usa demonstrate ence and skill, all of must have made the fiational selectors' task that

much easier.

Wing

lively.

k to the

for Twick-

is a slight

rewster, who

le two weeks

try into the

play last

The Scotland squad trained at Murrayfield last night and will assemble there again on Sunday to continue their preparations for the game.

The international will be refereed by England's Roger Quittenton, who went to Romania with Scotland last year.

RESULTS: Ardleigh Hall 5, Arrow Village 0; Home Ales Nottingham 4, Chapel Allerton 1; Poundstretcher Dunnings Mill 3, Intercity Cannons (London) 2; Man-chester Northern 5, Visco Monroe 0; Halls West Country 1, Skol Leicester 4.

	P	W	1	Pts
Dunnings Mill	15	13	2	77
Leicester	14	11	3	72
Cannons	15	11	4	71
Manchester N	15	11	4	71
Chapel All	14	9	5	57
West Country	14	5	9	41
Ardleigh Hall	15	5	10	40
Nottingham	14	4	10	36
Visco Monroe	14	3	11	30
Arrow Village	14	0	14	0

BKIING

ent, not picks

Vest Germany nde Svan, the and's wayward ti Nykanen, are timent, but not orld championt today.

makers have fa-

Olympic and s apparently on s.Svan has won title in crossut it would take versal to come ecent displays. 50 kilometers in the Swedish pionships ed out of conm test run on , Switzerland. ord is equally is recent form. th the authori-He was at first Finnish team, d.

e favourites on men's events. the winner of faces a tough r compatriot. der, Marianne

FISHING

Americans catch the French bug at last

By Conrad Voss Bark

The English and the Americans share a common heritage with the design of dry flies for trout. They are imitationists. They match the hatch. Indeed the Americans go even further, copying the natural insect down to the very last whisker. Moreover, and this is to their advantage, if they are copying a trico or a sulphur they call the artificial by the name of the natural insect so everyone is clear what they are talking about.

But the French, a dedicated fishing nation, have gone their own mysterious ways in dry fly design. With the honourable exceptions of the old-time professional fly fishmen, no longer with us, a French dry fly looks like a small tropical flower. An hibiscus bud. Why the French tie these things and even more mysteriously why French trout actually take them is one of the curious anomalies of nature. The English who have a long acquaintance with French natures wisely ignore it.

But not the Americans who

are the first English-speaking people to bring out a book on the subject. Called French Fishing Flies, it is written by a French fly dresser Dr Jean-Paul Pequegnot, translated by Robert Chino and with an introduction by Datus Proper it is published by Nick Lyons Books of New York.

Mr Proper does his best to introduce the French but even though he knows Europe well you can feel a slight unease in what he writes. He openly admits that French dry flies are likely to produce what he calls a culture shock among the Anglo-Saxons. Yes, indeed. The English have been used to culture shocks from the French ever since the Norman Conquest so we are well prepared for them by now, but what the innocent Americans (who have only known them since Lafayette) will think of a nation which calls its dry flies names like Ugly, Potato, Cuckoo Cage, Buxom Girl and Lout of the Road, will be a matter of more than passing interest.

golf our Pe all the bo me.' I dev and love

It was I though, v fessional natural as the LPGA from Nort and even Oklahoma which has didn't hav LPGA. Id like at all went out made mon was going

The her."I do didn't p savs. weeks o had to

Melh

hard La appears to the fa in the A nament day. Both the der course man the year hist

Langer' high finis events of tour, shot on Tuesda in the tr pro-am. N putting po hopeful o title on th

"It suits and demai Norman. form wh world's to give him British O

ICAP CHASE (£1,755: 3m 1f)

L Harv	ey 91 F5-2
13 M Bowl	by 96 9-2
C Llewell	yn 25-1
J Low	ver 97 10-1
G Land	au 98 10-1
8 D Mor	ris 98 8-1
G Norton	(5) 92 33-1
A Muliholla	nd 88 12-1
I Wrig	ght 33-1
0-10-3 W McFarla	nd 93 6-1
W Humphre	eys • 99 8-1
J Bro	
,	
K Towne	
13-10-0 A Charl	
A Muggerid	
y 9-10-0 A Morgan	

