



Saint-Jean-de-Luz (South west of France) – La Nivelle GC. One of a kind, hand painted by artist Bagnolo – with a reference to Massy (see Massy on Postcard)



13 of the greatest golf Champions. Massy is the 4th on the first (top) row – between Braid and Taylor
(Courtesy of Bill Anderson)

golfika



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The front cover of Golfika Magazine n°7 is again after a painting of one of our EAGHC members, Viktor Cleve, Germany's leading golf painter. As a former art director he kindly designed the title page and donated it to us. His painting shows the participants of the German Professional Golfer's Tournament 1911 at Oberhof, Thuringia. Standing from left to right: Fred Richardson (Berlin GC), Jean Gassiat (Baden-Baden GC), Ernest Warburton (Kiel-Kitzeberg GC), Cavallo Marius (Leipzig Gaschwitz GC), Charles Savage (Kölner GC), James West (Bremen – Club zur Vahr), Arthur Andrews (GC Wentorf-Reinbek), Robert Murray (Dresden GC, see also article in this magazine), Heinrich Henkel (Oberhof) - Sitting: Claude Gassiat (Baden-Baden), Georg Lange (11, Varchentin)

Left Hand illustration: Two postcards about Arnaud Massy (see JB Kazmierczak's article)
Back cover : Arnaud Massy's postcards

Imprint and disclaimer

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We welcome new members – you will find all necessary information on how to join our association on www.golfika.com

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President's Letter

John Hanna



Welcome to the 7th edition of Golfika magazine.

The wonderful thing about the European Association of Golf Historians and Collectors is that we are a pan-European society. This means at this time of the year we are all coming out of winter at different times and also having experienced quite different winter conditions. Some of us have been fortunate enough to play golf through most of the winter although here in Northern Ireland we have lost more days golf this year than for many years in the past. This has had quite a significant financial impact on clubs which operate on a pay-as-you-play basis. Still by now many of the daffodils and other bulbs are out and there is a hint of buds on the trees. The greens are being cut and work going on to prepare the courses for another season of golf. I take this opportunity to wish all those members of our Association who play golf that they have a most enjoyable summer's golf. When you think about it is amazing the variety of the different courses we will all play on, yet all require us to get the ball into the hole!

Talking about courses how lucky are we to be able to visit the wonderful golf club at Saint Cloud in Paris for our Annual Meeting. It is a great privilege, and also again to be visiting a golf club during its centenary year is most interesting. As historians we will once again have one hundred years of history to examine in just a few days.

I hope like me you are already excited at the prospect of being at Saint Cloud and I look forward to meeting as many of our members as possible. Over the last few years the quality, and quantity of the presentations has been improving and I urge as many members as possible to help this trend continue and give us all the benefit of learning more and more about the history of the game of golf.

We have been very fortunate to have had the editorship of our magazine in the very capable hands of Christoph Meister over the past few years. He has done a great job with a number of innovative changes and a general improvement in its publication. It does require a lot of hard work and on your behalf I thank Christoph for finding the time to have put so much effort into it. Equally we are very fortunate to have a new editor Stéphan Filanovitch. I thank Stéphan for taking on this task and wish him well with his endeavours. Of course we can all make it much easier for him by producing interesting articles for Golfika. I was also thinking that while at present all the articles are in English I do not think members should feel put off from contributing by this fact. Why not have one or two articles in some other mainstream European language which most members would at least be able to obtain the main historical facts. For the English speakers there could always be pictures!

Following on from the AGM at Kennemer your Committee has met, well not in real

terms, but in a most interesting teleconference. This was most successful and while I do not think I have ever been on the telephone for longer it was very much worthwhile. Although I have to say it reminded me a little of the Eurovision Song Contest listening to “Good evening this is

Hamburg calling” or “Good-bye from Sweden”.

I look forward to meeting other EAGHC members in the next few months. See you in Paris.

Editor’s Corner

Stéphan Filanovitch



I couldn’t begin my first editorial without having a thought for Christoph Meister, our first editor. Thank you Christoph for the great work achieved! I realize now what this *task* means, and how difficult it is. You set up the reference pretty high.

As a golf player and a stamp collector, I started to collect golf stamps. Not a surprise! But soon, I change my way of collecting: French golf books, French golf magazines were my priority, and still are. I also have pleasure to find French golf medals. I encourage members to share their collecting experience in this magazine. Even a short paper, a few lines would be appreciated.

Thanks to the different authors who contributed to this new issue; we are always looking for articles, so don’t hesitate, contact us to this new address: editor@golfika.com

Your comments and ideas are also very important to us, as they help shape the future of your magazine; leave your feedback to the same email address above.

Even if spring is there, I hope you will be able to resist to the Call of Golf Game and you will enjoy reading this issue of Golfika Magazine.

In memory of Severiano Ballesteros



French Ladies' Love Affair with Newcastle County Down

John Hannah



Introduction



What and where is Newcastle, County Down? Who were the French Ladies, and what were they up to in Newcastle? In the south of Northern Ireland there is a range of mountains called the Mountains of Mourne. To many Europeans these will be just hills, but to us in Ireland they are mountains, although the highest peak, Slieve Donard, is only just over 1,000 metres in height. Still for centuries they have attracted tourists to the town of Newcastle. The largest hotel in the town by far is the Slieve Donard which was built by the Belfast and County Down Railway, as an 'end of line' luxury holiday destination. Construction started in 1896 and was completed and officially opened on 24th June 1898 at a cost of £44,000. This was just in time for the first playing of The

British Ladies' Amateur Championship at Newcastle in the following year. The Slieve Donard was one of the most majestic hotels of its time and it was almost self-sufficient with its own bakery, vegetable gardens, pigs, laundry and innovatively a power plant, which also provided electricity for the railway station. To meet this demand a spur was added to the railway line to allow the coal trucks to deliver directly to 'the back door', and each bedroom had a real coal fire.



The town is close enough to Belfast for day trippers, especially prior to the expansion of road traffic and package holidays. While the mountains and the sea shore continue to attract visitors what was it that attracted a number of ladies from France to have such fond memories of this seaside town? It was the game of golf, of course, at the famous

links course of Royal County Down, founded in 1895 and given its 'Royal Patronage' in 1908. One of the top links courses in the world it has attracted many top tournaments and as early as 1899 it hosted the British Ladies' Championship. The winner was a Portrush girl, Miss May Hezlet. She won it again when the Championship returned in 1907. It was to be another twenty years before the County Down Club were to host the Championship again.

1927 Arrival of the French Ladies



In 1924 a young French girl, who had been coached as a child by Arnaud Massey, turned up to play in the British Girls' Championship. She defeated Miss Dorothy Pearson by 4 and 3 in the final to become the first foreign player to win the Championship. Three years later this same French lady entered the British Ladies' Amateur Championship at Newcastle, County Down. This was, at the time, the most prestigious tournament in British and European ladies' golf. Amazingly she fought her way to the final and once again

her opponent was Miss Dorothy Pearson. She was Mlle Simone de la Chaume from the Saint Cloud Golf Club in Paris. This time she defeated the English lady in the 36 hole final by 5 and 4. Writing in the *Belfast News-Letter* James Henderson, who wrote the *Golf Notes* under the name 'JH', had this to say about the new Champion. He uses words which would have been more easily used then than now, but they do give an idea of how the French were seen by the people in Ulster. Henderson whose family owned the newspaper, was a confirmed bachelor but was clearly carried away by the young girl's Gallic charm.



He wrote: "*She has youth and enthusiasm, is not afflicted with a 'temperament' like others of her race, and looks on life as a joyous adventure. So much has been written about the new champion and her play that there is no need for me to recapitulate biographical and other details. Suffice to say that she is a new Star in women's golf and that, in spite of the regret which was felt at the passing of another championship passing into foreign hands, her win was most popular. Hers is a charming, unassuming personality. She speaks English far better than the vast majority of the inhabitants of the British Isles, even to the use of idiom, and without the faintest trace*

of a foreign accent. Small in stature, she is sturdily, though not heavily nor clumsily, built and the strength of her game lies in its consistency with all the clubs. The keynote of her golf, and so it seems her life, is its neatness, its polish, its logic, its comprehension of the difficulties of the game, and its avoidance of trouble. We, or some of us, are accustomed to look on the French as an excitable, temperamental race. It is a shallow view as those who know France well will tell you. The French or the best of them, are cultured, frugal, mercilessly logical, efficient and disciplined

in thought and action; and Mlle Simone de la Chaume, is the new holder of the British Women's Golf Championship, not only because she was the most consistent golfer in the field, but because of the background of mental and bodily training and of personality which is hers. I think if we look more closely into these matters we shall find more conclusive reasons why we, who call ourselves leaders in sport, are losing our Championship than if we inquire only into our methods of playing our game and pastime."

Footnote.

While attending a Davis Cup match Simone de la Chaume met the French tennis star Rene Lacoste. They married in 1929 and had three sons and a daughter. Their daughter most certainly inherited her parent's sporting ability! Catherine Lacoste was born in June 1945 in Paris. In 1967 when she was just 22 years old she was entered in the United States Women's Open Championship as an amateur. She won the Championship playing in just her third professional event. To date, she remains the only amateur to win the U.S. Women's Open. It is hard to believe but when the British Amateur returned to Northern Ireland Catherine Lacoste, a French lady, won on the links at Royal Portrush Golf Club. She also won the US Amateur in the same year. She was a member of the French Team which won the inaugural Espirito Santo Trophy in 1964 and was a member of the French team in the years 1966, 1968, 1970, 1974, 1976, and 1978.

She also won the US Amateur in the same year. She was a member of the French Team which won the inaugural Espirito Santo Trophy in 1964 and was a member of the French team in the years 1966, 1968, 1970, 1974, 1976, and 1978

Simone Lacoste founded the Golf de Chantaco club in Saint-Jean-de-Luz in the Pyrenees-Atlantiques Departement near Biarritz where she died in 2001, just short of her 93rd birthday!



René Lacoste, Catherine and his mother Simone

1950 Another special French Lady wins the Championship



At the Newcastle Club in May 1950 there was a shock defeat in the second round of the Championship when Philomena Garvey of the County Louth Club near Drogheda not far across the border in the Republic of Ireland, a favourite for the title, was defeated by a by the Vicomtesse de Saint Sauveur. This was considered the match of the Championship and was an extremely closely fought match which ended at the eighteenth hole. All square playing the last Miss Garvey bunkered her second shot and taking two to get out her fate was sealed. *The Times* reported "It was a glorious match and the golf was of the highest order in spite of the bitter wind which added considerable difficulties to the testing 6,500 yard course." In the quarter finals the Vicomtesse beat Miss D Kielty of the United States by the narrow margin of 1 up having been dormie five. She then defeated Miss J E Percy of Australia in the semi-final. In the other side of the draw Mrs G Valentine beat Miss J Bisgood of Parkstone by 3 and 2. In the semi-final she won her

match against Miss E Price of Hankley Common by 5 and 3.

