies have the same legend but it is in block letters and not script as the brownish-olive.

In addition the brownish-olive covered books have a 2 inch by 1½ inch square with an advertising legend and price (\$1.00 each) in it on the blank page to the left of the frontispiece. The green to gray covered copies have the page blank .

This then gives us two varieties. Which is the first edition???

I have a brownish olive bound copy with the last page of advertising topped by an adv. stating "The Aquarists Company."

I have a green to gray covered copy where this adv. now reads "Geo. H. Schrader (successor to The Aquarists Company). This definitely makes the Brownish olive copy the earlier.

I also have here gray to green covered copy with that page of advertising blank. I would think that an interim copy.

Unless someone can show me wrong I think this is correct.

1st edition is brownish olive binding with script legend " The Baker and Taylor Co." In addition it has the 2" x 1½" legend opposite the frontispiece.

2d edition is green to gray covered-the bottom of the spine legend is in block letters "THE BAKER AND TAYLOR COMPANY" and their are only three pages of advertising.

3d edition is the same as the second, but the fourth page of advertising is present stating "George H. Schrader (sucessor to The Aquarists' Company)

Please also note that the green to gray covered books tend to bleach out which now 92 years later gives a wide variety of shades.

Those of you fortunate enough to own copies would do all of us a favor if you would check them and see which you have and most important if it tallies with my conclusions.

Ross Socolof

Christmas 1986

Here I was coughing and sneezing among the dusty books jammed into the shelves along the wall of a used bookstore in downtown Boston the day after Christmas. So far, four used bookstores in New York City had been perused with nothing to show for my time except gasoline, parking, and rental car receipts. Oh well, out came the hanky to be used once more. Then, I continued on noting that both Lee Finley and Wayne Leibel had obviously been buying books at this store. I arrived at this conclusion because they had left all the TFH books on the shelves. It is rumored that Wayne cries when viewing any Axelrod text while Lee simply cannot understand what happened to the catfish that should be lurking among the dark, dusty, and dank shelves. So, I did not feel too bad about taking the copy of Smith's Fishes but passed up the Encyclopedias of Water Plants, Tropical Fish, and Water Lillies like they did. Then, I went by the Aquarium. What? The Aquarium- it can't be! Yet, there it was- a nice copy of the Aquarium by Taylor. I also grabbed up a copy of The Water World-it has great illustrations. A book from 1853 by the American Baptist Society in Philadelphia with a beautiful color frontpiece that Jare told me about. Thank you Jare. Finally, a copy of the G.B. Goode book with 277 beautiful plates from 1884. Suddenly, the cold was gone. What a Christmas 1986 was for me.

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