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EDITORIAL

By Alberto Azzoni

Summer is over and the first autumn mist embraces our rivers, creating a soft atmosphere while the colours of nature become warmer with shades of red; it may seem like a romantic idea but I find that the wood of our rods with their gentle movements match the pale light of this magical season.

That's why I am particularly happy that the first edition of the Bamboo Journal takes shape in this period.

A few days ago, I received an e-mail from the IBRA President Gabriele Gori regarding the unbelievable development that the European Bamboo community is living since they discovered that they actually exist; this growth is witnessed by the number of rodmakers that grows every month thanks also to the IBRA rodmaking classes and above all to those two or three friends that surely every "expert" Rodmaker has in his shop every evening – a less official school but non the less efficient.

And what about the great success of the First European Gathering which

was held in Sansepolcro that was host to a great number of participants and contents and of the signs of an imminent international spreading that would lead to the upcoming French Gathering in Miramas between the 15 and 16 of November (I hope that lots of you will be there) and the European gathering which will take place next autumn in Sarnen, Switzerland?

Well there is a feeling of great ferment and expansion; should we fear that our Chinese friends from the Sui valley will not be able to satisfy our growing needs with resorting to transgenic alchemy?!

As was promised this summer in Sansepolcro we are pleased to publish Issue N. 1 of the Bamboo Journal, which is rich in contents by the first willing writers who have accepted to spread their knowledge – fruit of all their research, experiments and experiences - to us all.

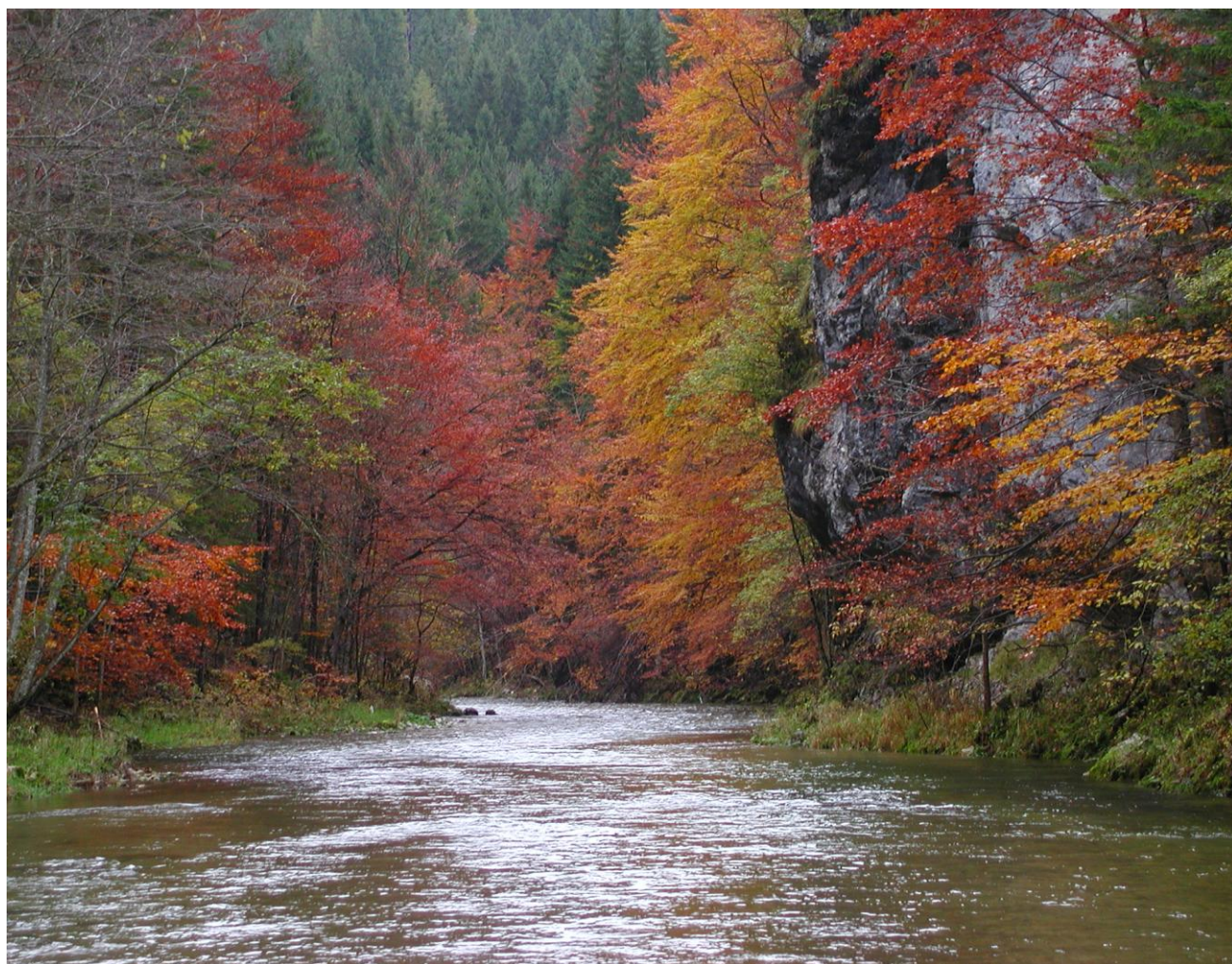
In this issue, apart from a report of the First European gathering from a Swiss point of view by P. Sicher, you will find technical articles by A. Poratelli and G. Gori that illustrate the latest (final?) results of their work on Bamboo Ferrules which are simple to make and

attractive; they cannot leave you indifferent. Then the equally simple and ingenious varnishing technique by P. Agostini and C. Diacon and the magnificent PF for quads made by L. Oltolini.

Finally to help us overcome our inferiority complex against the American big names, there are three articles on European Rodmaking and not only from a technical point of view. In the first one R. Natali tells us about the CC de France – one of the historical English rods; the second one by S. Brunelli describes the original creations of Bjarne Fries who plays a very important

role in our horizon and finally I have tried to transmit to you the emotions which derived from my brief but unforgettable meeting with W. Brunner. I wish you pleasant reading and I invite you to send me articles you feel would be of interest to the Rodmaking community; the newsletter would like to voice all your ideas. Naturally criticisms and suggestions will be taken into consideration so please do not hesitate to voice your views.

Send your e-mails to: editor@rodmakers.it



River Salzaklamm - Austria

EURO 08 or BELLA ITALIA

by Philipp Sicher e Jaroslav Vecko

It was a perfect game – a team full of ideas, no fouls and some fantastic goals! We are not speaking about the Euro 08 in football, we speak about the Organisation of the “1. European Rodmakers Gathering” in Sansepolcro, Italy. It was the IBRA (Italian Bamboo Rodmakers Association) planning and organizing – after the 1. Swiss Gathering in Sarnen in 2006 and the 1. German Gathering in Waischenfeld in 2007- this important event with much confidence and commitment at the end of May this year.

More than hundred enthusiastic participants, rodmakers, family members and friends from all over the world – Brazil, South Africa, USA, and most parts of Europe – came their long way down to Tuscany in Italy to see, what’s new in the world of Bamboo Rodmaking.

But let’s start at the roots – this may be in the history of rodmaking or at our grass *Arundinaria* (new *Pseudosasa*) *amabilis*. Hoagy B. Carmichael told in an amusing story about his time in meetings with Everett Garrison in the Seventies and what a big effort it was to complete the film and finally “the Book”.



Gabriele Gori and Hoagy Carmichael

He awakened much interest and enthusiasm

also with the brought original rods and tools of Garrison. One of these pieces of jewelry. – a micrometer - he gave as present to the IBRA.



Garrison's own micrometer!

A lot of important facts on *Arundinaria amabilis*, or the experience on trade with China, misunderstandings and related problems, were reported by Andy Royer.



Andy Royer

Technical and theoretical knowledge of high quality by using computer programs was presented by Larry Tusoni (USA)-“RodDNA” program, the version 1.3 - and after him



Larry Tusoni

by Nils Kulle from Sweden speaking about his experience with the program "Arc-Taper".



Nils Kulle

A speciality, namely the manufacturing of a precisely planning form in wood for quad-rods, was explained in detail by Marzio Giglio from Italy.

An interesting presentation was shown by Philipp Sicher, Switzerland, and Christian Strixner, Germany. In a team work they demonstrated the effects on the action of a rod by different types of hollow building.



Marzio Giglio

On the base of the taper of a Garrison 209E they presented the system "hollow fluting" built by Winston, the « Magic Star», the principle of Sgurd Vangen and the "scalloping" procedure as Powell did, compared with a identical conventional solid built rod. But what a lucky coincidence! Hoagy Carmichael had precisely this Rod of Everett Garrison brought to Italy. The direct comparison with "the Original" was exciting!

Some conclusions:

- ⇒ Long rods produce more saving of weight
- ⇒ The area of the ferrules and grip has to be build solid
- ⇒ Glue, if carefully applied, is no problem in the hollowed part
- ⇒ The action of the rod is changed – try out!!
- ⇒ Weight saving is significant (fluting 15,5% - Magic Star 12,2% - scalloping 7,2% less than solid)
- ⇒ The interpretations of the influence on the action varies from rodmaker to rodmaker (faster – slower ...)

In different forums or books we can find very different interpretations. Most of them tend to say that rods have a loss of stiffness which can be (has to be) compensated by adjusting the taper by 3 – 5%.

But the rods are build, stand ready for casting ... take them ... cast them ... tell your opinion!



Philipp Sicher's lecture

A real highlight was presented by Alberto Poratelli and Gabriele Gori, both from Italy, with the the "Streamlined Bamboo Ferrule". The slight new form of bamboo ferrule amazed a large number of experienced rodmakers. Will it break? The experience will tell! For sure, this is one of the great innovations in Rodmaking in the last years.



G. Gori's and A. Poratelli's lecture (M. Borriero translates)

Also the social and sporting parts of the event were not too short. Already on Friday the "Bamboo only" day was on program. It was held traditionally at the Alto Tevere.

In a most beautiful Tuscany weather, groups of 3-5 persons, guided by a local expert, fished at the headwaters of Tiber for grayling and trout.



