

**A TREATYSE OF
FYSSHYNGE
WYTH ANANGLE**

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A treatyse of fysshynge wyth anangle by Juliana Berners

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JULIANA BERNERS

**A TREATYSE OF
FYSSHYNGE
WYTH ANANGLE**



A Treatyse of Fysshynge
with an Angle.



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Bibliotheca Curiosa.

A

**Treatyse of Fysshynge
wyth an Angle,**

BY

DAME JULIANA BERNERS.

Originally Printed by Wynkyn de Worde

in 1496.

—
Edited by

“PISCATOR.”

—
PRIVATELY PRINTED, EDINBURGH.

1885.

F179.20.1



*This edition is limited to 275 small-paper copies,
and 75 large-paper copies.*

Introduction.



THE Work here reprinted is universally regarded as being the first English book on Angling, and must, therefore, ever be interesting, not only to the brethren of the gentle craft, but also to the lover of our old English literature, even though he has never cast a fly, or so much as watched a float.

An excellent Bibliographical notice of the work has appeared in the *Library Chronicle*, from the pen of Mr. WILLIAM E. A. AXON, and to it I am indebted for the following particulars.

The supposed authoress was a lady named Juliana Barnes or Berners, born towards the end of the fourteenth century at Roding-Berners, in the Hundred of Dunmow, Essex. Her father was Sir James Berners, who was beheaded in 1388, as one of the evil advisers of Richard II. She is said to have been Prioress of Sopwell Nunnery in Hertfordshire, a dependancy of the Abbey of St. Albans. To this nun is attributed the "*Book of St. Albans*," the earliest sporting work in the language! As Mr. Axon says, "she may have gained the experience that would furnish material for her writings before she took the veil." The book obtains its name from having been printed at St. Albans in 1486 by that

unknown printer, who is generally styled "The Schoolmaster of St. Albans." It is divided into three parts: the first part treats of Hawking, the second of Hunting, and the third of Coat-armour. In 1496, Wynkyn de Worde issued a second edition of "The Book of St. Albans," adding a fourth part, the "Treatyse of Fysshynge."

The claim of Juliana Berners to the authorship of the first part rests principally on the closing lines of the discourse on Hunting, which ends thus:—

Your playe for to wynne or that you come inne,
Explicit Dam Julyans Barnes in her boke of
Huntyng.

As regards the Treatyse of Fysshynge, the evidence is more shadowy still; it rests, according to Mr. Van Sieten,* on the ungallant hypothesis that only a woman could have given such directions for making a rod, and that no man could have been guilty of so "delightful a *non sequitur* in many of the arguments."

Those interested in early Angling Literature should compare the instructions given by Dame Berners with those of John Davies, in his "Secrets of Angling," originally printed in 1613. See "Bibliotheca Curiosa," No. 43.)

* Who edited an American reprint in 1875, 12mo.

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE TREATYSE OF
FYSSHYNGE.(a.) *Forming part of the Book of St. Albans.*

1.	*Westminster, 1496.	Emprynted by Wynkyn de Worde. Fo. Black Letter .
2.	†London (no date).	Imprynted . . . by Wynkyn de Worde. pp. 92. 4to. Black Letter .
3.	London (no date).	Imprynted . . . by Wylliam Cop- lande. pp. 96. 4to. Bl. Let.
4.	‡London (no date).	Imprynted . . . by Wylliam Cop- lande. pp. 96. 4to. Bl. Let.
5.	§London (no date).	<i>First Part</i> , Imprynted . . . by Ro- bert Foye. Parts 2 and 3, im- prynted . . . by Wylliam Cop- lande. pp. 96. 4to. Bl. Let.
6.	London (no date).	Imprynted in the Vyentre . . . by Wylliam Coplande. pp. 96. 4to. Black Letter .
7.	London (no date).	Imprynted . . . by Wylliam Powell. pp. 96. 4to. Black Letter .
8.	London (no date).	Imprynted . . . by Ab. Veik.
9.	London, 1586.	Printed by Edward Allde. pp. 88. 4to. Black Letter .

* Copies on vellum are in the Pembroke and Grenville collections, and on paper in the British Museum and Bodleian libraries.—Sold: White Knights, £60, 18s.; Haworth, £39, 18s.

† The only copy known is in the Huth Library.

‡ Each Part has a distinct colophon.

§ Sold, Dent, £10. 10s.

|| Sold, Haworth, £7, 5s.—Editions by Copland in 1548, 1551, 1553, 1554, 1562, 1568, and 1569; by