

It is with deep regret I announce the death of mij dear husband and friend

RUDOLF VAN ALBERDA

born in Macassar, Indonesia on Februari 16th 1931.

Rudi passed away at the Diaconessen Hospital in Eindhoven on October 12th 1985 after an illness, bravely-borne.

Margaret van Alberda - Hooper

5623 AG Eindhoven,
Kaarderstraat 16.

The cremation will take place on Thursday, October 17th at 12 noon at the Crematorium in Heeze, Somerenseweg 120.

Condolences can be given after the service.

Margaret van Alberda-Hooper

Datus C. Proper
1914 N. Johnson St.
Arlington, Va 22207
U.S.A.

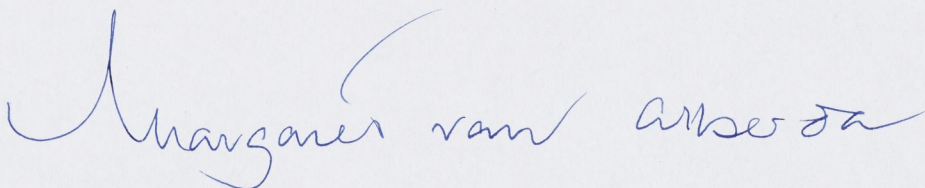
January 6, 1986

Your Christmas card arrived here today - with your very poignant message for Rudi, but as you see from the enclosed, he passed away last October.

His illness, cancer, was diagnosed at the beginning of March 1984 and he was thoroughly convinced it was under control but I had been informed by the consultants from the beginning that it had spread through his bones and there was very little hope for him. I must be comforted by the fact that he didn't know until a month before his death and that he was able to have a reasonable year before the terrible pains started. On September 12 - the day after our 12th wedding anniversary, he was taken into hospital and he was paralyzed from waist downwards due to the collapse of some of the vertebrae. He still thought he could maybe get around in a wheelchair but after two weeks he realized he was deteriorating and he accepted the fact and we had time to say goodbye. He never gave up the fight, but just accepted the inevitable.

It is very difficult to realise he has gone, but as one of his friends said in the publication for which he always wrote: Rudi is now fishing where no licenses are needed, his many friends will not forget him.

So dear Mr. Proper, I am sorry to be the writer of these sad lines. I wish you and yours everything that's good in the future.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Margaret van Alberda". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Margaret" being the most prominent part.

Kaarderstraat 16
5623 AG Eindhoven

Rudi van Alberda
Kaarderstraat 16
5623 AG EINDHOVEN
The Netherlands

To: Datus C. Proper
1914 N. Johnson St.
Arlington, VA 22207
U.S.A.

*Answered +
sent woodcock
feathers 6/5/83*

Eindhoven, April 21, 1983

Dear Datus,

Thanks very much for the copy of the booklet which is fun reading.

As to the duck hackles from the sebaceous gland, they come in a range of colours, from black to white with various shades in between. It just depends on the colour of the duck. I'm sure you can also find similar feathers on the glands of other water fowl (e.g. coot).

I do not know who was the first to use them. My friend saw them for the first time in Switzerland where they were used on tiny grayling flies ((dry)) but I also know that they are used unclipped on emerging mayfly patterns which are fished in the surface.

Other subject, which is about new leader designs. In Europe there is a tendency towards the use of braided and twisted leaders.

The first to come on the market with a braided leader last year was Elnetti from Vienna, Austria. (see sample). Some months ago, however, I went to a shop just over the border near Antwerp and the shopkeeper showed me a twisted design (see sample). I have tried them both and although the butt part is rather limp, they stretch and land on the water like a dream. An added advantage is that you don't have to stretch them before fishing. Try them out and let me know your opinion.

If you want to write about these new leaders e.g. Flyfisherman magazine, go ahead.

My preference is for the twisted leader (provided with a small loop) which I connect to the flyline in the following way. I make a hole in the core of the flyline with a thick needle, after I have softened the ~~plastic~~ plastic coating under the hot watertap or by means of a hairdrier. I leave the needle in the line for about ten minutes, pull it out and make a small loop of 12 lbs monofilament of which I push both ends with a drop of Superglue inside the line. Both the flyline and the leader now have a small loop which can be interconnected by a ~~normal~~

p .t.o.

a conventional loop-to-loop joint.