FROST

36: 2m) (21 fullilers	>)
C Brown	95 F5-4
G McCourt	20-1
R J Beggan	82 5-1
5-10-7 S Morshead	96 3-1
P Nicholls	25-1
J Suthern	33-1
C Gray	33-1
M Williams	92 9-1
R Millman	33-1
B Powell	25-1
—	25-1
D Wonnacott (7)	99 12-1
Mr S Stickland	25-1
K Townend (7)	77 16-1
N Coleman	80 20-1
A Sharpe	25-1
W Humphreys (7)	16-1
Mr T Mitchell (7)	25-1
C Cox	20-1
A Madgwick	25-1
R Rowell	33-1

ists

JOCKEYS

Winners	Rides	Per cent	
11	72	15.3	
13	85	15.3	
11	77	14.3	
11	89	12.3	
14	123	11.4	

NDERGRADU.

27 0P10/P NDERGRADG. 29 0F1-40 SE PAR (Mrs M Peel) N 31 0/0204P- MISTY PARK (J Brownrigg) G H Jones

3.15 DICK WOODHOUSE HUNTER CHASE (Amateurs.

(Inches		
1	11411-	I GOT STUNG (J Delahooke) J Delahooke 7-12-7
2	0/23312-	PRINCE MILBORNE (R Fear) R Fear 11-12-7
3	1-	KATE JUST (P Hannen) Miss E Sneyd 7-12-2
4	23P032-	ARCTIC MARINER (J Shiers) J Shiers 9-12-0
5	PUP1F4-	BLUE BEANS (B Rendell) B Rendell 12-12-0
7	23/D3-	BUCK'S MILL (Mrs S Foale) Mrs S Foale 9-12-0
8	00/	CHART RETURN (H) Miss S Pilkington 9-12-0 Mis
10	P4/	EIGHT BALL (J Cullen) J Cullen 10-12-0
11	0/00P00-	FIGHTING ROCKET (Mrs E Mitchell) N Mitchell 10-12-0
12	0-	FLYING-X-RAY (A Holmes) A Holmes 8-12-0
13	1/2FF-	GENERAL MERCHANT (B) (G Tate) G M Tate 7-12-0
14	P-	HARD TOUCH (S R Stevens) S R Stevens 10-12-0
16	42023/B-	ROMULEX (Mrs J Baimbridge) Mrs J Baimbridge 9-12-0
17		SAYOU (R Robinson) R Robinson 7-12-0
18	OFOPPO/	SPARTAN GLORY (G Richards) Graham Richards 10-12-0
19	113P2/4-	TAWNY MYTH (C) (R Cake) R Cake 13-12-0
20	F3000-	TULLISPARK (N Ramsay) N Ramsay 11-12-0
21	2P2PP-2	VILLAGE MARK (CD) (J Grant Cann) J Grant Cann 13-12-0
22	P	MELODIC SPIRIT (Mrs A Holly) D Holly 6-11-9
24	BPP3P	STONEYARD (B) (G Probert) G Probert 8-11-9 M

3.45 FOVANT NOVICE HURDLE (4-Y-O: £1,104: 2m) (21 runners)

1	100	DEVIL'S RUN (D) (Mrs T Bulgin) T Bulgin 11-3
2	0120	FORCELLO (D) (British Thoroughbred R & B plc) G Balding 11-3
11	EA	KINNAIT STAP (N Thomson) N Thomson 10-10
12	1100	MURHAF (J Joseph) R Frost 10-10
13	, 000	MILEICAL VOLITH (D Rodway) D Wintle 10-10
14		NO BOLDER (Dr J Pittard) P J Jones 10-10
15	00	OUT YONDER (W Wightman) W Wightman 10-10
16		DI AIN TAI K (G Darby) G Thorner 10-10
17	003	PRIOK (W Wightman) W Wightman 10-10
20	- 11	RUE ST JACQUES (D Makins) B Smart 10-10
21	UEU	SAHRAAN (Mrs K Devonport) F Jordan 10-10
24		SUPERCOOMBE (F. Jameson) S Christian 10-10
26	440	THE LEGGETT (Mrs G Malone) L Kennard 10-10
28	PO	TOM'S LITTLE WILL (T Staddon) W R Williams 10-10 M M
29		WINTED HAVEN (1 Davis) J H Baker 10-10
30	00	BAYTINO (B Brown) W Kemp 10-5
34	F	BAYTINO (R Brown) W Kemp 10-5
35	2	SHEER NECTAR (BF) (L Turland) G Balding 10-5
37	ODD	SMITHY'S GIRL (I Nystrom) N Avliffe 10-5
38	F2	SUNLIT (B Liewellyn) B Liewellyn 10-5
. 39	0	TERN OF A CENTURY (Sarif & Co Ltd) D Jermy 10-5
. 00		

