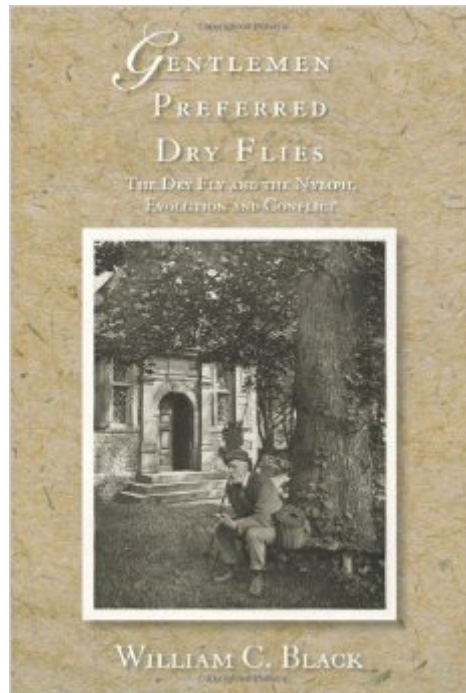


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# Gentlemen Preferred Dry Flies: The Dry Fly And The Nymph, Evolution And Conflict



## Synopsis

The author has fished with flies all over the world. His knowledge of the art and sport of catching trout with feathered imitations of native insects has been imparted to countless students in his annual Fly-Fishing Basics classes since 1978. But this book far surpasses Black's experience on the rivers and streams he has fished. There is evidence that men have been fooling fish with fake flies for over 700 years, possibly much longer, going back to China and Macedonia and Rome. The first fly-fishing book, written in the early years of the fifteenth century but not published until 1496, was for many years attributed to Dame Juliana Berners, an English nun born some years before that. Subsequent evidence shows that she may not have been the author of the *Treatise of Fishing with an Angle*. The true author is unknown, but the dictates of the book have lived on ever since in the ever-present activity of fly-fishing's devotees. Black gathers the stories of numerous historical characters, many of them English aristocrats, who have adhered to the traditional requirement that flies should be modeled on the flying insects that land on the water's surface, rather than nymphs, the immature form of the floating insect. Gentlemen only fished for rising fish lured by a fleeting food source. While both techniques are now equally fascinating to gentlemen (and ladies), the debate between those who prefer dry flies to wet continues to this day.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Gentlemen Preferred Dry Flies 9/14/2011  
The Dry Fly and the Nymph, Evolution and Conflict  
William C. Black  
Have you ever wondered when the dry fly became considered the elitist way to fly fishing?

Why, how and when the dry and nymph patterns that we use today were developed and by who? Did you ever wonder about what kind of equipment was used by the fly fishers of old? How about this? Did you know that the six sided bamboo rod was invented here in America? Who actually started the catch and release craze? How long ago was it and why. I found the answers to these and many more questions in the chapters of this book. The book touches on so many fly fishing disagreements that are still going on to this day; Dry fly vs. Nymph. Upstream cast vs. downstream cast, stockers vs. indigenes species and the list goes on and on. If you think any of those conversations are modern day your very wrong. This book lays out each chapter in chronologic order covering most of the historical characters in the history of fly fishing. Especially the big names; Walton, Cotton, Ranolds, Halford, Skues, Mottram and the Americans Gordon, La Branche, Hewitt, Jennings, Bergman Sawyer and many more. Thus the reader can keep up with the segments in time of when the characters lived with over lap of other legends lives. The author starts out in England and Scotland during the early years then moving across to America before the revolutionary war to modern day. In the book the author is always reference back to the books the characters had written the selves to give credibly to his statements. It is almost hard to comprehend the first time reading this book all the info that is being given. I will keep it at hand for a reference when conversations take place about the history of our sport. One of the things that I noticed in the book was the attention to the personal lives of the historical characters from their wealth or poverty, their life span and health. He even touches on some if they were married with children and how it affected the way and when they fished. Yes, the book is about dry fly fishing and just how it came about. It also covers all the other techniques that are used in fly fishing with the same attention to whom and when it was discovered. If you read like I do, a page or section a night. This book is very easy to put down and pick bake up where you left off. I believe you will be pleasantly surprise (even if you do fish with nymphs) of the information in this book as I was.

Gentlemen Preferred Dry Flies: The Dry Fly and the Nymph, Evolution and Conflict is an exceptional examination of the history of fly-fishing, an art that stretches back at least seven hundred years. Chapters also cross-examine the debate through history as to whether flies should be modeled only upon flying insects that alight on the water's surface, or whether flies should also resemble nymphs, the immature forms of floating insects. Drawing upon the words of distinguished fly-fishers throughout history, Gentlemen Preferred Dry Flies offers an extraordinary evolution of the sport, and of the people who cherish and champion it. Gentlemen Preferred Dry Flies is a unique and wonderfully addition to fishing shelves and reference collections.

Great book for all of us trout fisherman. Continues the debate dry versus nymph fishing and takes a historical perspective of all the great authors from the past. A great compendium and comparison.

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