must have made the Hational selectors' task that much easier.

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.

## - Nisfacmonstratc

made the

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

|  | $P$ | $W$ | $L$ | $P t s$ |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 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 | 9 |

try into the
ring Rively. to the Mor Twickis a slight rewster, who le two weeks play last
$\qquad$

## nt, not picks ourites

Vest Germany hde Svan, the and's wayward ti Nykanen, are timent, but not rld championt today.
nakers have faOlympic and s apparently on s.Svan has won title in crossut it would take versal to come recent displavs. 50 kilometers in the Swedish pionships last ed out of con$m$ test run on , Switzerland. ord is equally is recent form, th the authoriHe was at first Finnish team, d.
favourites on men's events, the winner of faces a tough r compatriot, ter, 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 AngloSaxons. 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 P3e
all the bo me.' I dew and love

It was though, fessional natural as the LPGA from Nort and even Oklahoma which has didn't hay LPGA.Id like at allt went out made mon was goin?

The her."I de didn't $p$ says. weeks had to


Melb
hard La a'ppears to the $f=$ in the $A$ nament day. Bot the der course man thr year hist

Langer high finis events of tour, shot on Tuesd: in the $t r$ pro-am. putting p hopeful d title on th
"It suits and dema Norman, form wh world's te give him British C

ICAP CHASE ( $£ 1,755$ : 3 m 1 f )
IIMOIv.


## ists

JOCKEYS
Winners

| 11 | 72 | 15.3 |
| :---: | :---: | ---: |
| 13 | 85 | 15.3 |
| 11 | 77 | 14.3 |
| 11 | 89 | 12.3 |
| 14 | 123 | 11.4 |

27 NDERGRADCL

31 0/0204P- MISTY PARK (J Brownrigg) G H Joiles

### 3.15 DICK WOODHOUSE HUNTER CHASE (Amateurs:

1 11411- I GOT STUNG (J Delahooke) J Delahooke 7-12-7 .. 0/23312- PRINCE MILBORNE (R Fear) R Fear 11-12-7

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

### 3.45 FOVANT NOVICE HURDLE (4-Y-O: $£ 1,104: 2 \mathrm{~m}$ ) ( 21 runners)

100 DEVIL'S RUN (D) (Mrs T Bulgin) T Bulgin 11-3.
0120 FORCELLO (D) (British Thoroughbred R \& B plc) G Balding 11-3 ....
F4 KUWAIT STAR ( N Thomson) N Thomson 10-10
U00 MURHAF (J Joseph) R Frost 10-10 MUSICAL YOUTH (D Rodway) D Wintle 10-10.. NO BOLDER (Dr J Pittard) P J Jones 10-10.
00 OUT YONDER (W Wightman) W Wightman 10-10. PLAIN TALK (G Darby) G Thorner $10-10$
003 PRIOK (W Wightman) W Wightman 10-10
U RUE ST JACQUES (D Makins) B Smart 10-10
OFO SAHRAAN (Mrs K Devonport) F Jordan 10-10 SUPERCOOMBE (E Jameson) S Christian 10-10.
440 THE LEGGETT (Mrs G Malone) L Kennard 10-10
PO TOM'S LITTLE WILL (T Staddon) W R Williams 10-10. WINTER HAVEN (J Davis) J H Baker 10-10
00 BAYTINO (R Brown) W Kemp 10-5
F PERSIAN BLADE (Mrs C Elliott) J Elliott 10-5.
2 SHEER NECTAR (BF) (L Turland) G Balding 10-5
OPP SMITHY'S GIRL (L Nystrom) N Ayliffe 10-5
F2 SUNLIT (B Llewellyn) B Llewellyn 10-5
0 TERN OF A CENTURY (Sarif \& Co Ltd) D Jermy 10-5.

