Steen Ellemose tager fat i

De gamle englændere og deres tørfluestænger

Sammenlignet med moderne fluestænger af kulfiber virker mange gamle træstænger både tunge og antikverede. Dette leder ofte til en ret stereotyp beskrivelse af fordums stænger, en beskrivelse der ikke tager hensyn til den historiske udvikling og det faktum, at der dengang var endog meget stor forskel på fiskestænger – en forskel der næppe er så stor i dag.

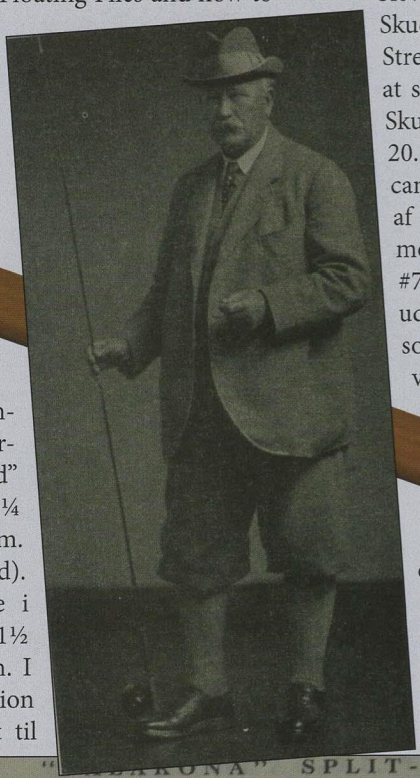
Splitcanestangen blev opfundet midt i 1800-tallet, oftest angives amerikaneren Samuel Phillips som opfinder omkring 1845. Indtil da havde alle stænger været lavet af massivt træ som eksempelvis ask, hickory eller greenhart. Splitcanestangen erobrede ikke omgående verden, dertil var den alt for dyr. Massive greenhartstænger blev fremstillet langt op i det 20. århundrede, således finder man i Hardys Coronation Number af deres katalog (1937) adskillige modeller af greenhartstænger.

Splitcanestangen var for de mere velbjærgede, dem der også fiskede i de berømte kalkstrømme i Sydeng-

land. Men også her skete tingene langsomt. Francis Francis, der i 1875 udgav "A book on Angling" brugte aldrig andet end en to-hånds fluestang. Men man skal huske på, at dengang var det ikke så almindeligt med den relativt tunge flueline som vi benytter i dag, det var lette liner og hvis fiskeren kunne gå med en let vind i ryggen blev der ofte 'dappet' med fluen, mere end det frie drev hen over fisken, der blev almindeligt senere. De første en-hånds fluestænger, der blev brugt var 10-11 fod lange, og de var beregnet til at kaste en tung imprægneret flueline af silke, fuldstændig som vi fisker i dag. Men linen var efter moderne standard tung, svarende

til aftm klasse 7 eller 8 – noget der stadig præger englænderne, selvom de fleste moderne tørfluefiskere betragter en line i klasse 4 eller 5 som standardlinen.

Halford anbefaler i "Floating Flies and how to dress them" en stang på 10½ – 11 fod – og en enhåndsstang på 12 fod kan bruges af "en særlig stærk fisker".



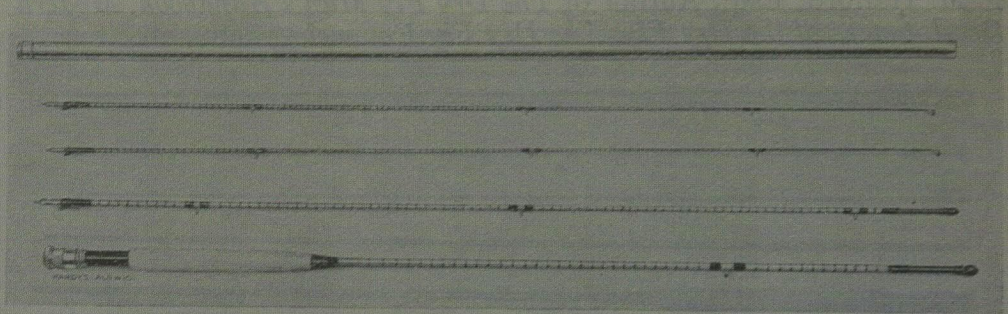
Senere, i "The Dry-Fly Man's Handbook" anbefaler Halford særligt Hardy's "Halford" model på 9 fod og 6¼ tomme (dvs. 6 mm. længere end 9½ fod). Denne stang vejede i 1905 modellen 11½ oz. - cirka 320 gram. I en senere 1912 version er vægten reduceret til cirka 250 gram – og ifølge Halford er det primært sket i stangens metaldele.

