

Above: A share of the Antibes Golf Club.

Compare the silhouette of the Lady golfer on this document with the rare poster (c. 1930) on the backcover (Archives Départementales des Alpes-Maritimes - Document 023J 0005)

golfika



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The front cover of Golfika Magazine n°26 shows a painting by Viktor Cleve.

Viktor Cleve, is a EAGHC honorary member and a German leading golf painter. As a former art director, he kindly designed the cover page for Golfika-Magazine.

Illustrations are provided by the authors of the various articles or are from private collections.

Imprint and disclaimer

Golfika is the magazine of the European Association of Golf Historians & Collectors (EAGHC)

The views and opinions printed within are those of the contributors and cannot intend to represent an official EAGHC viewpoint unless stated.

The price of this magazine (two issues per year) is included in the EAGHC annual membership of € 30.00 p.a. The magazine can be sold to non-members of the EAGHC at €10.00 + postage & packing.

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The Association welcomes new members – who will find all necessary information on how to join the Association on www.golfika.com

The European Association of Golf Historians & Collectors (also: Association Européenne des Historiens et Collectionneurs de Golf) is not for profit association, officially registered at Sous-Préfecture de Mantes la Jolie, France according to the French Law 1 July 1901. Now located in Nice.

A Few Words from the President

Robin Bargmann



IT WAS QUITE AN UNEXPECTED HONOUR to have been elected President of our association at the general assembly last year at the historic venue of Rosendaelsche Golf Club near Arnhem, Holland, a club founded in 1895, today 125 years ago.

I would like to thank David Hamilton, who served as President of our board for the previous two years. We are very fortunate to have this éminence grise of Scottish golf history giving his best to the further development of our European endeavours. We remember our good friend John Hanna from Ireland, who too greatly enhanced our golf historical capabilities with his continuous loyal support. In the meantime our knowledge of golf history in the various European countries is expanding rapidly.

The EAGHC focusses on a number of important activities for our members. Firstly our two-day annual meetings at selected historical sites in European countries (including Great Britain and Ireland). Sadly, we have had to cancel our EAGHC annual meeting in Poland this year, but at the same time are happy to announce that this event will take place in 2021 (*corona volente*). Special thank go to our host Marzena Gradecka and our member Czeslaw Kruk, who jointly did a fantastic job preparing for this event.

The program of our annual meetings consist of exchanges of golf memorabilia, presentations of historical subjects, a general meeting followed by a formal annual dinner, and finally a hickory golf contest. It is our ambition to have our EAGHC Hickory Open integrated in the European calendar of hickory golf. We are pleased that Christoph Meister will be our coordinator. Clearly, hickory golf is on the rise and attracts players to golf historical interests and collecting.

Secondly, our association focusses on a membership policy to attract new members interested in golf history. European golf history is a patchwork of countries and our membership policy will need to match this variety. Via EAGHC members can link to other golfhistorical societies.

A third focus is on editing and publishing our *Golfika* magazine issues twice a year. In the meantime, we have reached the milestone of twenty-five issues. Quality remains our main goal. We are therefore quite happy that some members, generously and anonymously, are providing linguistic support for the copy-editing of our magazine.

Finally we are happy to report that the EAGHC *Golfika* website will be fully renewed and that Stéphan Filanovitch has put much effort in this project helped by Christoph Meister. I am sure the members will be happy with the final result. I would like to thank Jean Bernard Kazmierczak (also known as JBK) for his continuous hard work for the association. As vice president, but acting more as general secretary, he is the strongest pillar of the association, coordinating most if not all activities. We are committed to share the burden of work within the board with a view towards a sustainable organisation going forward.

Corona has forced us to arrange zoom meetings of the board. This has proven to be quite effective and will continue to be part of our future way of life. In this regard it has also been decided to organise a Zoom meeting for all EAGHC members as a replacement of our cancelled annual outing this year in Poland.

(continued bottom next page)

Editor's Corner

JBK (Jean-Bernard Kazmierczak)



DEAR EAGHC MEMBERS, after almost ten years as an editor, Stéphan Filanovitch, after Christoph Meister's initial position, wished to stop managing the edition of Golfika-Magazine and only focusing on the website which he will completely redesign. Christoph will help him on the Hickory part of the website. As during these years, I was already in charge of the printing part, he asked me if I would accept to replace him as Editor of our Magazine. Which I, of course, accepted with a great pleasure – and the support of the Board.

My first words are to heartily thank Stéphan for the work he did for such a long period. And I'm sure all our members will support my thanks.

Autumn is coming, bringing a new issue of your favourite magazine! I must say it is with a bizarre feeling that I would like to introduce this issue. Our world is currently subject to a terrible pandemic. In many countries, people have been confined to their homes, almost all activities have stopped. However, at the time of writing, amateur and professional golf have slowly restarted, following certain protocols. The coronavirus means that people still avoid to travel. We waited until end of July before deciding to postpone our meeting, planned in Poland, until next year. It was a hard decision, but a necessary one!

Just as we were preparing to send this document to the printer, we received the following news: Christoph Meister and Olaf Dudzus have just written a book on 125 years of Golf in Berlin-Brandenburg. It is a 176 pages book, with a great many pictures, so it may also interest those who

are not reading German fluently. It is a non-commercial book project, and the authors just tried to cover their design and printing costs. The book can be ordered at info@deutscher-golf-verlag.de and the cost is 49 € + p&s.



