

*A micro-ebook reformatted from*

*Symbiosis: a Journal of Anglo-American Literary Relations*

*Volume 7.2*

Nicholas D Smith

*The Early American Reception  
of Izaak Walton's  
'The Compleat Angler'*

<http://www.humanities-ebooks.co.uk>

FOR GUIDANCE ON USE OF THIS EBOOK PLEASE SCROLL TO PAGE 2

# PUBLICATION DATA

© Symbiosis 2003, 2007 all rights reserved

The Author has asserted his right to be identified as the author of this Work in accordance with the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.

First published in SYMBIOSIS 7.2 (October 2003) 221–40 .

2nd electronic edition published in 2007 by Humanities-Ebooks LLP

<http://www.humanities-ebooks.co.uk>

Tirril Hall, Tirril, Penrith CA10 2JE

Essays published in Symbiosis are subsequently digitized for the benefit of the author (80%) and the Journal (20%)

# READING OPTIONS

To use the toolbar this Ebook should be read in default view.

To navigate use the hyperlinked 'Bookmarks' or thumbnails at the left of the screen.

To search, click on the binocular symbol in the toolbar.

Use <CTRL+L> to enlarge the page to full screen.

# LICENCE AND PERMISSIONS

This ebook is licensed for reading on a particular computer.

The original purchaser may license the same work for a second computer by applying to [support@humanities-ebooks.co.uk](mailto:support@humanities-ebooks.co.uk) with proof of purchase.

It is permissible to print a watermarked copy of the book for your own use.

ISSN: 1362-7902

A cumulative index of Symbiosis essays and reviews is online at

<http://www.symbiosisonline.org.uk>

Nicholas D. Smith

## The Early American Reception of Izaak Walton's *The Compleat Angler*

The year two thousand and three marks the three hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the publication of Izaak Walton's *The Compleat Angler*. First advertised in *The Perfect Diurnall* (Monday, May 9<sup>th</sup> to Monday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 1653) as '*The Compleat Angler, or the Contemplative Man's Recreation, being a discourse of Fish and Fishing, not unworthy the perusal of most Anglers, of 18 pence price. Written by Iz. Wa.*' and sold by Richard Marriot at his shop in St. Dunstan's Churchyard, Fleet Street, the remarkable bibliographical history of this angling manual<sup>1</sup> is a testament to the work's perennial fascination and appeal both to the practising angler and to the general enthusiast 'outside' the sport who 'delight[s] exceedingly, in imagination, to accompany that gentle old man abroad in his various rambles, and listen to the enthusiastic panegyrics he is perpetually bestowing upon the cunning art to which he was wedded'.<sup>2</sup> The most recent bibliography of Walton's *Angler* by Rodolphe L. Coigny describes 456 editions or reissues up to 1987—and new editions continue to be published. Given the

---

1. See Thomas Westwood, *The Chronicle of the 'Compleat Angler' of Izaak Walton and Charles Cotton* (London: W. Satchell, 1883); Arnold Wood, *A Bibliography of 'The Compleat Angler' of Izaak Walton and Charles Cotton* (New York: C. Scribner's Sons, 1900); Peter Oliver, *A New Chronicle of The Compleat Angler* (New York: The Paisley Press, Inc., 1936); Bernard S. Horne, *The Compleat Angler, 1653–1967: A New Bibliography* (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1970); Rodolphe L. Coigny, *Izaak Walton: A New Bibliography, 1653–1987* (New York: James Cummins, 1989).

2. Isaac McLellan, 'Angling', in Nathaniel Parker Willis, ed., *The Legendary, Consisting of Original Pieces, Principally Illustrative of American History, Scenery and Manners*, 2 vols. (Boston: Samuel G. Goodrich, 1828), 1: 208.