The Compleat Angler is a festive, rambling discourse set as a dialogue among Piscator (fisher), Auceps (fowler), and Venator (hunter). As the book progresses, Piscator becomes a professor of angling to his student Venator. Izaak Walton (1593–1683) was already a published biographer when the first edition of The Compleat Angler appeared in 1653. Throughout his lifetime, Walton revised and expanded the work. For the fifth edition (1676), he included an additional section written by his friend and fellow angler, Charles Cotton. In 1750, Moses Browne produced a new edition of The Compleat Angler and ushered in a period of sustained publication of the book which has continued to the present with well over 400 editions making it (along with the Bible) one of the most popular books ever published in English.

The Gallup Collection: A Fly Fisherman’s Library
Joan and Vernon Gallup donated all of the books featured in the exhibit to the WSU Libraries. The Gallups have strong ties to WSU: their son and two granddaughters are WSU graduates. The exhibit explores the ways in which The Compleat Angler was produced to appeal to a broad audience and showcases some of the lovely books donated by the Gallups. As the exhibit demonstrates, The Compleat Angler includes something for everyone: discourses on the joys of the countryside, good company and food, beautiful poetry, and a celebration of angling and friendship.

Acknowledgments
I would like to thank Joan and Vernon Gallup for their generosity in giving this collection of 506 volumes to the WSU Libraries. I proffer thanks as well to Professor Todd Butler for his introduction and comments and to Jeff Kuure who designed the exhibit. Jerry and Carol Robinson generously loaned the flies and fishing gear in the exhibit, and Joe Ford kindly contributed flies and his fly tying equipment.

Trevor James Bond, Interim Head MASC

Manuscripts, Archives and Special Collections
Open Monday-Friday 8:30-4:30
Terrell Library, Washington State University
Pullman, Washington