

Dear Datus:

Sorry about the handwriting, but our computers got fried by a brownout here; 4 old ladies, mad to spend their social security checks, took out a power pole and plunged Knox County into a brown fog, with 80 volts of very dirty electricity gnawing its way through ^{spoiled} microchips used to better. We hope to be back in the last decade of the 20th Century by next week. Until then, we're refamiliarizing ourselves with antique writing instruments. I've figured out basic operation, but damned if I can find the spell checker.

This is what the cover looks like. We'll have books for you by the end of July. Thanks again for a great foreword. I wish we could have paid you more - sort of a transfer of wealth from the underserving inhabitants of 1221 Avenue of the Americas to more interesting uses. I do hope the New-Counter weasels have paid you; they're of the 90-day payment persuasion.

If you're planning to come to the OWAA pow-wow in Bangor next summer, I'll take you to dinner on Mother McGraw's tab at Maine's only 4-Star restaurant to partially compensate. With a little effort on our part, and the help of the wine list and dessert menu, we should be able to take 'em for a couple hundred at least.

Have a good summer,

Jim Ball

Born in 1882, the son of a Gloucestershire vicar, Dr. Arthur Aston Luce was a senior fellow and professor of moral philosophy at Trinity College, Dublin. Although an avid angler for salmon, sea trout, and brown trout in the streams, rivers, tarns, and lakes of Ireland, Luce's lifework, which brought him international acclaim in academic circles, was editing the works of the philosopher George Berkeley. *Fishing and Thinking* was his only book on his favorite pastime.

"He who fishes in the right way and thinks along right lines can hardly fail to absorb a healthy moral optimism about Nature and her ways."

A. A. Luce

If you enjoyed this book from Ragged Mountain Press, why not try:

The Complete Book of Fly Fishing, Second Edition, by Tom McNally

With nearly fifty years of fly fishing to look back on, Tom McNally knows how it's done, from angling for tiny brook trout in mountain streams to fly casting for giant marlin in the open ocean—and everything in between. Hardbound, 7½" x 9¼", 368 pages, approx. 250 illustrations, \$29.95. Book No. 60344H.

Commonsense Outdoor Medicine and Emergency Companion, Third Edition, by Newell D. Breyfogle

"An ideal companion for the outdoorsperson." *National Parks* magazine

The essential medical, first-aid, and survival guide for home, boat, airplane, camp, car, backpack, and RV from a teacher and professor with more than 35 years' experience in leading classes through the complexities of first aid, CPR, and emergency care. Paperbound, 5" x 7", 448 pages, 205 illustrations, \$14.95. Book No. 60381P.

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An anthology of outdoor literature designed to ride in the backpack. Includes Thoreau, Francis Parkman, Lewis and Clark, John Wesley Powell. Paperbound, 5" x 8", 144 pages, 30 illustrations, \$12.95. Book No. 60372P.

Look for these and other Ragged Mountain Press books at your local bookstore or order direct by calling 1-800-822-8158 (outside the U.S., please call 717-794-2191). Prices subject to change.

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Fishing/Outdoors

"Every good book is an act of love, a flow of passion into pages, and every author wants the love required. Imagine, then, the courage it must have taken for A. A. Luce to link fishing and thinking in his title, knowing that some thinkers do not admire fishers, and vice versa. This was no marketer. This was a writer. In his book you will travel to an Irish countryside that is still arcadian, and you will hear an unaccustomed rhythm in the voices and the waves. You will sojourn in a place that has trout, and is therefore beautiful. You will see a grilse gleaming with the iris of the salt sea waves. Your guide will be a philosopher who loves virtue and angling."

from the Foreword
by
Datus Proper



A RAGGED MOUNTAIN PRESS/McGRAW-HILL BOOK
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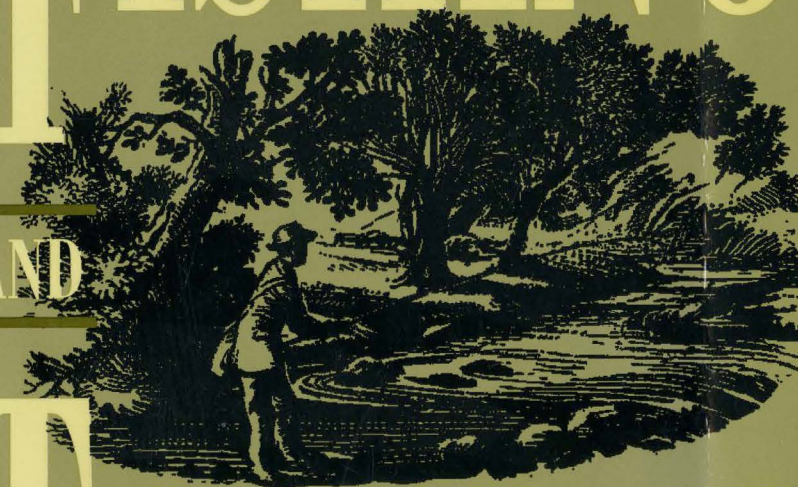
FISHING AND THINKING

