

**ELEMENTS OF
ANGLING: A BOOK
FOR BEGINNERS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649570935

Elements of Angling: A Book for Beginners by H. T. Sheringham

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

H. T. SHERINGHAM

**ELEMENTS OF
ANGLING: A BOOK
FOR BEGINNERS**

Elements of Angling.

A BOOK FOR BEGINNERS.

BY

H. T. SHERINGHAM.

Angling Editor of "The Field," Author of "An Angler's Hours," &c.



LONDON:
HORACE COX,
WINDSOR HOUSE, BREAM'S BUILDINGS, E.C.
—
1908.

fish

SH 439
S5

TO
WILLIAM SENIOR.



My dear Red Spinner,

In the pages which follow I have tried to give a novice some hints on the art of angling. As to their value there may well be two opinions, and I will quarrel with no man who holds the other. But there is one hint which I have reserved for *this* page, and which I am prepared to defend at the gaff's point if need be. In this open letter to you I would entreat the novice to buy, beg, borrow, or in the last resort, steal, all the books which your pen has given to the angling library. Then let him read them, re-read them, and again re-read. So shall he become not only a better angler, but a better man.

Your obliged and admiring friend,

H. T. S.

M370722

My thanks are due to the Editor and Proprietors of "The Field," for kindly allowing me to re-publish, after revision and with considerable additions, a series of articles which first appeared in that journal. For courteous and practical assistance with regard to the plate depicting pike-tackles, I am much indebted to Messrs. C. Farlow and Co., 191, Strand, W.C., and 10, Charles Street, St. James's Square.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
CHAPTER I.	
PRELIMINARIES. —What to fish for—The town angler's ideal—The tackle shop—The general rod—The reel—A good line—How to put it on the reel—Creel, landing-net, and tackle-book—Floats, gut, and sundries—The pleasure of neat gear—Worms, how to catch and keep them—Making up lines	1
CHAPTER II.	
A MORNING'S FISHING. —Preparations for starting—The millpool—Putting the tackle together—Finding the depth—A bite—Playing a fish—The first perch—Unhooking, weighing, and killing fish—Size of perch—A chub	19
CHAPTER III.	
AFTERNOON AND EVENING. —The quiet time—An eel—How to cook a perch—Tea and its uses—A gudgeon—A lost pike—"Caught up"—Dace and roach—A feeding trout—A bream—Drying the line	33
CHAPTER IV.	
SPECIALISING. —Bad days—Need for adapting method to circumstance—Different fish to be differently attacked—Roach fishing—Ground-bait and hook baits—A roach swim—How to fish it—Roach bites—Tight-corking—Baiting a bream pitch—Baits for bream—Need for a longer rod for roach and bream—Fine-drawn gut and single hair—A few more baits	45

	PAGE.
CHAPTER V.	
FISHING AT A DISTANCE.—Float-casting for chub—To make the line float—Baits for chub—Bream fishing on the Broads—Bubbles—Rudd—Surface baiting for rudd—Where to fish for them and how—Fishing in the Nottingham style—Legering—Barbel—Baiting a barbel swim—Uncertainty of the sport—Big barbel—Carp—Their artfulness—Baits for carp—Fishing for carp in shallow water—Potato and baiting needle—Fishing on the surface—Tench—Baits and methods ...	60
CHAPTER VI.	
THE WET-FLY EQUIPMENT.—The call of spring—Fly-rods and their cost—A suitable rod—"Medium action"—Reel and line—Backing—Casts, fly-book, and damper—Wading stockings—Flies—A first list—"Points"—Number of flies required—Uses of a small creel—Staining a creel—How to make up a collar—Knots—Combination of flies	78
CHAPTER VII.	
USING THE WET FLY.—In the west-country—A licence—Casting the flies—Need for practice—Making the rod work—Fishing up stream—A rise—Hooked and netted—Unhooked trout—Nettles or paper for the creel—A samlet—How to distinguish it from a trout—"Hung up"—Watching the line—Dead water—Haunts of trout—Down-stream fishing, when necessary—How to do it—Short rises—Advantage of up-stream method. ...	93
CHAPTER VIII.	
DRY-FLY PRELIMINARIES.—Merits of dry-fly fishing—Dry-fly streams—The "purist"—The rod—A new line and reel—To make the line float—Oil-bottle, cast case, and fly-box—Tweezers—Flies—A list of thirteen—The Wickham—Knot for tying on a dry fly—Drawn gut—Indiarubber boots	108

CONTENTS.

vii

CHAPTER IX.

PAGE.

A DAY'S FISHING.—A favourable day—An olive dun—The Wickham as a first fly—Oiling a fly—Taking grease off the gut—Getting close to one's fish—Where to place the fly—Hooking a trout—The dangerous word "strike"—To get the fish out of weeds—The size-limit—Frayed gut—Newspaper for fish—The "drag"—How to avoid it—Changing flies—"Smutting" fish—The black spider—Fishing it sunk—"Bulging" fish—Small flies for the evening rise 122

CHAPTER X.

SEDGE AND MAYFLY.—Sedges—Food of big trout—A brief period of fishing—The "path of light"—Fishing the sedge—Rarity of a good evening—The Mayfly—Why it appears in June—Fragility of artificial Mayflies—Hackle flies less expensive and more durable—Mayfly fishing not easy—Nerve and striking from the reel—"Nymphing" trout—Fishing the fly wet—How to catch a big fish 142

CHAPTER XI.

GRAYLING.—A cousin of the trout—A "poor relation"—Accusations made against it—An opinion on the grayling question—Size of grayling—Flies—Wet-fly fishing—Watching the line—On the chalk stream—Watching the fish—Not easily put down—A strong fighter—Why grayling are lost—Hustling a fish—Bait fishing 154

CHAPTER XII

THE BIG FLY.—Cannibal trout—Their food—The size which they reach—The "big fly"—A short list—Sizes and cost—The Turtle knot—How to fish the fly—To make a line sink—Time to fish—"Short-rising" trout—Loch-fishing and loch flies—Boat and shore fishing 162

	PAGE.
CHAPTER XIII.	
COARSE FISH AND THE FLY —Other uses for the fly-rod besides trout fishing—Chub—Stalking them—Their wariness—Big flies—Hot weather required—Small dry flies—"Not taking"—Feeling the fish—Strong gut—Dace—Lost flies—Their quick rising—Dry-fly fishing—Big dace rise more slowly—Roach and rudd—Perch sometimes take a fly—So do pike	174
CHAPTER XIV.	
LIVE-BAITING FOR TROUT AND PERCH —The bait-can—Its inconvenience—The best kind—Trout and live bait—Tackle—Baits—The Thames style—"Prodigies of patience"—Float fishing—Paternostering—Roving—Roving with a worm	183
CHAPTER XV.	
THE ART OF SPINNING —Justification of spinning—Taking on ambition—A four-pounder—Tackle—Rods—Traces—Leads—The Thames flight—How to adjust it—The fan flight—Artificial minnows—How they should be mounted—Dead baits—How to catch and pickle baits—Salting them—Casting from the reel—Its difficulties—Casting from the coil—Colling line on the hand	191
CHAPTER XVI.	
PIKE —Pike or "jack"—Rod, line, and tackle—Wire traces—Spinning flight and artificial baits—Live-baiting—Snap-tackle—Paternoster—Float and pilots—Trolling—Snap-trolling tackle—The drop-minnow—A light landing-net—The gaff and how to use it ...	207
CHAPTER XVII.	
SALMON AND SEA-TROUT —The pains and pleasures of Salmon fishing—Selecting a rod—Weight of rod and	