

# EAGHC - 14th Annual Meeting



Rosendaelsche GC – Sept. 16, 17 / Bleijenbeek Sept. 18, 2019

Scotland and the Flemish People – Early games

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# Scotland and the Flemish People

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## Research project Scotland and the Flemish People

University of St Andrews

St Andrews Institute of Scottish Historical Research

Professor Roger Mason

Conference 2017 – Book publication 2019

Focus medieval period 1200-1600

Variety of subjects, mostly related to Flemish migration

Early games – curling bonspiel, cachepell, gowff



# Scotland and the Flemish People

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## Conclusions

The Flemish were one of the largest and most influential migrant groups to come to Scotland in the Middle Ages. Their impact can be traced in many aspects of Scottish social and cultural life

The Lowlands are a cultural and historic region of Scotland (Scots: the Lallans; Dutch: de Lage Landen, laaglands, "the Low Countries", from the low countries; Scottish Gaelic: a' Ghaldachd, "the place of the foreigner"). Non-geographical. Inglis (Anglo-Saxons) and later Lallans (Flemish migrants).

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## Factors

Norman Conquest – large Flemish contingent

William of Normandy – Baldwin of Flanders – Eustace of Boulogne

Normanisation of England (top down) – Feudal system

Domesday Book

Davidian Revolution – Normanisation of Scotland

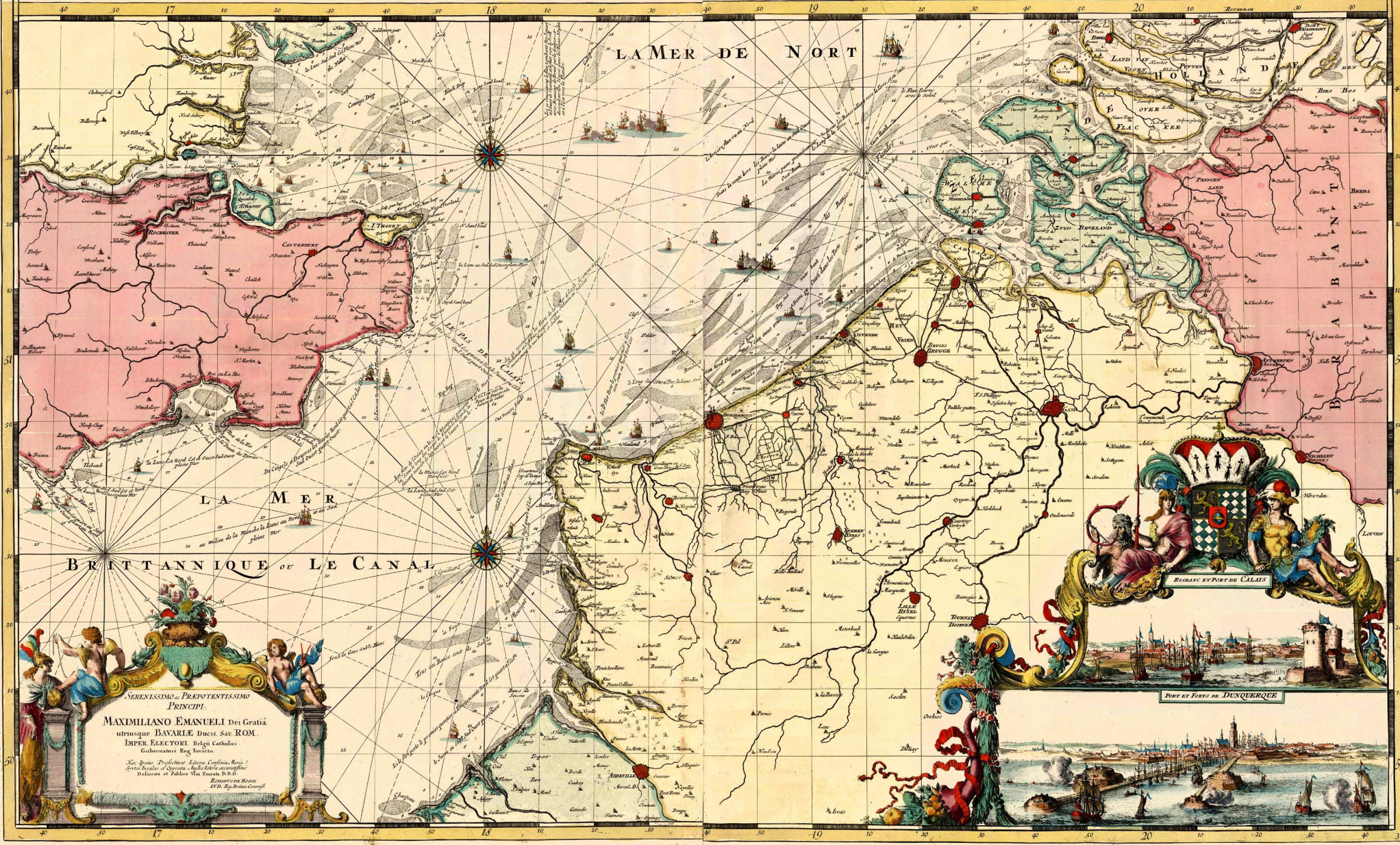
King David I

Nobility

Establishment of royal burghs

Artisans and merchants