"The Dry-Fly Man's Handbook" udgives i 1913 og blev Halfords sidste bog. 3 år tidligere udgav G.E.M. Skues sin første bog "Minor Tactics of the Chalk Streams". Ligesom der er stor forskel på deres måde at skrive på, er der stor forskel på deres stangvalg. Skues beskriver i bogen hvordan han i starten af det 20. århundrede prøver en 10 fods Leonard split-canestang på 5 oz (140 gr), altså næsten det halve af Halfords Hardystang. Til sammenligning vejer moderne 9-10 fods fluestænger beregnet til en line #7 typisk 100-120 gram, nogle endda mere (jeg har udelukkende brugt tal fra de førende stangmærker som Sage, Orvis, Hardy, Loomis o.l. - og i ferskvandsmontering).

Halford bruger i "The Dry-Fly Man's Handbook" megen energi og plads på at argumentere imod de lette stænger. Skues var hans modstander, ikke blot i forhold til nymfefiskeri, men også i valg af stang. Halford begiver sig ud

316 "[illegible]" SPLIT-BAMBOO RODS

The "Houghton" Dry Fly Rod



Many years ago at the invitation of several members of the "Houghton" Club, the late Mr. J. J. Hardy visited the Test, and with the assistance of Mr. L—— designed this rod. For long it has been a great favourite and still continues so. Although a perfect dry fly rod, it is most useful for loch and sea-trout fishing. For New Zealand and India it is perfect, as it will, if desired, cast a light spoon. In fact, the "Houghton" has proved for over forty years to be one of the most useful types of rod for loch, river, or general use for fish of 1 lb. upwards.

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curve made by the rods free and with weights of 1 oz. and 2 oz.

The light rod craze.

Under the title of *the light rod craze* in an article published in the "Field" of May 20th, 1905, I discussed at some length the origin of what is often called the *light rod* which has been adopted by our American cousins and to some extent in this country. The absurdity of grading rods by their gross weight in ounces is demonstrated in this article, and I have done my best to show that mere weight is in fact no criterion. A rod of 4 oz. may be, and often is, far more tiring to the hand, wrist, and forearm of th angler than a correctly balanced one of 10 12 oz.

Mr. J. J. Hardy's opinion on th as a prac-

i argumenter der ikke holder til en nærmere undersøgelse – at gå ind på dem i detalje vil føre for vidt, men eksempelvis skelner Halford mellem Stivhed og Fjedring. Han argumenterer for at beviklinger med ½ tommes mellemrum øger fjedringen, men ikke stivheden. Desværre er stivhed netop et udtryk for fjedring. Fysik og teknik var næppe Halfords stærke side, men hans autoritet og selvtillid var stor.

I førnævnte 1937 katalog fra Hardy finder man to stænger med Halford som ophavsmand. Dels den omtalte Halford, nu med en vægt på 8½ oz, til den formidable pris af 11 pund og 4 shillings. Den anden stang er "Knockabout" på 9½ fod vejende 6¾ oz. Denne stang beskrives som en økonomistang man "kan have stående i fiskehytten til brug i nødstilfælde". Den koster da også en bagatel af 5 pund og 9 shillings.

Hardy har ikke nogen stænger, der har Skues som ophavsmand. Han holdt sig til sine amerikanske Leonardstænger, af hvilke han skulle have ejet fem stykker. Men i samme katalog har Hardy et afsnit med "Very Light Trout Fly Rods", der indledes med at en let fluestang ikke nødvendigvis er en stang der er let at kaste med – hvilket jo er ganske korrekt. I dette afsnit finder vi kendte stænger som Triumph, Marvel og Koh-i-noor.

TROUT FLY RODS 51

Very Light Trout Fly Rods

Made of Hardy's 'Palakona' (Regd. No. 246936) split-bamboo

Light rods, are generally speaking, fitted with 'Suction' joints, very light reel fittings, and have no spear. When 'Reversible' spear and button is desired, the rod must be specially finished; the extra weight is about ¼ oz to 1 oz.