The AltoTevere tailwater

Even if they were not of the same size as the fishes in the attractive Seatrout fishing in Denmark, presented by Rolf Baginski, many nice trout and graylings found their way to the fly ...

A lot of time, and this has been appreciated by participants particularly, remained for expert discussions and tests of countless magnificent rods,



Rods made by: Parker Holden, Garrison e Carmichael: three generations of rodmakers.

Hoagy Carmichael signed the "bible" of bamboo Rodmaking, Terenzio Zandri was once more present with silklines and Leen Huisman showed next to his fine rods his Titan-Reels
 The last day, Sunday, the end - finally a raffle. First price: a "European Bamboo Rod", built by the German rodmaker Rolf Baginski, the Italian Gabriele Gori and the Swiss Philipp Sicher.
 It was our German friend Ralf Grewe who was the lucky winner!

This was the end of a successful, of friendship oriented event, which will find its continuation at the end of September 2009 in Sarnen in Switzerland with the "2. European Rodmakers Gathering".

Grazie mille!!



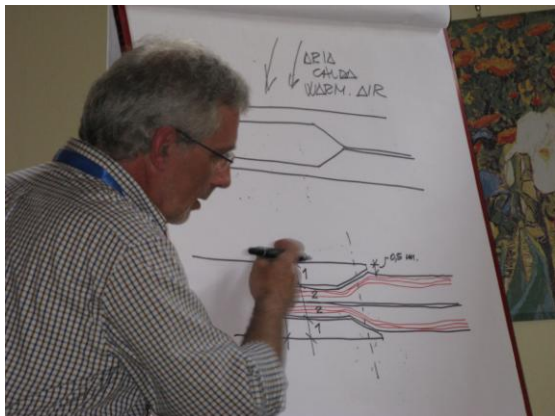
First European Bamboo Rodmakers Gathering's attendees

THE STREAMLINED BAMBOO FERRULE*by Alberto Poratelli e Gabriele Gori*

My first approach to bamboo ferrules took place because I have always admired their lightness and beauty and also because of the reduced impact they have on rod action.

My objective for many years was to design a bamboo ferrule that was strong enough and at the same time the least visible on the mounted rod. This brought me in the beginning to study the dimensioning of the ferrule with respect to the dimensions of the rod; these results were presented at the IBRA gathering in 2007 and are summarized in the table that follows.

This table is the one I normally use to dimension bamboo ferrules when designing a new rod. They are the minimum measurements for a bamboo ferrule below which the ferrule becomes less reliable and has less resistance but above all it acquires flexibility that causes it to deform during casting. This study essentially takes the dimensioning of the female part of the ferrule into consideration, taking for granted that the male part would have the dimensions of the taper at the ferrule point.



Alberto Poratelli



Gabriele Gori

TABELLA "A" - DIMENSIONAMENTO DI UNA GHIERA IN BAMBOO										
lunghezza della canna	ghiera in metallo	GHIERA IN BAMBOO								
		sezione della canna al punto di taglio		lunghezza della cavità - mm.	spessore della parete - mm.	lunghezza dello swell - mm.	rapporto tra la sezione della canna e lo spessore della parete		rapporto tra la lunghezza della cavità e lo spessore della parete	
		inch.	mm.	10 x a / c						
		a	a	b	c	d				
60"	9/64"	0,1378	3,50	41,00	0,85	127,00	1/	4,12	1/	11,71
		0,1417	3,60	42,00	0,86	127,00	1/	4,19	1/	11,67
		0,1457	3,70	43,00	0,86	127,00	1/	4,30	1/	11,62
		0,1496	3,80	44,00	0,87	127,00	1/	4,37	1/	11,58
		0,1535	3,90	45,00	0,87	127,00	1/	4,48	1/	11,54
		0,1575	4,00	45,00	0,88	127,00	1/	4,55	1/	11,25
66"	10/64"	0,1614	4,10	46,00	0,88	127,00	1/	4,66	1/	11,22
		0,1654	4,20	47,00	0,89	127,00	1/	4,72	1/	11,19
		0,1693	4,30	48,00	0,90	127,00	1/	4,78	1/	11,16
70"	11/64"	0,1732	4,40	49,00	0,90	127,00	1/	4,89	1/	11,14
		0,1772	4,50	49,00	0,91	127,00	1/	4,95	1/	10,89
		0,1811	4,60	50,00	0,92	127,00	1/	5,00	1/	10,87
		0,1850	4,70	51,00	0,93	127,00	1/	5,05	1/	10,85
73"	12/64"	0,1890	4,80	51,00	0,93	127,00	1/	5,16	1/	10,63
		0,1929	4,90	53,00	0,94	127,00	1/	5,21	1/	10,82
		0,1969	5,00	53,00	0,95	127,00	1/	5,26	1/	10,60
		0,2008	5,10	54,00	0,96	127,00	1/	5,31	1/	10,59
		0,2047	5,20	54,00	0,97	127,00	1/	5,36	1/	10,38
		0,2087	5,30	55,00	0,98	127,00	1/	5,41	1/	10,38
76"	13/64"	0,2126	5,40	55,00	0,99	127,00	1/	5,45	1/	10,19
		0,2165	5,50	56,00	0,99	127,00	1/	5,56	1/	10,18
		0,2205	5,60	57,00	1,00	127,00	1/	5,60	1/	10,18
		0,2244	5,70	57,00	1,01	127,00	1/	5,64	1/	10,00
		0,2283	5,80	57,00	1,02	127,00	1/	5,69	1/	9,83
		0,2323	5,90	57,00	1,03	127,00	1/	5,73	1/	9,66
80"	14/64"	0,2362	6,00	58,00	1,04	127,00	1/	5,77	1/	9,67
		0,2402	6,10	58,00	1,06	127,00	1/	5,75	1/	9,51
		0,2441	6,20	58,00	1,07	127,00	1/	5,79	1/	9,35
		0,2480	6,30	58,00	1,08	127,00	1/	5,83	1/	9,21
		0,2520	6,40	59,00	1,09	127,00	1/	5,87	1/	9,22
		0,2559	6,50	59,09	1,10	127,00	1/	5,91	1/	9,09

The goal seemed to have been reached; the dimensioning lets you make a bamboo ferrule which is valid from an aesthetic point of view but which is also strong enough to withstand the forces during casting.

I say that the goal “seemed” to have been reached because for Gabriele and I the ferrule still looked too visible and we continued studying a way of reducing it even more – to make it almost invisible.

Having reached the limit in the wall thickness of the female part, the only way to reach our goal was to work on the male part of the ferrule by reducing the cross section. In these past three years we carried out many experiments in trying to reduce the cross section but they all invariably led to breakages – exactly at the point of reduction.

We needed to find a way to reduce the section of the rod without reducing the resistance and

this is where the Engineering skills of Gabriele come out. Without his suggestions I would never have made it.

Let's see how the streamlined ferrule is made starting from a "normal" ferrule, which is dimensioned according to the above table in a rod with a hex cross section of 5 mm at the ferrule point. (Fig. 1).

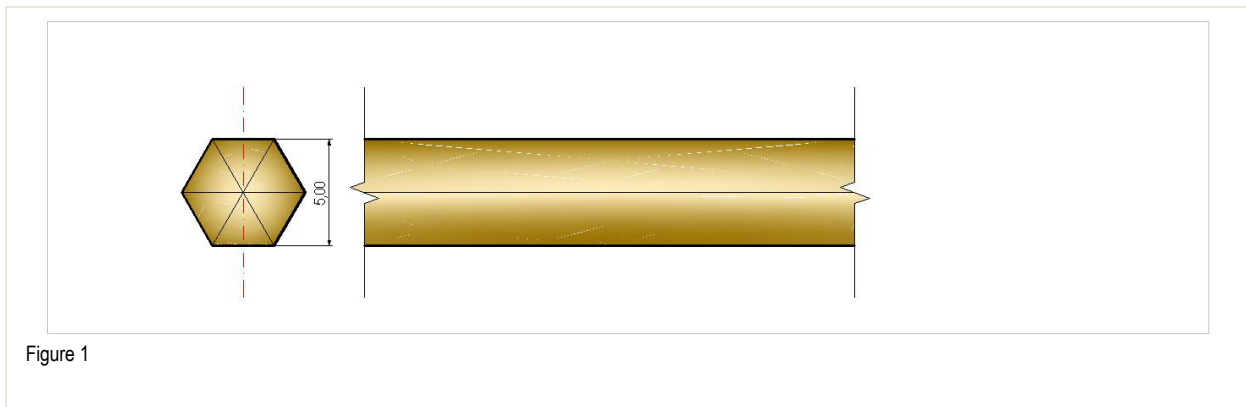
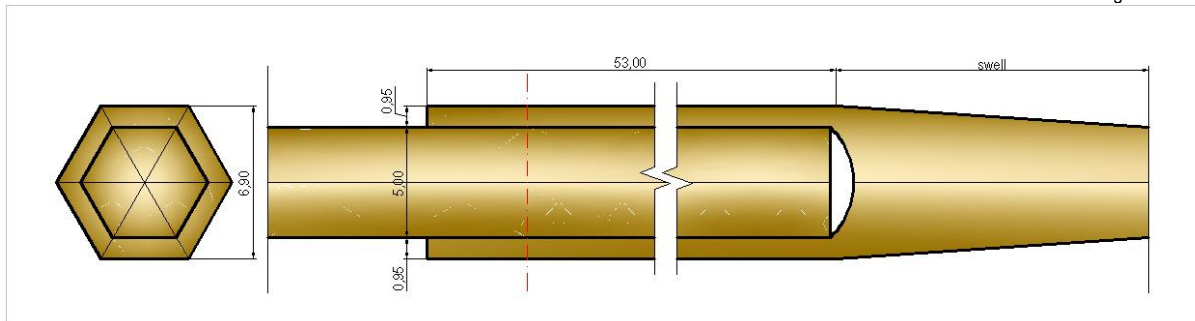


Figure 2



Dimensioning the ferrule according to the table the total thickness of the ferrule is: $0,95mm+5,00mm+0,95mm = 6,90 mm$

The female walls have a thickness of 0,95 mm and a depth of 53 mm.

You will note that this type of ferrule has a very high density of power fibres in the female part, which thanks to a binding will have the necessary strength and rigidity. The male is not modified so it will have now problems of strength.