In a very hard fought final the Vicomtesse de Saint Sauveur defeated Mrs G Valentine by 3 and 2, setting the seal on a wonderful week's golf. The Irish Times reporter wrote: "*There is no doubt that the best golfer in this distinguished field won. Everything about her game has borne the hallmark of excellence and her golf in the final was on an equal plane, in spite of the appallingly strenuous matches she had earlier. To the fighting golf and unquenchable spirit of Mrs Valentine is also due the utmost praise. She was behind from the seventh hole, and was never to get on terms again, but yet she matched her opponent stroke for stroke and kept the issue hanging in the balance right to the 33rd hole. At this point the French lady went dormie three and when Mrs Valentine having failed to reach the green which was 240 yards away, where her opponent was pin high she could only hope for a half, which was duly conceded, but was of no further help to her.*"

The French lady finished the morning round three holes in the lead, but, on resuming she dropped the 19th and 22nd holes to be now just only one hole ahead. Another loss could have been disastrous to her but at the 23rd (417 yards) she played a magnificent iron shot to within two feet of the pin for her birdie and a win. From this point she maintained her lead going three up at the 24th. The next four holes were halved in 3-4-5-3 which was One under par. Jessie Valentine won the 29th but had all sorts of trouble at the 31st and lost it to a par four to be three down again. She did not give up winning the short 32nd. However, no more holes were to go the Scottish player's way, and when the Vicomtesse had a perfect birdie four at the 33rd the match was over."

The Champion, better known to readers of *Golfika* as our Honorary President, was Lally Segard.



The Vicomtesse was a very popular winner who during the week of the Championship relentlessly worked her way through an impressive array of international class victims, finally disposing of that most experienced of Scottish players Mrs Jessie Valentine. In the Centenary history of the Royal County Down Golf Club the writers said "the combination of her attractive appearance and golfing ability set many an old golfing heart gently aflutter." The members of Royal County Down Golf Club had the pleasure of a return visit from Lally Segard when she returned fifty six years after her win when the British Ladies' was played there in 2006.

1963, the last French Lady winner at Newcastle.



The Ladies' Championship was played for the seventh time at the links at Newcastle in 1963, and it was reported that the links were in splendid condition for this important

matchplay event which had attracted an international field with challengers from America, Australia, France, Germany, and Sweden. The player with the highest profile was a 24 year old American called Joanne Gunderson. She had already won the American Ladies' Amateur Open three times. She had not read the script, and lost to a French lady, Mlle. Claudine Cros, in the semi-final by 3 and 2. The weather which had been perfect during the practice rounds deteriorated with a raging gale which on the penultimate day snapped the heavy yard-arm on the Club flag staff. Claudine was at this time playing great golf. She was born into a very sporting French family with her two brothers Jean-Pierre and Patrick also being great golfers. Later Claudine would become France's first lady professional golfer.

At Newcastle in the semi-final she came up against one of Ireland's favourite lady golfers, Miss Philomena Garvey. The Irish golfer got off to a great start and was three up by the 6th hole. Heavy rain and strong winds was a real test to the women's mental and physical strength. Claudine made a comeback and was just one down after nine holes. This was the same score after the thirteenth and with the next four holes being halved Philomena Garvey was one up playing the last hole. A half was all the Irish player needed to reach the final and prevent it being an all-French affair, as Brigitte Varangot had defeated the German Fraulein Moller also on the last green. So the 36 hole final was between the French lady Brigitte Varangot and the Irish favourite Philomena Garvey. On the eve of the final Brigitte was suffering from tonsillitis and she was advised not to play. Her French character would not let her be denied her chance and after some injections she appeared on the first tee the following morning but looking distinctly wan. The drugs must have had the desired effect as she went on to win an absorbing final by 3 and 1 and became the third lady from France to win the British Ladies' Championship in the last four times it was played at Newcastle. Mlle Varangot

started well winning the first two holes but had lost them by the time they had played the sixth. Some good golf enabled her to win four holes out of the next seven holes. She lost the 14th and 15th holes but won the last two holes mainly due to putting lapses by Miss Garvey. Miss Varangot had taken 84 strokes to Miss Garvey's 89. So Brigitte started the afternoon round four holes to the good and when she won the 20th hole it looked good for the French lady. Mistakes combined with some good play from the Irish lady meant that Brigitte was only two up after the 10th but she was three up with only five to play. Although she lost the 16th she played a magnificent brassie to the 17th for the hole and the match. Mlle Varangot was 13 years younger than her opponent which was seen as a major factor in her victory. Pat Ward Thomas describing the final said: *"her victory was conclusive evidence in support of an opinion that Miss Varangot is the most accomplished woman golfer in the world outside of America. There have been no finer natural talents for golf in this generation, as is proved by the fact that she has had but half a dozen lessons from a professional. The rest has been learned from observation and from the Vicomtesse."*



Pat Ward Thomas thought the margin of her victory should have been greater because what she lacked in length she more than compensated for with control. She had a positive golfing intelligence, determination

and a rare confidence revealed in her every stride of her jaunty walk. On the other hand there were a couple of thousand spectators and the inevitable turn in fortune had made the last nine a dramatic prospect. Also she would have felt the burden of knowing that the last time when French Ladies were in the final they had both won. On her death in October 1971 Philomena Garvey described Brigitte Varangot as this "lovely, quiet and shy girl." What a golfer Brigitte turned out to be winning the British Ladies' Championship twice again in 1965 at St Andrews and in 1968 at Walton Heath where she defeated another French Lady, Mlle C Rubin.

Conclusion

So what was it that led to at least three French Ladies to have a love affair with Newcastle, and the links at Royal County Down? What enabled them to win their respective Championships at Newcastle? It may have been the Mountains of Mourne sweeping down to the sea, or the bracing sea air, or even more likely the welcome they received from the Northern Ireland golfing public in general and the members of that male bastion which is the Royal County Down Golf Club in particular. Many of the local comments made it clear that the French Ladies were admired at Newcastle! It may even have had something to do with the fact that the writer of the words of the song "Where the Mountains of Mourne sweep down to the Sea" was the well known writer Percy FRENCH. He wrote this in 1896 and made special reference to the natural beauty of the girls at Newcastle. In this context the French Ladies would have not felt out of place.

*There's beautiful girls here, oh never you mind,
With beautiful shapes nature never designed,
And lovely complexions all roses and cream,
But let me remark with regard to the same:
That if of those roses you venture to sip,*

*The colours might all come away on your
lip,
So I'll wait for the wild rose that's waiting
for me*

*In the place where the dark Mourne sweeps
down to the sea.*

(The Mountains of Mourne Percy French).

Principal victories of Simone de la Chaume

British Girls' Golf Championship in 1924
British Ladies Championship in 1927
French International Ladies' Championship in 1930, 1935, 1938 and 1939,
French Ladies' National Championship in 1936, 1937 and 1939

Principal victories of the Vicomtesse de Saint Sauveur

British Girls' Championship 1937
British Ladies' Championship 1950
French Ladies' Close Championship 1939, 1946, 49, 50, 54
French Ladies' Open 1948, 50, 51, 52
Swiss and Luxembourg Ladies' Championship 1949
Italian Ladies' Championship 1949, 51
Spanish Ladies' Championship 1951
Benelux Championship 1953, 54, 55
She represented France in International matchers from 1937 – 1939, and in every year from 1947 to 1963

Principal victories of Brigitte Varangot

British Girls' Championship 1957
French International Junior Girls' Championship (Trophée Esmond) 1960, 1961:
British Ladies' Championship 1963, 1965, 1968:
French International Ladies' Championship 1961, 1962, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1973: French
Ladies' National Championship 1959, 1961, 1963, 1970:
Italian International Ladies' Championship 1970:
In addition, she was part of the French team that won the European Championship in 1959,
1961, 1969 and a member of the French team that won the first Espirito Santo Trophy in 1964.

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**On Sunday July 2nd 1967,
Catherine Lacoste wins the US Open.
A phenomenal feat.**

Georges Jeanneau, translation Catherine Lacoste



Ward Foshay, president of the USGA, gives Catherine Lacoste the winner's pin to Catherine Lacoste at the US Open

June 1967. In the US Open, Jack Nicklaus has just imposed himself in front of Palmer in Baltusrol. It is already the seventh major title of the career of the fair Bear, but, with the passing of years, he would harvest eleven more.

When knowing the formation of the French team which was going to take part in the European Ladies Team Championship in Portugal, the tiny golf press is upset: Claudine Cros and Catherine Lacoste, both members of the French team which had

won the 1964 World Team Championship are missing. The first one, who is living then in Central America declines the invitation; as for the benjamin of the team, who had largely contributed to the conquest of Espirito Santo Trophy, she chose to go and play the US Women's Open.

The bet of Catherine Lacoste seems insane. To want to measure herself with the best female golf professionals seems a gageure. She is asked to change her mind. They exhort the winner of the French International Amateur, they tried to make her reconsider his decision, they speak to her as a patriot...

Nothing to be done. Tough, Catherine Lacoste holds good and chooses the American dream. In the lanes of the green villages, one crachote, the French Golf Federation coughs, people wait for an eventual mishap for Catherine in the United States to make her trip on her return and to send her back to the practice ground.

Catherine Lacoste travels by the plane to New York ten days before the beginning of the US Open which will take place from June 29th to July 2nd in Virginia, at Hot Springs. Her parents, who had accompanied her to Atlantic City to dispute the 1965 US Open – she had finished fourteenth and second of the amateurs – do not make the journey.

Catherine thus finds herself a little lonely in Hot Springs, without family or contacts. Distant and a little haughty, the press and the other players ignore her : this little Frenchie is certainly sweet, but what is she doing taking part in this prestigious tournament where never an amateur player rose to the top of the leader board?

Catherine plays seven practice rounds, of which one with the legendary and almost sexagenarian Patty Berg who has the elegance not to forget the French girl's birthday. During one of her friendly games,

Catherine returns a card amateur of 69 (- 2), and beats the local pro, Hermann Peery.

The venerable course of the Cascades (6 191 yards, par 71) which was host Curtis Cup the previous year attracts the Frenchwoman enormously. It resembles Chantaco: not very long, slightly undulating, wooded but without luxuriance. Satisfied with her practice rounds, Catherine starts the competition full of confidence and fully decided to perform well: the place of first amateur remains her first objective.

The best professionals of the world are there, for a tournament which takes place on seventy-two holes and in stroke-play. « All of them were killers » confides Catherine Lacoste. And it is not the acid declaration the title holder, Sandra Spuzich, who proclaims to whom wants to hear it « that no amateur can win this tournament, and that they know it well », which moves really Catherine. She has just celebrated her twenty-second birthday on Tuesday, has the unconcern of youth and laughs of the warning. She doesn't have anything to lose, but in this US Open, if there is a small crocodile well, there are also some vipers.