LUCE

60399



FISHING AND THINKING



A. A. LUCE

WITH A FOREWORD BY DATUS PROPER

It's said that the Romans invited the English to turn it into a religion, the Irish to turn it into a religion. Juliana Berners wrote the first fishing book in 1496, the writer of the Scots, and Irish authors like C. Hills, Sawyer, Skues, Stewart, enthralled anglers around the world. The light is Dr. A. A. Luce. Better working and dedicated scholar. Luce was also an avid fly fisher. A visit to river or lake re-created research and writing. Much of the charm results from its unique and reflection. The narrative closely observed details of fish in their natural surroundings. The arguments are those of a philosopher. They are "academic" in precise, and grounded in common sense, whether inquiring into the semantics of angling. Thinking fly fishing they are rarely otherwise—without *Thinking* an engrossing study of the actual of outdoor sports.

"One of the most fascinating and books on this enigmatic pastime." *David Profumo*, Daily Telegraph

"One of the most delightful and on the subject. . . . A joyous book highly recommended." *The Salmon and Trout Magazine*

"Applies cool logic to the art's im Country Life

"The book is witty and learned—The Ethics of Angling is priceless." *Ulster News Letter*

Cover Design by Carol Gillette



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Our ref AB/DS

25 February 1993

Datus C Proper
1085 Hamilton Road
Belgrade
Montana 59714
U S A

Dear Datus

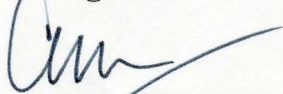
I presume it was through your instigation that I have received a copy of your book on "A Search through Portugal". Very many thanks.

I will try and find time to read it within the next week or so.

Business has been pretty tough worldwide although we are making progress in the States and there are more and more dealers who are now stocking Partridge fly hooks.

I enclose up to date information on all our fly hooks - don't forget to let me know if you need any more for your own use.

Kind regards



Alan Bramley

Encs
Fly hook data pack

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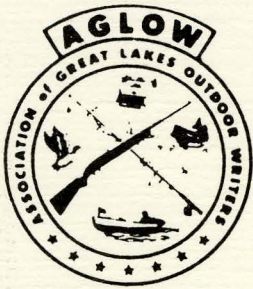
DATUS:

Here is the "Rose" article I promised to send to you. It generated a lot of mail - mostly good, although one reader thought it a crime to train a dog to "kill birds!"

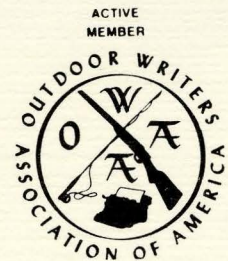
I forgot the name of the bookseller in Boreman who distributes hunting, fishing books -- "Wilderness something or other". Could you send me his name and phone number? High-Lonesome Books in Silver City is very much interested in talking to him.

Had my first Mearns last night. Great eating as always. Thanks again for including me on your hunt

David



*Freelance Writer
Specializing in Midwest Outdoors*



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**Iowa Editor,
Outdoor Life Magazine
Book Author**

November 15

Datus Proper
1085 Hamilton Road
Belgrade, MT 59714

Dear Datus:

Received your book--thanks much! I have only glanced at it to this point, but then my wife says I've scarcely glanced at her since pheasant season opened a couple of weeks ago. I'm looking forward to reading it when the weather gets really nasty or when the season's over, whichever comes first.

I was expecting a poor pheasant year following our torrential rains and floods. It's been just the opposite. I'm at a loss to explain why we have so many birds after such rotten weather. It appears that the nonresidents stayed away in droves, and the late corn harvest may have baffled those who only hunt opening weekend. Whatever the explanation, I and all the other hard-core pheasant chasers I know are enjoying great hunting. Our pheasants are one good reason to return to Iowa, even if Des Moines no longer has street cars.