We wish you all an enjoyable reading of this new issue.

Stay safe and well!

(President speaks - ctd)

We will be able to update our members about our activities and plans, but also do a couple of presentations interactively. We can also hold our formal GM in this manner and approve our financial statements.

I would like to thank all who have contributed to the wellbeing of our association and wish all members well in these trying times. Stay safe and healthy.

Project Bookplate or also known as Ex Libris

Mika Hjorth



MOST OF US SHARE A PASSION FOR COLLECTING, the thrill of discovery and the enjoyment of researching something. These are just a few things that can be linked to collecting. I have long collected books, mainly golf mystery stories and hickory shafted putters. As the library has grown over many years, the idea of a personalised bookplate grew in my mind. I stumbled on the Finnish Ex Libris society at a trade fair some years ago. It seemed like a nice aesthetical way to mark the books in my collection.



However, creating a bookplate was not as simple as I first thought. One wants the bookplate to reflect the owner, show his interests and character. The bookplate offers only a limited space in which to do this and on top of it all I have never been much of an artist myself. In general there are not any rules or standards connected to the design of a bookplate, one has quite a lot of artistic freedom. It is however customary to include one's name in the bookplate and in most cases also the heading 'Ex Libris'. Then Eureka I put forward the idea to a fellow member of the society, our own golf artist

Viktor Cleve. He listened to my idea and did some research of his own, which resulted in a small number of drafts, from which one was selected and completed. The bookplate was initially made into a painting, roughly A3 size and then digitised and printed in the correct label size to fit. At least in Finland one can still find affordable and suitable printing service for bookplates.

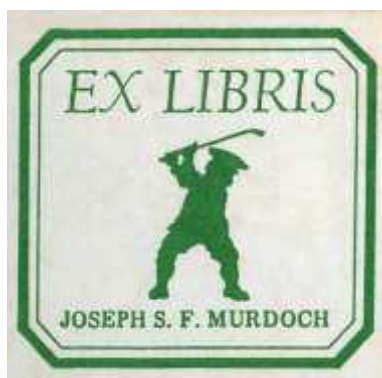
All in all, this was a fun project, and I'm happy with the outcome, it portrays my passion for the game of golf (hickory golf) and the links landscapes of Scotland. It is a pity that the bookplate tradition has receded a lot since its glory days at the end of the 19th and early 20th century. On the other hand, these were also the glory days of hickory golf, so I see it as a perfect fit to my library.

FACTS CORNER

- Ex libris, is latin and roughly means 'from the books of library'.
- Books have been extremely valuable in the past, hence the owners need and want to put a mark in the book.
- The most common place to put the bookplate is the inside cover, more precise the upper left corner. The placing is no longer so relevant and you can find the bookplate on other pages as well.
- First known bookplates are from Egypt and date to the 14th century.

- The bookplate became more common in central Europe after the 15th and 16th century.
- In 1901-1903 the British Museum published a catalogue of 35 000 bookplates collected by Sir Augustus Wollaston Franks.

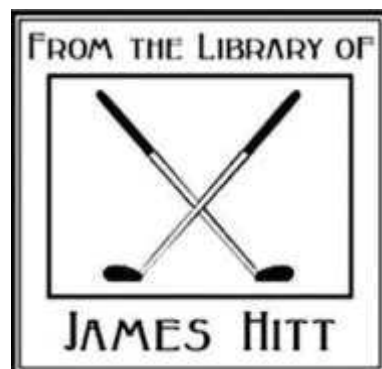
- The use of bookplates has declined, especially in the past three decades. This, in conjunction with books becoming less expensive and digital.
- Today bookplate collecting is still a small hobby; a lot of bookplate collectors make their bookplates to have something to trade with other collectors.



