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How and Why Ancient Primitives and Famous Ancients Angled

Ancient primitives as well as the early Egyptians, Assyrians, Greeks and Romans fished before the move to modern angling methods occurred in Middle-Europe. This study examines literature to determine the evolution of angling from fishing with the hands, to spearing, to the New Guinea spider webbed nets, to hair-line and gorge, to the English cat-gut line of the late seventeenth century, to silkwork-line in the early eighteenth century and baited hook, to lure, and finally - to fly fishing, the epitome of angling for sport. Methods described by Cleopatra, Martial, Aelian, Pliny the Elder, Dame Juliana Berners and Sir Isaac Walton among others, are used to develop the story. Exotic angling methodologies such as fishing with loons used to swallow and then regurgitate their catch - to baits which require the drippings from a dead cat are described. Common methodologies are more thoroughly dissected. Attitudes toward sport angling changed

markedly throughout history, these changes are also brought out in the study. The paper is based on three years of research for a book which will examine the evolution of fly fishing for Atlantic Salmon.