

# Guide to the Fishing Manuscripts Collection

GEN MSS 834



by Beinecke Staff

2011

P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** GEN MSS 834

**TITLE:** Fishing manuscripts collection

**DATES:** 1610-1966

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 2.21 linear feet (6 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Collection consists of manuscripts, typescripts, photographs, and other documents relating to fishing, flies for fishing, and fishing trips taken in England and North America. Most of the items were formerly in the collection of David Wagstaff.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.fishing>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.fishing>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to [beinecke.images@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box  
f. folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Isabelle Tilford Wagstaff, 1951-1953. Purchased from Wormser on the David Wagstaff Memorial Fund, 1952. Gift of Vernon S. Hidy, 1968, 1975. Gift of Lindley Eberstadt, 1969. Purchased from Henry Bristow on the Jonathan O. Bulkley Fund, 1994. Purchased from Rodolphe Chamonal on the David Wagstaff Fund, 2003. For further information see Collections Contents list.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

The Fishing Manuscripts Collection is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

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## Preferred Citation

Fishing Manuscripts Collection. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

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## Processing Information

Descriptions in the Collections Contents list were taken from existing catalogue cards.

Former call numbers: MS Vault Shelves Fishing, Uncat MS Vault 756, Uncas MSS 553

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## David Wagstaff (1882-1951)

David Wagstaff, broker, sportsman and collector of sporting books, paintings and prints, served as the Curator of Sporting Books in the Yale University Library from 1943 to 1951.

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## Scope and Contents

The Fishing Manuscripts Collection consists of manuscripts, typescripts, photographs, and other documents relating to fishing, flies for fishing, and fishing trips taken. Most of the items were formerly in the collection of David Wagstaff (1882-1951).

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## Arrangement

Arranged by previously assigned consecutive numbers.

## Collection Contents

### Fishing Manuscripts, 1610-1966

2.21 linear feet (6 boxes)

b. 1, f. 1	<p>1. Directions for making Artificial Flies, by Samuel Jemmat of Devonshire, Esq., given to me by his son Gift of Isabelle Tilford Wagstaff, 1951.</p> <p>Manuscript in unidentified hand, bound in three-quarters green leather with marbled boards; 8 leaves, 16.5 cm.</p> <p>With bookplate of Dean Sage.</p>	undated
b. 1, f. 2	<p>2. Flies for the Rivers Exe, Devon, &amp; Barle, Somerset, by I. N. B. Gift of Isabelle Tilford Wagstaff, 1951.</p> <p>Manuscript in unidentified hand, bound in vellum envelope cover; 25 leaves, 15 cm..</p> <p>With signature of H. M. Waugh, HMS <i>Kent</i>, and engraved book ticket of John Brown, stationer of London.</p>	circa 1780
b. 1, f. 3	<p><a href="#">3. Of Artificial Flies and the Seasons proper for using them, by George Cole Bainbridge.</a> Gift of Isabelle Tilford Wagstaff, 1951.</p> <p>Autograph manuscript; bound in red roan, with case; 124 pages, 18 cm.</p> <p>At end are four leaves containing watercolor sketches of insects and a pencil sketch of a river scene with castle.</p> <p>"The original manuscript material for <i>The Fly-Fisher's Guide</i>" (Dean Sage, <i>Catalogue of Books on Angling</i>).</p> <p>Laid in are several autograph memoranda and other memoranda (dating from 1778-1841) in several unidentified hands. Author's autograph inscription dated 1812 inside front cover.</p> <p>With bookplate of Dean Sage. With a note in David Wagstaff's hand: "Tayleure sale, 1828, 281"; from the Grego collection</p>	circa 1812
b. 1, f. 4-6	<p>4. Angling commonplace books (3 volumes) Gift of Isabelle Tilford Wagstaff, 1951.</p> <p>Manuscript in an unidentified hand, with some clippings pasted in; 18-20.5 cm.</p>	circa 1900
b. 1, f. 7	<p>5. General Observations to be Understood by all such who desire to attain to the Compleat and perfect art of Angling Gift of Isabelle Tilford Wagstaff, 1951.</p> <p>Manuscript written in an unidentified hand, bound in black morocco with cover title: Old M.S.S. on angling; dated 1763 on flyleaf, in an unidentified hand; 48 pages, 24.5 cm.</p> <p>With two bookplates of John Gerard Heckscher, and autograph presentation inscription from F. Wright to F. M. Walhan, dated June 4, 1892</p>	circa 1763