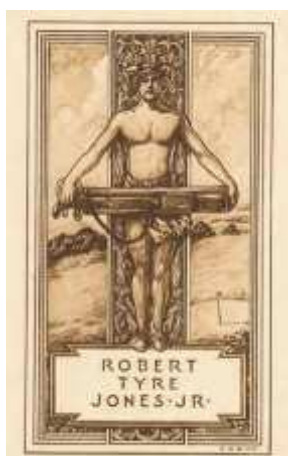
Joseph S.F. Murdoch



M. Wetselaere



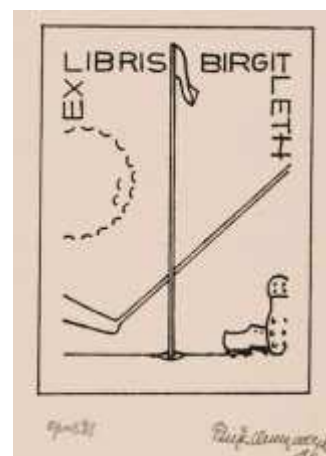
James Hitt



Robert (Bobby) Tyre Jones



Christian F. Nissen



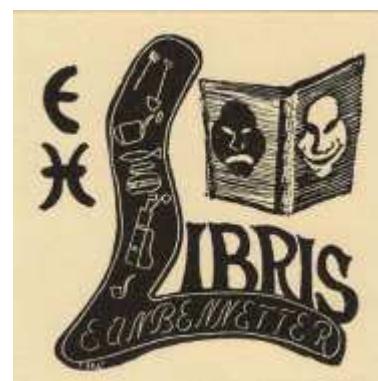
*Birgit Leth
By Fritz Overgard (*)*



A.M. E. Brudin



Trygve Figenbaum



*E. Anbennetter
Golf among others*



Joyce Johnston



*Edwarda Ragzynskiego
By Stefan Mrozewski (*)*



*Edwarda Ragzynskiego
By Stefan Mrozewski (*)*



*Evelyn Dünstl
By Pauwels, Hedvig (*)*



*Arved Ashby M.D.
By Okas Evald (*)*



Ruth Christophersen



Luis Espinosa



*Evelyn Dünstl-Walter
By Vladimír Suchanek*

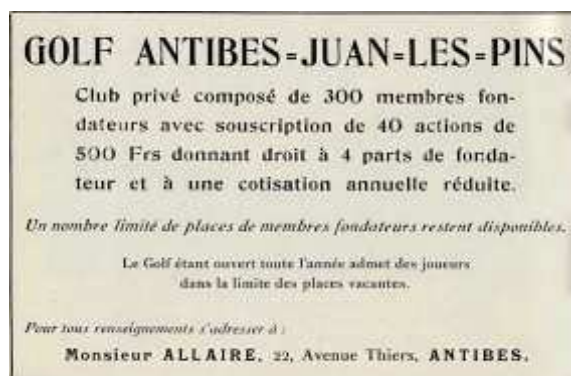


*L. Geerlandt
Horse-riding & golf, by Bulder*

These ex-libris cards are from JBK's collection, except those indicated by a () which are from the Frederikshavn Art Museum & Exlibris Collection. The Bobby Jones is from Heritage Auctions.*

Golf de la Bastide du Roy Antibes – Juan-les-Pins - Biot

JBK (Jean-Bernard Kazmierczak)



IN ITS EDITION of 1 November 1929, the magazine *Le Golf et Les Golfeurs* announced the forthcoming opening of a new golf course located in the village of Biot, at the Bastide du Roy, two kilometres from Antibes. The course was to have 18 holes; it had a river on its boundary for more than one kilometre. There would be no lack of water, all the more so as there were many springs, which allowed to announce that this golf course should remain open in summer. The clubhouse was still not built but was expected to open for the summer of 1930. For the design of the course, the founding member called upon a golf player. His name is curiously not mentioned in this publication. However, the book *Le Golf*, published in 1936 under the direction of the Duke de Mouchy, then President of the *Fédération Française de Golf*, tells us that it was Peter Gannon and Percy Boomer who were in charge of the layout.

We also read in the 1930 Plumon guide – which came out at the end of 1929 – that two founding members were: A. [Alex] Weisweiler and A. Klinghoffer.

This golf course was managed as a club, not seeking a profit or getting into the real estate

business. The number of founding members was limited to 300. A realistic number as the golf course in Nice was very congested. Finally, the *Journal Officiel*¹ published the 'Déclaration du 11 July 1930 - Association Sportive du Golf de la Bastide du Roy': the Association's aim is the practice of all physical exercises and in particular the game of golf.

We recall here that, since the mid-twenties, for tax reasons, Sports Associations were created to administer most of the golf courses - which belonged to a company; here, the *Société Anonyme du Golf d'Antibes Juan-les-Pins*. We give below, a reproduction of the shares issued for a total of 2,136 million francs. But as early as September 1930, this same company announced a capital increase from 2,130,000 francs to 3,130,000 francs by the issue, at par, of 2,000 new shares of 500 francs.



A rare postcard issued by the club (this one was posted in 1939)

In practice, we had to wait until 13 November 1930 for *Le Figaro* to inform us of the actual creation of the *Golf de la Bastide du Roy* in the Brague plain. Although, if the initial plans showed

¹ Dated 24 July 1930

18 holes (5,930 meters), on the 68 hectares estate only nine holes (a total of 2,900 meters in length) were opened.

We also learned that the Sports Committee was composed of Mr Marcel Monteux (President), Count Jean de Polignac (Vice-President) and Mr Henry Allaire² (Secretary-Treasurer). The annual fees were 500 francs for the founding members and 1,000 francs for the full members.

Thus, even if it was possible to play on the Bastide du Roy course from the end of 1930, it was nevertheless on 4 July 1931 that the official inauguration took place with a competition over two days on 4 and 5 July, led by the professional Percy Boomer (from Saint-Cloud). The professional attached to the club was Charles Jackson.

The first day (organised as a shot gun start) was devoted to qualifications and the following results were noted: Mr Braun, 81 - 18 = 63; Ælsner, 84 - 4 = 80; Leland of Langley, 89 - 8 = 81; C. F. Collin, 91 - 8 = 83; Spencer Batchelor, 94 - 8 = 86; Ventre, 110 - 24 = 86; Wunemberger, 106 - 18 = 88.

The next day, the best four from the previous day's competition competed in match play. In the morning, in the semi-final, Mr Ælsner beat Mr Braun 7 & 6 and Mr Leland from Langley took the lead over Mr C.F. Collin on the 19th hole. In the afternoon, in the final, Mr Ælsner won the first official title by beating Mr Leland of Langley by 8 & 6.



On this occasion, we read that H. M. the King of Sweden, Gustav V, accepted the Honorary Presidency, and consequently the club took the yellow and blue colours of Sweden.

In February 1932, the *Riviera Review* reported that the Archduke Wilhelm³ of Austria was at the Club every day and that there had never been so much excitement. It was the restaurant La Poularde, in Juan-les-Pins, which supervised the kitchen of the clubhouse.