The addition of ½ oz more bamboo in a 10-ft rod means a considerable increase in its strength, and any of these types can be made a shade stronger, if desired.

Light rods are not necessarily comfortable or easy to fish with, as so much depends on the scientific distribution of the weight. There is no difficulty in reducing weight, but to do this, and yet *retain power and utility*, is a very difficult matter indeed, and far beyond the capacity of most maker All light rods made by us are perfectly st very hard, and we guarante he most powerful rods in the worl ar weight.

It is really wonderf these light 'Palakona' split-bamb can do in the way of casting a lin killing fish when properly handled uld be borne in mind that the re in weight is mainly in the joints e and fittings. The 'Palakona' b of which they are built is particul

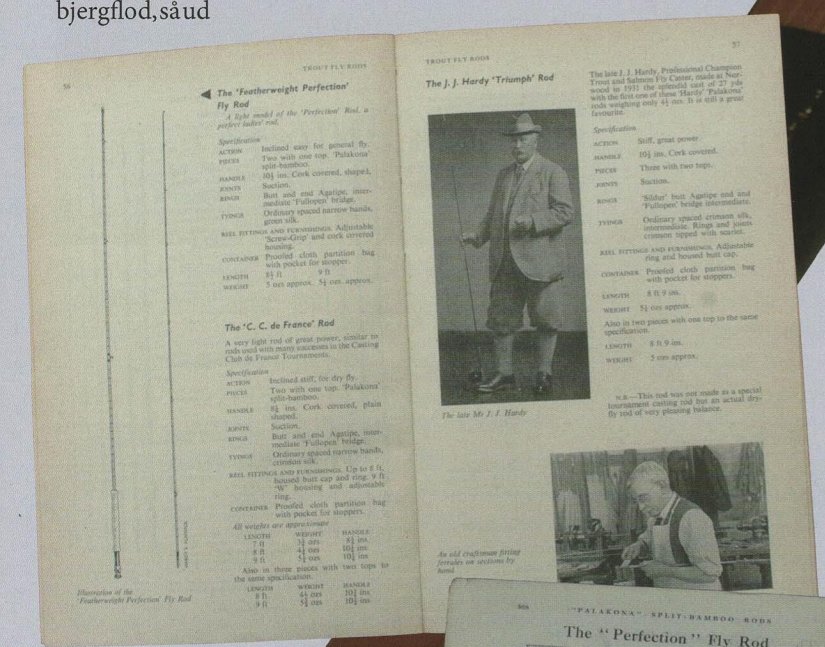
At all great recent casting tourna-ments England, Belgium and France, whe dy's 'Palakona' split-bamboo ro competed, they have, in almost e, won the special light rod casting thus proving that 'Palakona' split-boo, for lightness and strength, is far ond all other materials for fishing-rod uilding.

The 'De Luxe' Fly Rod

Udviklingen i tørfluestangen af splitcane var ikke slut med Skues, men det var i USA den

fortsatte, med stangbyggere som Leonard, Payne, Orvis. Efter anden verdenskrig satte Pezon & Michel sit store fingeraftryk på historien om fluestangen. Men selvom enhåndsstangen ved begyndelsen af 1900-tallet var meget udbredt, var der som altid englændere, der stædigt holdt fast ved to-håndsstangen. Måske fordi de fandt en 10-fods enhåndsstang trættende at fiske med en hel dag, måske blot fordi de var stokkonservative. Endelig må man huske på, at omstændighederne betyder meget for, hvilken fluestang der er den ideelle. Tidligere var engene langs floderne ikke nær så bevoksede med træer som det er tilfældet i dag. Det gælder både Sydengland og Danmark kan man se af gamle fotos. En klar og bred flod i en åben eng er vanskelig at sammenligne med en skovklædt bjergflod, såud over tradition, 'guruernes' anbefalinger og fiskerens egen personlige smag, har de fysiske rammer givet spillet ind på valget af fluestangen.

Som i al historie var tørfluestangen ikke noget statisk eller entydigt. Den udviklede sig dynamisk igennem historien, der var brydninger og disputter og plads til individuelle meninger. Sammenlignet med et moderne stangudvalg havde man dengang betydeligt mere forskellige stænger at vælge imellem, men dengang som nu er det vigtigt at vælge den rigtige tørfluestang.


TROUT FLY RODS

The 'Featherweight Perfection' Fly Rod

A light model of the 'Perfection' Rod, a perfect ladies' rod.