b. 2, f. 8	<p>6. Journal of Miss Peggy Harrison on the Ristigouche, June 1929 Gift of Isabelle Tilford Wagstaff, 1951.</p> <p>Typescript, 1 of 2 copies, bound in tan buckram; 45 leaves; 28 cm.</p> <p>Accompanied by an autograph letter signed from George Harrison (1872-1956) of St. Davids, Pennsylvania, to David Wagstaff, concerning the manuscript about his daughter's trip, dated July 9, 1930.</p>	circa 1929
b. 2, f. 9	<p>7. The Baby Goes A-Fishing, by Cyrus Townsend Brady Gift of Isabelle Tilford Wagstaff, 1951.</p> <p>Autograph manuscript, bound in three-quarter red morocco, with marbled boards; 10 pages, 26 cm.</p> <p>With bookplate of David Wagstaff</p>	1903
	<p>8. The Nipigon River: account of a fishing trip in the summer of 1873 Stored in: Oversize, Box 5, folder 26 Gift of Isabelle Tilford Wagstaff, 1951.</p> <p>Manuscript in unidentified hand, likely that of Philadelphia lawyer George Sharswood, with nine photographs bound in as plates; bound in three-quarters green morocco; 64 pages, 24 cm.</p> <p>With bookplate of George Sharswood</p>	1873
b. 2, f. 10	<p>9. The Angler: bibliographical notes, mainly concerning works on angling and archery, written in an unidentified hand. Gift of Isabelle Tilford Wagstaff, 1951.</p> <p>Manuscript, bound in three-quarters green calf, with marbled boards and spine title: The Angler. M.S.S. Walton and Cotton, Etc.; 50 leaves, 23.5 cm</p> <p>With bookplate of Dean Sage</p>	undated
b. 2, f. 11	<p>10. Of Fishing Gift of Isabelle Tilford Wagstaff, 1951.</p> <p>Manuscript in an eighteenth century hand, prefaced by a prayer in another hand; bound by Rivière; 180 pages, 19 cm.</p> <p>With bookplate of David Wagstaff</p>	undated
b. 2, f. 12	<p>11. The Angler: a poem in ten cantos, by Thomas Pike Lathy Gift of Isabelle Tilford Wagstaff, 1951.</p> <p>Autograph manuscript of the volume published by W. Wright in 1819; 115 leaves, 24 cm.</p> <p>With bookplates of Alfred Denison, Thomas Gosden, and David Wagstaff</p>	undated
b. 2, f. 13	<p>12. Jottings Down, by one of our trouting party Gift of Isabelle Tilford Wagstaff, 1951.</p> <p>Manuscript by an unidentified author from New York, about his fishing trip to the Adirondacks with three friends from Boston, dated June 1858; 18 pages, 32.5 cm.</p>	1858 Jun