The total thickness of 6,90 mm compared to the

taper of the rod which is 5,00 mm. was still too much for us and still didn't look good enough. We therefore thought that we could make a ferrule with a reduction of the thickness of the male part by half of the wall thickness of the female. See figure 3 for a schematic diagram.

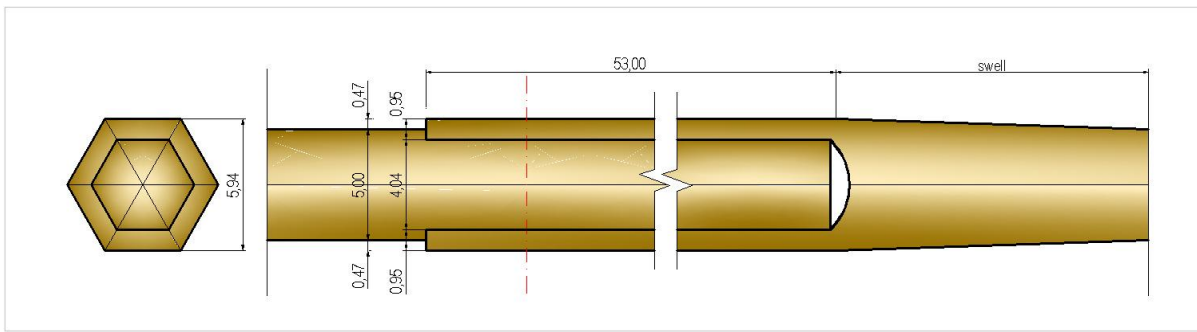


Figure 3

This type of ferrule as it is drawn still has a great defect – the reduction of the male part leads to removal of power fibres which leads to breakages of the rod. See detail in fig. 4.

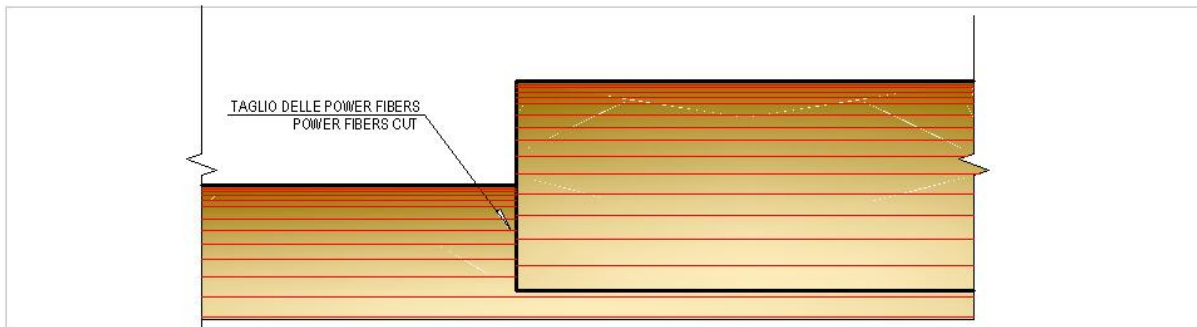


Figure 4

We needed therefore to find a solution to make the male ferrule sufficiently strong in the area where the thickness is reduced.

First of all the reduction must not be abrupt but it must take place gradually so that there are not

sudden modifications in the forces which act inside the rod. Gabriele who suggested a gradual reduction in the male section in a space of 10 mm in order to achieve the following shape Fig. 5 studied this.

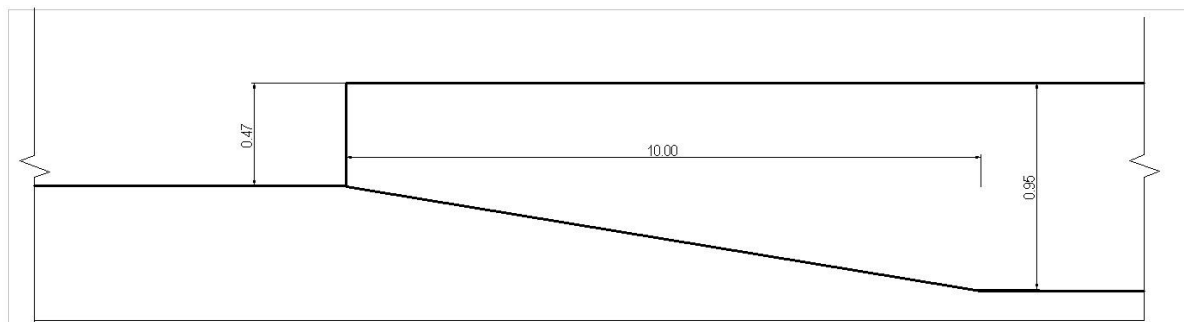


Figure 5

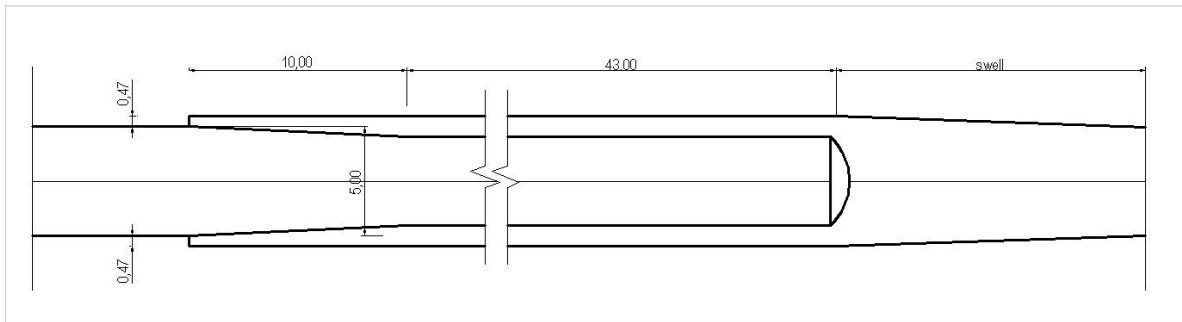


Figure 6

With this shape the ferrule functions in the untapered area – this is the part that keeps the rod together and it is 43 mm long while the conical part allows for a rational distribution of forces thus preventing breakages under stress Fig. 6.

By reducing the thickness of the male from the outside with a scraper or sandpaper we would have had the negative effect of cutting the power fibres which are more dense on the outer side of the strips. See Diagram Fig. 7.

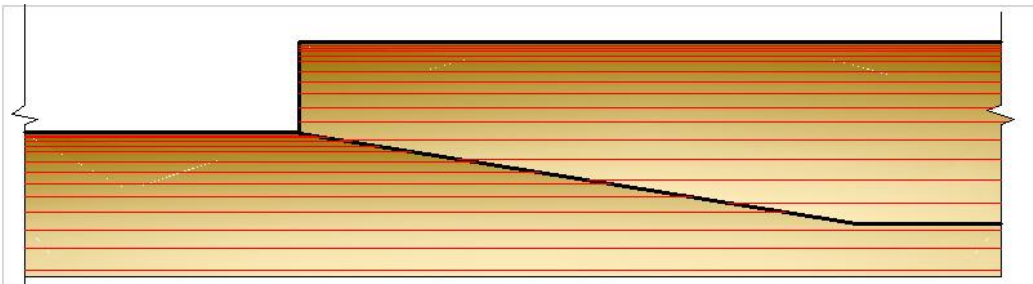


Figure 7

So we needed to find a way of reducing the thickness from the inside and this was achieved by reducing the size of the strips on their inner faces.

After having planed the strips of the butt section so the taper size, you need to reduce the two inner faces. See diagrams in Fig 8 and Fig 9.

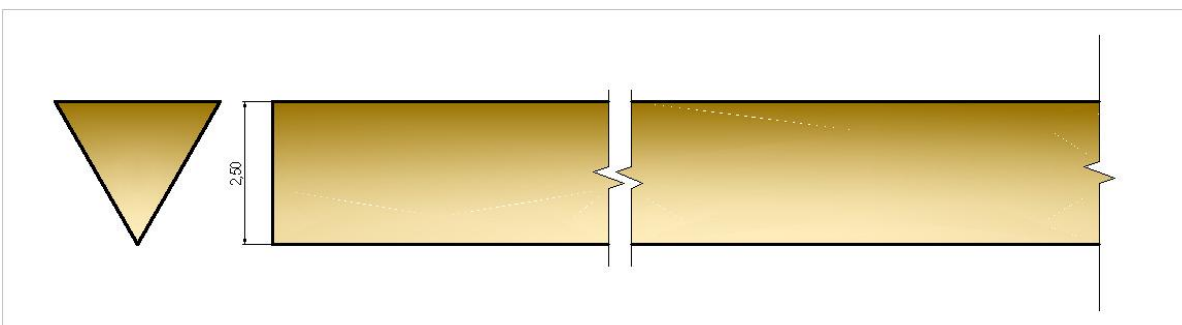


Figure 8

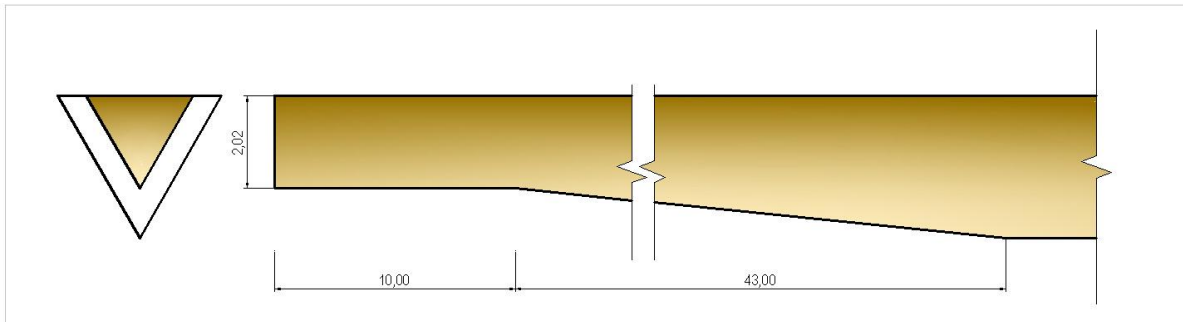


Figure 9

This reduction does not reduce the power fibres at all.