CARTE NOUVELLE des Costes de HOLLANDE, ZEELANDE, FLANDRE, PICARDIE, & NORMANDIE, depuis la BRILLE jusques à DIEPPE, avec une Partie des costes D'ANGLETERRE, depuis l'emboucheure de la TAMISE, et les Isles voisines jusques à BEVESIER, ou l'on voit tous les PORTS DE MER BANCs DE SABLE & ROCHERS AU USAGE des ARMÉES DE SA MAJESTÉ BRITANNIQUE. Dressé sur les Mémoires les Plus Nouveaux, Par le S<sup>r</sup> ROMIN DE HOOGE Commissaire du Roy. A AMSTERDAM chez COUVENS et MORTIER. Avec Privilège de N<sup>rs</sup> Seigneurs les Etats.



EAGHC – 14th AGM – Rodendaelsche GC 16, 17 Sept. – Bleijnenbeek Golf Museum 18 Sept. 2019



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## Early games

Curling bonspiel – Krulbolspel

Cachepell – Caetsspel

Gowff – Colf

## Evidence

Substantial etymological evidence

Very little or no documentary evidence

Comparison

Assimilation and absorption

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Texts e.g. in A Dictionary of the Older Scottish Tongue up to 1700), Dictionary of the Scots Language (DSL)

- 1596 Elgin Rec. II. 46.

Walter Hay ... accusit for playing at the boulis and golff upoun Sondaye in the tym of the sermon;

- 1457 Acts II. 48/2.

At the fut bal ande the golf be vtterly criyt done and nocht vsyt;

- 1643 Fife Synod 137.

That men played at the catche on the Sabbath day, in the catchpell in Falkland;

- Ratis R. 1245.

To ... Ryne at baris, and at the ball, and at the caich play with all;

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Quote David Murison, linguist and renowned editor of *Scottish National Dictionary* :

“A sure indication of the close and cordial relations existing between the Netherlands and Scotland appears in the various names of games which the Scots borrowed chiefly in the fifteenth century and in one instance at least appropriated for good: golf (Middle Dutch *kolf*, a club, *kolven* a game with clubs), despite the disbelief of some Scottish devotees, is too well illustrated in Flemish painting to be anything else than of Dutch [Flemish] origin, however it may have been developed or modified in its adopted country...”