Thursday, June 29th - First day.

Catherine Lacoste shares the first day of this 22nd US Open with Murle Lindstrom, an American, who won in 1962 and who is charming with Catherine.

Sandra Haynie, a Texan, who has also won the US Open (1965), stands out during the first 18 holes and returns a card of 70. Catherine, she, behaves remarkably well and signs a card of 71. The length of her woods and the precision of her putting impress at the same time her opponents and the public.

With this first card in par, Catherine Lacoste shares the second place of the provisional classification with Sybil Griffin and Susie Maxwell.

Leaderboard after 18 holes :

Sandra Haynie: 70
Sybil Griffin: 71
Susie Maxwell: 71
Catherine Lacoste: 71

Friday, June 30th - Second day.

The second course of Catherine is exceptional. Only player to return a card under par, the Frenchwoman gets to the head of the tournament with an advance of five shots on Australian Margie Master, « “rookie” of the year 1965 on the American circuit.

“The second day, I played better than I ever did. I returned a card of 70, but I could have still done better because I was 4 under par after fourteen holes”, remembers Catherine Lacoste. And she details: “I had seven putts of less than four meters and I missed six of them. I took once three putts and I made a bogey and a double bogey.”

After this second day, the cut is established at 159 and only forty-two players (out of nearly one hundred participants) are qualified for the two last rounds.

All the sopranos are there and there are even some divas.

Leaderboard after 36 holes:

Catherine Lacoste: 141 (71 - 70)
Margie Masters: 146 (73 - 73)
Shirley Englehor: 147 (73 - 74)
Sandra Haynie: 149 (70 - 79)
Murle Lindstrom: 149 (75 - 74)

Saturday, June 30th - Third day.

The third day, the weather is stormy, overpowering heat and all the observers think that Catherine, « you-know-the-little French-amateur » will crack under the pressure, weakened by her score of the day before, her first place on the leader board

and her incredible advance. While wanting to avoid taking too many risks, and without really playing badly, she misfires a little on the first nine holes and has 40 at the turn. « But I pulled myself together, I played great and came back in 34 », she recalls.



At the evening of this penultimate day she had shared with Margie Masters, her advantage of five shots remained intact and Catherine preserved a pretty capital to attack the final round.

Leaderboard after 54 holes :

Catherine Lacoste: 215 (71 - 70 - 74)
Margie Masters: 220 (73 - 73 - 74)
Beth Stone: 222 (75 - 76 - 71)
Susie Maxwell: 222 (75 - 76 - 71)
Marilynn Smith: 224 (75 - 77 - 72)

Sunday, July 2nd - Fourth day.

In the night of Saturday at Sunday, violent rain falls down on Hot Springs and metamorphoses the course. The sky is threatening; the fairways and the roughs are gorged with water when Catherine attacks her last round.

“The fourth day, I found the morning quite long, to 2.38 p.m., hour of my starting time. I shared my game with Margie Masters, second of the classification. I started well

and after the first hole, I was seven strokes ahead. Seven shots ahead and seventeen holes to play, I still shiver about it: but I was divided between confidence and nervousness.



On the 6th hole, we played our second shot under a downpour of rain and when we arrived on the green, we found a lake! We had to wait nearly fifteen minutes to be able to play. This storm did not make the putting easier thereafter because the greens were all of different speed. I finished the first nine in 39 (not too bad, considering the weather!) and, at the tenth tee, I was still four strokes ahead.”

You could guess that the hunt of title claimers would be organized and that Catherine’s last nine holes would be perilous: the Frenchwoman is nervous, her golf becomes fragile and her troubles start. The last straight line is strewn with ruts. She gets mislaid, gets friendly with the bunkers, and takes twice three putts. From the 10th to the 14th, she signs five consecutive bogeys and our small crocodile seems to be drowning in the backwater.

Her advance has melted and her failure would have disillusioned more than one. But the two « very small shots » of advance

at the beginning of the 15th hole leave in Catherine a legitimate hope.

“On the 15th, a rather short but very difficult par 3, I managed to do a par making a good putt of sixty centimetres.”

Catherine has just stopped the hemorrhage and keeps her two shots lead.

Still three holes.

“The 16th is a par 5, the green is behind a water hazard. With the third shot, I make a shank and I leave the green with a bogey and only one stroke ahead.”

Behind the ropes, some are delighted, already anxious that the trophy could cross the Atlantic. The chronicler of *Golf World* will underline the spite of certain professionals and the sometimes hostile attitude of a small part of the public: “They applaud when Miss Lacoste misses a putt and several professionals even ask that one inflicts a penalty to the Frenchwoman when she plays a practice putt at the end of the fifteenth hole, whereas the rules of the USGA who governs this championship do not prohibit it.”

Thereafter Catherine will entrust to the press: “One cannot blame them. After all, it is normal that they consider of an evil eye that a amateur player can win their most prestigious tournament. This shadows them and spoils their image...”

As Catherine Lacoste’s prize-money will be shared by her runner-ups, an American magazine will be ironic : “The proettes get the money without collecting laurels”. The American press will fustigate even spangled banner professionals. Carol Mann, who had won the US Open in 1965, will find the best parade: “To avoid the gibes and all these mocking remarks we had only to play better.”

But, let us return on the seventeenth tee. After her bogey on the 16th, Catherine is only one stroke ahead to finish the last two holes.

At this moment came back to her mind the mishap occurred two weeks earlier to the amateur player Marty Fleckman who, like Catherine, had risen at the lead the US Open after three rounds. Unfortunately, Sunday, the dream had passed: Fleckman had broken down ; he had turned in a painful card of 80 which had relegated him to the eighteenth place of the Open won by Jack Nicklaus in front of Arnold Palmer.

Insidiously, the recall of this disappointment freezes Catherine and obsesses her. She guesses that to stroke the Graal, she will have to be solid, tough, bold, voluntary, carnivorous. She will be these, she doesn't lack these virtues: pride and the rage to win are the stamp of the crocodile.

The 17 is a par 4 of 355 yards, a dog-leg to the left and the second shot must cross a water hazard. Catherine plays a 2 wood, then an 8 iron - a high trajectory, "à la Nicklaus" will say the American press – and the ball is planted at less than three meters of the hole. She makes the putt and signs a salutary birdie.

"It is there that I won the US Open, she recalls today. I attacked the last hole two strokes ahead. At the 18th, a par 3, my 2 iron stops on the green within 8 or 10 meters of the hole and I have three putts left to win the Open. The first one stops within fifty centimetres of the hole. I hesitate to attack the second putt, but happily, it goes in. A putt which undoubtedly remains the longest putt of my life."

It is finished. She had won. She won against the best to the players of the world. Under the rain, under the pressure, against exacerbated chauvinism, with a string of five consecutive bogeys and with a "mean" Sunday score of 79. But with a total of 294, that is to say ten above par, she relegates Suzie Maxwell and Beth Stone, her runners-ups, at two strokes.

Before receiving the trophy which Ward Foshay, the president of the USGA, must

give to her, she rushes towards a phone booth. To call Saint-Jean-of-Luz. It is more than midnight in France.

"It is Maman who took the phone. I did not leave her the opportunity to speak. For the first time of my life, I left her speechless..." Catherine still remembers today with the angelic smile of a small girl having just discovered the jampot.

She takes advantage of this call to wish happy birthday to her father – born on July 2nd – who had told her, not without mischievousness, before her departure from France: "You know what you must give me for my birthday..."

Rene Lacoste says only one only word to his daughter : "Bravo."



The victory of the Frenchwoman is a thunder clap in the whole world. A true tsunami. In a few hours, the name of Catherine Lacoste will be written on the teleprinters of the whole world. She becomes a star, she makes the headers of

the daily newspapers and the magazines. Superlatives abound: « Kid Crocodile » and “Crocodile daughter” perpetuate the Lacoste legend.

The titles of the press are revealing : “She plays like a Lacoste”, “the Great Catherine”, “Catherine makes herself a first name”, “Murderous Mademoiselle”, “A name for herself”, “Mademoiselle de Paris”, “A tsarina is born”...

The event is so phenomenal that it makes the headlines of Le Figaro and the American monthly magazine Golf World. Paris-Match and Jour de France seize the exploit.

Not only Catherine Lacoste has just beaten the professionals, but she enters the book of the records : first amateur and youngest player to win US Women’s Open.

It will be necessary to wait more than thirty years and 1998 for South Korean, Se Ri Pak, to beat the record for precocity. Forty years afterwards, that of amateurism still holds. And certainly for a long time.

Final scores

Catherine Lacoste (FRA) : 294
(71 -70 -74 - 79)

Beth Stone : 296
(75 - 76 - 71 - 74)

Susie Maxwell : 296
(75 - 76 - 71 - 74)

Sandra Haynie : 297
(70 - 79 - 77 - 71)

Louise Suggs : 297
(76 - 74 - 74 - 73)

Murle Lindstrom : 297
(75 - 74 - 73 - 75)

Margie Masters (AUS) : 300
(73 -73 - 74 - 80)

- Forty-two classified players.
- All American except mention.

From George’s book “1967, Catherine Lacoste remporte l’US Open” © Edition FFGolf, 2007 – with Authorisation of the Author; Translation in English by Catherine Lacoste.



A Genius is dead

The 7,May,2011 will stay a very sad day for all who love golf. Seve is dead.

Severiano Ballesteros, who claimed 87 titles over his career, won The Open in 1979, 1984 and 1988 and became the first European to win the Masters Tournament at Augusta National in 1980, repeating the feat in 1983. He also was sensational in Ryder Cup player as both player and captain - playing in eight Ryder Cups before guiding Europe to victory over the United States at Valderrama in 1997.

"Seve has been probably the most creative player who's ever played the game," Tiger Woods said.

Your editor with Seve at the French Open in 2006



Golf Postcards – Part III – Massy Open Champion

JBK (Jean-Bernard Kazmierczak)



Postcards showing players are certainly among the most attractive ones. And if the players are known, it adds even more attraction. We shall continue our series in Golf postcards presenting some of them rarely seen, but which, for obvious reasons, are among the preferred ones in my collection: Postcards related to Arnaud Massy – the first non-British to win The Open, in Hoylake, 1907.

Unfortunately, we do not know any postcard related to The Open in Hoylake in 1907. May be the extremely bad weather and the mighty winds took the photographers far from the event.

Massy's postcards.

We'll start this presentation with a pretty unusual theme: postcards which are signed by or addressed to/about the champion. It is very exciting – but also extremely difficult – to look after postcards wearing the name of a Champion; but what a thrill when you can find one. Concerning Arnaud Massy, I'll present three examples.