	<p>13. Papers relating to David Wagstaff's membership in the Ristigouche Salmon Club</p> <p>Gift of Isabelle Tilford Wagstaff, 1951.</p> <p>These materials are no longer present in this collection. See GEN MSS 415.</p> <p>Documents were removed from this collection and added to David Wagstaff Papers (GEN MSS 415).</p>	
	<p>14. Noted Angling Resorts, by Wakeman Holberton</p> <p>Stored in: Oversize, Box 5, folder 27</p> <p>Gift of Isabelle Tilford Wagstaff, 1952.</p> <p>Pen and ink drawings (31) with title page, index, and a watercolor frontispiece; contains images of noted fishing spots in New York, Pennsylvania, Maine, and Quebec; bound in citron morocco with gilt borders and dentelles; 31 pages, 28 cm.</p>	1890
b. 2, f. 14	<p>15. The Art of angling</p> <p>Gift of Isabelle Tilford Wagstaff, 1951.</p> <p>Manuscript in an unidentified hand, bound in light brown calf; 76 pages, 16.5 cm.</p> <p>Bound in at front is a half leaf with the following headline: "A Craft to take pykes &amp;c: [From an old ms. on vellum, written probably about 1550, in my [Thomas Gosden?] own possession]."</p> <p>On leaf preceding first page of manuscript, in another seventeenth century hand, "Natales muorum": 15 lines of genealogical notes.</p> <p>With bookplates of William V. Guise and David Wagstaff</p>	circa 1610
b. 2, f. 15	<p>16. A Poetical Epistle from M.A.S. to Andrew Corbet of Acton Reyland Esq. on Fishing and Angling, by Moreton Aglionby Slaney</p> <p>Gift of Isabelle Tilford Wagstaff, 1952.</p> <p>Manuscript with one pen and pencil sketch, bound in three-quarters green calf, with marbled boards; 49 pages, 24 cm.</p> <p>Slaney (1765-1817) was the brother-in-law of Sir Andrew Corbet.</p> <p>With bookplate of David Wagstaff.</p>	circa 1810
b. 3, f. 16	<p>17. A Treatise of the Art of Taking Pike, Pearch, Chub &amp;c, with the Trimmer to which is added a description of the Necessary Tackle together with directions for its use &amp;c &amp;c., by Thomas Gosden [?]</p> <p>Gift of Isabelle Tilford Wagstaff, 1952.</p> <p>Manuscript with a few pencil sketches, bound in three-quarters green morocco, with marbled boards; 27 leaves, 26 cm.</p> <p>With bookplates of Alfred Denison and David Wagstaff.</p>	1820
b. 3, f. 17	<p>18. A Chronological List of English Books on Angling, 1496-1917</p> <p>Purchased from Wormser on the David Wagstaff Memorial Fund, 1952</p> <p>Manuscript in an unidentified hand, bound in brown half morocco; 331 pages, 21 cm.</p> <p>Autograph of C. O. P. Gibson, Bywell Castle, Stocksfield, Northumberland (October 1923) and bookplate of John Wayland Leslie, Combe Court</p>	circa 1917

b. 3, f. 18	<p>19. Salmon Problems, by John William Willis Bund Gift of Isabelle Tilford Wagstaff, 1953.</p> <p>Typescript, bound in maroon morocco; 325 pages, 24 cm.</p> <p>Willis Bund (1843-1928) was the chairman of the Severn Fishing Board.</p>	1885 Aug
b. 3, f. 19	<p>20. Miscellaneous notes relating to Thomas Barker and his <i>Art of Angling</i>, by James Williamson. Gift of Isabelle Tilford Wagstaff, 1952.</p> <p>Manuscripts tipped into notebook bound in three-quarter green morocco with marbled boards, possibly by Thomas Gosden; 59 pages, 26 cm.</p> <p>Includes Williamson's autograph manuscript copies of his letter to Samuel Tudor, May 16, 1816; two letters to Thomas Loxdale, August 9, 1814, and October 28, 1817; and letter to Samuel Bagster, May 28, 1809.</p> <p>Laid in: Index to "Barker's Delight"; manuscript, undated</p> <p>With bookplates of Alfred Denison and David Wagstaff.</p>	undated
b. 3, f. 20	<p>21. The Leisenring Color &amp; Materials Book for Fly Tying, by James E. Leisenring Gift of Vernon S. Hidy, 1968.</p> <p>A pocket reference for fly fishermen designed by James E. Leisenring (1878-1951). Feathers, furs, herls &amp; quills from the Leisenring Collection, assembled under the direction of V. S. Hidy.</p> <p>One of eight sets of colors and materials, with manuscript title page; 16 pages, 18 cm.</p>	1966
b. 4, f. 21	<p>22. Hunting and Fishing in Northern New York, by Frank French Gift of Lindley Eberstadt, 1969.</p> <p>Twenty-four photographs bound in brown leather, with a pencil sketch of Frederick H. Lum by Dr. French as a frontispiece; 21 cm.</p> <p>"No. 3 of 6 sets. F. H. Lum"</p>	1884
b. 4, f. 22	<p>23. Addenda, by John Hayford Thorold Autograph manuscript; 188 pages, 22 cm.</p> <p>Pages 138-152: "Fish taken at Syston, 1806-1827"</p> <p>Pages 53-137 and 154-188 are blank</p>	1821
b. 4, f. 23-24	<p>24. Angling journals Gift of Isabelle Tilford Wagstaff.</p> <p>Two manuscript journals recording kinds and quantities of catch, and companions present.</p>	1788-1796