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Avercamp

1610

Sinclair

1771

Similarities

Differences

Disbelief

Confusion



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Avercamp  
Schotse  
kliek

Avercamp  
Hollandse  
esp



# Scotland and the Flemish People

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Schotse kliek



# Scotland and the Flemish People

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Hollandse esp

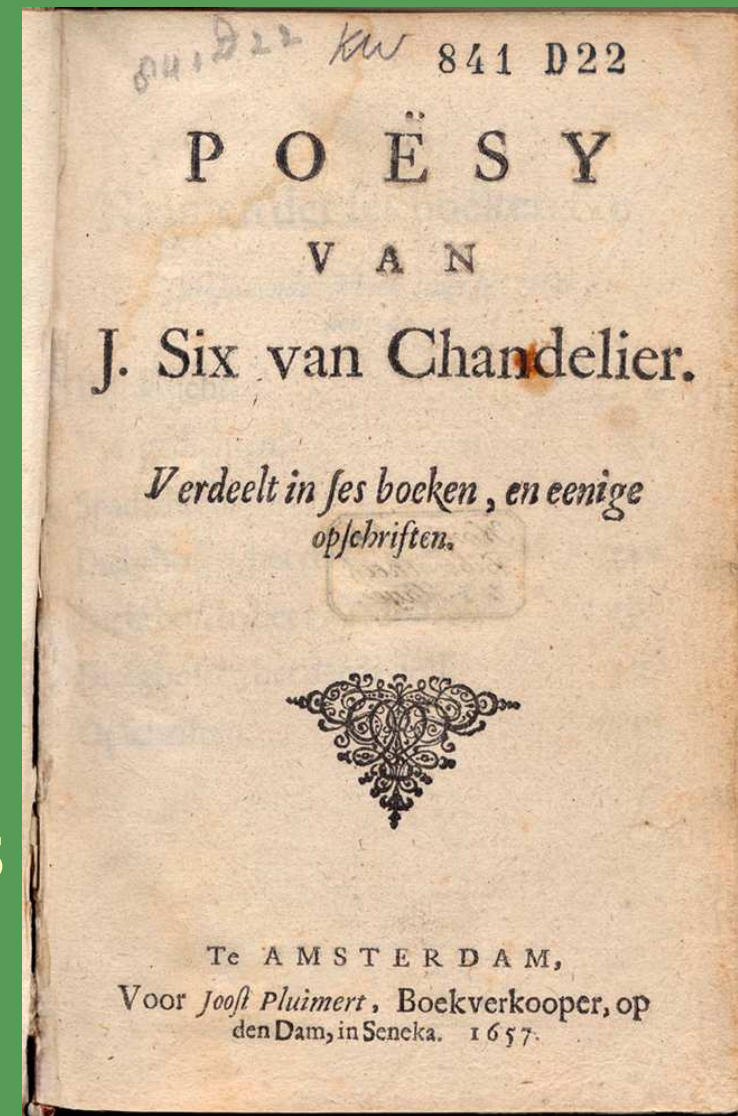


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Important documentary evidence  
Provided by J. Six van Chandelier  
in his book *Poësie* (1657), a  
collection of poetry.

's *Amsterdammers Winter* describes  
wintertime in Amsterdam and details  
how a game of colf is played on ice.



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A typical winter scene on ice on Het IJ near Amsterdam, by Arent Arentsz. Cabel (1620) during the Little Ice Age



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De **kolver** bindt syn ysspoor aan,  
Of heeft iet strams om op te staan,  
Want 't gladde glas, is 't onbesneeuwt,  
Met effe soolen lacht, en spreeuwt,  
En naa het looten van paarty,  
Schrapstaande slaat syn **esp**, met bly  
Verswaart, of syne **schotse klik**,  
Van palm, dry vingers breed, een dik,  
Met loot der in, den **pennebal**

# Scotland and the Flemish People

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Van 't **druifje** onsichtbaar voor haar val,  
Van **ballemerkers** opgemerkt,  
Voorts kolvende aan een **paal** geperkt.  
Of slaat om 't verdste, slach om slach,  
Om witjes, of een vaan in 't lach,  
Gekorven op een dunnen tak,  
Die ieder veur in 't wambais stak,  
Mids wie syn **kerfstok** niet neemt waar,  
Uitveegen zal voor allegaar.





# Scotland and the Flemish People

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## Important elements of the game of colf:

- Long game played on ice
- Off a tee
- With a leaden esp (ash) or wooden klik (jointed)
- Scottish klik measures described (archaeological find)
- With a featherie ball
- Towards a post or longest shots
- Scores kept
- Cheaters disqualified
- Played for money or drinks in the inn

# Scotland and the Flemish People



## Schotse klik description and measurement:

- Palmwood
- Three fingers wide
- One finger high
- Lead filled back

## Archaeological finds

- Leiden (Leiden University)
- Compare London (Gavin Bottrel)

Van palm, dry vingers breed, een dik



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## Eighty Years War (1568-1648) of the Low Countries

- Rebellion against Habsburg suppression of freedom
- Religion, self rule, taxation
- Declaration of independence in 1581
- Fall of Antwerp in 1585 – Amsterdam new trade centre
- Formation of the Dutch Republic by northern provinces
- Migration of Flemish population to the northern Republic
- Golden Age (despite warfare and cold winter periods)
- Large numbers of Scots (merchants, scholars, soldiers)
- **Colf and golf meet again; both have a shared Flemish ancestry**

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The Low Countries

Seventeen counties

Holland (Republic)

Flanders (South)

Leo Belgicus (1609), by  
Claes Janszoon Visscher



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Adriaen van de Velde *Colpayers on the ice near Haarlem*







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# Scotland and the Flemish People

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## I. Curling bonspiel, Dutch School (?) c1700



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David Teniers -  
Krul Bol spel

