

Chapter 1 : Split-Bamboo | Compare Prices at Nextag

*Idyl of the Split Bamboo [George Parker Holden] on www.nxgvision.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers. Published originally in , this classic fly-fishing book begins with a delightful essay on the joys of angling.*

An idyll is, according to the dictionary, a simple descriptive work in poetry or prose that deals with rustic life or pastoral scenes or suggests a mood of peace and contentment. Flyfishing has often been described as a "pleasant pastime," a rather sedentary sport for men to engage in. Fresh water fishing once represented an important source of food, in pre-WWII America, and in many places it still does, to some degree. But that pastime has evolved into a sport, one in which the original intent--the landing or catching of fish as a food harvest--has been largely set aside in the interests of preservation and the pure pleasure of the pursuit. He fished the head waters of the Missouri, around the Yellowstone, and eventually ended up in Washington State working as a logger while attending writing classes with Dalton Trumbo. Harry would reminisce once in a while about growing up in Wisconsin before the First World War, fishing with a bamboo flyrod. Glass rods were initially much less difficult to manufacture than bamboo rods, and cost a lot less. They were considered to be the material of the future for fishing rods. People would speak reverently, on occasion, about the qualities of the old wood rods, but the old rod-building companies were slowly, inexorable, seeing their businesses close. Perhaps responding to the vague myth implanted in my imagination in childhood, and abetted by a casual reading of a few 20th Century angling authors such as Roderick Haig-Brown, Ernest Schwiebert, Robert Traver, and Arnold Gingrich, I became interested in flyfishing, albeit in a much more sophisticated way than my stepfather had decades before. One of the books I discovered in my researches on the subject was the book on bamboo fly rod making by Holden, pictured above. Holden, like a lot of typical early fishing writers, created an aura of myth around the sport; but he was also interested in the tools of the trade. As early as the middle of the 19th century, wooden fishing rods had been made from various kinds of native hardwoods, but it soon became apparent the the demands presented--a need for great flexibility without brittleness, and strength, as well as durability--could best be met by bamboo. As fly fishing progressed through the latter half of the 19th century and the first part of the 20th, the technique of casting, as opposed to just dropping a line into water, became increasingly emphasized. In addition, as fishermen realized that imitating the food that the fish eat--the insects, mostly--required that the fisherman manipulate the "presentation" of the imitation "fly" on or in the water--and a rod with great flexibility and control was necessary to perform these tasks. Rod technology went through various stages. Eventually, through trial and error, it was discovered that planing down thin strips of the outer edge of bamboo, and fitting these together to make hexagonal, tapered sections, was the right solution. It was discovered that the best bamboo came from the Tonkin Gulf region of the Guangdong Province in China--where it grew tall and straight, with long sections between the "dams" or nodes. This special bamboo was available to makers in the West until , when a trade embargo on goods from China virtually wiped out the bamboo rod business, which quickly declined. A stand of bamboo A stack of cut culms or cross sections A cross section of a culm Cross section with a check or split Close-up of split Cross section of halved culm with cut strips Close-up of edge of dense longitudinal fibers Magnification of tight fibers near skin Detail of cross section of culm wall Cut strips or splines ready for planing Planing a spline inside a metal planing form Winding the thread to secure the guide s View of male and female ferrules joint match ; note the singeing from the heat process straightening at the node To replace bamboo, makers began to experiment with plastic and plastic compounds such as graphite, boron, and these new synthetic materials can be made to very favorable specifications. But the unique characteristics of highly engineered bamboo rods remain superior in some respects. Though heavier than some graphite rods, bamboo rods can furnish the same "power" in the butt section, while retaining a gentler, more forgiving pliability in the tip section. With the restoration of availability of bamboo, cane rods can once again be made, but there are questions about its present quality. Cane obtained "pre-embargo" was probably better in some ways. Old stocks of pre-embargo "culms" the big long uncut poles are highly coveted today by makers of heirloom rods. I thought it would be an interesting hobby, and I might actually teach myself to be a one-man manufacturer.

As I eventually learned, the technology and facilities needed to accomplish that, were much more demanding than I could have imagined. I acquired steel planing forms, a heavy metal lathe, and ordered a gather of Tonkin Bamboo from a New Jersey importer. Bamboo, or cane, is not easy to work with. It splits longitudinally, and can make hellish slivers, as tough as steel needles. The measurements required to correctly "mic" "mike" the splines--that is, to measure the widths of tapering splits or strips as you plane them down to required tolerances of a millimeter! To understand and execute the various steps--the milling down of the tapers, the joining and gluing of the gathered matched strips, the placement of the eyelets, the varnishing, the making of the grip and reel-seat where the reel is held to the butt of the rod --each step required a degree of exactitude and dedication which I was incapable of mastering. So I gave up on the idea. But my interest in fly fishing continued. I purchased my own bamboo rods--from two highly skilled and admired makers. Both of these makers are now dead. Howells rods are considered among the finest, with prices to match. I never got into collecting old fishing equipment, but as a part-time rare book dealer, I always jump at the chance to acquire collectible titles in the angling field. Flyfishing has many aspects. All of these things play out in the sport. For devotees, it can get pretty complicated. A two day trip to a faraway piece of good water can run into the thousands. Some of the less spoiled and worked-over water in the world is in remote corners of the globe: It puts you in touch with the wildness and unpredictability of nature in a way that is not duplicated in any other outdoor sport. They waver back and forth before attacking. But I think I was always a bit more interested in the history and lore of the sport, than in the performance aspect. I do feel empathy for these finny souls. Catch-and-release has become the new ethic of the sport, which I fully support. It permits the fish populations to survive the heavy pressure they get from sportsmen. Writers many times more poetic than I have given the sport its literature. A good "fish story" may well be a more imaginative experience than the actual event itself. Great pastimes need a little augmentation to make them come alive, to evoke something of the excitement and pleasure of the moment. At least in retrospect--recollected in tranquillity. As I age, I can still appreciate what I remember, and to share the accounts of others. The Idyl of the Split-Bamboo.

Chapter 2 : THE IDYL OF THE SPLIT BAMBOO

The idyl of the split-bamboo; a carefully detailed description of the rod's building Item Preview.

Chapter 3 : the idyl of the split bamboo | Download eBook pdf, epub, tuebl, mobi

The Idyl of the Split-Bamboo; A Carefully Detailed Description of the Rod's Building, Prefaced by a Dissertation on the Joys of Angling, There Being Appe.

Chapter 4 : Editions of Idyl of the Split Bamboo by George Parker Holden

the idyl of the split bamboo Download the idyl of the split bamboo or read online books in PDF, EPUB, Tuebl, and Mobi Format. Click Download or Read Online button to get the idyl of the split bamboo book now.

Chapter 5 : The Idyl of the Split-Bamboo

Idyl of the Split Bamboo by George Parker Holden First published in by Stewart & Kidd Company, this is one of the most thorough introductions to the manufacture of bamboo fly rods and their various parts ever published.

Chapter 6 : The Compass Rose: The Idyll of the Split Bamboo

The author's previous book, Streamcraft, deals mainly with actual streamside technic -- the selection, care, rigging, and use of the rod; with the choosing Of lures, natural and artificial, and their manipulation; and with fly-tying. Its contents, presented in a pocket form, well adapt it for a.