That's the method the designer and maker of the twisted leader recommended to me, and it works very well.

I have just tied a whole range of Inverted Funnelduns (Neil Patterson) which I am going to test in Ireland. I will let you know the outcome.

That's all for now. Please let me know your experiences with the duck hackles and the new leaders. Your efforts in trying to get the Marinaro rodtapers is highly appreciated, although I realize that it will not be easy, and perhaps impossible.

All the best

R. F.

Rudi van Alberda
Kaarderstraat 16
5623 AG EINDHOVEN
The Netherlands

To: Datus Proper

Eindhoven, June 20, 1983

Dear Datus,

Back from Ireland I found your letter dated June 5. But first a short account of my fortnight in Ireland as promised. My fishing pal and I (my wife went to France for a painting course) arrived on Shannon Airport in the pouring rain. We picked up the hired car and off we went to our first destination: the Suir and its tributaries. The river Anner could not be fished because a sandpit upstream dumped the excessive clay in the river. The Suir was too high and the water coloured. Disaster number one. Finally we found a lovely little river (tributary of the Blackwater) called the Tarr. Gin-clear water but no sizeable trout. Second destination: tributaries of the river Suck near Balinasloe. The Bunowen was too low, no rising fish, the water looked quite dead. The Tirur was just a trickle of a stream. Fortunately the Shiven was in good shape with an excellent hatch of big Mayfly. Biggest fish however did not measure more than 13 inches but tough fighters they were! I used the Mayfly imitation of Goddard and Clark, but although I used a heavy 3 lbs leaderpoint, these flies twisted the ~~leader~~ nylon in no time (propeller effect). However, any fly tied on a 10 or 12 hook did the trick equally well. Lough Acalla (Callow Lake), a rainbow trout lake with lunkers up to 7 lbs did not produce one trout. That week, we heard later on, the fishing was lousy all over the country including the seafishing, for no apparent reason. The lakes of Connemara were the next item on our programme. The first two days we fished a couple of good lakes, both wading and from a boat. Catches were disappointing and no really big fish were hooked. The Owenglen river which flows through Clifden had a run of grilse (small, only 4 to 5 lbs). We tried to catch some on fly but insiders told us that only wormfishing could guarantee success. Poaching by some locals produced 27 fish on one morning. On Saturday a southwest storm which lasted until Wednesday made further fishing impossible. The last two days we decided to fish the limestone river Fergus above Ennis, but the strong wind did not allow for proper control of our flylines. They went all directions except the right one. Very frustrating. All in all a disastrous holiday. On June 15 ~~when~~ when we left for Shannon, the weather changed to the better and the storm died out. At the same time a friend of mine spent two weeks on a stretch of the river Kyll in Germany and had a marvellous time, especially with the grayling. Almost the whole time he had the river all to himself, and caught a lot of fish. (and spent a fraction of the money I had to pay for my Ireland trip). I am now convinced that Ireland as a fishing country is finished. Back now to your letter. Thanks very much for the woodduck flank feathers. I know they are very scarce but about four years ago I managed to buy a complete skin for about ten dollars (today's very high rate).

From your letter I gather that you're using the duck hackles I sent you for winging flies. No objections of course, but here they are being used for hackling dry flies and emergers because of their excellent floating properties (and also because of the 'fluff' on the fibers which seems to look attractive). As to the suppliers of the braided and twisted leaders: on the packing of the Elnetti leader (braided) you will find the address in Vienna, I believe, while the twisted leaders are home-made by an old chap in Belgium. You can order them from Janssen Sport, Oude Bevelsteenweg 10, 2508 Kessel, Belgium. Enclosed are some more twisted leaders. Just recently I was introduced to an extremely strong monofilament nylon called AEON and made in Japan. I am sending you a piece to test.