### 4.15 GILLINGHAM HANDICAP HURDLE ( $£ 1,912: 2 \mathrm{~m}$ ) (14 runners)

P-223PP LIFE GUARD ( $D$ ) ( $J$ Joseph) D Elsworth 6-11-7
300-1U0 COCAINE (CD) (C Holmes) C Holmes 9-11-5
000-403 SANTOPADRE (D,BF) (T Ramsden) R Simpson 5-11-2 F-03300 DICK'S FOLLY (D) (Mrs M Bisgrove) R Hodges 8-10-13
0000/00- JOHN WILLOUGHBY (D) (A Aylett) A Aylett 9-10-12
F0-1224 BLACK SHEEP (CD) (Mrs E Dudgeon) I Dudgeon 10-10-6 041-031 TOPSOIL (D) (T Ramsden) $D$ Wintle 5-10-6
12000- NORSTOWN (D) (Mrs A Sims) R Holder 5-10-4
000F00 MEZIARA (V) (B Scott) D Tucker 6-10-0
0-01P ARENA AUCTION (Mrs S Pattemore) S Pattemore 5-10-0 10P-030 CERVANTE SOVEREIGN (Mrs F Hunt) J D Roberts 8-10-0 4F003/0 LAURA'S PRIDE (D) (A Marriott) C Wildman 10-10-0
0000-20 CONOR'S ROCK (Mrs M Stirk) Mrs M Stirk 7-10-0.
FP0-000 ABJAD (B Venn) B Venn 6-10-0

# ALFREDA. KNOPF 

## CHARLES ELLIOTT

12 February 87
Dear Datus,
Glad to see you're still at it.
This appeared in the Rimes today.
But I thought they used, well, frogs....
Irs

Cher ami,
Nick lyons semble finsolement dicidè à fair un petittinge du Rejpertoie. Vos conections, que jeviens de recevoi, sont donc paiticulièrement sienveng etousil article dons Fly tyer!
Danscer acticle vius posg un cestoin nomhe de puestions. Fe peure ponson y riponde en pastè.
"Do hout tale better if a parion of the tipge is obsere the surface"? Je purx rifonohe: vmi, indlicute. blement, apis 20 ans de compraisons arsidus.

- The drap: pas elimine mois reduit. en toul cas le dragage du bos de ligne, pis̀ de la monche, pri est lexperniciuar est totolemas eliminé:
- Fine tipet: non, pas nicesomie
- Corge frone haclele: oui, né essoin, la mouche doit ugender vas le harl.
- some effect achieved by traditional hackle fly? oui, mais l'effet n' estras si maque'. Le col decygne ext moins hien dersiri, noins durable, it disparait dès pue la mouche ert moins seche.
attention: les deur heckly ne dorient pas ette howiắloipne's
not veygaod


May thonks

AÉROGRAMME
$\square$
n Datus. C. Proper 1914 N. Johnoon SA. arlington

UA 22207
U.SA.

- anbuoэjanb zə!̣qo un łuə! $\ddagger$ uos I!, s uo!ne jed əu!wayวe sed eaəs au !id as
 - coubmay.d. $T^{\text {woN }}$
J.-P. PECUEGNOT

19, Ruc de la Cassotte
25000 BESANÇON
18.8 .85

Ches Monsiens,
Les plumes de Wood.Duck pue contencit votre lettre sont exteinemuc belles et inteiessartes. C'etla preminà fois pue "en vois. Elles dow tout à fait priférables aux - plumes de mallerф etconsitivene centoinement le meillen maticion possble pom les oiles.

I n'anive pas à comprendre pue les ouglais, er en feiticinlies Skues pri in itoitpos unsot, n'orent pas immediatement ovive' Th.
Gordon dons l'emploi de cematerion Mais sans doute è l'épopue ces plums

2
ètoient－elles dejà rores et coûterses． Jepense，comme vous，que leur soupless estun doontege tis importeret．

Pour los hackles de cop．je n＇en ai ancun de vroimeut bon porn l＇instant etjoi ègolemeur les mémes oppiciè． tons pue vons sur les hackles Mes⿱夂⿻三丨口八土灬． Je n＇en ai fomais torve＇d＇ess fonces pour mongoit．I＇oime un gios blen prespue nois．
Le hackle＂Silve＂ert surpren ant．Ze n＇ovois jom is vu cela，et，efficicieme cist la meilleure esocotion fomible desailes d＇imagos．
J＇ai icut un eitíle suy l＇vope －plums pordos dans les moudes ì Soumon，que R．Chino a trodint eu anglais．Tel à ew oyè à l＇Allact Salmon Journal pui ne m a jomais accure re＇eftron，ni donni de nowalls molgri une lette，elle ourn restei

3
tens réponse. Ceprocide' extiememeul diacoutois remble tont à fait courout en Aminipue du Nord et poiticulièreneut au Conode.