It also stated that a new committee was elected, in addition to the King of Sweden, the King of Spain, Alfonso XIII, was also Honorary President.

Next to the Archduke Wilhelm, appointed President, were such personalities as Prince Philippe de Bourbon, the Duke of Nemours, Prince Henry Reuss XXXIII, Lord and Lady Carisbrook, the Duke of Westminster, Lord Lonsdale, Baroness Gerta von Einem, the Marquis de Merito, Prince Czartoeysky, Baron Edward de Rothschild and Baron Roger.

The flyer reproduced on the next page specifies that the mayor of Nice, Mr Jean Médecin, was an honorary member of the Board; and the club was also named: *Country Club of Nice*. We will have the opportunity to come back to this point.

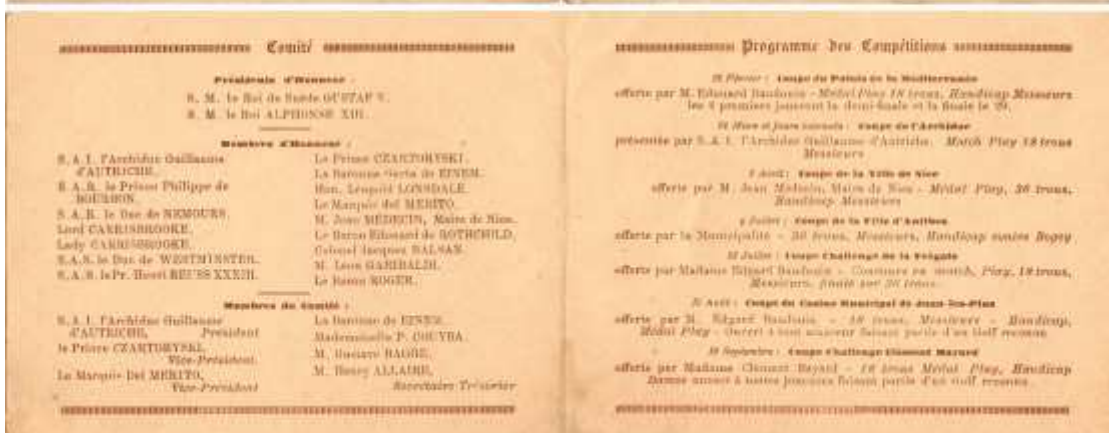
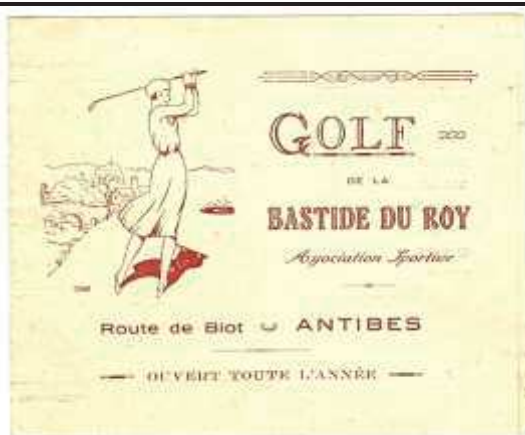
In the past, golf courses on the French Riviera closed at Easter, but from 1932 onwards, a number of them continued to remain open during the summer. It was the case of the Golf Club de la Bastide du Roy, but also the Golf Club de Nice, in Cagnes-sur-Mer, and the Country Club of Mougins, near Cannes. Others would soon follow.

In the autumn of 1934, the course still had only nine holes, and the club only had 33 permanent members – very far from the expected initial number of 300. This low number of permanent members may explain why the course stayed at nine holes.

It seems moreover that a certain number of golf clubs were in financial difficulties and no longer paid their dues to the French Federation (which had just replaced the *Union des Golfs de France*, created by Pierre Deschamps in 1912). So, in June 1934, the latter decided to remove the golf clubs of Andaine (Bagnoles-de-l'Orne), Brides-les-Bains, Etretat and La Bastide du Roy from the official list.

² Perhaps assisted by Mr Pierre Huguenot.

³ 1895-1948. Also named William or Guillaume, he was the great-nephew of Emperor Franz Joseph.



These two flyers for the Golf de la Bastide du Roy, of the same format, deserve a closer look: the one above is from before 1932 (phone number 0-96) while the one below was published after 1932 - the date when the phone number became 10-16.

We can even be more specific. The final of the Cup of the Palais de la Méditerranée (in Nice!) was played on 28 February with, what luck, the final the next day 29 February. Therefore, we were a leap year: 1932, 1936 or 1940. But above all, we note that the name of Archduke Wilhelm of Austria appears twice: as an honorary member, but also as President. It can only be 1932. In 1935 he was fleeing justice.

Note also the names of P. Couyba on the Committee and even more interestingly the Honorary Presidents: the King of Sweden, Gustaf V and the King of Spain Alphonse XIII.



We must mention here a competition which was played on 29 March 1932: 'The Cup of the Archduke of Austria', President of the club.

The photograph opposite shows the cup.

Le Figaro informed us that it was Mr Dor who won this cup by beating Mr Reichenbach by '1 above.' (sic)

On the Cup is engraved:

GOLF DE LA BASTIDE DU ROY
COUPE
DE S.A.I. L'ARCHIDUC GUILLAUME D'AUTRICHE
MONSIEUR L. DOR
29 MARS 1932

But at the end of 1934, a scandal broke out which would occupy a large part of the following year and which would sound the death knell for the Bastide du Roy golf club. A resounding lawsuit affected two of the board members, including its President: the Archduke of Austria - who had to flee France! This episode would resemble a detective novel, which is why we have devoted a whole section to it, a little further on.