Old Scots  
Boulis

1596 Elgin Rec. II. 46.  
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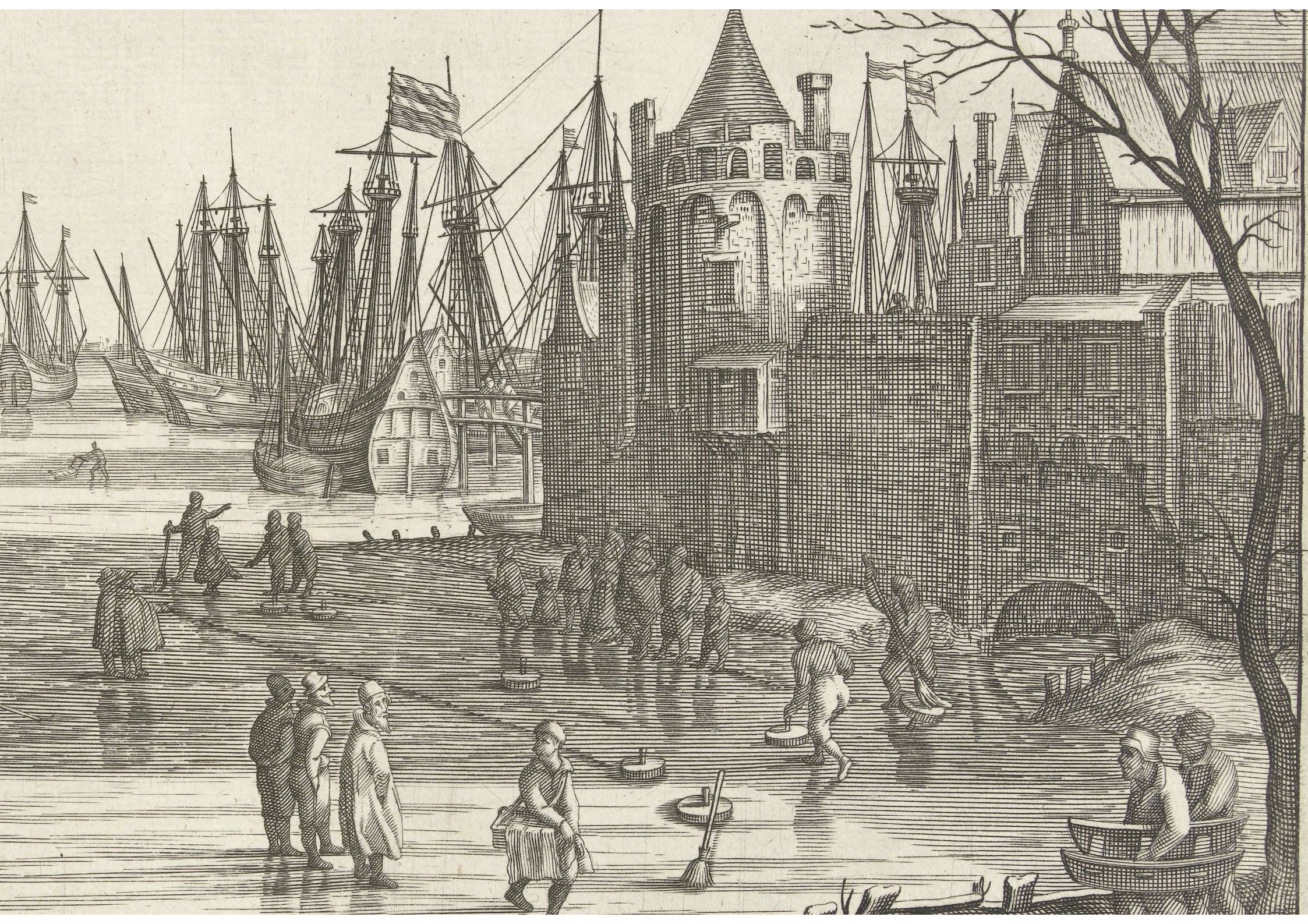
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Robert de Baudous  
(c1610)

Hyems – Winter  
Bollen  
and  
Colven  
on ice



*Navita sic gelido subductâ clafso Decembrj HYEMS Securus glaciem ferratâ compede sulcat.*



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Pieter Brueghel  
The bird trap  
(c1590)