Il y a en effet une porenté on une resemberce fropponte ento ls plumesur froucais et vo's bent-hackles. En foit vos bent Lockles seroiniroffelis iphmeonx en France, et je ne dois comment daus ls poýs englo. Sarons oì on s'en sert igolement. Les montens anglais clampues n'oul jomair en é de convideiatión porn ces mouches ruptipues pouthont tis' efficaces ev eliminout le villoge.

Jévrèns de recevois une copie de vbte intoduction pour French Fisking Flis. Kel'ai bequcoup aimie. Jetois pue vous avj, pis contrach ovec ls difficulte's di lapécho en rance

4
Cependant. il yo de belle vivieis en Frouce et ceitoins porcoms publics sont eucore intéresouts. Qeorpe Beal pent en témoignes, il pitend pue lo pathe an Poys Baoopue ent pluy intérenoute pue dous l'oueth is U.S. Clpir n'est suirement pros voi du porut de vue beille et nombe ds voiñoss, mais vai du point de vue insectes,' èlosions et acticite'en surfoce
We peuse que la Note to FPy Tyen est
shiperfhes: aucun poys achiellemene ruperfhe: ancun poys achiellemene n'utirise une onto numeiohotión que alle de Reddirch. Avec ls fontioing pue nous deiforons.
o. propos d' homeçons, ie suis euclante des Tiemco 101 à ocillets aroits. Remser. quable pualité ol acies. Ze 1 'utitici Pus que dis reillets ohist.

Dvec toute mo protitide et amicabund
J.P. PEQUEGNOT

19 me de la Cassotte
F. 25000 BESANCON.

Cher M' Roper,
Votre lettre du 27 juins me montie pue vous èts rrioccupo pos le questions de clasification des mouches, mois je suis embonast pour rous répondre. Ciest un problèn complexe et je ne jeuse pas que mes comprotiots épionvent, ou oil iprouve la nècen'téde le reisoudre.
H ye enfirieuce de gens pir s'insi.' ressent è El'un on lauts oopech suivout:

- Lastructure, achitechũe, montege au dedign, comme vous vondig
peut ètre choide comme bece de cloni. fication, comme vous l'eng foil. po, exemple, teuri Bresoon, un auti. didacte soins cultue, expirme volonters l'idie, sens donte voloble pu 'il exik de móntoge" perpendiculòive" pui eDopunt es eprimersivet ds montaps "porallèls" pri dopuent plutot flico. pters et tichopters. Ainoi, fom Boens, le palme, pue vous dónng pour une suggestión de seoloe, ext une ouggertion d'éphemeie ...? …? !
- la coulen : préccufetiós ds imith töniş moís ousa ós présentotióniots, pui l'utitisent pous des zosons de vidiliai, ed: La monche Tout Rose"ta Love"" extrordin aìe ment vioi ble dan ls ghspetitg Foilles shait the utile oux omizicains poun ls "ricos"
- la maneie et ses pnalits physipus
dessèheut, c'estèdire dons ls 6 mois, ren an phus.