With this scandal which weighed on the future of the club, the year 1935 will bring a final point to this first experience of golf at the Bastide du Roy. Success was not forthcoming, and the financial difficulties which followed the 1929 crisis - and whose effects in France arrived late - meant that money became scarcer. The British were fewer in number, and the Americans were more cautious. On 23 August 1935, the *Société Anonyme du Golf d'Antibes-Juan-Les-Pins*, the golf course of the Bastide du Roy, was put into judicial liquidation and sold by public auction.

We will have to wait until 15 May 1937 to read in the magazine *Le Golf et Les Golfeurs* 'The Golf of Antibes-Juan-Les-Pins will be reborn, let's hope so. An Englishman bought the entire estate (the Club House and the land rental rights) for the sum of 200,000 fr., which is not expensive when you consider the millions spent. The plans of the new owner are still unknown'. We haven't found the name of this owner, but, according to Françoise Autiero - who is an inexhaustible club memory for the fifty years after the war - it was most likely Mr Crawford - the father of the postwar owner of the Biot golf club.

However, the 1938 *Guide Plumon* indicates that the course was provisionally closed and the 1939 edition no longer mentions it. However, a local weekly newspaper, *Candide*, regularly published, from 14 February to 3 April 1940, an announcement which translates: 'Golf de la Bastide du Roy. Magnificent location. Mild and regular temperature.' ... But the war had already broken out.

Etude de M^e CASTEL, avoué
1, avenue Thiers, GRASSE (A.-M.)

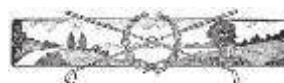
VENTE AUX ENCHERES PUBLIQUES

Le jeudi 11 juin 1936, à 9 h. du matin,
au Palais de Justice, à Grasse.

d'un grand terrain de golf

situé sur le territoire des communes de Biot et d'Antibes, d'une superficie totale d'environ 102.937 m², comprenant une grande construction à usage de Club, élevée d'un étage sur rez-de-chaussée, dénommée « CLUB DE LA BASTIDE DU ROY ».

Mise à prix..... 500.000 fr.
avec faculté de baisse de mise à prix.
Cons. p. ench. 1/4 de l'adjudication.
Pr renseignements s'adresser à M^e CASTEL, avoué à Grasse, M^e DALLON, syndic de faillite, à Antibes, ou à M. BAGGE, à BIOT.



THE TRIAL OF THE ARCHDUKE AND PAULETTE COUYBA.

Once upon a time, there was a little lady from a French post office who had ambition - but certainly not the naivety of Little Red Riding Hood: Paule (known as Paulette) Couyba had left Cahors for Paris. She managed to be the secretary of the politician Joseph Caillaux before working

close to Mr Maurice de Rothschild. In 1929, she met Archduke Wilhelm of Habsburg.

Had it not been for the First World War, the Archduke would have been King of Ukraine. He was a great friend of HM Alfonso XIII and the King of Sweden. He was homosexual, frequenting the gay cabarets of Paris, such as the Carrousel or Madame Arthur. But he also knew how to be close to women.

What Paulette's relationship with the Archduke was, we may never know. Still, everyone agrees that she introduced herself as the Archduke's fiancée and that the Archduke did not contradict her.

He offered her a room in a hotel on the street where he was staying. It is not the place to make a lengthy analysis of their relations, but perhaps the Archduke used Paulette to get more money by taking advantages of some of their acquaintances. Let's note that before 1933, the Archduke's resources were 'limited'. He would only enjoy a more comfortable income after the death of his father.

Many illegalities were attributed to them, but before going back to the one we are dealing with here, the golf course at the Bastide du Roy, we can simply report the couple's latest scam: the one causing their accusations and their trial.

On 10 November 1934, Paulette had an appointment at the Ritz with Mr Hémard, director of a well-known aperitif brand. The Archduke was present, but, it seems, did not intervene. She needed 400,000 francs (a substantial sum) and asked the industrialist to help her by offering him, as a guarantee, shares (securities) that she had in custody at the Rothschild bank. But Mr Hémard was suspicious and proposed that Paulette came to his home the same evening. In the meantime, the industrialist made enquiries with the bank. The guarantees were fake. The police were present; the lady was arrested and taken to prison.

Shortly afterwards, the Archduke was prosecuted for fraud and breach of trust. He was charged, but released on bail. On 19 June, he was due to appear before the examining magistrate to answer questions about the trial. It was too late; the Archduke had crossed the Swiss border. He was on the run.

But let's come to the golf course of the Bastide du Roy. If we refer to the 1932 prospectus, we remember that the Archduke Guillaume was an honorary member and a member of the Committee – we know that he was the chairman – and that Miss P. Couyba was also a member of the committee. We will then understand why the Couyba-Habsburg trial would cast a shadow on the golf club of the Bastide du Roy! But what happened to the club?