We later thought that we would take advantage of the extreme plasticity of bamboo when it is heated up and we held the strips in front of a

hot air gun with a temperature of about 150° / 200° C. and we then bound them tightly with a strong cotton thread. In this way the strips will bend naturally and will acquired the desired form. Once they have been cooled down they can be glued to achieve the ferrule we desire.
Fig. 10 Fig. 11

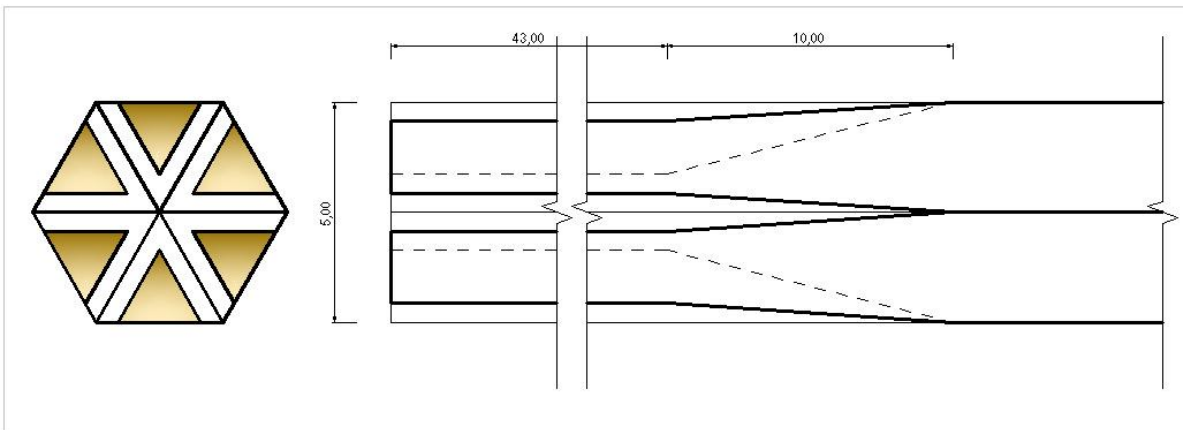


Figure 10

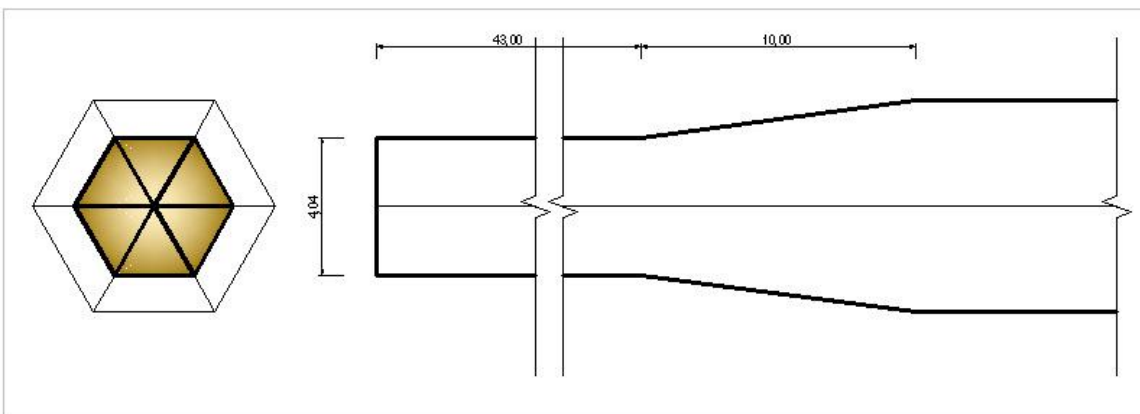


Figure 11

The diagram of the streamlined ferrule is below. It is evident that the concentration of the power fibres is not reduced and so the resistance is also maintained. (Fig. 12 Fig 13).

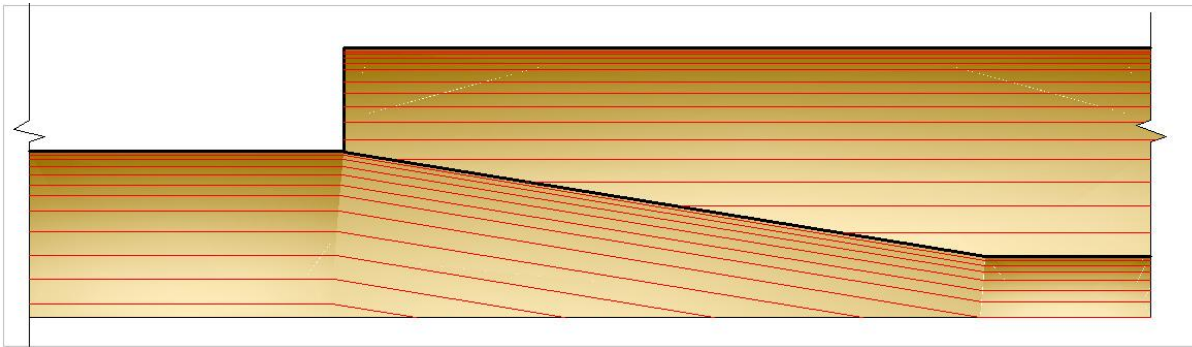


Figure 12

With this system we have reduced the thickness of the ferrule from 6,90 mm to 5,94 mm. A reduction of 0,96 mm. without reducing the strength.

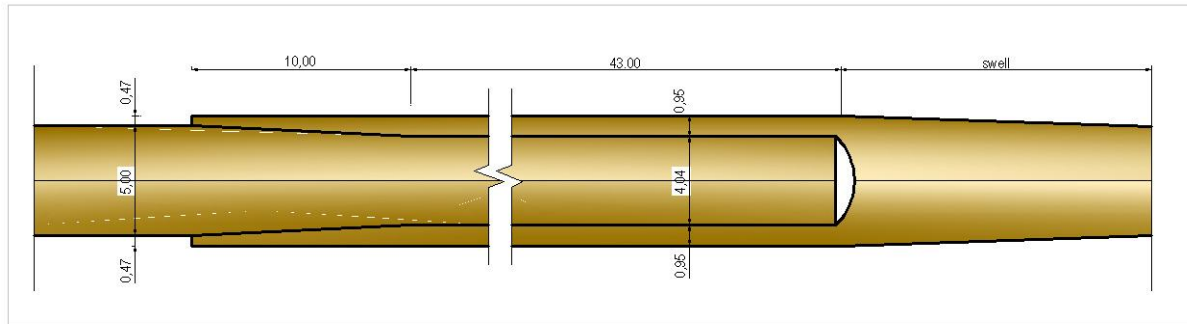


Figure 13

My friend Philipp Sicher, after the European Gathering in Sansepolcro made two similar rods – one with a traditional bamboo ferrule and one with a streamlined ferrule. From the photos you can see the difference between the two ferrules.



Comparison between a Streamlined ferrule (above) and a normal ferrule (below) Photo and rods by Philipp Sicher



Comparison between a Streamlined ferrule (above) and a normal ferrule (below)
Photo and rods by Philipp Sicher

Finally we think that it will be interesting observe a test on the rigidity of the streamlined ferrule as carried out by Gabriele Gori. The graphs show that the rigidity of the streamlined ferrule is equal to 1/4 of a normal bamboo ferrule and 1/9 of a Super Z nickel Silver ferrule. (Fig. 14)

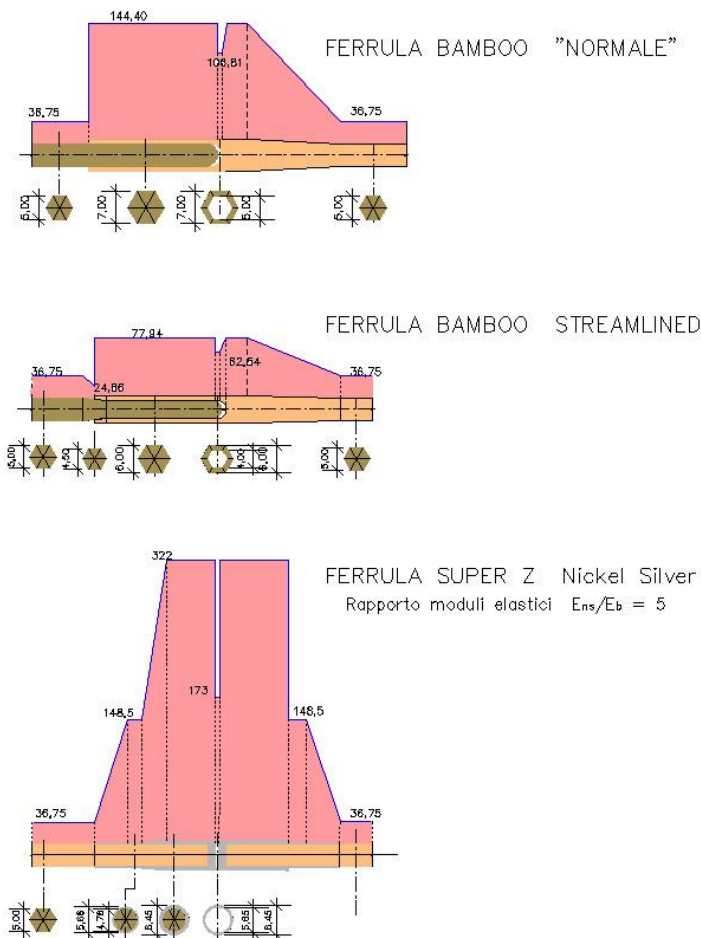


Figure 14

The big reduction of the rigidity creates a more harmonious ferrule with respect to the rod bending under stress and consequently it has a better action during casting.



Bjarne Fries observes a streamlined ferrule
(Photo by Philipp Sicher)



Roberto Pragliola during the tests carried out on the streamlined ferrule



River Tam - France

RODMAKERS PROFILES: BJARNE FRIES

by *Alessandro Brunelli*

Music, Classical music, is an important element in the life of Bjarne Fries, the famous professional Danish Rodmaker who still listens to a lot of it even though he doesn't play anymore, This is what he told me during a recent conversation...