4.15 GILLINGHAM HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,912: 2m) (14 runners) D-223PP LIFE GUARD (D) (J Joseph) D Elsworth 6-11-7...

3	P-223PP	LIFE GUARD (D) (3 303eph) D Listroiti 6 11
4	300-1U0	COCAINE (CD) (C Holmes) C Holmes 9-11-5
6	000-403	SANTOPADRE (D,BF) (T Ramsden) R Simpson 5-11-2
8	F-03300	DICK'S FOLLY (D) (Mrs M Bisgrove) R Hodges 8-10-13
9	0000/00-	JOHN WILLOUGHBY (D) (A Aylett) A Aylett 9-10-12
11	F0-1224	BLACK SHEEP (CD) (Mrs E Dudgeon) I Dudgeon 10-10-6
12	041-031	TOPSOIL (D) (T Ramsden) D Wintle 5-10-6
16	12000-	NORSTOWN (D) (Mrs A Sims) R Holder 5-10-4
20	DODEDO	MEZIARA (V) (B Scott) D Tucker 6-10-0
21	0-01P	ARENA AUCTION (Mrs S Patternore) S Patternore 5-10-0
22	10P-030	CERVANTE SOVEREIGN (Mrs F Hunt) J D Roberts 8-10-0
23	4F003/0	LAURA'S PRIDE (D) (A Marriott) C Wildman 10-10-0
25	0000-20	CONOR'S ROCK (Mrs M Stirk) Mrs M Stirk 7-10-0
26	FP0-000	ABJAD (B Venn) B Venn 6-10-0



ALFRED A. KNOPF

CHARLES ELLIOTT

12 February 87

Dear Datus,

Glad to see you're still at it.

This appeared in the Times today.

But I thought they used, well, frogs....

Yrs

J.-P. PEQUEGNOT Besonçon, le 27.4.85 19, Rue de la Cassotte 25000 BESANÇON che, ami, Nick lyons semble finalement décidé à faire un petit troge du Répertoire. Vos conections, que je viens de recevoir, sont donc patriculière ment l'enveny et our l'article dans thy Tyer! Dans cet outile vous pose un certoin nombre de questions. Je peuse jourson y répondre en partie. "Do hour take belies if a jostion of the tippet is above. the surface "? Je peux répondre : oui, indicate. blement, après 20 aus de comparaisons assidue, - The drop: pos élimine mois réduit, en Toul cos le dragage du bas de ligne, près de la mouche, pri est le + pernicieux est totolement - fine tippet: non, pas nécessaire lorge front hockle: oui, ni essois, la mouche doit regerdez vers le hout. some effect achieved by traditional backle fly? oui, mais l'effet n'est pas si marque. Le col de you est moins bien desoire, noins durable, il disparoit des pue la mouche est moins sèche. attention. les deux hackly ne douvent per être May thanks hoppe, Coignes not vergood

PAR AVION





AÉROGRAM METANGON.

M Dehis. C. Proper

1914 N. Johnson St.

Orlington

UA 22207

U.S.A.

s'il contient un objet quelconque. Ce pli ne sera pas acheminé par avion

J.-P. PEQUEGNOT

19, Rue de la Cassotte 25000 BESANÇON

18.8.85

Ches Monsieus,

Les plumes de Wood. Duck pue contencit votre lettre sont extrêmement belles et intéressentes. Cettle premier fois que j'en vois. Elles sont tout à fait préférables aux plumes de mollert et constituent certainement le meilleur makien possible pour les oiles. Je n'errive pes à comprendre pue les Onglois, et en perticulies Skues qui n'étoit pos un sot, n'évent gordon dons l'emploi de ce metrice

