

Nick Lyons
Lyons + Sanford
31 W. 21 St., NY 10010

10 July 1992
(Lower Nebraska)

Dear Datus:

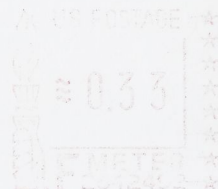
That was a lovely few hours
at your place and I'm very happy
to have such a good picture of
your wonderful home and extraordinary
piece of water. Thompson is a little
gam - clearly filled with surprise,
challenge and great intimacy. I
like to think of you there. Not many
people I know deserve such a place,
or are worthy of it; you are.
I hope you'll do a truly
fine dog book, and I hope you'll
think of a really classic essay of
your or fine parts on fly fishing:
a modern ethic and aesthetic for it
all.

We had an interesting day on
the Big Hole and visited a retired
heart surgeon I know who's trying to
run a 5,000-acre cattle ranch virtually
by himself. I fished for an hour
in the evening and got 3 fat
whitefish and one 8" rainbow - but
his few miles of water are big and
very attractive.
Best, always,
Nick



THE LYONS PRESS

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Datus Propper
1085 Hamilton
Belgrade, MT
59714

39714+B307



for Nick

? Do small separate pieces
that more or less
track the year - rather
than grouping by months?

(i.e., could move house-building
to spring, or debt 2. You
can't build in winter.
Start look in the something
more fun.)

Datus C. Proper
1914 N. Johnson St.
Arlington, VA 22207

June 23, 1987

Mr. Nick Lyons
Nick Lyons Books
31 W. 21 St.
New York, NY 10010

Dear Nick,

Enclosed are not one but three comments on In The Ring Of The Rise; take your pick. I prefer the first but suspect that the second may be better for your purposes. And if you really want less than 25 words, there's the third, which is so short that it's psychedelic.

Let me recommend that you also use these words on the jacket. They're Vince's, from page 8:

"Nothing in these photographs was contrived or constructed These are photographs of wild trout in a natural environment. It was not an easy thing to do."

Obviously I'm recommending that you emphasize the photos. The text wasn't always as good as his first book, but the photos were startling, original, unprecedented. They forced those among us who were paying attention to throw out a lot of the old stuff on "rise forms." I still leaf through the book and find it difficult to believe that anyone could see Letort browns that well, let alone photograph them (with equipment that now seems antique). He didn't resort to tame trout, unsuspicious trout, even artificial flies. Wow.

Just saw your piece on upscale angling in the NYT. Taught things I was only beginning to glimpse. Guess I mentioned to you that my eyes started to open during one (misguided) trip to the Madison last August. The crowds looked as if they'd just dined in 3-star restaurants. A few years ago, it was more like emptying the West Yellowstone bars. Let's hope the prosperity rubs off on publishers and writers.

Meanwhile I'll settle for June dawns a couple of miles up a little stream in Shenandoah Park, with nobody around but the brook trout.

1) Marinaro was an original. Before him, what we thought we knew about the trout's rise was anecdotal -- and often wrong. He did hard research, photographed the evidence. It is the best work ever on the meeting of trout and fly.

2) This is the best thing ever done on the meeting of trout and fly. It's original research. It's supported by photos that I would not have thought possible. It's what you'd expect of Marinaro.

3) This is the best thing ever done on the meeting of trout and fly.

Datus C. Proper



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22 July 1999

Dear Datus:

Jim Babb thought you might like to see these bound galleys for CROSSCURRENTS, and perhaps give us a comment that we could use on the jacket.

I hope all goes well for you.

I'm working less, now that Tony runs matters here, and fishing a bit more--but not enough of either. I'm on a short salmon jaunt in late August and though, like Sparse, "When the bugger takes a fly I want to know why," I did this only once before, twenty-five years ago, and find myself looking forward to the trip.

long When are you going to write that short philosophic book and let me publish it?

Best, always,



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Dear Datus.- 12 February

Here's that review of
Mazie's last show. It has
done her a world of
good.

I look forward to
seeing your manuscript.
Send it along at your
convenience.

Best,

N. br