

## Acknowledgements

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There were others – gillies, guides, anglers, hotel staff – whom I met briefly in person or in cyberspace and with whom I exchanged courtesies, information and stories. They were all important parts of the texture of this work even if I was sometimes too hard-pressed or slow-witted to write down individual names. They will forgive me, I trust, and hope they will remember their encounters with an absorbed and itinerant Yorkshireman with a smile.

It seems invidious to single out individuals from the above list for special thanks, but over the period 2007-2012 I fished many times with Lindsey, Mark, Markus, Kevin and Gardiner to the extent that we got to know each other under circumstances that ranged from the ludicrous to the impossible. We grumbled, fished, thought – and laughed (usually at each other). I am most profoundly grateful to these men.

A special word of thanks should be given to Denis O'Toole. In 2011 Denis, using a tube-fly of his own design and tying, caught a massive 16lb. sea-trout on a Wicklow river, and coincidentally I met Denis a month later. After I'd had the pleasure of fishing with Denis I asked him to tie many of the white-trout patterns described and illustrated in the text. It wasn't that I couldn't or wouldn't tie those patterns myself – I have far too many boxes of sea-trout flies as it is – but rather that I thought that flies for Irish fish should ideally be dressed by a native Irish fly-dresser. Although there are many top-notch Irish fly-dressers, Denis's sense of line, proportion and colour, as well as his innovative approach to so many dressings, impressed me greatly. In early 2012, a box of artificial patterns was delivered to my back door: Denis had not only tied all the patterns I'd requested but had added some extra ones for good measure. I am truly grateful for Denis's time, expertise and generosity.

Éamon de Buitléar, a native speaker of Irish and one of Ireland's most eminent film-makers and naturalists, helped enormously with several pieces of etymology, two of the most significant being the ultimate origin of the word spelt 'clown' (a term used exclusively on the south-east coast of Ireland to denote sea-trout finnock) and a possible derivation of the word spelt 'peal' (used in the south-west of England to denote adult sea-trout, and in parts of Ireland to denote grilse and smaller salmon). The results of Éamon's expertise will be found both in the entry for the River Dargle in the hard text's Gazetteer and in the Appendix, 'Names of the sea-trout', which will be found on this website (see Appendix). It is sad to record here that Éamon died in early 2013, before this book was published. I shall remember his kindness, hospitality and generosity with abiding gratitude. It's fitting, I hope, that the poem with which the hard text of *Nomads* concludes is dedicated to his memory.

The staff at the Marine Institute, Burrenshoole extended their kindness and hospitality to us on several occasions. Some of the trips (2007-2012) that sustained the writing of parts of this book were sponsored by Tourism Ireland and Inland Fisheries Ireland, and we here offer the greatest of thanks to Orla Woods and her team. The editorial team of *Trout and Salmon* were in the same period kind enough to run many Irish-themed articles which detailed our travels, and the editors of *Waterlog* also accepted some related pieces for publication as well as providing invaluable editorial assistance and guidance during the making of what Ken, James and I invariably referred to as *Nomads*.

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### **Textual and other acknowledgements**

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