Bollen on ice  
Colven on ice











# Scotland and the Flemish People

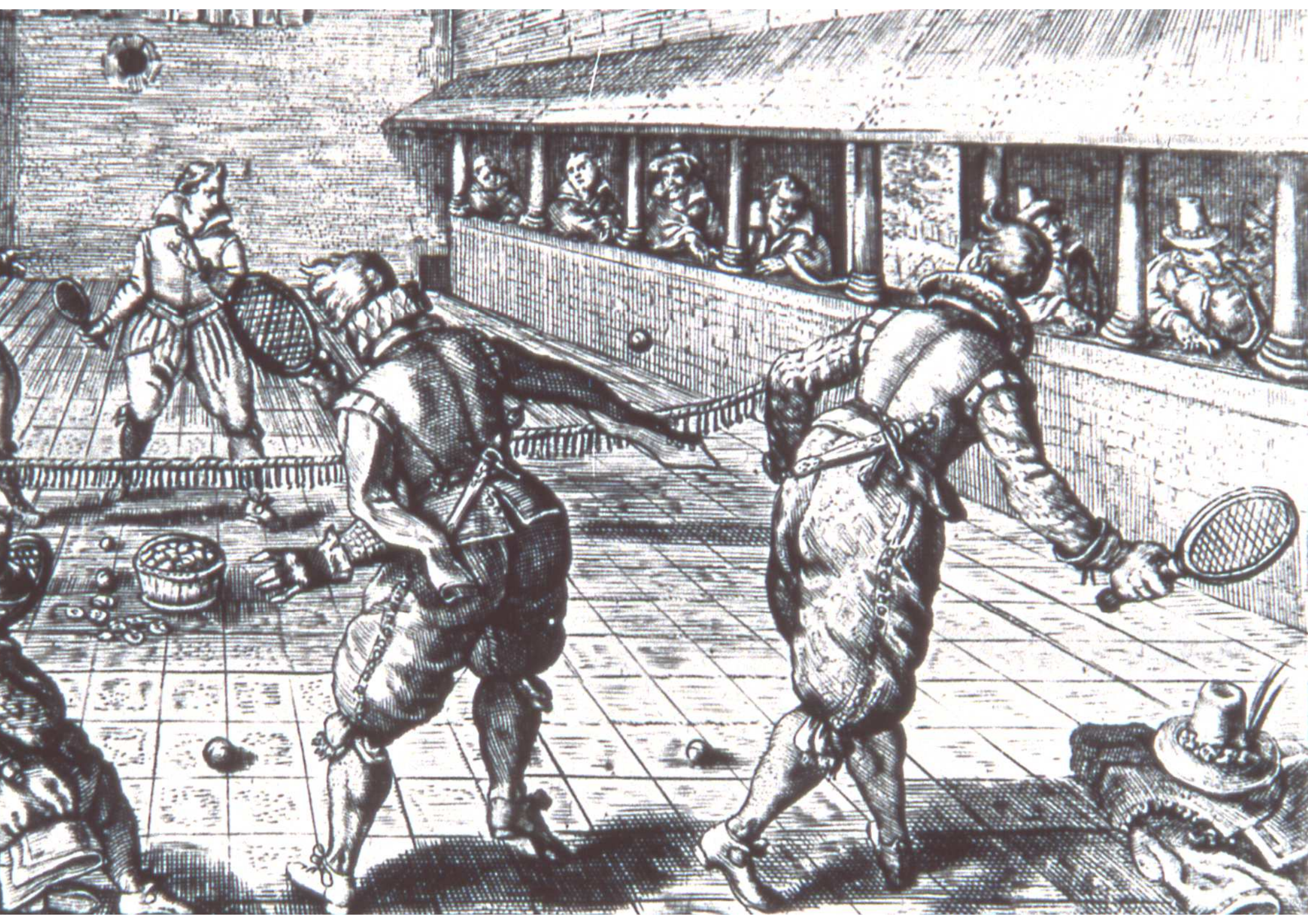
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## II. Cachepele Falkland Palace 1541



.xiii. b l*et*. S*an*c*t* iehan. S*an*c*t* pol.   
.iiii. c l*et*. S*an*c*t* leon.   
d l*et*.  vigille.   
.xj. e l*et*. S*an*c*t* pierre. S*an*c*t* pol.   
f l*et*. S*an*c*t* marcial. 





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## III. Golf at St Andrews, anonymous c1700



# Scotland and the Flemish People



# Scotland and the Flemish People

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## Flemish immigrants in Scotland (burghs) in 1200-1300

- Colf played with a wooden ball
- Cache played with a leather stuffed ball
- Hand to racket (closed courts)
- Balls imported from the Low Countries (Goirle)
- Cache ball made crossover to golf – where and when?
- Golf played on links grounds outside the burghs
- Developed into modern day golf in Scotland
- Featherie ball introduced to colf on ice in Holland (esp or klik)
- Colf evolved to modern day kolf (closed courts)



Thank you for your attention