Mais sons donte à l'épopue ces plus

core fro Dile

étaient-elles déjà vores et contenses. Je pense, comme vous, que leur souglesse est un avantage tre important. Hour les hackles de cop, je n'en oi oucun de vroiment bon pour l'instant et j'és égolement les mêmes officie. tions que vous sur les hackles Metzele. Je n'en oi jomois trouvé d'esse foncés pour mon gout. Joime un gis bleu prespue nois. Le heckle Silves "est surpren out Je n'evois jomois vu cele et, effectiement c'est le meilleure Esocotion pomible de ciles d'imagos. J'ai écrit un article sur l'usage of plums pardos dans les moulles à soumon, que R. Chino a traduit en anglois. Je l'ai envoyé à l'Atlant Solmon Journal pui ne m'a jamais occusé réaption, ne donne de nouells molgre une lette elle our rester

sens réponse. Ce procède extremement discourtois semble tout à fait courdille amenque du Nord et particulièrement on Canada. Il y a en effet une perenté ou une resemblance froffonte ento la plumeaux français et tos bent hackles. En seit vos bent hackles servient offelis plumedux en trouce, et je ne sois comment dans les pays anglo-sarons où on s'en sert également. Les montes anglois clossiques n'out jourcis en de consideration pour ces moucles rustiques pontont tre efficaces et éliminant le village. Je viens de recevois une copie de votre inhoduction pour French Fishing Flis & lai beaucoup aine. Je vois que vous ave pris contact over es difficultés de la fecte en Prouce

Cependont. Il y a de belle viviers en France et certains parcours publics sont eucore interessonts. George Beal peut en temoignes, il prétend que le jethe on Voys Boopne est plus interemente que dons l'ouest 3,5 U.S Cloui n'est surement per vioi du point de vue toille et nombre de poisons, mais vioi du point de rue in sectes, èclosions et acturbé en ruhietre peuse que la Note to Fly Tyers est ruhietre pur la noys actuellemens n'utilise une oute numerolotion que elle de Reddirch. avec les fentais que nous déplorons ... a propos d'home gons, je suis exclanté des Tiemas 101 à ceillets droits. Remos. quable puolité d'acies. Je n'utilise plus que de xillets divito. Over toute ma gratifiede et amicaleur J.P. PEQUEGNOT 19 me de la Cassofe F. 25000 BEJANÇON.

7.7.85

Ches M'Roper,

Note lettre du 27 juin me montre que vous éts préoccupe pes le prestions de classification des monches mois je juis embanest pour vous répondre. C'est un problème complexe et je ne jeuse pas que mes compatriots éprouvent, ou oil éprouve la nêcesaté de le résondre.

Kye entreue de gens pui sinté: ressent à l'un on l'autre espech suivout:

- le structure, exchitecture, monteg

peut être choise comme box de dosoi. fication, comme vous l'eve foit. Por exemple Heuri Bresoon, un outo. didacte sens culture, exprime volontiers l'idee, sens donte voloble ou ileaix de montages " perpendiculoire" pui évopuent le étémers, et de montage "perallèls" pui voquent plutoit plèce. pters et tuihopters. Cernoi, pour Brenz le polmer, que vous sonne pour une d'éphènère. la couleur: préoccupation de unitationes mois ausa de présentationiste qui l'utilisent pour des roisons de vivilier ed: la mouche Toute Rose de Loue extraordis one ment vioi ble day Is pluspetile Failles serait the while our américains pour le trices" le motiere et ses puslits physiques

desserhent, c'est à dire dons le 6 mois, 1on an plus. Je vois demander à fry Plas des backles frois cet hive, pour vous les envoye, et vous les utilisére sous doivent être retilisé la soison suivente Voici des hockes pordos de 1985 Ils sont exceptionnels (environ 1 dolla, julie mois varous vous, guppes me les a donnies) et on le utilise. - jour de foux hockle - pour le aile de Cahill Puille fording etre. ils tont bres oujerieurs en summer duck. _ how Is carpue. - pour tout... seuls ou en me onge. Chino refuse d'en achetes, con il prétentions de prix. En foit, ce

