

A MASTER'S GUIDE TO BUILDING A BAMBOO FLY ROD,
by Everett Garrison and Hoagy B. Carmichael
(Martha's Glen Publishing Co; distributed in the UK by
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THE SKILL, care, and infinite patience exercised by Everett Garrison when making a bamboo fly-rod were something that few anglers could envisage. He would, for example, singe all silk whippings over an alcohol lamp to eliminate any tendency of the silk to fray and to preserve the colour of the whipping. Line-guides were whipped in two stages. First he wrapped one foot of every guide on a rod-section. Then, if satisfied that the guides were truly aligned, he turned the section round and completed the whipping. This reverse-winding process ensured that any twisting of the rod that may have been caused by the first wrap was countered by the second.

Everett Garrison, a structural engineer in New York, built more than 700 cane rods in his lifetime. They were made at

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weekends and in the evenings, and each was a tribute to his superb craftsmanship. He considered himself a rod-designer rather than a rod-builder and made his own tools. A film about him was made by his friend, Hoagy B. Carmichael, and, after the old master died in 1975, Carmichael spent most of his time finishing Garrison's book and making rods with the tools that Garrison left him.

The book, a thing of beauty in its own right, with 370 photographs and many diagrams and artistic drawings,

stands alone as a textbook on the making of bamboo rods. Parts of it may be too technical for many anglers and amateur rod-makers, to grasp, but it has been written in such a way that anyone interested only in the basics of the subject or in repairing rods, could find the relevant material for his needs. Certainly anyone with a feeling for split-cane fly-rods would treasure this book.