The press of the time reported a lot of false information, blaming one or the other of the two accused. We tend to think that there must have been some specific bond between them. What seems most likely is that they were acting together. Among the dupes was the Minister of Public Works, Mr Evrard who lost 20 to 25,000 francs, planned for the extension of the number of holes on the golf course. General Dutrey, *commandeur de la Légion d'honneur*, was also cheated, losing at least 5,000 francs (some newspapers report that it could be 18,000 francs) hoping to meet H.M. Alphonse XIII – who was the Honorary President of the club. This time a receipt, signed Habsburg-Lorraine, for a commission on the affair, is on file.

Mr Gustave Bagge, one of the shareholders of the Antibes golf club, was also cheated! He lent 30,000 francs to Miss Couyba so that the Archduke could go to London and set up a company with the aim of increasing the number of holes in the course from 9 to 18.

Some newspapers reported that Miss Couyba would have sold shares of the golf club of the Bastide du Roy, without her having the right to do so.

Moreover, during the trial, it was reported that in 1932, Miss Couyba was received at the town hall of Nice to present a preliminary project of work relating to the Country Club (perhaps for the extension of the course?). This project amounted to sixteen million francs and '*a request was made to the town council to obtain from the city of Nice a guarantee of the interest and the amortisation of the loan of six million francs which the committee chaired by H.I.H. proposed to take out immediately*'. Perhaps this is why Mr. Jean Médecin, then mayor of Nice, was asked to be appointed to the Board of the 'Country Club de Nice - Golf de la Bastide du Roy' and why he was one of the guests at lunch in February 1932?

But the Nice Town Hall remained cautious. The committee in charge of the project quickly realised that the plan offered few guarantees.

In the end, the Court sentenced Paule Couyba to three years in prison, which was suspended and, in absentia, Wilhelm of Habsburg to five years in prison.

A FEW ADDITIONAL WORDS.

The *Guide Plumon*, 1931, gave (in English) a detailed description of the course – or rather, the project as the text presents the full set of 18 holes-course.

From the club-house, the view is magnificent and overlooks the Mediterranean Sea.

1st hole. - The first tee is on the left of the Club-House. You drive down to a valley. A brassie shot over a rolling terrain, through a pinewood, will lead you to a natural green, partially blind but well indicated, by a hill on the left, and surrounded by fir trees.

2nd hole. It is a slight dog-leg. The tee shot is played through a narrow valley, but must be directed to the right so that the pin is visible. The green is large but well guarded with a deep dry ditch to the right.

Third hole. - A good iron shot through a deep ravine to a natural plateau where the green is remarkably situated.

4th hole. - It is a two shots' hole. The fairway is wide. You must play a spoon to reach the high green.

5th hole. - A brassie or spoon shot towards a green surrounded by centuries-old olive trees.

6th hole. - From the tee, there is a splendid panoramic view over the old village of Biot and the white-topped mountains. It is better to play your drive slightly to the left. An iron shot will lead directly to the green marked by a fir tree.

7th hole. - It is a slight dog-leg. The grounds of *La Bastide du Roy* are to the right and out-of-bounds. You would need a brassie or a spoon to reach the green.

8th hole. – Soon, an artificial lake will be added so that the drive, if not well placed, will make a challenging second shot. The green is located in a most remarkable natural setting. This hole is a

dog-leg and runs along a road on the right, which is out-of-bounds.

9th hole. - The tee is remarkably located in a wood on the banks of the river Brague, where a ball that is shot too high will inevitably go. A line of trees forms a barrier on the right. This hole is a dog-leg. If the drive is not long enough to allow perfect visibility of the green, then the second shot must be played over the shrubs.

10th hole. - A drive and an iron shot to a very undulating green on the edge of the Brague, where a ball thrown too hard would get lost. A line of majestic poplars forms the left side of the fairway.

11th hole. - The tee is naturally formed on the banks of the Brague. From both sides of the green, poplars draw a right angle with the line of play.

12th hole. - A long dog-leg which can be reached in two shots. The green is placed to the right of a row of poplars and left of the fairway. A pulled ball will go directly in the woods.

13th hole. – It is a three-shots hole. When driving, the player must pay attention to the out-of-bounds located very close on the left. For its second shot, the player will have to cross over a bunker – or, to avoid it, passing right or left from it. For the third shot, he will have to play between two trees which form the entrance to the green, with the Brague to the right.

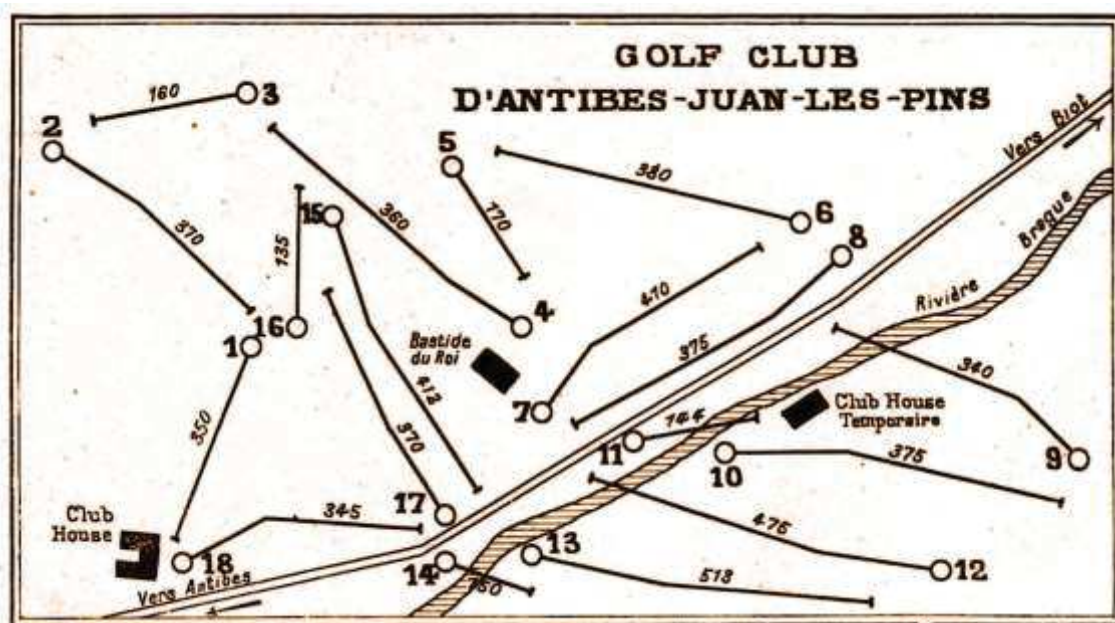
14th hole. - A remarkable small natural hole. It is a wood-shot over the river to a green bypassed by two small streams which meet a little further on.