The first one deserves an additional story. The postcard I'm presenting here was first shown by Tom Serpell in his book entitled "Golf on old picture postcards", published in 1988. The 8th picture was featuring the Felixstowe Golf Club (see PC-1 left page) – which was so appreciated by Bernard Darwin. Indeed, the picture itself was interesting but not of any exceptional appeal. On the contrary, Serpell's comments describing it were very exciting. He wrote: "*1910 photograph addressed and written in French to a Mr. Massy, in*

Connaught Square, London: possibly the great French Champion golfer ..." No need to say how excited I was when I first saw this picture. For many years, each time I was looking at it, I was so disappointed that the author did not publish the back of the postcard.

Then, the Internet came, offering its search facilities. I was soon able to get in touch with the author. When I asked him if I could get a photocopy of the back of the postcard he kindly requested my snail-mail address. A few days later, to my great surprise, I received one of the most fantastic gifts to a French golf postcard collector: the card was offered to me. I would like once again pay a tribute to Tom's great kindness: many thanks again.

Now back to the card – and to the back of the card. The correspondence does not help that much as anybody could have written it "Ce dimanche. Brouillard ce matin. Peut être fera-il beau l'après midi. Nous nous portons bien" – which translates "This Sunday. Fog this morning. May be afternoon will be nice. We are going well". Is it possible to imagine something more a cliché?

The cancellation date is June 12th, 1910 – which is a Sunday. Not be surprised. At the turn of the century the post office was open on Sunday – and the mail distributed¹

The address is puzzling me: 18, Connaught Square, Hyde Park, London W. This is a very posh location. One can only imagine that a rich sponsor was hosting Massy when he was in the London. There must be some directories providing names, but until now I was unable to get any access to such information.

Last indication: the writing itself and the signature – a single letter which is possibly a “Y” or rather a “J”. It cannot be Janet (Punton), Arnaud’s wife as the calligraphy is typical French; nor Jean (Gassiat) who had a pretty hard-working writing. The mystery is still not cleared up.

The second postcard deserves also to be printed here both sides (PC-2 & 2a). On the correspondence side, one reads *“Dear Sir, May I ask you to kindly add your autograph on the other side and return this to me, as I want it for my postal collection. Thanking you in anticipation, and apologizing for addressing you by post card, I remain, yours faithfully, Reginald Bray”*.

Clearly this was an autograph collector who was sending postcards to the people he wanted to get autographs from. And of course, you already guessed that on the address side, we read “M. Arnaud Massy, French Professional Golf Player, North Berwick, N.B.”

The postcard was returned to Reginald Bray with the signature of Arnaud Massy. This is certainly one of the earliest autograph of the French professional as the card was dated April 23, 1904.

¹ See also Golfika-Magazine #4, top of back-cover page, an example of a stamp requesting “please do not deliver on Sunday”!

The third example is from a postcard written by a certain Arthur² when staying in Biarritz, to Ben Sayers at “*The links, North Berwick, Ecosse*”. The correspondence reads *“Dear Bernard, I have just spent a week at Biarritz after not having seen the place for 23 years. Saw Massy & his wife at Chantaco & have played on the old course & at Chiberta. The later is very fine indeed. Played with Gassiat & his brother Claude & his son. I had a round with Lafitte at Hossegor the other side of Bayonne on the coast also amongst the pines. This place is dead I’m the only “anglais” [in French] to be seen walking in the town anyway. Things are looking very glum everywhere in the south. I go to Nice tomorrow. Cheerio. Arthur.”* And on the picture side “*Jean Gassiat wishes to be remembered to you and when things are better expects to see you on holidays. A.”*

Unfortunately, the cancellation date is difficult to read, but most probably December 1931 (the stamp affixed was issued in September 1927).

Massy in the Basque Country.



We know a series of 15 postcards, edited by Eugène Pacault, which is illustrating the Biarritz golf club. In fact there are two

² Most probably Grant. We know that Arthur Grant was in the group including Ben Sayers (father and son) who travelled to France in 1907 to compete in the French Open after Massy’s victory in Hoylake. After Paris, they made a trip to Biarritz. This was in July 1907 – which is consistent with the date (1931) and the 23 years referred in the text.

different printings: one in B&W and another one hand coloured. As this is the case for all postcards from the period, the coloured PCs are far more difficult to find – as their cost was twice the cost of B&W ones, they were less sold.

This series was probably issued early 1906 as one of the postcards in our collection has a cancellation mark of May 1906 and it is possible to see a reproduction of another one in the “Illustrated Sporting & Dramatic News”, 16th March 1907. Then, Biarritz, the city where Massy was born is certainly place where the first picture postcard showing the Basque champion was issued.

Only one postcard from this set is showing Massy (introduced as “French Champion”) at the finish on the Biarritz links.

Saint-Jean-de-Luz - La Nivelle: The other great club in the Basque region at the turn of the century was inaugurated in November 1909. Massy was, at that time, the pro at La Boulie, the Paris GC headed by the president Pierre Deschamps. But he was home-sick and, in 1910, he expressed the desire to leave the club and rejoin La Nivelle.

A series of possibly 11 (a strange number for a set – maybe we are missing one card?) postcards was issued by J. Dargains editor and report on a match played in 1911 including Massy, Braid, Taylor and Sherlock. The tournament was played over 72 holes where Massy and Taylor tied for the first prize. This competition was followed by a foursome, postponed by one day because of weather conditions.

In fact, there is a second series of postcards which is pretty similar to the “standard” one – but not exactly. If the standard one is a classical one, the second set was edited in a larger format of approx. 108 x 156 mm (4”1/4 x 6”1/8).



If the pictures are similar, the captions are slightly different. We can find more information on the larger format set. As an example, on the postcard above we read “Massy approaching the 10th Green” while its larger counterpart adds “in the far, Braid and Sherlock are silhouetted”.

Another example is given below. The standard format reads “Massy playing the 3rd Green, passing the quarry”. While the large format gives important information: “Braid waiting his turn”...



and later, the same players at the 17th.



Also, if the larger series is important because it brings more written information, the bigger size makes easier the magnification and then identification of some players. For example, on the two following PC (next page), it would be difficult to recognize Massy putting on the 14th green.



Only the larger series allows us to clearly identify Massy on these two postcards.



Three postcards from this series have a slightly different presentation with the caption in a frame. One (below) is featuring Massy in a difficult position – in a drain – when playing the 7th hole.



We cannot finish this list without adding one more postcard from La Nivelles. It is “one of a kind” as it is an aquarelle, hand painted by an artist, signing Bagnolo – obviously a pseudo. It is captioned: “Nos champions du Golf de la Nivelles – N°1 Me P.S.”. The drawing is also presenting Arnaud Massy with a young caddy which says “Massy en serait resté comme deux ronds de flan”, which can be translated “Massy would have been flabbergasted”. (see illustration on cover page #2).

Massy on the French Riviera.

There are several postcards showing Massy playing with great British players as many exhibition matches were organised there..

The Scotsman, dated 5th of March 1907, is reporting on “the tournament of Cannes promoted by Grand Duke Michael”. We read: “As the result of the tournament, France can claim that in a game which is still in its infancy in the Republic, she has produced one who in open competition has not only made good his claim to the title of champion of France, but who, in measuring his strength with the champions of a country where golf has been played for generations, has carried practically everything before him. Nearly one half of the prize-money went into the pocket of Arnaud Massy [...] Before recrossing the Channel, the Scottish contingent, thanks to Herd and Braid, regained at Hyeres some of the prestige they had lost at Cannes. Jones was again well to the front, and so, too, was Ray, who, with the wooden clubs seems to be as powerful as ever.”

We are not aware of any picture postcard taken during the famous Cannes event, but there is a set of four which is featuring the Hyères competition. In fact there are two series which are very similar except one is B&W while the other is hand coloured. Here again, the colour one is far most difficult to find. The editor was “Parfumerie Chambourlier”. On the two cards below, it

is easy to recognize Massy, Gassiat, Taylor and Vardon.



We are supposing that this is the 1907 exhibition at Hyère as we have a postcard dated August 1907 – so this is a fair guess.

The next year, in March 1908, the triumvirate and a few other British players travelled again to the French Riviera: Nice, Hyères and Costebelle (but not Cannes).

If we are not aware of any PC from the two first meetings, there is a long and interesting series of 14 postcards which is illustrating this event at Costebelle. The Costebelle links were just inaugurated a few months before (November 1907) and this series of postcard was probably issued as a promotional set – now an extremely rare document.



Above, Massy and Taylor on the 9th



Massy approaching on the 10th.



Here, Massy and Taylor are on the 10th and below on the 11th.





Massy and Taylor on the 17th.



Massy – but no indication of hole number.

The editor is Beaudouin-Vincent. Four of the postcards are showing Massy with Taylor, two Massy alone; two Taylor alone, two Vardon alone and one Vardon playing with MacDonald, the local professional who came from Dornoch.

There are 3 more postcards from this series which are showing the club house and the crowd (see additional pictures at the last page of this paper).

Massy in Paris – La Boulie.

There are two postcards representing Massy in the Paris Golf Club. Both are from the same series of six, issued after 1911, possibly in 1913 during the matches between USA and France – which all were won by the French players.



The first one, shows the “four musketeers” (J. Gassiat, L. Tellier, A. Massy and E. Laffitte) posing in front of the club-house at La Boulie, Versailles (Golf de Paris).

The second one, introduce Massy, “*crossant sa bille*” (an old fashioned way of saying *driving*, in French) as the 1907 world champion. This was the usual naming of The Open.



Massy in other French places.

There is a postcard in Chantilly, which was taken during the 1925 French Open. If we refer to the French magazine “Le Golf” n°10, October 15th, 1925, we can clearly identify that this picture is featuring Massy driving at the 12th and Archie Compston is watching him. Finally, Massy will be the winner of the Stroiber Cup.



The last “French” postcard is not clearly located. It might be France, but it is possibly in Morocco.



According to Georges Jeanneau, the person sitting with Massey is Bouchaib Stitou – who helped Gustave Golias and Arnaud Massey to design the Marrakech course.

Massey on British Postcards.

There are a few postcards with Arnaud Massey. It must be noted that in all cases, Arnaud’s name is written the English way, adding an “e”: Massey.

We are not aware of any postcard showing Massey at North Berwick – where he spent a long time with Ben Sayers, and we already stated that we do not know any postcard showing Massey during The Open at Hoylake in 1907. Nevertheless, after his victory, he played a few matches – including a challenge match. At least three such events have been commemorated by post-cards.

The two most popular postcards which are often seen are those representing Massey and Taylor in an exhibition match on the Seacroft Links, Skegness. The first one is captioned “Start of Massey – Taylor Golf Match. Aug. 24/07”.



The second one “Finish of Massey – Taylor”. Both also exist in colour version. Interestingly the “Finish” postcard proves that the B&W version was touched up. The carriage was erased from the scene! Compare the reproduction below with the colour one on cover page #3.



Strathpeffer is another place where a commemorative postcard could be found.