Je vois demonder à Ghuplos des vockles frois cet hives poun vous ls enooye, et vous ls itilioery sous abtendre! Leshackls a'un tivn doivent iete rititiséla doison duivorte

Vrici des hacés pordos de 1985 Ils soar exceptionnels (euvion 1 dole, riece mois ramur vous, Quy Plo me les a dónnies) et on les ntridie:

- pour de four hackle
- pour ls oils de Cahill quill eoroos etr. it tont biès oúferiens on summen duck.
- vom ls cerpus.
- pour tout... Leuls ou cu mèbnge. Chino refuse d'eu achetes, cos it - zuure que guy Rlas ea agè ses pritentions de prix. El foit. ce

II
etrencore bies phus eitudièe par le froncoís.
I vois réfondre cici ona puestónsoue vous poxy è R. Chino. Sto pualite' lespuns imp poitonts d'un rackle ne sont pos sa geismetie (ratio of them to borb length) mois :

- la souplerse, l'éloticicé et le hillant ds borbes.
- I'ilasticite' de la pointe de la tige ( 5 km ) pui necore pos encous de montoge, ni óous la bouche ón poicton.

Un monwàs hackle carce en firs ble montage, st are à l'nogge, ou hien ses filies secouchut oprs' puelaus prises Le dommet is qualité ne peut ète obtenu que sur un cop de flus a'iou, vivaut, en utilis out les hoceles le hlur tot possible ovout puits ne se

TH -
sout des curiosités, preopne des phemes de collection. Co plumes sont protione. mentignoris onx U.S.A. orvis en propose puelpus unes, moins belle, mois je ne sois pos si ls amatencus. s'y sout istéresis.

Le Onplois pin ont vu ces phims rensent ansi pu'ells soat top heis, donc sous groud intéret puotipue.' Protipuement, on ne touve des gens ass prioccufisper de materion pu'en Frouce et in Esfogre, poun utiliser cesplumes.

Pomig vous m'enooyen une plume de yoood duck commecele of Noir utitirs, fous ? $\sqrt{ }$ m ei oijomois vr:
$\pi /$
sout des curiosités, preapue de phemes de collectión. Co plumes sont protion. ment ignoris onx U.S.A. Owis en propose puelpus unes, moinobells, mois je ne sois pos si l's amatenu". s'y sont intéressés.

Le Onplois pui ont vu ces phums hensent ansi pu'ells soat troz chèis, done sous groud intérit puotipue. Protiquement, on ne touve des sens aszy prioccufispar de materia. pu'en Frouce et en Esfogre, trous intiliser cesplumes.

Pomnig vous m'envoyeus une plume de wood duck commecelle qu'in utilise, on derait utitis, fors le prif gordon? Jen 'en ai jomaistr. Toutemes emitit
J.-P. PEQUEGNOT
19. Rue de la Cassotte

25000 BESANÇON
le 7.6.85

Cher Inonoreiur Projer.
Je regois vothe lettre et le restoul de mon monuscit evec voo conectorn. alows pue je suis acuyi ' $a$ ' methe aupoint la taduction ovec mon ami Pobect Chino.

Bob va effecties is conectións nécesois.

Bien eutendu, je terais euchauté si vous voulieg bien ènire une prifoce pom l'edition ameircoine be Ge Cire et $J$ 'ensuis tof honoré et tis reconncissout.
F'bone pue je ne cois pos trop puil
vous ripondre quand on coractie "Ifficuement fronçis" de inesiáes. Je Crois aue j'occupe unglace un peu sembloble à la vo te en Aminipue mois pue la feços de peuser pui nous est commure n'est pas nowvelle, mien Fronce nien tongletene, ni én Amiripue. He peure par excmple quil M'y a vies dous vote hire pri. chopureit Hewitt on Lee Nulff an Frouce, l'échelle de Redaitch est senle utilisée. mois lo pecheus foncois deiterteub log libeités que prennes ls fohiconts auplo. saxons dvecls numeios, c'ett poupuoils mouchy frousoiss vou paritiont un pen her, petits pue ls mouchs onglaise. Ells hrichent moins ovec le viriteble numiro. Jepurse à propos ds numeios one senle l'onver hure dersil etre déterminosa
(gope) (gepe)

T
ctpu'elle serrad ête difinie pou choan V: une fois pour toutes. Mois u serair difficile à foine arceptraux Onglois pui odorent ls impicicions...