In the years between 1970 – 1973, the Beatles had broken up, Watergate had come and gone, then the petrol crisis arrived with the recession and companies like St. Croix Rods were on the verge of collapse. In those years Bjarne was studying the Classical guitar. A few years later he began with what may seem a strange but fascinating activity that would have led him, 20 years later in 2002, to his 700th handmade Bamboo rod. An unusual job, but when we think about those years, so full of changes, of

research and yes, even Utopias, perhaps we can understand the background that forged Bjarne into the man he is: a great Rodmaker and a really special, unique person, full of enthusiasm and at the same time an unconventional genius...

But this is all in the past. In the meantime Bjarne Fries has become one of the few professional Bamboo Rodmakers in Europe. His daughter is a full-time violinist. His wife Hanne is part of the enterprise (bookkeeping, shipping and ... sewing the rod bags) and his style has concentrated on two stylistic elements: no frills and no excess weight.

Bjarne lives in Randers, an area in the north eastern Jutland peninsular in the Kingdom of Denmark.



Doesn't it sound like an enchanted place? In a certain way it is! In Randers, the sixth largest Danish city, the lively and historic capital of Kronjylland, the River Gudenå flows into a fjord of the Baltic Sea creating a true paradise for water life which is surprisingly rich in Bass, Pike, Sea Trout and Salmon. A total of more than 40 species. A truly "holy mix" as a German fishing magazine article recently defined it.

Bjarne concentrates his rodmaking in the months between October and May and reserves the months of May and June for fishing – a moment which is not only dedicated to recreation. Now do you understand why? "At the end of the day", he says, "and just like a

musician, a Rodmaker must practice on his "instrument".

Now let's discuss rodmaking. I saw Bjarne's rods for the first time at the Gathering in Waischenfeld, Germany in 2007. What struck me even though I am only a beginner (apart from Bjarne's great verve), was that many of his rods have bamboo ferrules. In fact Bjarne mentioned that 90% of his customers order rods with this type of ferrule which he began making towards the end of the nineties and which he generously admitted, he was able to improve thanks to an German handyman Detlef Cronenberger.

The results satisfy him and his customers, mostly Japanese, share this opinion.



But he certainly doesn't sit on his laurels and as everyone saw in Waischenfeld, even after many years of experience, his interest for innovation is still very much alive.

Today, Bjarne has been making rods for 25 years. Most of them have a slow and moderate action; a rather characteristic action which ought to be tried like the rods of the light series "**Connoisseur**", which are short 6' 3" up to 7' 9" for #2 and 3# lines, made for fishing "only with the mind" and with an action which is defined "deep working semi-parabolic".

Yes, the action. Bjarne told me that apart from a few exceptions, he has always experimented with his tapers and has developed a preference for long and soft rods with actions that can vary from slow to fast according to how the fisherman uses them. In any case, he said he feels close to Paul Young's tapers.

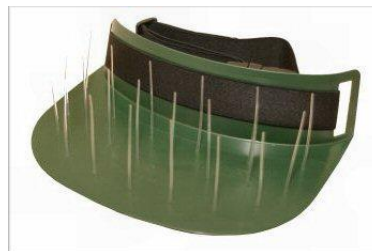
"**Katana**" is another series developed by Bjarne and which perhaps is a better reflection of his philosophy. These are rods which range from 6' 3" to 8' 3" for lines from #2 - #5. These have been made to fish in most situations. They have a tip action for short casts, a semi-parabolic action for medium casts and a parabolic action for long casts. Bjarne defines this taper as "New Semi-Parabolic; N.S.P"

Katana, we all know is the Japanese name of the Samurai sword. When I said that Bjarne is in a certain way unique, I meant this: he talks and lives with the bamboo he uses. But isn't this the case of many other Rodmakers? Anyway it seems to me that Bjarne takes it a step further by defining his philosophy TAKE NO KONORO (which in Japanese means the "Spirit of Bamboo"), which requires a deep and perhaps mystical relationship with Bamboo you are

working to the point that you "feel" it; for example when you are straightening nodes or when you are planing a strip down to the desired taper you have imagined....

Let's get back with our feet on the ground. I asked him about his heat treatment method. He says he keeps the strips in the oven for 1 or 2 hours at 100° C and then he brings the oven to 170°C. for another 30 minutes. As for the finish, Bjarne uses a dip tank. The ferrules in Nickel Silver which he sometimes uses, Bjarne turns them on the lathe, while he purchases the snake guides form Pacific Bay.

Finally, this article would be incomplete if I didn't mention that Bjarne, being a great fisherman, has also invented a new line management system which is particularly useful when fishing not only where the grass is high and it is called **Flexi-Stripper TM**.



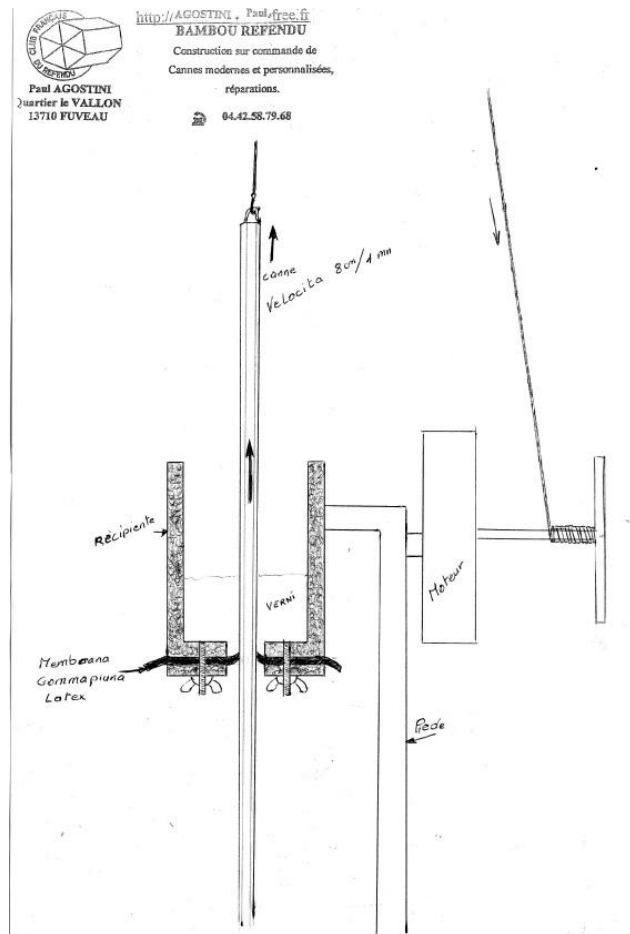
In practice, Flexi-Stripper is a "stripping basket" with flexible brush-like spikes which is attached to the belt and on which the line is coiled to prevent tangles. Bjarne tells me that together the rod, the reel and the line, this has become an indispensable instrument for him and that slowly many others are realizing it.

Thank you also for this Bjarne!

THE ELEVATOR

by Paul Agostini and Christian Diacon

The following are two systems used to varnish blanks without guides.



N. 1: NORMAL

This consists of a container which is fastened on to a bracket with a membrane attached to the bottom through which the blank is drawn. This rises at a slow speed of about 8 cm per minute by means of a drying motor of the kind used in kitchen ovens.

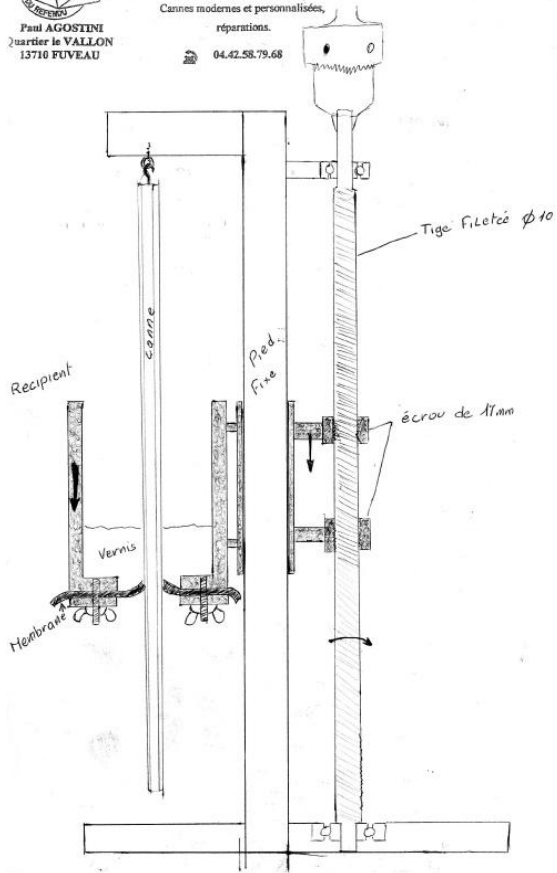
N. 2: The Elevator

This is a more complex and was devised by Christian Diacon. The advantage is that less height is required in the laboratory, because is the container that descends by means of a 0.10 cm diameter threaded rod that pulls two bar supports which make the container descend slowly.

The motor draws the threaded bar directly and according to the direction of rotation (you can invert the direction by swapping the + /- poles of the current feeding the motor), it will make the elevator rise or descend. The pipe is filled with varnish and as it descends, the varnish is layered onto the blank very uniformly (in the photos only a bound blank which has just come out of the oven is visible) I know of Rodmakers that use a similar system, but instead of having the varnish container move, they move the blanks through the container which is fixed (Normal method) by means of a motor and a pulley that wind up the thread which makes the blank rise. This normal method requires that the ceiling be high enough. In both cases very little varnish is used and so the leftovers can be discarded to avoid collecting impurities. The guides are wrapped after the varnishing process.