On Thursday September 12th, Massy and Herd played an exhibition match on the links at Strathpeffer which were just upgraded at that time.

During this match Herd set up a record for the course with a 66. Later, Massy sent a letter to the club testifying that the course is “magnifique”. We know a colour postcard which has been taken during this event.



Later in the year 1907, Deal was another place which relates to our topic. A challenge match was planned after Massy's victory in The Open which, but it was regularly postponed. Finally, on Thursday December 19th, less than one week before Christmas, the match was played at the Royal Cinque Port. Two postcards almost similar (one been full page, the other one with a white border) with the same picture were edited. The name of “Boots the Chemist” is printed on the back – as it was certainly the sponsor³.

Finally, there is also a postcard which is an artificial picture (so called a photomontage) where 13 open champions seems posing in the same place. We reproduced this picture on cover page #2 (with the authorisation of Bill Anderson – as well as for the advertising postcards below).

Massy on Advertising Postcards.

We know two postcards advertising for Dunlop golf balls (we do not know if there

are any more) and published by Wrench. One is featuring an approach shot and the second is illustrating a bunker shot.



The full captions are: “Arnaud Massy playing an approach shot. He won the French Open and the French Native Championships, 1911, and tied with Vardon in the Open in Sandwich. Used the New Dunlop Junior on each occasions and says: *It is the best ball I have ever struck.*” And “Arnaud Massy playing out of a bunker [& d°]”



³ Unfortunately, it seems that Boots (the company still exist in the UK) has no longer any trace of this event, and cannot confirm this hypothesis.

Afterword.

This list is certainly incomplete. We would appreciate to receive any information on any other Massy postcard. We'll share this information in this magazine. Many thanks in advance.

Events related to Massy Postcards:

FRANCE

Cannes: February 1907. Tuesday 26th and Wednesday 27th. No PC.

Hyères: March 1907; Just after Cannes. Four PCs – two with Massy (both BW and colour).

Nice: March 1908. Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th. No PC.

Hyères: March 1908. Friday 20th. The Tatler Cup. No PC.

Costebelle: March 1908. Saturday 21st. (Next day after Hyères). Series of 14 PC – six with Massy.

Saint-Jean-de-Luz, La Nivelle: March 1911, Tuesday 28th – Two series of 11 postcards known.

GREAT BRITAIN

Skegness, Saecroft Links: August 1907; Match Massy and Taylor. Saturday 24th.

Strathpeffer: September 1907; Match Massy Herd. Thursday 12th.

Deal, Royal Cinque Port: December 1907, Match Massy and Braid, Thursday 19th.



Braid and Taylor – Playing with Massy.



Same players on the La Nivelle Links



Going to the 10th Green – La Nivelle



Club-House. See the different design of the caption.

Hickory Championships across Europe

We received information on various hickory championships which will be played in Germany and Austria. We are deeply convinced that such event – which are still in their infancy on the Continent – deserve a broader publicity.



Ms. Lydia Reincke playing at the 1929 German Amateur Championship in Berlin-Wannsee (photo. private collection)

2011 Berlin Hickory Championship, Berlin, Germany; June 2nd - 3rd, 2011.

EAGHC members are invited to play at the Jubiläumsturnier of Golf- und Landclub Berlin-Wannsee (founded 1895 as Berlin GC) celebrating the opening of the Wannsee golf course 85 years ago.

The tournament will start as an 18-hole strokeplay foursome over 18-holes on Thursday, June 2nd, a national holiday in

Germany. On Friday we will play an 18-hole single, stroke play Berlin Hickory Championship. From 1945 to 1995 18 of the 27 holes were home of the US Army Wannsee Golf Course. For further information please also check <http://www.wannsee.de> (in German language only).

Contact Information:

Christoph Meister at: ghc2011@t-online.de

2011 Austrian Hickory Championship; June 11th.

The first Austrian Hickory Championship will be played at Salzkammergut GC at Bad Ischl, founded 1933.

The first Austrian Hickory Championship will be organized by Gottlieb Peer and the Austrian Association of hickory golfers on Saturday, June 11. The Championship will be played over 18 holes and is open to Amateur Golfers using pre-1935 equipment according to the SoHG guidelines only. Salzkammergut GC is laid in the absolutely wonderful mountain scenery of the Salzkammergut and surrounded by its beautiful deep blue lakes. Already in 1937 Edward Duke of Windsor came to play golf at this course. Nearest International Airport is Salzburg (30km) - The international player will find high quality Hotel accommodation available in all price categories.

Contact Information

Christoph Meister at: ahc2011@t-online.de

German Hickory Championship 2011; July 30th and 31st, 2011.

The German Hickory Championship will again be played at historic Bad Wildungen Golf Club in Central Germany.

The 18-hole stroke play championship will be played on Sunday, July 31st with

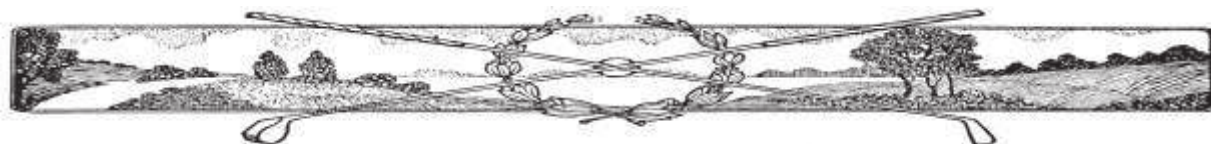
Saturday July 30th being practice day. The walking only tournament is opened both to professional and amateur golfers playing with original pre-1935 equipment (no replicas) according to the SoHG guidelines. Golf was first played at Bad Wildungen in 1907 by British and American Spa guests. Today's course was designed in 1930 by Charles MacKenzie, the brother of famous architect Alister Mackenzie. The course remains virtually unchanged since then.

Contact Information

Christoph Meister: GHC2011@t-online.de

Czech Hickory Championship 2011; August 14th, 2011.

"The Czech Hickory Championship 2011 is confirmed on August 14th (Sunday). It will be organized at Golf Club Prague, 9 hole "Motel" golf course. The practice round can be played on Saturday August 13th. Those interested to come, please send a short e-mail to Jiri Martinka, director of the tournament (prezident@golfhostivar.cz). The more detail information will be available on www.hickorygolf.cz soon. Discounted green fees + reasonable entry fee will be offered for hickory players. Also on Friday August 12th, the traditional 9 hole Hickory Match at the Golf Hostivar (Prague) will be played. It means 3 days of hickory golf in beautiful Czech capital Prague! All international players are warmly welcomed!!!



Don't forget the EAGHC General Meeting – Paris – Saint-Cloud Golf Club September 29th and 30th, 2011

Created in 1911, the first 18 holes, designed by Harry Colt were inaugurated in 1913. The Saint-Cloud Golf Club is the nearest one from Paris. This famous club welcomed many important people: the Duke of Windsor, King Leopold of Belgium, Gal Dwight Eisenhower, François Mitterrand, just to name a few. Please visit: www.golfdesaintcloud.com

750 YEARS 'MIT ENER COLUEN'

Geert & Sara Nijs



In Exactly 750 years ago, for the first time in history the word 'colven' was used in the Netherlands. It was the famous Southern Netherlandish medieval poet and author Jacob van Maerlant who wrote the words 'mit ener coluen' (with a club) in 'Merlijns boec' (Merlin's Book). In all these 750 years, Netherlandish historians have never given attention to these few words, that stand for one of the most popular games ever played in the Low Countries..



Detail of the illumination Merlin, from a manuscript 1280 – 1290, North of France – Français 95, fol. 223, Bibliothèque Nationale de France

Recently, after linguistic research, some historians concluded that the words 'mit ener coluen' written by Jacob van Maerlant, had nothing to do with the golf-like game of

Netherlandish colf. In their opinion, the words colf and (Scottish) golf meant a medieval hockey-like game in which two teams of unlimited size on a limitless playing field, tried to capture with curbed sticks and brute force a ball from the opposing team and to pass that ball over the opponents target line. They concluded that both colf and golf in the Middle Ages were not games in which players, individually without interference from other players, tried to reach a target decided upon beforehand in the fewest number of strokes as is done today by millions of golf players all over the world.

Their new way of thinking is based on a French text in 'Le Roman de Merlin' written by Robert de Boron, between 1180 and 1200. In this roman, De Boron writes about boys playing '**a la çoule**' (at ball) and in which Merlin hits one of the other boys with a '**croce**' (curbed stick); these bold written words would refer to medieval hockey.

In Scotland, where golf history is written in capitals, the attack on the originality of Scottish golf was received with contempt. The Encyclopædia Britannica of 2007 made

ample space available for this new thesis. In the Netherlands and in Belgium nobody got upset.

The authors of this short study were interested in the considerations and the resulting conclusions of the historians.

The name of the game

In 1678, Charles du Fresne, Sieur du Cange, compiled a dictionary of popular Latin words used between the 8th and 12th century. In his 'Glossarium Mediae Infirmæ Latinitatis', he explained the word 'choulla' as a ball hit with a stick (Globulus ligneus qui clava propellitur). He did not say anything about the game in which the ball was hit with a stick.

In the course of time 'choulla' became the French words 'choule' (langue d'oc) and 'soule' (langue d'oïl), with the same original meaning. Subsequently the word choule/soule became a generic term for all ball games.

To distinguish the stick and ball games often 'à la crosse' (with a curved stick) was added. With this addition one could still not distinguish which one of the many club and ball games were meant, nor did the contraction 'crosse' clarify the kind of game.

In the first 'Dictionnaire de l'Académie Française' from 1694, the word 'crosser' was explained as playing stick and ball games, the word 'crosse' meant stick (curved at one end) and 'crosseur' meant stick and ball player. There was no mention about what kind of stick and ball game was meant.

We have found no indication that the words crosser, crosse and crosseur were used only for the 'hockey' team game.

Jean-Jules Jusserand, diplomat and sports historian, used 'jeu de crosse' as a generic term in his 'Les Sports et Jeux d'Exercice

dans l'ancienne France' (1901) while at that moment this name was used specifically for the individual stick and ball game played in Northern France and Southern Belgium and that the team game was called already hockey.



One of the oldest presentations of colf players is in this illumination from around 1510 in the so-called 'Other Golf Book of Hours'. Players are clearly playing an individual game. – Golf Illustrated & Outdoor America, August 1915

The word crosse or crossage is the French name for the variant of Flemish-Netherlandish colf.

The games of colf and crosse

The game called 'mit ener coluen' as mentioned by Jacob van Maerlant was well-known and very popular in the Low Countries in the 13th and 14th century. Many ordinances from different parts of the region refer to the colf and crosse games.

In the county of Hainaut (Henegouwen), the French speaking part of the Low Countries,

Count William bought balls to 'choler' in 1332 (Theo Mathy, 'Le sport, miroir de la société', 1995).