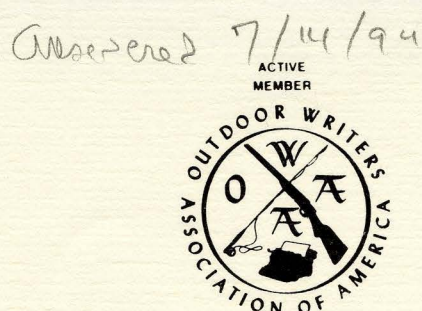
I've enclosed my book. The gun I'm carrying on the cover is a Sauer 16, which I shot for about 20 years. (I just sold it because I found it was gathering dust in my gun cabinet since I acquired my Alex Martin a couple of seasons ago.) The Sauer also had chambers punched out to 2 3/4", and on a few occasions I was foolish enough to use Winchester XX Magnums in it. It was as tight when I sold it as when I bought it, but it was a bit heavier than the Martin. It also had a Greener crossbolt, which must be pretty good insurance against a gun shooting loose.

Good hunting!

*Regards,
Larry*



Freelance Writer
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Iowa Editor,
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Book Author

June 22, 1994

Datus Proper
1085 Hamilton St.
Belgrade, MT 59714

Dear Datus:

Greatly enjoyed your pheasant book. If you've had a chance to read mine, you'll see that we started out much the same way. I did have the advantage of a father who hunted, but he came to the sport during the Depression when a pheasant meant meat on the table, and he potted the majority of his out the car window with a .410. I still have his old ground-swatter, forearm taped to the barrel, minus a front bead and barrel worn paper thin at the end, sitting in my closet.

I recently acquired a Winchester 24 in 16 gauge, 26" IC/Mod chokes. Had the pistol grip taken off, but it still doesn't have what one would call a slim wrist. It balances a bit like a 2x4, but it digests heavy loads--like the Win XX Mags I sometimes use late in the year--quite nicely. I've hung onto it as a backup gun, and for those days when the weather is so rotten I don't feel right about going out with my Alex Martin.

We have similar views on dogs. I must admit I've never seen a dog bite the grass like yours, but then I'd never seen a pheasant "tower" until after my book went to press. Agree that ruffed grouse are a definite challenge. I hunt them quite a bit, but I've never really had a good grouse dog. In general, I think dogs that do well trailing pheasants do not fare so well with ruffs. I think the pheasant-trailers, like my old shorthair Heidi, finally work it out that they have to keep after runners, yet they can often crowd in quite close at the end and still hold the bird. I've seen ruffs do some pretty fancy footwork, but it's in much more open cover, and a dog that tries to close in on one as if it were a pheasant is almost certain to produce a flush. I've seen few really good grouse dogs, and the one trait they all seemed to share was extreme caution. They would trail, but very gingerly. Back in my CIA days, we could have used grouse dogs to teach discreet foot surveillance.

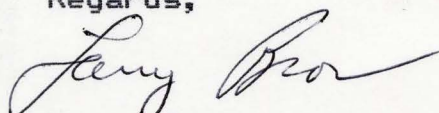
Like you, I find the Bean boots to be a pretty fair compromise--although it's hard to really fall in love with them. What is often said about the modified choke (inaccurately) is really much more true about Bean's boots: they aren't necessarily the best choice for a specific situation, but they work reasonably well in just about any situation. I also favor amber-tinted shooting glasses for a couple of reasons: although they help a little with the sun, they are especially good at brightening things on dark days; and they really make blaze orange stand out.

Re our discussion on long shells in short chambers, have you seen the current issue of Wing & Shot? Zutz contends, contrary to what Gough Thomas says, that shells exceeding the chamber length are indeed a problem--although he talks more about pattern degradation than he does increased pressure. He presents some anecdotal evidence of quite radical improvements in pattern after lengthening chambers and/or forcing cones.

Because of the conflicting opinions on the subject, I'd really like to see some scientific research on lengthening chambers and forcing cones, and the result it would have on pressure. We know that these operations seem to reduce felt recoil, but does this necessarily mean they reduce pressure as well? Quite a few responsible gunsmiths regularly perform these modifications on older American doubles, where, as you say, there probably is more than enough metal to do so. The same may not be true on British (and European) guns, which were generally made quite a bit lighter to begin with. On the other hand, maybe the Brits are being overly cautious on this issue, much as we Americans are on shooting Damascus guns--which the Brits do without hesitation if they are nitro-proofed. (I wonder if their best Damascus barrels were that much better than ours?)

In contrast to last year, when we were cool and up to our rears in water all summer, Iowa this summer is hot and relatively dry, although far from a drought. The corn is growing like crazy (we're talking head-high plus by July 4 in most places) and the upland game biologists are optimistic about a good nesting season. Of course last year they were pessimistic, and I had the best pheasant shooting of my life--lots of birds everywhere I hunted, right up to the end of the season. Hope you have a good season out West.

Regards,


Larry Brown