Au moment ou je vess terming cetble lethe, je recois le contrat ae If. Lyons. Ca n'est pos la fortune mais je vois le lui renvoye, signe le plus ropidement possible Hier sois 'oi raté' 'bos-de. ligne cosi) une tis belle duits shuvage froucois de plus de 2lirs. Te fuis is cospleble. Ce poibons ront rores en France Cefendant''oi pris une Reinborwde Colires ('2kg 760 ) rècmment dons une petite rireie normande. Ce proisson s'etoik e'chopfè d'une pisciculture et asect onosi pucere
thoiems onnis dons le ivirè. avec fonte me reconnsissouce ot ms omitrs's


> 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 sourcebf 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 nonimitative because the color is not that of the natural (for example, La Loue). This would be consistent with the English and American traditifons.

Just returned from Montana, where I did catch several browns and rainbows from $16^{\prime \prime}$ 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.
J.-P. PEQUEGNOT

19, Rue de la Cassotte
25000 BESANÇON

Deor M' Roper.

Meria pour vote correction de la traduchòn de RobertA. Chino. Je lin oitouomis ces conections, dont il a admis la reiceriti dous unbon nom he de cas.
bien entendu, d'outis conections saont les bienvenues et je vous suis tis reconnoisseut de hies vouloin faire ce travil... quand voup pouray! Geouge Beall a èté ass malade cet hive, mo's je ciors pue vela va mienx.

Mon hire "C'Out de ha Be che è lo Mouche seche" vient de poraite en Itolien.
Leféche ett ouvente ici T' óipis dëjo' euvion 12 turts de $12 e^{-}$reinchs en mouche sèche, mois jeu ai conservè 2 seulement de 14 inchs. Jeciós pue la doison est pluspicoce en Enopre, cout le climat est fluscriticial maritimé et tempeie pue le climat contineutal ds W.S.
f'oi obtenu des hamegons Tiemco 101 eu

Ameinpue ovec des "staight eys". Tout e"foit logipues! Je vois les essoyer.

Thes cordialement
cher monoièn Proper.
Voici latroduction en Amèricain de mon lirse "Refertoire ds Mouchs Ortificilles Frongoirs. Je nepluse pos pu'it ent posible de tonves un èditeus en omèrique.
Jevous pose 2 prestions:

1. Que pensez vons de la traduchion?

2 - Pense vono que je pounois vendre oux US. 7-800 exemplañes à des curiènx, è de bibliothèpues? Je peuse foire, è imes frois, 1000 exemplains numeiotió.
F suis olli picher la steelheod dans l Ile de Kodiat Aleske, en octobre. J'ai en tis froid le mitt. J'oipis 6 sted. de 6 à 12 le ch.... 57 coho! Sans compts une centaine (ou plus) de Dolly Vorden. Hy a dous ut endroit antorit de poinoons pue d'eau daus la riviei. Cettoins modiles de mouches comme les imitiotións
decrevettes (General Rectictiones ou de mème genre) sont inutitisabls parce pu'ells sont instantenément etprofonotemeat avalies, sibien qu'on ne pert plus relaches le poisson sans dommage. arcur foir des exsois en mouche sèche sons
C'ètoir vroinent une tiscuriense espécience, sutiout poom un pècheus frougoís halitié à fêches des eoux tis paures.

D'accord, c'ert de la jeiche à la mouche ans frurte. Cependout je peuse qu' durun jèchery, è la mouche amèricoinn ne derrait ette indifftinus ì la triite steelheed, reine des bathilles, et pes sicidiote qu'on ne le dit.

Touts mes omitet


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。 it. 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. $\AA$ 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
was 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 $u s$, 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? La Loue 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
solution would be to discard this creation as philosophically 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.

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.

Dr. Pequegnot spends much of his time on dry flies, which (since they have to float) pose the most difficult design problems. He also describes some good nymphs that are close to English models. His salmon flies, on the other hand, are 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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## STATISTICS

| TIME | WORKTIME | KEYSTROKES |
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| $12: 24$ | $: 52$ | 14510 |
| $15: 38$ | $: 20$ | 1548 |
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| Total Worktime: | $1: 12$ |  |
| Total Keystrokes: | 16058 |  |

WORKTIME
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