Because it is not likely that counts played the undisciplined rough game of ancient hockey or football, we could conclude that these balls were meant for playing the game of 'crosse', or choule as the Anglo-Saxons say.

In 1360, the council of Brussels banned the game of colf: "... wie met colven tsolt es om twintich scell' oft op hare overste cleet ..." (he who plays at colf pays a fine of 20 shillings or his overcoat will be confiscated). In the archives of the city of Brugge there are several documents explaining that the town council regularly announced that playing colf in the streets or elsewhere inside the city walls was forbidden: "... verboden up de strate noch elders binnen deser stede **den bal te slane met colven** ...".

(Jacques Temmerman, 'Golf & Kolf, zeven eeuwen geschiedenis', 1993).

In March 1870, a story was published in the governmental magazine 'Nieuwe bijdragen ter bevordering van het Onderwijs en de Opvoeding' (New Contributions for the advancement of Education and Upbringing). In this article, Hendrik Breuninkhof referred to a colf match in a village called Loenen a/d Vecht in 1297.

In this match two teams of four players tried to reach four different targets, decided upon beforehand in the fewest number of strokes. This traditional colf match, played in memory of the murder on Count Floris V of Holland, was played every year until 1830.

In 1387, the regent of the county of Holland, Zeeland and Hainaut, Albrecht van Bavaria, sealed a charter for the city of Brielle (Den Briel), in which it was forbidden to play any game for money. One of the exceptions to this ordinance was "den bal mitter colven te slaen buten der veste" (to play the ball with a club outside the town walls).

(Steven J. van Hengel, 'Early Golf', 1982)



Map of the city of Haarlem from 1646. The light coloured field to the right of the city is the 'colf course' offered by Count Albrecht to the citizens of the town.

Two years later, in 1389, the regent Albrecht offered the citizens of Haarlem a field called 'De Baen' (the course) to be used exclusively for playing games – especially colf – because these were too dangerous within the city walls.

(Robin Bargmann, 'Serendipity of Early Golf', 2010)

Some historians are of the opinion that 'De Baen', with a length of about 350 meters was too short for playing colf. However, in the Middle Ages colvers could not hit the smooth wooden ball with the crude curbed stick any further than 100 meters (Annemarieke Willemsen, article 'Van allen Spele' in the magazine 'Madoc', 1996).

In today's golf terminology 'De Baen' was a Par 5.

The above makes it quite clear that in the second half of the Middle Ages, playing 'colve' and 'crosse' in this part of the Low Countries was fairly common.

Jacob van Maerlant

Jacob van Maerlant was born near Brugge in the county of Flanders, around 1220. He is the most famous medieval author of the Netherlandish language region. He spent some years of his working life in the village

of Maerlant near the town of Brielle. He returned to Damme near Brugge, where he died around 1300.

Jacob was the first poet/author who wrote in the ordinary language and had considerable influence on the diffusion of knowledge in the Netherlands. He has been of much importance to Netherlandish literature. The most important of all his works was the “Spieghel Historiae”, a world history in poetic form, containing not less than 90,000 verses.



Statue of Jacob van Maerlant on the market place at Damme (Flanders, Belgium), where he lived the last part of his life and was buried around 1300

Many of his books found its origin in more ancient European manuscripts. His books, mostly in poetic form, are no straight translations and not his own creations, but transcriptions of older Latin and French texts.

In his works he wrote his own story and placed the events in his own time and environment. In the Middle Ages this was a fairly common method of working as we will see in the continuation of this short study.

‘Merlijns boec’ from Jacob van Maerlant

Jacob van Maerlant wrote the words ‘mit ener coluen’ in 1261 in ‘Merlijns boec’. The story is about a sorcerer who had been fathered by a virgin and who became the tutor of King Arthur.



First page of the so-called Steinforter manuscript, the original holograph of Jacob van Maerlant's 'Merlijns boec', kept at Bentheim in Germany

The original manuscript of the book written in the Netherlandish language, containing no less than 36,000 verses, is kept at Bentheim (Germany).

The phrase with the word ‘coluen’ can be found in the 3rd book in the verses 4613 up to and including 4625:

- 4613 Dat ze to enen dorpe quamen
Dar liepen harde vele kinder
- 4615 In enen mersche meere vnde mynder
Vnde sloegen dar eynen bal
Merlijn de dit wiste al

Sach de boden want he was daer
 Vnde he trat een deel dar naer
 4620 Vnde gaff den rikesten enen slach
 Van den dorpe dat he lach
Mit ener coluen vor zine schene
 Omb dat ene schelden zolde de gene
 Dat kint weende vnde sprack to
 merlijne wart
 4625 Onreyne vaderloze bastert

The translation in English, based on the
 Netherlandish translation of ‘Merlijn, de
 tovenaer van koning Arthur’ by Frank
 Brandsma and Lodewijk van Velthem,
 2004:

*“They came at last in a village
 where a group of children in a meadow
 were **playing with a ball**.
 Merlin who was there, saw
 the messengers coming.
 He went in their direction
 and hit the richest boy of the village
with a colf against his shin,
 so that the boy would abuse him.
 The child roared at Merlin:
 “Dirty fatherless bastard!”
 (Translation by the authors)*

Nothing in this text points to an
 undisciplined game of hockey. Hitting the
 rich village boy had nothing to do with the
 game itself.

‘Le Roman de Merlin’ from Robert de Boron

‘Merlijns Boec’ is an adaptation of a work
 called ‘Le Roman de Merlin’, written in the
 French language by Robert de Boron,
 probably between 1180 - 1200. It is
 generally accepted that ‘Merlijns Boec’ was
 not just a translation in the Netherlandish
 language of ‘Le Roman de Merlin’ but
 much more a presentation of Merlin’s story,
 set in Van Maerlant’s own time and age.
 The verbatim text of one of the many
 unrhymed versions of ‘Le Roman de
 Merlin’ from Robert de Boron reads as
 follows:

“Einsis chevauchierent tuit .IIII. tant qu’il
 avint un jor qu’il passerent .I. grant champ a
 l’entree d’une ville et en cel champ avoit
 grant plenté d’enfanz qui **jouoient a la
 çoule**. Et Merlins qui toutes les choses
 savoit vit cels qui le requeroient, se si traist
 pres de l’un des plus riches de la ville, por
 ce que il savoit bien que cil le messameroit :
 si hauce **la croce**, si fiert l’enfant en la
 jambe, et cil commence a plorer et Merlin a
 messaamer et a reprocher qu’il est nez sanz
 pere.”

(Alexandre Micha, ‘Merlin, Roman du
 XIIIe siècle’, 2000)

The translation in modern English, based on
 the French translation of ‘Le Roman de
 Merlin’ by Jean-Pierre Tusseau, 2001, reads
 as follows:

*“All four of them on horseback, crossed a
 big field near a town gate where several
 children were **playing ball**. Merlin who did
 not miss a thing, noticed that they were
 looking for him:
 he went to one of the richest children in
 town,
 knowing that the child did not like him.
He raised the stick and struck the leg of the
 child, who started to cry and offended
 Merlin
 by blaming him for having no father.”
 (Translation by the authors)*

Nothing in this text points to an
 undisciplined game of hockey. Hitting the
 rich village boy had nothing to do with the
 game itself.

Robert de Boron was born in France in what
 is called today Territoire de Belfort. He
 lived at the end of the 12th century and at
 the beginning of the 13th century. As
 knight-clerk he wrote several stories about
 the Arthurian world. From his ‘Roman de
 Merlin’ only the first 500 verses have been
 preserved, the main part is based on a 13th
 century adaptation in prose.

Are these transcriptions or adaptations of
 De Boron’s work a reliable source to decide
 what kind of game was really meant?

‘Historia Regum Britanniae’ from Geoffrey of Monmouth

The ‘Roman de Merlin’ was not the creation of Robert de Boron himself. As Van Maerlant adapted De Boron’s roman in the Netherlandish language into his own time and age, Robert de Boron did the same with parts of the contents of an ancient book from Geoffrey of Monmouth, written in Latin, ‘Historia Regum Britanniae’ (Histories of the Kings of Britain).



Statue of Geoffrey of Monmouth, Tintern, Wales

Geoffrey of Monmouth was born around 1100, probably in Monmouth in Southeast Wales.

He became bishop of St Asaph in 1152 and died in 1155. He was important to the development of British history and the popular tales of King Arthur. His book ‘Historia Regum Britanniae’ was written in 1136 in the Latin language. It was transcribed in different languages. There seem to be more than 200 medieval transcriptions.

In the translation by Sebastian Evans (1904), the lines about the playing youths read thus: “... they came into the city that was afterward called Carmarthen, they saw

some lads playing before the gate and went to look on at the game.

And being weary with travel, they sate them down in the ring and looked about them to see if they could find what they were in quest of.

At last, when the day was far spent, a sudden quarrel sprang up betwixt a couple of youths whose names were Merlin and Dalbutius. And as they were wrangling together, saith Dalbutius unto Merlin: ‘What a fool must thou be to think thou art a match for me! Keep thy distance, prithee! Here am I, born of the blood royal on both sides of the house; and thou? None knoweth what thou art, for never a father hadst thou!’”

Other translations are:

“... they saw some young men, playing before the gate ...”

(Aaron Thompson, 1999)

“... they saw there some boys playing ball ...” (Bill Cooper, 2002)

In some adaptations of Geoffrey of Monmouth, crosses and balls are not mentioned at all. In his adaptation of the Merlin story, Robert de Boron has inserted the ‘çoule’ and ‘croce’ story, to place that



Fighting was not the ‘prerogative’ of ancient hockey players. This detail from a 16th century illumination shows that in colf fighting was not as exceptional as some wants us to believe. – Inventory number 133 D10, folio 154 recto, Koninklijke Bibliotheek, Den Haag, The Netherlands

story in his own place and time, as Jacob van Maerlant, placed the 'coluen' (colf) story in his own (Flemish) environment.

It is not known what kind of stick and ball game was played in the region of Belfort, where De Boron lived. It is very well known that the game of colf was popular in the Low Countries.

The fact that a player is hurt with a 'croce' (crosse or colf) does not automatically mean that the boys played the rough undisciplined game of ancient hockey. There are several documents and even pictures where fights are shown in other than hockey-like games.

'Historia Brittonum' from Nennius

But what about Geoffrey of Monmouth? Was he the original author of the Merlin story? No, he used again parts of the book 'Historia Brittonum' from Nennius, an 8th century historian, a major source for tales of King Arthur.

Nennius wrote (in transcription form):

"After having inquired in all the provinces, they came to the field of Ælecti, in the district of Glevesing, where a party of boys were playing at ball. And two of them quarrelling, one said to the other: "O boy without a father, no good will ever happen to you."

(*'Six Old English Chronicles'*, J.A. Giles, 1848)

It is not possible to find out what kind of game 'playing at ball' the boys were playing in the fields of Ælecti, because we do not know the original text used by Nennius. There is no mention of a stick or club.