et encore bien plus étudiée par le François. Je vois répondre ici oux puestions que vous poses à R. Chino. Les publités les plus importante d'un hackle re sont pos on géomètrie (ratio of tem to boil length) mois: - la souperse, l'élatraté et le hillant de borbes. - l'élasticité de la pointe de la tige (skm) our ne corre pos en coms de montoge, ni dons le bouche du Un mouvois hockle come en fin de montoge et same à l'uvage ou biens ses files se conchent opre puelque, De dommet de quelité ne peut être obtenu que our un cop de plus d'i ou, vivout, en utilis out le hockle le plus tot possible avant pu'ils ne se sont des curionités, present de plumes de collection. Ces plumes cont protique. mentignories oux U.S.A. Orvis en propose quelques unes, moins belle, mois je ne sais pas si le amateurs by sont interesses. Le Onglois pris ont vu ces plumes pensent odsoi pu'ells sont trop chère, donc sons groud interel protipue. Protiquement, on ne houve des pens aise préoccupés por de motérier on en France et en Espogne, pour utiliser cesplumes. Homing vous m'envoyens une plume de wood duck comme celle and white ou devait whitis, pour le leit de den en en ei jemeis va

sont des curiontés, present de plumes de collection. Ces plumes cont protique. mentionaire oux U.S.A. orvis en propose quelous unes, moins belle mois je ne sais pas si le amateurs. by sont interesses. Les Onglois pris ont vu ce plumes pensent ousoi qu'elle sont trop chère, donc sons groud interêt protipue. Protiquement, on ne houve de sens aise préoccupés por de motérier on en Prouce et en Espogne, pous utiliser cesplumes. toming vous m'envoyens une plume de wood duck comme celle qu'on utilise, ou devoit utilis, pour le Puil Jordon? Je n en si jomeis ve loutemes smithet

J.-P. PEQUEGNOT

19. Rue de la Cassotte

25000 BESANÇON

le 7.6.85

Ches monoieur Proper.

Je reçois votre lettre et le restout de mon monuscist evec vos conectaz alors que je suis excupe à methe ou point le troduction ovec mon omi Robert Chino.

Bob va effectue le corrections nécesois.

Bien entende, je servis enchanté 80 vous voulier bien écrire une préface pour l'édition américaire de 4 livre et j'en suis tot honoré et tre reconnais sout,

J'avone pue je ne sois pas trop puoi

vous répondre quous on conscrété l'fispiement français "de mes idées. Jetrois oue j'occupe unplace un peu semblable à la votre en aminour mais pue le faços de peuse pri nous excommene n'est pes nouvelle mi en trance, ni en digletene, ni en amerique. Je peux per exemple qu'il n'y a vien dons votre livre pui chopmereit Hewitt on Lee Wulff. En France, l'échelle de Redditch est seule utilisée, mais & jechems françois détetent le libertés que prenne les folicants ouglo- soxons ovecles numero, c'expoupuoi les monches frausiss vous parationt un per plus petits one le monches anglaises. Elle trichent moins over le veritable numero Je peuse à propos de numeros que sente l'ouverture devroit être déterminant

et pu'elle serroit etre définie pour chapu 110 une fois pour toutes. Hois ce seroit difficile à faire acceptance Ongleis pri adorent les imprécisions... au moment ou je vois Ferming ce de le le je reçois le contrat de Meis je vois le lui renvoyes signé le plus reprédement possible Hier sois j'oi note (bos de. ligne cessé) une tres belle huit souvage françois de plus de 2 livres. Je suis in consolable Ces poissons sont rores en France Cependant, oi pris une Rainbowsk 6 livres (2 kg 760) récemment dons une petite riviere normande. Ce poisson s'était échappe d'une pisciculture et ovoit promi penden plusieus annies dans le rivière.

avec toute me reconnaissance
et me amités

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

June 27, 1985

Dear Dr. Pequegnot,

Thanks for your letter of June 7. In my introduction, I will note that the French use the Redditch scale and insist on a certain precision in such matters. This comes as a source of moral support to me. As far as I know, my book was the only one in this country to deplore the current situation, in which sizes have lost their meaning. One reviewer clearly thought that I was being cranky.