Specification

ACTION	Inclined easy for general fly.
PIECES	Two with one top. 'Palakona' split-bamboo.
HANDLE	10½ ins. Cork covered, shaped.
JOINTS	Suction.
RINGS	Butt and end Agatine, intermediate 'Fullopen' bridge.
TYINGS	Ordinary spaced narrow bands, green silk.
REEL FITTINGS AND FURNISHINGS	Adjustable 'Screw-Grip' and cork covered housing.
CONTAINER	Proofed cloth partition bag with pocket for stopper.
LENGTH	8½ ft 9 ft
WEIGHT	5 ozs approx. 5¼ ozs. approx.

The 'C. C. de France' Rod

A very light rod of great power, similar to rods used with many successes in the Casting Club de France Tournaments.

Specification

ACTION	Inclined stiff, for dry fly.
PIECES	Two with one top. 'Palakona' split-bamboo.
HANDLE	8½ ins. Cork covered, plain shaped.
JOINTS	Suction.
RINGS	Butt and end Agatine, intermediate 'Fullopen' bridge.
TYINGS	Ordinary spaced narrow bands, crimson silk.
REEL FITTINGS AND FURNISHINGS	Up to 8 ft. housed butt cap and ring. 9 ft. "W" housing and adjustable ring.
CONTAINER	Proofed cloth partition bag with pocket for stoppers.

All weights are approximate

LENGTH	WEIGHT	HANDLE
7 ft	3¾ ozs	8½ ins.
8 ft	4¼ ozs	10½ ins.
9 ft	5¾ ozs	10½ ins.

Also in three pieces with two tops to the same specification.

LENGTH	WEIGHT	HANDLE
8 ft	4¼ ozs	10½ ins.
9 ft	5¾ ozs	10½ ins.

Illustration of the 'Featherweight Perfection' Fly Rod

TROUT FLY RODS

The J. J. Hardy 'Triumph' Rod

The late J. J. Hardy, Professional Champion Trout and Salmon Fly Caster, made at Norwood in 1931 the splendid cast of 27 yds with the first one of these Hardy 'Palakona' rods weighing only 4¼ ozs. It is still a great favourite.

Specification

ACTION	Stiff, great power
HANDLE	10½ ins. Cork covered.
PIECES	Three with two tops.
JOINTS	Suction.
RINGS	'Silkor' butt Agatine rod and 'Fullopen' bridge intermediate.
TYINGS	Ordinary spaced crimson silk, intermediate. Rings and joints crimson with scarlet.
REEL FITTINGS AND FURNISHINGS	Adjustable ring and housed butt cap.
CONTAINER	Proofed cloth partition bag with pocket for stoppers.
LENGTH	8 ft 9 ins.
WEIGHT	5¼ ozs approx.

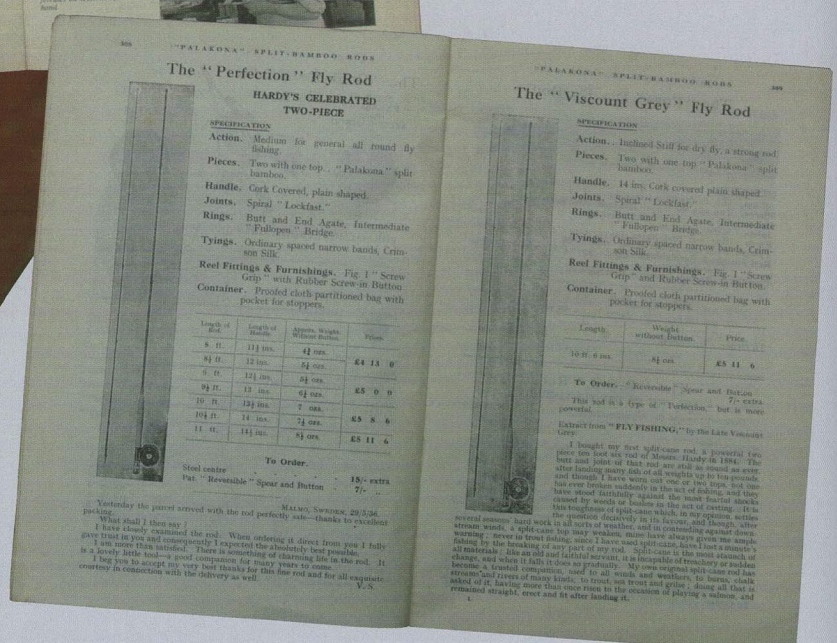
Also in two pieces with one top to the same specification.