<http://AGOSTINI.Paul.free.fr>
BAMBOU REFENDU
Construction sur commande de
Canes modernes et personnalisées,
réparations.
04.42.58.79.68



Paul Agostini and Christian Diacon

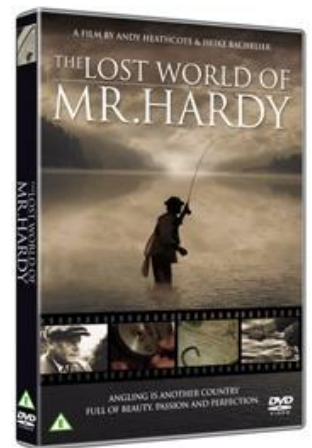


“THE HISTORY CORNER”**THE C.C. DE FRANCE ROD BY J.J. HARDY***by Roberto Natali*

After having unworthily and with a whole lot of errors, written about the greatest European Rodmaker, for a long time I had doubts about which historical rod to write an article about. Then an “event” which took place during the past few months pushed me to choose to write about a brand which is synonymous with fishing and quality: The House of Hardy



In January “The lost world of Mr. Hardy” was released on DVD (for further information <http://www.thelostworldofmrhardy.com/index.html>). This is a film/documentary about the history of House of Hardy and it contains a great deal of historical material and which those who love our sport should not miss.



Celebration set Hardy CC de France

A few years back, on and above the “commercial” series of rods signed by Callum Gladstone and for the first time referring to tapers from across the lake (Garrison, Payne and Leonard), Hardy proposed a “Celebration set” signed by Jim Hardy (the last Hardy to be involved in family affairs). This set was made to order in only a limited number of 100 numbered pieces containing:

- A C.C. de France 7 foot #4 in pieces with double tip
- A 3 inch Bougle reel in anodized Silver with the CC de France logo engraved on it.
- A Phoenix Silk Fly Line 4 DT
- A commemorative medal CC de France logo engraved on it.

- A complete and detailed history of the rod autographed personally by Jim Hardy
- A travel case in excellent Italian leather by EMMEBI.

The price to keep in touch with ones historical taste, was 2.500 Guineas (about 2.625 pounds or 3.750 Euros) and it was admittedly address to a limited market enthusiasts and/or collectors.

Before you accuse me of blatant publicity, it is my duty to inform you that that the set is no longer in production. I simply wanted to write about a brand like House of Hardy, and these last two initiatives are significant in the rodmaking and collector's worlds are testimony to the renewed interest in bamboo and the history of our sport.



“Only the best is good enough for fisherman” – this is a statement by John James Hardy at the end of the 19th century and this philosophy has been synonymous for high quality from the date of foundation until today (136 years), becoming official suppliers to the English crown. This quality finds its maximum expression in the legendary reels, which are among the most sought after collectables, and some of them have become cult symbols.

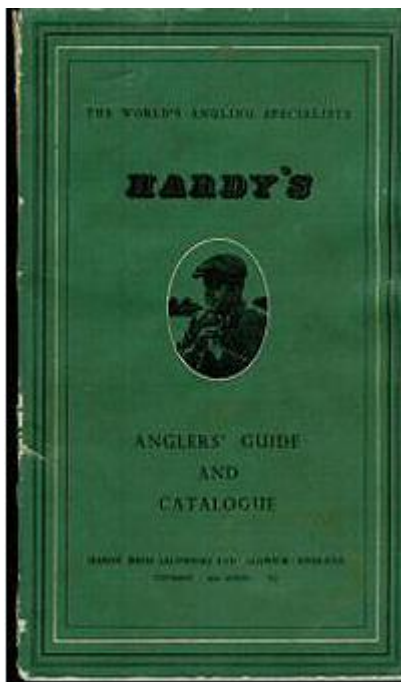


BY APPOINTMENT TO HRH
THE PRINCE OF WALES
MANUFACTURERS OF
FISHING TACKLE

Among the *must-have* Hardy rods, is the Marvel and I will discuss this in another occasion and at this point one can ask why Hardy decided to celebrate The C.C. de France. I have had the opportunity to try both models and my answer is simple – the C.C. de France has a modern action which is decidedly more pleasant (action defined “Inclined Stiff” by Hardy), while the Marvel has the typical English gentleman’s action (action defined “Medium” by Hardy) which in today’s world is appreciated only by few.



The history of the rod as narrated by its designer John James Hardy (World fly casting champion and brother of William Hardy, the Company Founder) tells us that in 1910 they received a request from the aristocratic Casting Club de France (the second club born in Europe after the British Casting Association), for a short, light rod because the annual competition was to be held in small streams near the Clubhouse in Bois de Boulogne close to Paris. The small rivers were quite bushy so a short, light and precise rod was required to place the fly in the floating circles.



Hardy's Angler's Guide and Catalogue 1954

John James Hardy answered the request by designing a 7 foot 4 weight two-piece rod weighing only 3 ounces (85 grams), which he personally demonstrated in France to the members of the aristocratic club. Just imagine the astonishment when J.J. Hardy presented that tiny rod (for those days, when 9' was short!) and managed to cast more than 25 yards (23 meters!).



Hardy Bros Ltd – Straightening the blanks

It was immediately a great success and it lasted so long that the model, hence named "The C.C. de France Rod" or simply "C.C. de France", was made without interruption from 1911 until 1961.

In the official list of Hardy rods (<http://www.hardyandgreyscanada.com/hardy/rodname.php>) the C.C. de France models were the 7' and 8' with on exception in 1934 when two models in three pieces – an 8' and a 9'. Actually, the C.C. de France was made in almost all sizes from 6' to 9' in two pieces, while the three-piece models were made in other years too (apart from 1934) – see model description on page 55 of the 1954 catalogue.

It is not even true that production stopped in 1961 because one can find on the market models which were made at later dates so we can confirm that the model we are discussing is one of the most long lived one having been made with a few interruptions from 1911 until 2005.

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 Agatipe, intermediate 'Snake.'	
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.	

LENGTH	WEIGHT	HANDLE
6½ ft	2 ozs 10 drms	8½ ins
7 ft	2 ozs 12 drms	8½ ins
8 ft	3 ozs 14 drms	10¼ ins
9 ft	4 ozs 14 drms	10¼ ins

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

LENGTH	WEIGHT	HANDLE
8 ft	4 ozs	10¼ ins
9 ft	5 ozs 2 drms	10¼ ins



Let's examine the keynotes of the rod also with the help of some photos of my rods – a 7' model made in 1930 and an 8' model made in 1944.

The 7' C.C de France has a grip and reel seat made fully in cork, turned directly on the rod. It is 8 inches long (8 1/2 considering winding check and butt cap) and down locking ring and butt cap both in aluminium.



The 13 / 64 ferrule is in darkened brass, the tiptop and stripping guide are in agate, the snake guides are bronzed and the guide and intermediate wrappings are in brown silk (they later become crimson).



Hardy ferrule size 13 / 64 in darkened brass



"Palakona Reg Trade Mark" in black ink "The C.C. de France Rod"



The bamboo, called Palakona by Hardy, is blond without any heat treatment (as is traditional in House of Hardy) with excellent face-to-face tolerances. My rod is missing the top four inches and I tried to find the taper without success (on RodDNA there is a 7' 5 weight model which is very different) so the taper I will give you refers to my model including the varnish with the "zero" station "extrapolated".

Hardy rods usually come with one tip (two only on particularly high end models or to order). A characteristic of Hardy rods is the sections have different lengths (see photo left). The tip with mounted ferrule and tiptop is exactly half the length of the mounted rod (in this case the mounted rod is seven feet long or 84 inches so the tip if undamaged is have that length i.e. 42 inches). In this way the butt is longer than the tip by the length of the female ferruled. This difference varies in the various rods but in general it goes from $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch to 1 inch to which one must include the stopper.



The rod bag takes this into account so the section that holds the tip is shorter so that one it is in the bag the two parts appear to be of the same length (the same goes for rods in three pieces).



CC de France 8' (1944) and 7' (1930)

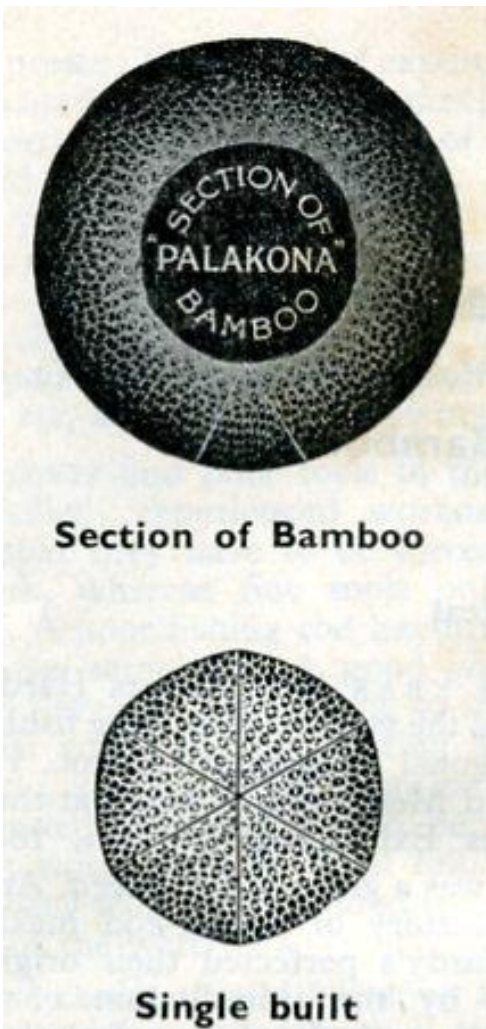


C.C. de France 7'



C.C. de France 8'

Another characteristic of vintage Hardy rods is the fact that the faces are not flat as they maintain the original curvature of the bamboo section. The section appear as if they have only been cleaned of the enamel with total conservation of the power fibers and this can be seen in the cross section of Hardy rods in the catalogues



Hardy Bros L.R. Hardy inspects the rodmaking shop 1954

The following is the taper of the rod (including varnish and the graphs as elaborated by RodDNA Happy rodmaking!