b. 4, f. 25	<p>25. Fishing</p> <p>Purchased from Henry Bristow on the Jonathan O. Bulkley Fund, 1994.</p> <p>Manuscript in an unidentified hand, with sketches of flies, ties, tackles, and fish, and a list of books related to fishing; 176 pages, 15.5 cm.</p> <p>With notes and sketches at the end, in an unidentified hand.</p> <p>Contains stamps of Low Moss Farm, Broughton-in-Furness; R. Tyson Johnstone; autograph of Jno. Dodson Skeleton, London, 1850; binder's ticket of J Sloper, stationer and bookbinder, London.</p>	1850 Oct 3
b. 6, f. 28	<p>Manuel de la Pêche à la ligne</p> <p>Purchased from Rodolphe Chamonal on the David Wagstaff Fund, 2003.</p> <p>French translation of Edward Fitzgibbon's volume <i>A Handbook of Angling: teaching fly-fishing, trolling, bottom-fishing, and salmon-fishing; with the natural history of river fish, and the best modes of catching them</i>. By Ephemera, third edition, with sketches.</p> <p>Bound manuscript signed B. Sautereau; 281 pages; 22 cm.</p> <p>With bookplate of David Wagstaff.</p>	undated
b. 6, f. 29	<p>On fishing flies, by John Jackson of Tanfield Mill, May 1853, copied by James E. Leisenring</p> <p>Gift of Vernon S. Hidy, 1975.</p> <p>Bound autograph manuscript; 30 pages; 14 cm.</p> <p>From the James E. Leisenring Papers.</p>	undated
b. 6, f. 30	<p><a href="#">The Art of Tying the Wet Fly, by James E. Leisenring</a></p> <p>Gift of Vernon S. Hidy, 1975.</p> <p>Autograph manuscript bound into two sections: "Tying Fishing Flies" (91 pages) and "The Mechanical End of Tying the Artificial Trout Fishing Fly" (76 pages); 21.5 cm.</p> <p>Published as <i>The Art of Tying the Wet Fly</i>, by James E. Leisenring, as told to V. S. Hidy (1941).</p>	undated

Oversize

b. 5, f. 26	8. The Nipigon River: account of a fishing trip in the summer of 1873	1873
b. 5, f. 27	14. Noted Angling Resorts, by Wakeman Holberton	1890

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## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### Subjects

Fishing  
Flies, Artificial  
Fly fishing

### Geographic Names

Adirondack Mountains (N.Y.)  
Restigouche River (N.B. and Québec)

### Genres / Formats

Drawings (visual works)  
Watercolors (paintings)

### Names

Bainbridge, Geo. C. (George Cole), 1788-1839  
Bainbridge, George Cole -- Bookplate  
Barker, Thomas, active 1651  
Brady, Cyrus Townsend, 1861-1920  
Denison, Alfred -- Bookplate  
Fitzgibbon, Edward, 1803-1857  
Gosden, Thomas, 1780-1843  
Gosden, Thomas, 1780-1843 -- Bookplate  
Guise, William V. -- Bookplate  
Harrison, George, 1872-1956  
Heckscher, John Gerard -- Bookplate  
Holberton, Wakeman  
Jackson, John, of Tanfield Mill  
Lathy, Thomas Pike, 1771-1841  
Leisenring, James E.  
Lum, Frederick Harvey  
Sage, Dean, 1841-1902 -- Bookplate  
Sharswood, George, 1810-1883  
Slaney, Moreton Aglionby, 1765-1817  
Thorold, John Hayford, Sir, 1773-1831  
Wagstaff, David, 1882-1951  
Wagstaff, David, 1882-1951 -- Bookplate  
Willis Bund, J. W. (John William), 1843-1928