LENGTH	8 ft 9 ins.
WEIGHT	5 ozs approx.

N.B.—This rod was not made as a special tournament casting rod but an actual dry-fly rod of very pleasing balance.

The late Mr J. J. Hardy

An old craftsman fitting ferrules on sections by hand


"PALAKONA" SPLIT-BAMBOO RODS

The "Perfection" Fly Rod

HARDY'S CELEBRATED TWO-PIECE

SPECIFICATION

Action. Medium for general all round fly fishing.

Pieces. Two with one top. "Palakona" split bamboo.

Handle. Cork Covered, plain shaped.

Joints. Spiral "Lockfast."

Rings. Butt and End Agate, Intermediate "Fullopen" Bridge.

Tyings. Ordinary spaced narrow bands, Crimson Silk.

Reel Fittings & Furnishings. Fig. 1 "Screw Grip" with Rubber Screw-in Button.

Container. Proofed cloth partitioned bag with pocket for stoppers.

Length of Rod	Length of Handle	Approx. Weight Without Button.	Prices.
8 ft.	11½ ins.	4¼ ozs.	
8½ ft.	12 ins.	4½ ozs.	£4 13 0
9 ft.	12½ ins.	4¾ ozs.	
9½ ft.	13 ins.	6¼ ozs.	£5 0 0
10 ft.	13½ ins.	7 ozs.	
10½ ft.	14 ins.	7¼ ozs.	£5 8 6
11 ft.	14½ ins.	8½ ozs.	£5 11 6

To Order.

Steel centre " " 15/- extra
Pat. "Reversible" Spear and Button 7/- "

MALMÖ, SWEDEN, 29/3/36.

Yesterday the parcel arrived with the rod perfectly safe—thanks to excellent packing.

What shall I then say?

I have closely examined the rod. When ordering it direct from you I fully gave trust in you and consequently I expected the absolutely best possible.

I am more than satisfied. There is something of charming life in the rod. It is a lovely little tool—a good companion for many years to come.

I beg you to accept my very best thanks for this fine rod and for all exquisite courtesy in connection with the delivery as well.

V. S.

"PALAKONA" SPLIT-BAMBOO RODS

The "Viscount Grey" Fly Rod

SPECIFICATION

Action. Inclined Stiff for dry fly, a strong rod.

Pieces. Two with one top "Palakona" split bamboo.

Handle. 14 ins. Cork covered plain shaped.

Joints. Spiral "Lockfast."

Rings. Butt and End Agate, Intermediate "Fullopen" Bridge.

Tyings. Ordinary spaced narrow bands, Crimson Silk.

Reel Fittings & Furnishings. Fig. 1 "Screw Grip" and Rubber Screw-in Button.

Container. Proofed cloth partitioned bag with pocket for stoppers.

Length.	Weight without Button.	Price.
10 ft. 6 ins.	8½ ozs.	£5 11 6

To Order. "Reversible" Spear and Button 7/- extra.

This rod is a type of "Perfection," but is more powerful.

Extract from "FLY FISHING," by the Late Viscount Grey.

I bought my first split-cane rod, a powerful two-piece ten foot six rod of Messrs. Hardy's in 1884. The butt and joint of that rod are still as sound as ever after landing many fish of all weights up to ten pounds, and though I have worn out one or two tops, not one has ever broken suddenly in the act of fishing, and they have stood faithfully against the most hateful shocks caused by weeds or bushes in the act of casting. It is the toughness of split-cane which, in my opinion, settles the question decisively in its favour, and though, after several seasons' hard work in all sorts of weather, and in contending against down-stream winds, a split-cane top may weaken, mine have always given me ample warning; never in trout fishing, since I have used split-cane, have I lost a minute's fishing by the breaking of any part of my rod. Split-cane is the most staunch of all materials; like an old and faithful servant, it is incapable of treachery or sudden change, and when it fails it does so gradually. My own original split-cane rod has become a trusted companion, used by all winds and weathers, to burns, creeks streams and rivers of many kinds; to trout, sea trout and grilse; doing all that is asked of it, having more than once risen to the occasion of playing a salmon, and remained straight, erect and fit after landing it.