Design report **The C.C. de France Rod**

maker J.J. Hardy della Hardy Bros
Anno fabbricazione: 1930
Misure compresa la verniciatura

sezione esagonale

lunghezza 7 piedi (213 cm.)

peso della coda 4

pezzi n. 2 uguali con un solo cimino. N.B. Le Hardy hanno il tallone più lungo del cimino di ca 1 pollice: cimino 42 pollici, tallone 42 e 15/16 pollici.

ferrule 13/64 pollice ottone brunito

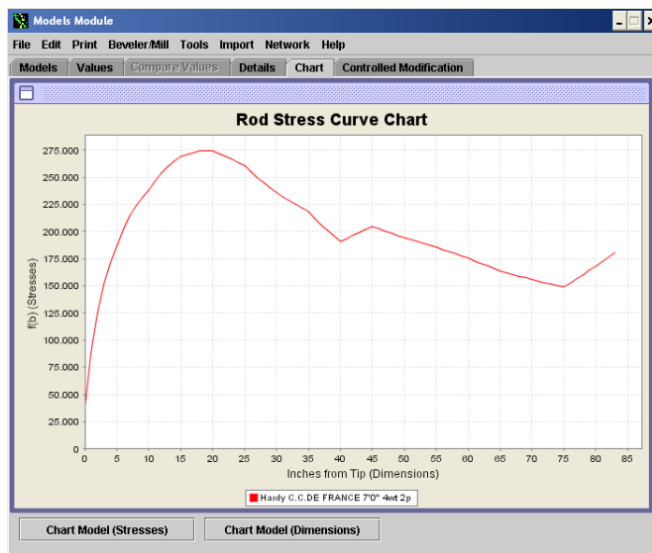
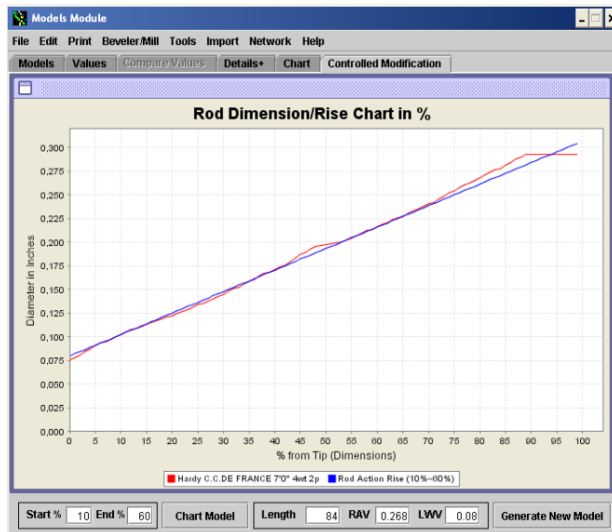
taper	punto	dimensioni	
		inches	mm.
	0	0,0760	0,193
	5	0,0870	0,221
	10	0,1085	0,276
	15	0,1190	0,302
	20	0,1310	0,333
	25	0,1450	0,368
	30	0,1610	0,409
	35	0,1760	0,447
	40	0,1950	0,495
	45	0,2010	0,511
	50	0,2150	0,546
	55	0,2290	0,582
	60	0,2440	0,620
	65	0,2610	0,663
	70	0,2770	0,704
	75	0,2930	0,744
	80	0,2930	0,744

* la stazione 80 è sotto l'impugnatura

Gli anelli sono situati a 0, 5, 12 15/16, 22 3/16, 33 7/16, 45 1/4, 58 10/16 pollici, tip e stripping guide in agata, serpentine brunito

Legature in seta bruna o bordaux

L'impugnatura è lunga 8 1/2 pollici, tutto sughero con portamulinello scorrevole in alluminio



A WOODEN PLANING FORM FOR QUADRATES

Photos of Luciano Oltolini's handwork

Marzio Giglio's lecture at the European Bamboo Rodmakers gathering in May gave Luciano Oltolini (one of the participants to the 2007 IBRA Rodmaking Class) the idea on how to improve and realize his own version of a planing form for quadrates. After having seen it,

I thought it would be a good idea to take some photos and ask some questions about this very well made planing form which is made of wood but lacks nothing of those made in steel.

Alberto Poratelli



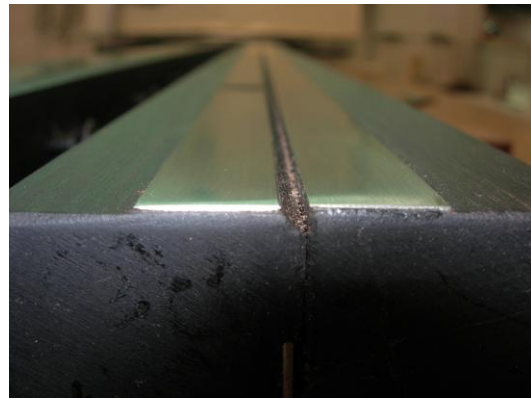
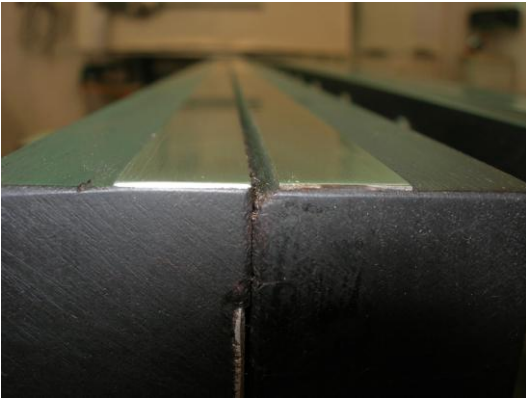
Luciano Oltolini in his workshop and at the IBRA Rodmaking Class in 2007 with Massimo Magliocco.



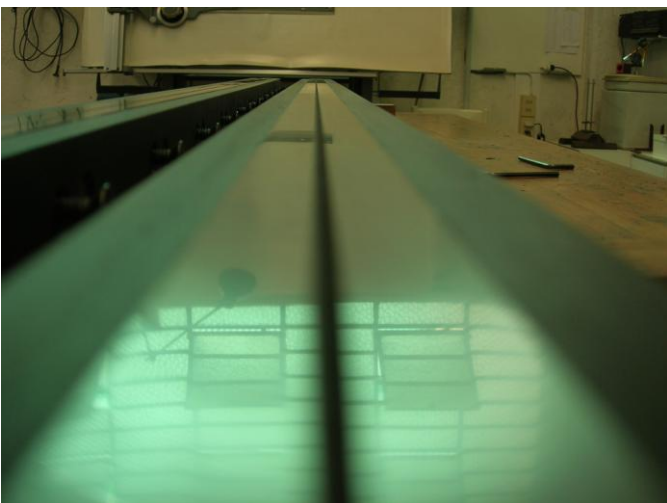
These PF are for quads so two series of forms were made – one for the left hand side and one for the right hand strips.



Rosewood or blackwood and spring-steel strips make up these forms. The spring-steel strips are 0,4 mm thick and have been glued on the wood to give a perfect planing surface.



This close up shows the left hand and the right hand forms.



The strips must be glued to give a perfectly smooth planing surface.



Close up of the adjusting pushing screws.



The adjusting screws have been placed at the traditional 5" intervals (12.5 cm)

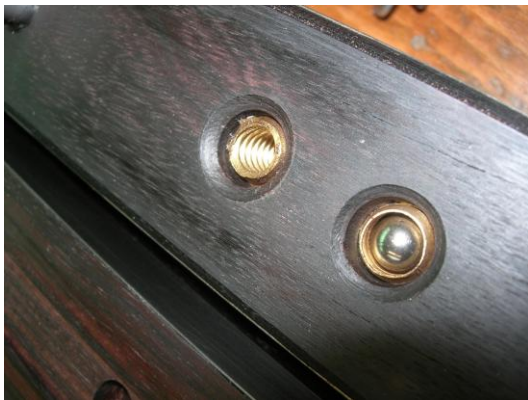


Let's open the form to see "How it's made"



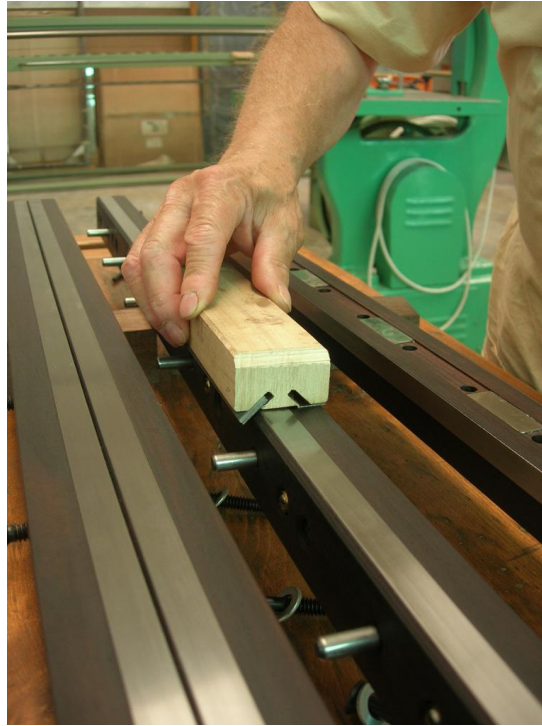


The intermediate spines guarantee linearity of the forms and the metal plates have been placed opposite the pushing screws. They prevent the wood from getting ruined when the screws are under tension.



A ball bearing has been placed on the head of the pushing screws to prevent the rotational tension induced by the screws.





The filing of the bars is done with a thin file glued at a 45° angle to a block of wood.



The depth gauge must carry out measurements of two series of forms. In order to do this I attached it to a magnetic base with an adjustable pivot so that it can slide along and measure the right forms then the left forms without having to lift it. The advantage is a much more precise measurement. The point of the gauge is bespoke and was made from an adequately shaped aluminium plate.



For further information send me an e-mail to:

l.oltolini@alice.it

A RODMAKER WITHOUT A WEBSITE

By Alberto Azzoni

Walter Brunner who was a professional rodmaker, never had a website.

This is the story of the meeting which was like an initiation between a beginner and the Master; if you've had the fortune to experience something like this it will be easier to understand what I feel when I catch a trout on my Amabi(l)le "2000".

It was February of 2002 when with my wife, we decided to visit the magical Prague. It may have been because of the wonderful memories she had of afternoons spent on the terrace of the Pension Pernkoff on the banks of the Traun river awaiting my return from the evening hatch, so it was not difficult to convince her that with a small deviation from our itinerary we could have visited Gmunden and that wonderful shop under the covered arcades where I remember having seen a few years before Walter Brunner's bamboo rods. I was not interested in them in those days since I was completely taken over by the thrill of speed and for this reason I was changing my full flex Orvis rods to faster RST and Loomis. Then in 2001 Fly Line published an article on Italian Rodmakers and so I discovered that you could make split cane rods at home and so the idea sprung into my head that I could mix my fly fishing passion with that of handyman. Thus the rodmaking virus was instilled into me with its aura of challenge and mystery. I lived through this with a kind of schizophrenia: uniting the virtues of the ultra fast lines I had just discovered with the performance that wood can give seemed very difficult. I had read somewhere about Brunner's *very fast rods*: so I thought this could be the solution to my problems.