15th hole. – Dog-leg. You have to drive to the left to face the green, for the second shot, which must be played with a spoon or iron. The green is on a steep plateau.

16th hole. - The tee shot is played to the left, towards a green situated below.

17th hole. - A long two-shot hole. The drive runs along a valley lined with fir trees, and the second must be played with a brassie towards a well-defended bunker.

18th hole. - The tee shot must be at least 160 metres long if you want to see the green. The slightest left-hand spin sends the ball into the woods bordering this angled fairway.



*The routing as published by Guide Plumon between 1931 and 1934
It is very different from the course we will know after the war.*

We will finish with this curious score card (where the course offered only 13 holes) which was provided to us by Mrs Françoise Autiero. May we be allowed to say here that Françoise is the memory of the Biot golf course after the war. She was a child when she was a caddy on the course, and she only left to take a well-deserved retirement. Her passion for her golf-club has led her to become passionate about golf history and collecting.

We were not able to date this scorecard with certainty, but it must date from the immediate post-war period. Here again, it's the phone number that helps us. In those days, Mr Crawford was the President, secretary Miss Causse... C. Viany was the greenkeeper, and the professional was Mr Ch. Gaud.

GOLF DE LA BASTIDE DU ROY

ANTIBES-JUAN-LES-PINS

1934

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1	4	4	3	345	40	3	5	13	375			
2	4	3	3	420	11	3	4	13	330			
3	4	4	4	105	11	4	4	13	330			
4	4	3	3	117	11	4	4	13	330			
5	3	3	3	225	14							
6	4	4	7	354	15							
7	4	4	5	315	16							
8	3	3	3	108	17							
9	4	4	4	225	18							
10	4	4	4	254	19							

Score	Out
Par	Total
Handicap	
Total net	

Edition de M. J. J. J.

Règles Locales

- 1- Marque Lignes 1 et 2. Balles sur la route. Numéros 9, 10 et 11. Balles sur les terrains adjacents. Pénalité, distance.
- 2- Balles complètes et incomplètes. Pénalité, distance. Pénalité, saut.
- 3- Balles près d'une bouche d'eau, pénétration de terrain. Pénalité, distance. Pénalité, saut.
- 4- Tout joueur qui, dans le jeu, se voit pénalisé, le parcours du nombre 15 ainsi que le grand parcours. Pénalité, distance. Pénalité, saut.

Restaurant - Bar

Quick Lunch

TEA

Tel. 307-02

British 'Salmon Lords' brought Golf to Norway in the early 1900's

Eric Madsen, The Danish Golf Historical Society



A postcard which was kindly provided to the Danish Historical Society by Christoph Meister

IT WAS BRITISH 'SALMON LORDS' who brought the golf game to Norway in the early 1900s.

As early as the latter half of the 19th century, members of the British landed gentry were among the tourists along the salmon-rich rivers in north-west Norway, among others at Åndalsnes, located at the mouth of the Rauma river in the Romsdalfjord. Hølgens Hotel, in the valley of Åndalsnes, was established in 1887, to serve a growing number of British salmon fishers along Rauma.

Fifteen years later, in 1902, the hotel was bought by the Englishman Harold V. Olred, and he wanted to offer his guests more than flyfishing.

Therefore he took the initiative to Hølgens Golf Club, which was founded in 1902, probably by inspiration from the British gentry tourists who played golf in their home country.

The 9-hole golf course was built on an area within Setnesmoen Military Camp at Åndalsnes. The area was not in use for military activities, so the camp commander Lt. Col. August G. Sprøck was willing to make it available.

The British salmon fishermen often had a military background. Apparently, they enjoyed the interaction with officers from Setnesmoen, so it was also obvious that Lieutenant Colonel A.G. Sprøck became the golf-club's first President.

During the summer months, dozens of British salmon fishers came to the coveted sports fishing environment in the Romsdalen, and they also played golf on the course in Setnesmoen.

The British lords brought with them a staff of servants, and every summer a British golf pro was hired to teach guests. Maintenance of the golf course was carried out by local people.

In 1905, Hølgens Golf Club organised the first golf tournament in Norway. It resulted in postcards that in text and photo drew attention to the event.