7x

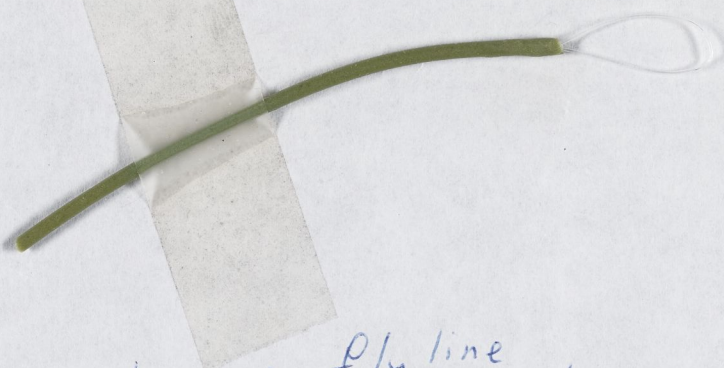
~~It's~~ It's a ~~4x~~ nylon and very suitable for leaderpoints. My friend used it in Germany and tied it to ~~5x~~ conventional nylon. Some big fish broke his leader, not the AEON but the 4x.

Use about one yard for nymph fishing but a shorter length for dry flies as it does not stretch very well. It looks promising for midge fishing.

That's all for now. Please keep me informed about the leaders, the duck hackle and the AEON. All the best!

#

Anti



Example of fly
with duck hackle
(body of silk)

Loop in fly line
for attaching twisted
leader. Loop should
be however much smaller,
like the one on the
leader.

P.S. Enclosed leaders
are 11"
Price B. Frs. 150,-

Rudi van Alberda
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The Netherlands

To: Mr. Datus Proper

Eindhoven, August 1, 1985

Dear Datus,

Many thanks for your letter and copy of your article in Rod & Reel. Because I have been ill for quite some time I have not been able to do much fishing. Last time was in June when I went ^{to} Gloucestershire to fish the chalkstream Colne, but despite the favorable critics, the river mainly contained small grayling with a few sizeable trout. And the weather was appalling! I also managed to get a dayticket for the famous river Kennet at Marlborough. Money thrown away ^{as} they were weedcutting so most of the stretch was unfishable. You mentioned Laslo Elnetti in your article. He is a Hungarian who lived in Austria for quite some time, then moved to Cologne in Germany and now has a business in Belgium, designing, building and selling superb fishing rods (carbon). Elnetti is the name of his first wife (Italian) and he is still using it for business reasons (his own Hungarian name sounds like a speechdefect) One of my Carbon rods is a Scott PowR-Ply which I bought some six years ago. It's a 9-foot[#]rod for a 4-weight line but I use it with a WF 3 line exclusively for nymph fishing. Soon after I bought it, the ferrule showed some tiny cracks and up to now I managed to repair it in one way or the other. However, last month the ferrule broke off. I wrote a letter to the company in California and they sent me a new ferrule together with assembly instructions. Very kind. I'm now trying to find a rodbuilder who is willing to do the job. Putting the new ferrule in is not so much of a problem but getting the old one out seems to be very tricky as it has to be done by drilling (heat!)

As to the fishing in Ireland I recommend you buy a new book entitled 'Fly-fishing for Irish Trout' by Niall Fallon. The book can be ordered from Robert's Books, Kilkenny, Ireland but I don't remember its price. Anyway, I am sending you herewith copy of Appendix II in the Book which gives a very accurate account of the Irish trout rivers. Last time I fished in Ireland was in June 1983. It never stopped raining and the second week we had to suffer a fierce storm. I had only a few days of Mayfly fishing on the river Shiven (tributary of the Suck near Ballinasloe) which were very enjoyable with some good trout. For the rest of the time fishing was impossible

By the way, did you ever tie and fish Neil Patterson's Inverted Funnel Duns and Spinners? If not, I strongly recommend you to try them as yet. I have fished these flies for the last three years and they turned out to be far superior to any other design. (see copies of the 2-part article I sent you at the time). It took me quite some time to master the tying of these flies (correct proportions and construction) but now the problems are over.

What's your opinion about Lee Wulff's Triangle Taper lines?

I have used the 5/6 weight on a ~~9 foot~~ 9,2 foot Hardy carbon rod for a 5 line, for the last two years and I think ^{line} it is a real improvement in fly line design. I am especially impressed by its rolecast capability and the subtle way it lands on the water. Last year April I published an article on my findings in Holland's prime angling magazine and it was the first article on the subject published in Europe. Since then, the new line is doing quite well, although it did not cause a revolution.

This is all for now. Hope to hear from you again soon.

Best regards

Rudi