'De Excidio et Conquestu Britanniae' from Saint Gildas

For the story, Nennius in his turn made probably use of sources going back to the

5th century, but these sources are not known anymore.



This statue shows Saint Gildas at Saint-Gildas-de Rhuys, France. Gildas, an early British historian, lived between 482 and 570.

It is suggested that these sources could have been the 'De Excidio et Conquestu Britanniae' (On the ruins and Conquest of Britain) from Gildas, an early British (Saint) historian, who lived between 500 and 570 in Brittany.

Conclusions

All authors have only used several of the items from earlier books or poems, to transcribe their own story and placed it in their own time and age. Fairly often the relationship and contents of the subsequent poems is difficult to recognise. There is no sensible way to compare from only a translation point of view the different books word by word. Most of the original manuscripts are lost. From each book, there are several translations or transcriptions written by different authors in different times and places. Each transcription differs from the other.

It can be said that the story of Merlin told by Jacob van Maerlant written in his own Netherlandish language, is his own interpretation, made in a setting and using

words and expressions of the second half of the 13th century in Flanders.

An interesting comparison can be made with paintings from some of the great painters from the 16th and 17th century. Pieter Breugel the Elder for example painted the famous 'Census of Bethlehem' in 1566. He placed the census not in Judea as described in the gospel according to Lucas (2:1.5) in around 30 BC, but in a Brabant village setting in the 16th century. The census certainly did not take place in such a setting and moreover, we are sure that in Judea, there was not a man queuing up with a colf club in his hands. What Breugel painted was an adaptation, placing the subject in his own time and age.



The famous painting from Pieter Breugel, showing the census in Bethlehem is placed in the 16th century in a Brabant's village instead of in a Judean village in the year 0

Because so far no information has passed down through the ages showing the existence of hockey-like games in the Low Countries it seems all right to say that colf (and crosse/cho[u]le) in different

configurations was played in the time and the region where Jacob van Maerlant lived and worked.

Unless proven otherwise the words 'mit ener coluen' could be considered as representing the ancient game of colf.

We conclude this short story by quoting a sentence from the introduction from the former mayor of the city of Ghislain in the Belgian Borinage in the book 'Mail Crosse Golf ou l'Histoire du crossage en plaine' (1983) from the journalist and historian André Auquier:

"The next Thursday afternoon when there were no school lessons, a group of young boys occupied the fields. They all had their own borrowed 'chambots' (clubs)."

(Translation by the authors)

These boys were playing the game of crosse as boys in this region are playing for hundreds of years. They certainly did not play hockey.

N.B.

This short study was carried out in close cooperation with Do Smit, independent colf and kolf historian, member of the Foundation Early Golf, initiator and producer of the web museum about colf and kolf from the Koninklijke Nederlandse Kolfbond (www.colf-kolf.nl), member of the Kolfclub Utrecht Sint Eloyen Gasthuis and regent and 2nd secretary of the Sint Eloyen Gasthuis Utrecht.

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ADDS SECTION

Scorecards wanted!

I have been collecting scorecards for quite some years now and have got approx 10.000 different courses worldwide which means there are still some 20.000+ missing. Anyone who has some surplus scorecards, be it exotic or non-exotic, mint or used (but without damage) please contact me through CNMeister@t-online or call +49 177 240 60 21. I am happy to refund your postage costs. Thank you in advance for your help, Christoph Meister

Postcards, Books, Paper ephemera, Medals.

I’m always looking for postcards, books, paper ephemera (booklets, magazines ...) and medals related to the game of golf on the European Continent, before 1950. I pay your price for best documents. Please write to jbk@orange.fr or call me on my mobile phone +33 608 72 87 39. JBK

Scottish Golfing Diaspora – Bob Murray **The last British golf professional in Nazi** **Germany** **By Christoph Meister**



Some years ago David Hamilton from St. Andrews gave us a lecture on the subject of Scottish Golf Professionals who left their homeland spreading the Royal & Ancient game. At that time I was already researching about Robert Murray, a golf professional from North Berwick, who came to Dresden in 1907 as a young man. This is the summary of what I have found out so far: My interest in this North Berwick man started when I saw his photo in the 1931 yearbook of the German Golf Federation titled “Robert Murray, Lübeck-Travemünder Golf-Club, Gewinner der Deutschen Berufsspieler Meisterschaft 1930” (Winner German Professional Golfers Championship 1931). Who was this man? While visiting the Danish Golf Museum and Vejle speaking to Erik Halling I also found out he was also very interested in this man, you’ll read later why.

Most astonished I was when a fellow German from Braunschweig contacted me who had read that I was looking for further information about Bob Murray on <http://www.golfika.de>. This gentleman, a golf player himself, told me that his father in law had just asked him to some research some about Uncle Bob, a golf professional originating from North Berwick. Guess my face, when I asked that gentleman if he was related to a leading lady amateur player from my home club with the same surname. It is his daughter! Instead of looking around and researching in my home golf club I contacted god knows whom but sometimes the world is just much smaller than you think. At least geographically the answer to my questions was much nearer than I had ever thought. Enough preliminary writing!

Residence of Murray family- Courtesy of Douglas Seaton



North Berwick

Robert Murray was born on June 19th, 1885 in Forth Street, North Berwick, the son of Robert Murray, a tailor and his wife Elizabeth Bertram. Robert Murray was a caddie on the West Links from leaving school at the age of 14 years in 1899. In 1906 he was a licensed pro on the West Links, North Berwick and entered the Open Championship. He lived with his parents at 13, Melbourne Place, North Berwick.

Robert Murray became a caddie on the West Links from leaving school at the age of 14 years in 1899. In 1906 he was a licensed as a professional pro on the West

Links, North Berwick and entered the Open Championship at Muirfield.

It is most probably that Ben Sayers would have known Robert Murray because North Berwick was a small community (pop 3,000). Most young golfers used the name Ben Sayers when applying for a position but Murray was not one of his pupils.

Many clubs in Europe wrote to Ben Sayers asking for the name of a young caddie or club maker who would like to work in France or Germany. So many young golfers had taken up this opportunity that Robert Murray may have been the latest in a long line to show promise on the West Links and was offered the job at Dresden. Murray would have secured the position as green keeper and pro at Dresden in 1906/07 well before he left Scotland.

Douglas Seaton, the golf historian from North Berwick explains:

The position of golf pro on the West Links, North Berwick was unique to Scotland and the same procedure was used at Carnoustie, St. Andrews and Prestwick. There were at least twelve professionals on the West Links golf course at North Berwick, six playing with the members and their guests, and six available to give lessons. The individuals were all first class caddies before applying for a professional ticket or license to work on the West Links. The license was in fact a badge with an number attached which they pinned to their clothing to verify they were allowed to charge the correct fee. They all had to apply in April each year for a professional ticket



German Professional Golfer's Tournament 1911 at Oberhof, from left to right: Fred Richardson (1, Berlin GC), Jean Gassiat (2, Baden-Baden GC), Ernest Warburton (3, Kiel-Kitzeberg GC), Cavallo Marius (4, Leipzig – Gaschwitz GC), Charles Savage (5, Kölner GC), James West (6, Bremen – Club zur Vahr), Arthur Andrews (7, GC Wentorf-Reinbek), Robert Murray (8, Dresden GC), Heinrich Henkel (9, Oberhof), Claude Gassiat (10, Baden-Baden), Georg Lange (11, Varchentin)

Dresden, 1907-1914



Robert Murray at Dresden, 1908

In 1907, not long after Robert was appointed golf professional to the Dresden Golf Club he met a local girl by the name of Anna Thalheim.

She was as a caddie girl on the Dresden Golf Links which was situated at the Dresden-Reick horse racing track. They married on November 26th, 1910.

Golf at that time was a very exclusive game and the Dresden Golf Club only had around 80

members, some of them quite prominent though. Bob Murray gave lessons to the two sons of Major von Schimpff who was the honorary club secretary, Mrs Kronheim, the Jewish owner of a straw hat factory and Mr. Würthgen, the reverend from the Scottish church. Bob Murray always mentioned that there was Scottish church in Dresden.

In 1910 Robert Murray designed the golf course of the newly founded Munich Golf Club together with Sir Ralph Paget. Robert played in the Professional Golfers Tournament 1911 at Oberhof where he finished second. He also competed in the famous Baden-Baden Open Championships 1911 (won by Harry Vardon) and 1912 (won by J.H.Taylor).



Professional at the 1911 Baden-Baden Championship. From left to right: C.S. Butchart-Berlin, Ch. Mayo, Harry Vardon, Tom Ball, Jack Ross, Robert Murray-Dresden, J. West-Bremen, Sandy Herd, W. Reid, David Ayton – From "Golf", 15 June, 1932

Ruhleben, 1914

On 4 August 1914 Britain declared war on Germany. At that time, some 7 000 civilian British subjects were either living in or visiting Germany. By November all males between the ages of 17 and 55 were interned as prisoners-of-war.

From the beginning they were gathered in Ruhleben, a village 10 km west of the centre of Berlin, near Spandau. By spring 1915 some 4.400 men were kept at this former horse racecourse.

Robert Murray is listed in the surviving register of Ruhleben from Barrack 5 at Ruhleben (register number 2) – also Golf was played at Ruhleben (see also Albert Bloemendaals article *“Golf in times of military conflict”* in golfika No.6. In 1915 a professional golf tournament was organised by the so-called Ruhleben Golf Club, everything was in the hands of A. Gummery (Royal Golf Club of Belgium).

The Competition was 36 holes (medal play), 12 holes to be played each day, starting Sunday 12th, 4 prizes being subscribed for by the members of the Club.

On the third day the golf enthusiasts were bubbling over with excitement, the climax coming when Murray had a 10 foot putt which just failed to pop in to win the match by 1 stroke. A tie between R. Murray and J. B. Holt was played on Sept. 16th over 12 holes and after a ding-dong battle the little Scotsman won by three strokes.

Between November 5th and November 14th 1917, Murray spent some time in the camp's Schonungsbaracke, and later spent a period of five weeks in the Lazarett, between February 14th 1918 and March 22nd. He was then released and to Holland the same day.

Robert Murray's sister-in-law always recalled how well fed Bob came back from Ruhleben in 1918, Red Cross food parcels

coming in for the prisoners had apparently done a great job. Also it did not take the inmates long to realize their situation at Ruhleben, although very crowded, was far safer than on the battle fields of WW I. Needless to say there were not too many escapes from Ruhleben under these circumstances.

Copenhagen, 1919



Copenhagen Golf Club, early 1920

With the golf course at Dresden closed in 1915 Robert Murray again spent one season as a pro at North Berwick, where he was granted a professional license again in April 1919. It seems that Anna Murray was very unhappy in Scotland and could not stay in the UK. In 1920 Robert was appointed as professional at Copenhagen Golf Club in Denmark, where he stayed until 1928.

