

ROYAL CHARLIE

In early 2015, there was a posting on “*The Classic Fly Rod Forum*” about a newly published book called “*The North Country Fly: Yorkshire's Soft Hackle Tradition*”, by Robert L. Smith and published by Coch-y-Bonddu Books in the UK.

I had previously exchanged e-mails with Rob Smith and learned that he was the great-grandson of Harfield H. Edmonds, who (in conjunction with Norman N. Lee) wrote the 1916 classic North Country book called “*Brook & River Troutling*.”

In addition, Rob Smith once had a web site called “*Snipe & Purple*” - from which I copied / downloaded all kinds of information on North Country Spiders / Soft Hackles while the site was up and running.

Anyone who is interested in tying (and fishing) the old North Country Spiders / Soft Hackles should consider obtaining “*The North Country Fly: Yorkshire's Soft Hackle Tradition*”.

There's a lot of information, pictures and dressings that I had never seen before and very good instructions on how to tie various soft hackles, including dressings with peacock or magpie herl “heads.” – which got me going on tying more dressings with the herl heads.



Here's the dressing for the flies shown that I had never seen nor read about previously:

Royal Charlie (Nathaniel Hunt – 1930)

Hook – Daiichi #1550 wet fly hook (sizes 12 - 16)

Thread – Pearsall 11a Crimson (Scarlet) Gossamer Silk (waxed with clear beeswax)

Body – Pearsall 11a Crimson (Scarlet) Gossamer Silk and ribbed with gold wire

Rib – Small gold wire

Hackle – Dark Partridge (the brown-barred, not gray-barred feather from a Hungarian Partridge)

Head – Peacock Herl