I should have been more clear when I asked whether you considered your ideas typically French or personal. My own book departed from from all the sources I knew (mainly English-language) in one sense: I classified all my flies by their "design" (structure) and said that I considered color to be relatively unimportant. Although I tried not to sound stridently revolutionary, I did explicitly reject the traditional system of "patterns," which are differentiated mainly by color. The difference was summarized in my chapter 9. My system of classification did break sharply from all the history I knew. I spent considerable time thinking through this change.

In your book, of course, you do not formally propose a new classification system, but you do distinguish many of your flies by their structure rather than by their color. My impression is that you are also breaking with tradition to some extent. Perhaps, however, the French tradition has not placed as much emphasis on color as the English system (of which the American system is an offshoot). I would be interested in your thoughts on this.

I do note that you consider some of your flies to be non-imitative because the color is not that of the natural (for example, La Loue). This would be consistent with the English and American traditions.

Just returned from Montana, where I did catch several browns and rainbows from 16" to 19" on small dry flies. Returned them all, however, so I'm not sure of the weight. The fish in my stream look pretty but taste terrible.

Yours,

Dear M' Roper.

Merci pour votre correction de la traduction de Robert A. Chino. Je lui oi trouomis ces conections, dont il a admis la nécessité dans un bon non le de cos. Bien entendu, d'outes conections seront les brenvenues et je vous suis tre reconnaissent de bren vouloir feire ce travail ... quand vous pourres! Jeorge Beall a été asse malade cet hive, mois Je crois pue ela va miena. Mon livre L'Ort de la Pêthe à la Monde sècle vient de percêtre en Itolien. dépê de et ouverte ici. J'oi pis déjà luvion 12 truts de 12 à Rinds en monde dèche, mois Jen oi conservé 2 seulement de 14 inches. Je crois pue le soison est plus précoce en Europe, Lont le climat est plus continantal maritime et tempéré pue le climat continentel de W.S. J'oi obtenu des homegons liem co 101 eu

amerique evec des "straight eye". Tout à foit logiques! Je vois les essayes. Très cordiolement

Repregnet

e de constante de la constante

de la consensa de la

How was to the he had to the to and he field,

A File de 120 th mily en la Deste, ma

for a less to the continue and many the

Henry des paneyons Tremon 101

F. 25000 BESANÇON

Cher monoieur Proper,

Voici la traduction en américain de mon livre Répertoire de Monches Ortificielles Françaises. Je ne peuse pas qu'il est possible de trouves un éditeur en Omérique. Je vous pose 2 puestions:

1. Que pense vous de la traduction?

2 - Pensez vous que je pourrois vendre oux US. 7-800 exemplaires à des currieux, à des bibliothèques? Je pense foire, à mes frais, 1000 exemplaires numerotés.

Je suis allé pêches le steelhead dans l'île de Kodick Aleske en octobre. J'ei en tis froid le mint.
J'ai più 6 Steel. de 6 è 12 lb et ... 57 coho!
Sans comptes une centaine (on plus) de Dolly Varden. Il y a dans ut endioit autout de poissons que d'eau dans le riviere. Certains modèles de monches comme les imitations

de crevettes (General Krechchone, ou du même genre) sont unutilisable parce ou elle sont in stantanement exprofondement avolées, oi bien ou on ne peut plus relocker le poisson sons dommege. J'ai fait des essais en monche sèche sons Dutum Juccès. C'était vroiment une tres curiense espécieux, suitout pour un pêcheus fronçois holitie à pêches des coux tre pourres. D'accord, c'est de la pêche à la monche assez fruste. Cependant je pense qui ancun pëcheng « la monche amèricain ne serroit être in différens à la truite steelhead, reine des batailles, et pes si idiote qu'on ne le dit. Toute mes aminet

INTRODUCTION

I caught a trout in France once. The State Department had sent me to the European headquarters of the United Nations in Geneva to do something, but the memorable part begins with a fishing-tackle cubbyhole down near the Rhône. Its window displayed strange devices: a pocket-sized wooden box with little holes covered by a metal lid, for "woodworms"; canvas wallets with partitions for treble-hooked lures; bait-fishing rods that must have been fifteen feet long; floats in several sizes and shapes; but also a book or two on fly-fishing. I bought one -- by L. de Boisset, on Grayling -- and sought advice from the owner of the shop. There was, he said, a pretty stream in the Canton of Geneva. Once it had even provided good fishing. Now it was abused. Still, if I had nothing better to do....