During his time at Copenhagen Murray played regular matches against his Scottish colleagues G. Roberts (Gothenburg), Hester (Falsterbo) and T. Roberts (Stockholm). In 1925 Bob Murray won the Scandinavian Open Championship finishing 16 strokes ahead.

A Danish newspaper article from that time describes Murray as a quiet, honest and stable man although he did not play as well as 'Turnbull' his predecessor at Copenhagen, he was a better teacher and took more care of his pupils (without making bets with them).

Moving from Copenhagen to Travemünde

During winter 1928/29 Bob Murray and his wife moved back to Germany in order to start working at the newly opened Lübeck-Travemünder Golf Club just right on the shores of the Baltic Sea.

Robert Murray and his wife would stay there until 1939. When I spoke to Bob Murray's nephew some years ago he still recalled how Bob and his wife moved to Travemünde in winter 1928. A huge icebreaker in front of the ferry boat was leading the ferry boat all the way from Denmark to Travemünde on the German Baltic Sea Coast, where the newly opened golf course was sitting high up on top of the cliffs.

Travemünde 1929



Murray, Travemünde, 1930

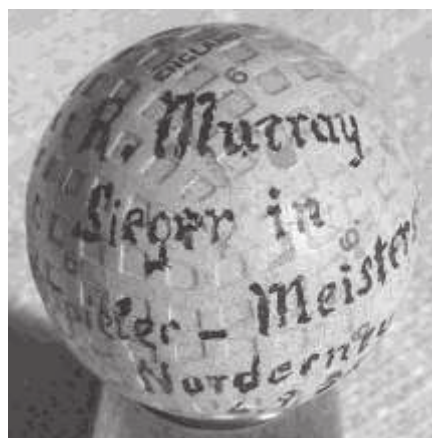
During his second year at Travemünde Robert Murray won the German Professional Golfers Championship which was played on the North Sea island of Norderney, a true links course.

On the above photo you can see Robert wearing the traditional Lübeck-Travemünde Golf Club jumper – White with red stripes around the neck. This photo was also published in the 1931 yearbook of the German Golf Federation as well as Robert used it in his passport – I have had the passport in my own hands! He had already finished 3rd in 1928 championship and was placed fourth in the following championships 1931 and 1932.



Murray at Lübeck-Travemünde, 1937

During winter time Bob was regularly invited to give lessons at the private Gütermann Golf Course near Freiburg in the south of Germany.



Dunlop ball used by Murray to win the 1930 German Pro Championship

The Gütermann family, who became well off as one of the leading sewing silk producers, and their golfing friends also wanted to indulge in their favourite sport in the winter months as well. Robert's nephew recalls caddying for many gentlemen on this private golf course but also in Travemünde during summer holidays. His aunt Anna always came back from Gutach to Travemünde with bags full off sewing silk.



Robert Murray (far right hand side) during a prize giving ceremony in 1937

Robert Murray also started teaching his nephew during the early 1930s but at that time members were not very keen on children playing golf and disturbing them. It was not all gentlemen that played golf during that time and when a non-gentleman appeared on the course the caddies such as Robert's nephew disappeared into the bushes adjacent to the club house shed.

All these years Robert Murray and his wife Anna were living in Germany as British subjects. In 1939 most of the British Golf professionals had already left Germany, besides Murray there were only 6 other British golf professionals remaining in Germany: T.C.Gillett (Reinbek), W.H. Hain (Krefeld), Walley Marks (Bergisch-Land), Fred Norman (Bad Wildungen), Douglas McEwan (Cologne) and A.J. Stempt (Aachen).

In 1934 Frankfurt Golf Club professional Flitney reported that he was always treated

well both by National Socialists and their opponents. (see *Golf Illustrated* 26.01.1934)

Shortly before war broke out the Murray's managed to leave Travemünde on August 26th, 1939 with the help of some club member's direction Denmark. Robert took then took the job as Golf professional at Aalborg. If you think that was the end of the story you are wrong.

Apparently shortly before leaving Murray had thought about taking the German nationality, at least the "Deutsche Golfzeitung" claims this March 15th, 1940. It did not take long, the Germans invaded Denmark where they caught Robert Murray and put him into an internment camp. After a few months Anna Murray's relatives in Dresden succeeded in getting Robert out of Prison again, rumours have it that his brother in law even asked foreign secretary of state von Ribbentrop and the German sports official Tschammer von Osten, both keen and untalented golfers.

Golfer's Passport.

Member of

Aalborg

GOLF CLUB.

Member's Name

Robert Murray

Handicap Golf Professional

Secretary's Signature

This passport serves as an introduction when visiting other Clubs, and is a certificate of the owner's handicap for competition purposes.

Dresden, 1942

By November 1941 Murray was back in Dresden where he immediately started working again as golf professional. The old course at Reick remained closed since 1915 and golf only came back to Dresden in 1930, when J.S.F. Morrison designed a new course at Dresden-Bad Weisser Hirsch.

Robert Murray was now the last British Golf professional in Nazi Germany. Life was getting more and more difficult for him not only because allied air forces increased their activities on German skies but the food situation at Dresden became more and more of a problem for the Murrays especially as they decided not to become German citizen. As British subjects they did not qualify for food rationing cards. Robert Murray died of starvation in Dresden in April 1944 and was buried on the Tolkewitzer cemetery.

Mrs. Nora Zahn, secretary general of the German Golf Federation, writes in her newsletter 09/1944, dating June 9th, 1944 that *“German Golf has lost an affectionate and faithful friend, who was very popular with all golfer who knew him”*

In 1946 Anna Murray had to sell off the 1930 German Professional Championship Golf medal to a Horse breeder in Dresden. She died in Dresden 1947.

My thanks go to Douglas Seaton and the family of Robert Murray's nephew – without whom this article would not have been possible. Please contact me through CNMeister@t-online.de in case you have any further information on Robert Murray.

Book Review

Thomas Stewart Jr, Golf clerk and iron maker. St Andrews Scotland, by Ralph Livingston III

I was lucky enough when I started to get involved with antique club collection and restoration to stumble across Ralph Livingston's site www.hickorygolf.com. When I contacted him via email as a complete stranger he could not have been more helpful, sharing his knowledge with me as if i had known him all my life.

When I heard a year or so ago from Randy Jensen that Ralph was working on a much needed book on his favourite subject (Thomas Stewart) I immediately mailed him an ordered a copy.

It was a long wait before it arrived (the hard back version) but was worthwhile

Thomas Stewart had such a varied and extensive output the problem with this book was always going to be not so much what to include but what to leave out. I think that Ralph has got the balance just about right, all of the clubs and information that had

hoped to read about are included and the book is not 1500 pages long!

The book starts as you would expect with a short biography, and includes a couple of very rare images of Stewart (he did not like getting his photo taken) and proceeds with a fascinating and detailed look at his cleek and inspection marks, I was amazed at the number of variations Ralph had cataloged, and this information we be a invaluable for a collector.

The book continues with a look at Stewart's earliest clubs, these pre registration mark clubs are exquisatley photographed (as are all the clubs in the book) and the detailed measurements of loft ,lie length ect are a godsend for club restorers, I would have loved to have read about the author's view on the sole bounce on Stewart clubs, as a lot of people think this what made them so playable, but these measurements were not mentioned in any great detail.

The book continues with Stewart;s post 1904 registration clubs and Ralph's

explanation of Stewarts early numbering system for 4 clubs iron sets is a revelation.

The description's and photo's of various model shapes will make future identification of clubs a lot easier. The last section of clubs concerns the huge amount of putter models that Stewart made.

The book finishes with a detailed look at Stewart's 1929 catalog and includes a comprehensive list of Stewarts known customers.

This book has definatley filled a large void in the world of antique clubs collection and one gets the feeling when you read it,that this book wasn't leaving the publishers until the author was completely happy with it. Exactly how Tom Stewart felt about his iron heads!

Iain Forrester

Serenpidity of Early Golf by Robin Bargman

When in the future someone looks at the legacy left behind by this generation of members of the British Golf Collectors' Society and the European Association of Golf Historians and Collectors to the literary world they will immediately select this book as one of the best. *Serenpidity of Early Golf* is one of the best golf history books I have had the pleasure to read. Robin has researched extensively, as evidenced by the extensive bibliography to find all the most interesting facts which are presented. The book is of the highest order when it comes to its printing and production. As an example of the detail of presentation the two bookmarks are in the colours of Kennemer Golf and Country Club. The quality and abundance of the great illustrations are a real treat to see.

The book was published to coincide with the Centenary of Kennemer Golf and Country Club, where the EAGHC was privileged to hold their Annual Meeting last October. Robin gave a talk on the history of Kennemer, but this book is much, much

more than this. The first chapter deals with all the early stick and ball games, including golf, *coif*, *pell mell* and *crosse*. Each sport is examined looking at its early origins and its present situation. This is followed by a look at the development of *The Coffin* Scotland and at Bruntsfield in particular, and this chapter concludes with the three cantos of *The Goff* by Thomas Mathison. Golf historians will be familiar with the great oil paintings by artists such as Hendrick Averkamp of co//being played on the frozen rivers and canals. Chapter three, entitled *Dutch Masters*, contains many of these paintings but also many more. One would not need to be a golfer to enjoy this part of the book. The game of *coif* is dealt with comprehensively in Chapter Four. The next chapter explains the progress of stick and ball games from *caets* to *kolf*, an indoor game. Obviously there are many similarities between the Scottish game of golf and these other Low Countries games. This is clear when Robin examines in detail the balls and clubs used in these different sports;

Scotland's Game is the title of the next chapter and how well the author describes the origins and expansion of this game into the rest of Europe and also into America.. The expansion into The Netherlands at the latter part of the nineteenth century is the next chapter. From this point it is a natural progression to the centenary of Kennemer Golf and Country Club, where Robin has been a member since the early 1960's. While Robin has written numerous articles for golfing magazines this is his first book. All I can say is that it is likely to be his last, because the standard he has set himself is going to be extremely difficult to match. Do not miss out in obtaining this book. It truly is a gem and can be obtained from Kennemer Golf and Country Club, Kennemerweg 78-80, 2042X1 Zandvoort, The Netherlands. Cost is €35 plus postage.

John Hanna

First published in *Through The Green*.



Compare this colour view of the “Taylor Massey Finish” at Seacroft with the classical and well known black and white. The carriage (bottom left) has been erased.



13 of the greatest golf Champions. Massy is the 4th on the first (top) row – between Braid and Taylor



PC 1a – Felixstowe Golf Links



PC 1b – Postcard addressed to Mr Massy, written in French



PC 2a – Reginald Bray was an autograph collector who sent postcard asking for a signature.



PC 2b – He got, by return, Arnaud Massy's autograph



PC 3a – A postcard sent by Arthur Grand to Ben Sayers



PC 3b – On a very common postcard from Biarritz.