So there we were at Höller asking the sales person if he had a Gebetsroither Super left; he promptly come out with a catalogue and the description of the rod I was looking for. I could

order the rod and have it delivered to my home in a few months time.

FLIEGENRUTEN

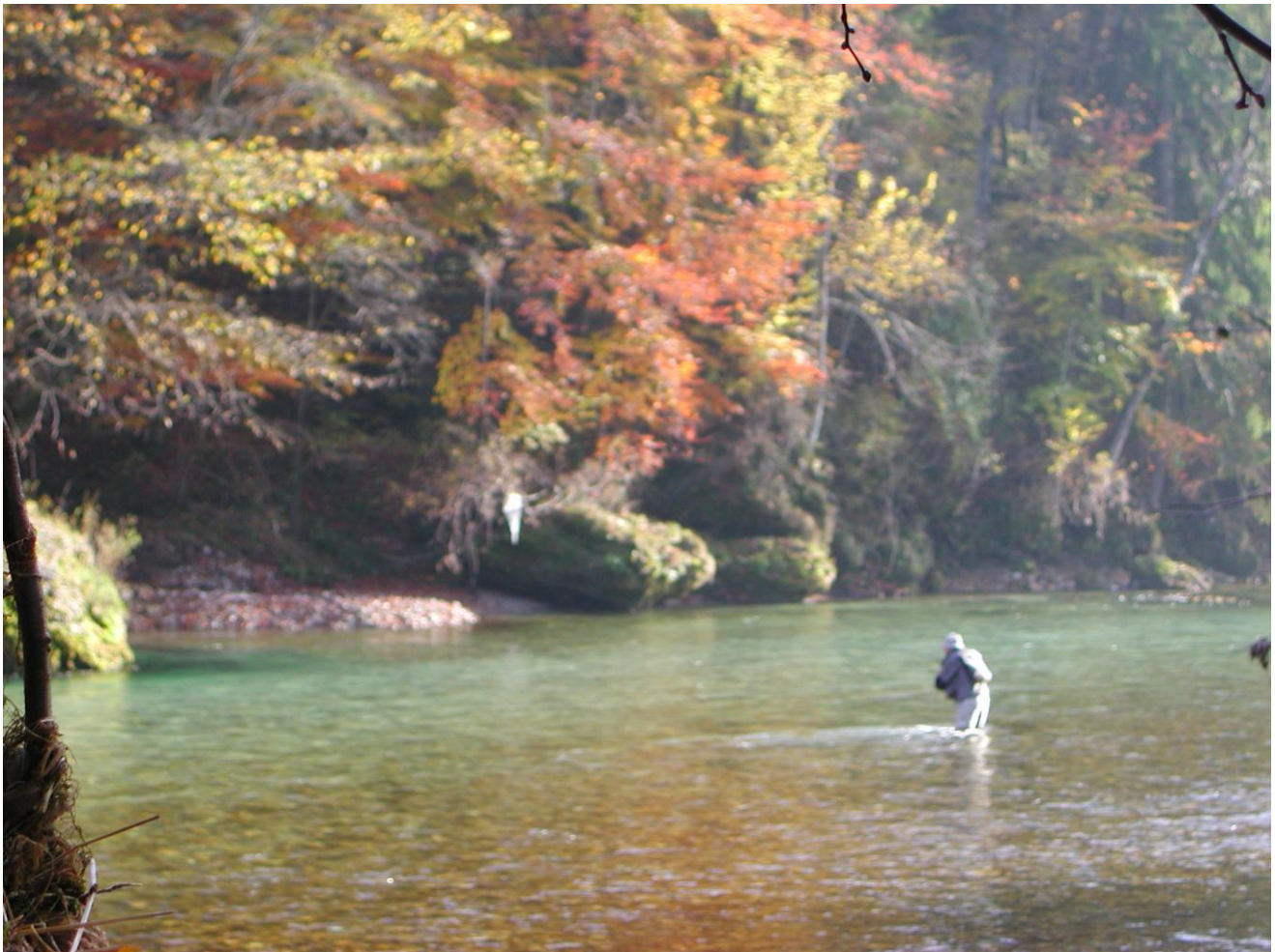
Walter Brunner fertigt in mühevoller, pedanter und gekonnter Handarbeit "Gespließte" von allerfeinster Qualität. Unser Urteil: Weltweit die Besten!

<p>455/28 GEBETSROITHER 2,12 m lang, 85 g leicht, Schnurklasse AFTMA 5 - 6</p> <p>SERIE "SALZA" • 2teilig • Olivenholz-Schraubrollenhalter • braune Bindungen</p> <p>455/81 SALZA 2,10 m lang, 85 g leicht, Schnurklasse AFTMA 4 - 5</p> <p>455/4 CHERIE 1,95 m lang, 75 g leicht, Schnurklasse AFTMA 5</p> <p>455/5 GEBETSROITHER SUPER 2,00 m lang, 85 g leicht, Schnurklasse AFTMA 5 - 6</p>	<p>• Olivenholz-Schraubrollenhalter • braune Bindungen mit roten Zierbindungen</p> <p>455/14 PIELACH 2,10 m lang, 90 g leicht, Schnurklasse AFTMA 4</p> <p>455/14 PIELACH 2,30 m lang, 105 g leicht, Schnurklasse AFTMA 4</p> <p>455/81 SALZA 2,30 m lang, 120 g leicht, Schnurklasse AFTMA 5 - 6</p> <p>SERIE "PIELACH" • 2teilig • noch zarter als Serie "Salza"</p>	<p>455/82 AMABILE 2,10 m lang, 90 g leicht, Schnurklasse AFTMA 3 - 4</p> <p>455/86 THYMALLI 2,40 m lang, 105 g leicht, Schnurklasse AFTMA 4 - 5</p> <p>NEU! Herr Brunner hat eine neue, seine bisher eleganteste Rutenreihe kreiert und von absoluten Könnern testen lassen. Das Ergebnis sind Ruten für feine Trockenliegenfischerei, mit langsamer, jedoch typischer Brunner-Aktion. Die Ausführung ist ähnlich der Pielach-Serie, mit gelben Bindungen und roten Zierbindungen. Jede Rute wird mit elegantem Stofffutteral und elegantem Lederkapschen versehenem, Schutzrohr geliefert.</p>
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The first discovery was that Walter Brunner was still alive and he was still actively making rods! The second discovery was that my wife found his address on the catalogue and it turned out that Steyr was only about 50 Km away from there! Prague could wait: that afternoon we were in Schweizergasse in front of an elderly gentleman who after a brief wait (he was varnishing a rod), kindly introduced us into his workshop.

I still can't explain how this happened but the fact is that I could not speak a word of German nor could he speak Italian or English, but I came out of the shop two hours later and after having seen his machines and his tools. I could believe it and I was radiant. It's a pity that my knowledge of German is so poor and my knowledge of the rodmaking process at that time was very scarce so I couldn't take full advantage of the precious time he had allowed me. I tried, or rather I cast numerous rods in his courtyard and I was convinced that I didn't need a Gebetsroither but rather a Pielach (Brunner

almost seemed to disown the Wildwasser series of rods which were designed for Hans Gebetsroither for very specific requirements and for a very particular kind of fly caster). Later while we were on our way to the Czech capital, I couldn't stop thinking of the fact that my name was now in his note book and that a long wait had just started. He didn't ask for any money, would he have made a rod especially for me? Prague was as I had remembered it – beautiful. The Pielach 210 cm # 4 arrived punctually a few months later and until today it is still one of my favourites.



River Steyr at Grunburg - Austria

This meeting was decisive for me. As soon as I got home I send Golden Witch an order for: a planing form, a binder, a few culms of bamboo and soon after that I was trying my hand with a Stanley 9 e ½. The second rod I designed came from RodDna by lengthening a the Pielach taper to 7' 6" making it in three sections instead of two. Not bad!

The autumn of a couple of years later I was *casually* fishing the Steyr in Grünburg, a few Km from the town with the same name; I don't know how but I had convinced my friends that among all the rivers it was not to be missed (but it really is!). I left the grayling in full activity and at 3 pm I was in Schweizergasse again; Walter Brunner was still there, still kind and friendly. I didn't have the courage to tell him that I too had split some bamboo and I don't know if he remembered me but one thing filled me with pride: he began by saying that he didn't have many rods available e he confessed sadly that too many fishermen who visited him did not have enough knowledge about casting and yet they were purchasing his rods only for their prestige. Then he put me through a sort of test, giving me some precious advice too. At the end of the test, and on the contrary to what he had said, we had tried about ten different rods! I had evidently passed the test although he didn't want to tell me which one he thought was best for me. I tried to understand hi "secret", for example how to get that colour under the wrappings of the ferrules which was so similar to the adjacent bamboo.

Another couple of hours had passed and my name appeared yet again in his order book and not even this time did he ask for a deposit. The reason wasn't only due to trust: he showed me a handful of tablets that now replaced the numerous cigarettes he had smoked until a year earlier and a deep scar marked his chest. He

couldn't guarantee that he could make it to deliver the rod.

So I was very happy when in the spring of 2006 the courier delivered an unmistakable package. The rod he had chosen to make me was an Amabile "2.000" - 215 cm # 2-3.

Delightful: in some streams in spring every trout becomes a big one!

In autumn of that year I was yet again on my pilgrimage to Salza Güsswerk, Steyr Grünburg and also Schweizergasse but this time on the door there was a hand written note with an unmistakable message (even if my German hasn't improved) "Closed for Illness" which left me disappointed and sad. Then a few months later the news of his death with the disappointment of not having made it to spend a week of apprenticeship in Steyr.



Yes, as you can see, my Amabile has an extra "letter l". I believe it simply means it was made by a man and not by a machine; yes a man without a website.

Perhaps that's why I managed to meet him.

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