There was one other bit of preparation: I scouted out a restaurant to cook my trout dinner for me, after I had caught.

A bottle of Meursault would be just right with the fish -- some strain on the budget, perhaps, but my first European trout was to provide an unforgettable occasion.

And, indeed, I haven't forgotten.

The Allondon was a freestone stream that rippled like its name. If you have seen Big Run in Virginia, or the West Fork of the Gila in New Mexico, or the upper Willowemoc in the Catskills, you would be prepared for fishing the Allondon. But you might not be prepared for the results.

I insist that I caught fish, plural. In the morning, a couple of brown trout took small flies after lengthy stalking. But they were below the minimum size of twenty-three centimeters (nine inches). If the stream contained any fish of legal size, they hid from me, and also from a throng of other anglers. $^{\Pi}$ For a while I watched one undersized trout rising in a riffle, just because it was a pleasure to see a free-rising fish for a change. When I came back that way in half an hour, it was flopping feebly on the gravel bank. Another angler had caught the fish--on a woodworm wriggling below a float. He located a tape measure and stretched it along the trout from head to tail, and then from tail to head, before deciding that no dimension approached twenty-three centimeters, even with an allowance for elongation of the tape due to metal fatigue or other technical errors. Besides, a crowd was standing there watching. The trout went back but did not, I think, survive to produce free-rising offspring.

These people had ways of making trout talk. Beyond woodworms, there were spinning bubbles with multiple flies mounted above them, angleworms fished deep with those long rods, and some other methods that should not be mentioned in a family publication.

Still, it was not till I met one other fly-fisherman later in the day that I saw a legal-sized trout. It was in his creel, reposing on ferns. I watched him briefly, and he was as good as his American counterparts, which is not to say that he

-3was privy to any unique methods or skills. He did know the river well, but the Genevois are close-mouthed, and I went off to scout my own dinner. That is when I met the French trout. The Swiss Canton of Geneva is wedged into France and shares (in addition to language) the River Allondon. I waded across the border near dusk -- with no French license but with a diplomatic passport and an atrocious accent, one of which would, I hoped, convince the authorities not to throw me in jail. It was getting too dark to see a drab fly on fast water, so I fished a little Hair-Wing Royal Coachman upstream near a sheltered bank. It may have been the one thing that the trout had not learned to fear. Or it may have been that the French were stocking hatchery fish. In any case, I caught a thin brown trout twenty-four centimeters long (without haggling over decimal points), and he took as readily as his brothers in Montana. I thought deeply while he rested in the water at my feet, then turned him loose. There was nothing honorable about my intentions, but he could have floated around in a bottle of Meursault without displacing much of the contents, and it was too late to hope for another fish. Do not take this as a sad stody. Fishing is always better than not fishing, and a bottle of beer tasted fine with my sardines and crackers. Testimony from an American witness is, however, intended to help you appreciate the conditions under which this book evolved. Dr. Pequegnot is given to wry

understatement -- a refreshing quality in fish-writers. You can believe what he tells you. In particular, you should believe the last paragraph in his preface, which says that you can have confidence in the effectiveness of the flies used by the French, Belgians and Swiss, even if you do not agree with their conservation practices.

It is about time that someone published a good book in English on the French fly-fishing tradition. We know that France is rich in most resources — natural, human, and gustatory—but how many of us have fished there? If I did so, even for an hour, it was only because the frontier sneaked in between me and a trout. For that matter, I do not recall seeing a single article on the subject in any American magazine. Leonard Wright made an accurate reference to the French professionals in his Trout Heresies, but it was not published in time to help me in Geneva. Yet one of the first books I read on fishing — not long after the Winnie—the—Pooh stage — was by a man named G.E.M. Skues, who wrote about chalkstreams. I don't recall thinking of either Pooh or Skues as foreign.

France has chalkstreams too, and rocky little mountain streams, and everything in between. France is, in fact bigger than Montana, with one of the world's best mixtures of soil and climate. When they designed all that they didn't leave the rivers out.

France -- like America -- has been influenced by the English fishing tradition. Dr. Pequegnot makes this clear. But in the French case, English ideas were imposed on native habits. That was not the case in English-speaking America: for us, the culture of angling began in England, was lifted intact to the New World, and then changed in response to local conditions. The change was remarkably slow: Americans still use artificial flies called Iron Blue Duns and Blue-Winged Olives, even though we lack the natural British flies on which the artificials were originally based.

We also retain the old concept of patterns, in which flies -- or at least serious, imitative flies -- are classified by color. (Look again at Iron Blue and Blue-Winged Olive.) If an artificial fly does not resemble the natural in color, then most of us do not consider it imitative. We may catch a trout on a fly that resembles the natural in behavior, size and shape, but if the color is different, we conclude (by a remarkable leap of logic) that the trout was not selective.

In what category, then, shall we place a fly that happens to be "rose champagne" in color? <u>La Loue</u> is, by definition, a fancy fly, because no one knows exactly what insect it is intended to represent. But it is small; it is soberly dressed (for the color-blind); and it has the shape traditionally associated with representations of mayfly duns. Furthermore, it takes difficult fish — and I gather that they include trout, though it started as a grayling fly. The Halfordian

inconvenient. Pequegnot does not take that way out. He tries

La Loue, finds it "neither more nor less effective" at catching
fish than other hackle flies, but recommends it because of its

remarkable visibility to the angler.

This kind of analysis may seem brutally frank (if you have made an investment in expensive hackles of many hues), it is not culture-bound. You can count on Dr. Pequegnot to tell you precisely the advantages and disadvantages of each dressing, without excessive reverence for the mythology of the matter. And if color does not get much of his time, the design of flies certainly does. I never understood how the peculiar structure of the Mole Fly was supposed to work until I read his description of the Pont-Audemer, a derivative dressing. He has developed the Fore-&-Aft Fly more highly than anyone else. His sedges have the simplicity of genius, and the Plumeaux is, in my experience, about the best imitation available for the greendrake.

Which brings up a question that needs clarification for the record. In my 1982 book, I described the Plumeaux -- or something structurally identical--under the name "Bent-Hackle Fly." I picked up the design in Ireland and was not aware that it had also been used in France. There are other cases in which I could have profited from Dr. Pequegnot's writing, and will from now on.

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The names of French flies will also send some misleading signals to English-speakers. In both Britain and America, we have unwritten codes by which we can distinguish the deep-thinking flies from the frivolous. Of course, the fly shops still sell Adamses and Greenwell's Glories, but your angler with flip-down magnifying glasses and felt soles is not sure whether he should put fancy flies in his number-one Wheatley fly box. What, then, will he make of creations called The Lout, or the Exquisite Fly, or the Assassin? Dr. Pequegnot does not claim that they are imitative flies, so I will make the claim on his behalf. These flies represent natural insects--generically but well. If those French trout do not agree with our concept of imitation, then we need another concept.

Dr. Pequegnot, in any case, is not to be blamed for the flies' names. He has adopted the honorable custom of giving the originator of any fly full credit for it, and then using the name that the originator chose. In doing so, he has conveyed a lot of information about French angling history. I still wish that the originators had settled for something in between The Lout and the Exquisite, but then France had no Halford and Marryat to establish a dry-fly code for rich men. The bedrock of French fishing, I suppose, was the old professional who used flies because they put more trout in his creel than even the maggots and woodworms. I am glad that France finally banned market-fishing, but it was, in its way, the toughest of tests.

rustic originals, like many of the dries, products of a long line of evolution under French conditions. There are no salmon navigating in the Potomac, but when I have a chance, I'll try the Ellé flies, with their wing-mixture of stiff and soft fibers.

Before that, however, I aspire to catch my second French trout, and possibly my third. This time I'll worry about organizing the dinner after the fish are in the creel.

Note to fly-tyers: I asked Dr. Pequegnot what hook-scale he used for sizing his flies. He replied that the Redditch scale is the only one accepted in France and, further, that French tyers frown on the liberties taken by certain other countries with hook sizes. He may have been looking in our direction. The Mustad 94840 hook (often used here for dry flies) runs large. The Mustad 3906 hook and several Partridge models seem to follow Redditch sizes.

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