In 1907 Harold V. Oldred sold the hotel and the name was changed to Park Hotel, later Park Turisthotel. The golf club also changed its name to Park Hotel Golf Klubb among people just the 'Park Club'.

In connection with the sale of the hotel, responsibility for the operation of the golf course was taken over by Lord Bromley Davenport. He owned Fiva House, close to the Rauma river.

However, the outbreak of the First World War in 1914 meant that British salmon fishers no longer went travelling to the Norwegian rivers, for that reason after 1915 golf was no longer played on Setnesmoen.



A postcard promoting 'Golf – Fishing – Tennis – Boating' in Norway

Many years later in 1997, several Norwegian golf enthusiasts initiated the foundation of Rauma Golf Klubb, located at the same place.

The course, also known as Åndalsnes Golf Course, has nine holes in the beautiful countryside of the valley surrounded by high mountains.

500

The Golfing Annual.

ROMSDAL.—ROMSDAL GOLF CLUB, INSTITUTED JULY, 1905. *Annual Subscription*, 40 Kroner (2L 4s. 6d.); Ladies, 20 Kroner. *President*—Col. A. Sprøck. *Hon. Secretary*—H. Ahlroth, Norwegian Information Bureau, 101, Fleet Street, London, E.C., and Hotel Hølgens, Romsdal, Norway.

The course, of eighteen holes—the first to be laid out in Norway—is in connection with the Hotel Hølgens in the most picturesque part of the Romsdal Valley. The holes vary from 134 to 300 yards, the turf is of good quality, and the hazards comprise water, sandpits, scrub, &c. Visitors, Kr. 2.50 a day, or Kr. 10 a week.

First notice of Romsdal in Golfing-Annual 1906-1907

A text published in *The Scotsman*, 24 July 1906

Golf in Norway.

'For the most part Norway is today just as God made it and the old Vikings left it. In winter, spring, summer, and autumn alike, the whole territory is one fairyland of loveliness.' Such are the terms employed by a writer in a recent account of Norway. For obvious reasons, greater interest will henceforth be manifested in that country by all English-speaking people, and intending visitors to the Land of the Midnight Sun will include many who are in doubt as to whether they should take their clubs with them. Truth to tell, Norway seems to have been neglected by the golfer, or rather, the Norwegians have neglected golf. When one hears on all hands that golf has penetrated into every corner of the globe, it is surprising to learn that not until about a year ago could a golf course be found in Norway. The Romsdal Club, with its headquarters in the Romsdal Valley, claims the distinction of being the first organisation of the kind in that country. The club was formed last year under the auspices of the 4th Battalion of the Søndmøre Regiment, in conjunction with the Empire Hotels Company, London, and the course of 18 holes, said to be of a sporting character, and covering about three miles, has been well patronised by visitors since it was opened. A correspondent who has recently returned from Norway, and who has played at Romsdal, says it is a really good sporting links, of a sandy nature, with short seaside turf, and although many improvements can yet be made, one can play the Royal and ancient game under very favourable conditions.

More about the Grand Duke Michael and golf at Cannes

David Hamilton



JBK has written about the Grand Duke (Golfika #3), but there is more to add to the story of this man who was the founder and dominant figure at Cannes Golf Club. This text is after a presentation given at the EAGHC meeting at Pau 2018.



THE GRAND DUKE MICHAEL MICHAILOVITCH of Russia (1861-1927) was a second cousin of Tsar Alexander III, and in 1891 he was exiled after making an unsuitable marriage which was unpopular with the Tsar. He lived thereafter in Europe, including Germany and then Keele Hall in Staffordshire, in England from 1910, and he was one of the few of the Romanov dynasty to survive the Revolution. He was close to the Royal Family in Britain and his wife Sophie Nicholaieva was given the suitably aristocratic title of Countess de Torby, in Luxembourg.

They wintered in the south of France at Cannes and although he was not much of a golfer, he founded the Golf Club there in 1891.



Because of the Russian events, he was a romantic figure, and a favourite with the newspapers who regularly noticed his travels and his interest in golf. He was President of the Berlin Golf Club and vice president of the British Professional Golfers Association, as well as President of his local English Newcastle-Under-Lyme Golf Club.

Photographs taken at Cannes show him accompanied by his wife, and a similar image, by Viktor Cleve, was used on the cover of Golfika in 2015. Other pictures taken outside the Golf Club with two companions show that the required dress code was a jacket with the Romanoff vertical red and white stripes. The lady golfers required an even fuller kit, as the photograph of Mrs Tennant shows. She was one of the best golfers, male or female, at Cannes and was the wife of a rich Scottish industrialist.



Mrs. A. H. Tennent's handicap was once plus 12!

The Grand Duke showed skill in founding the club and was an authoritarian figure thereafter. He arranged for the design of the course, and improvements thereafter, and he appointed the professionals, donated the main trophy and other prizes. He was deferred to on and off the course, and there had to be to a gap of two holes in front of his game. The catering at the Club was a feature and lunch was an important fixture in Cannes social life. Lunch was at a fixed time, and all play ceased, and lunch started when he took his place. The food was prepared by César Ritz, the famous chef, working at a nearby hotel. With this style, it was the leading French golf club and attracted some rich American visitors. Suitable temporary members could also enrol.

The Golf Club had an active series of club competitions from November to March and the results were reported in the golf magazines together with a list of socially prominent members visiting the town. There were plenty ladies competitions which were as well supported as the men's events, at a time when none of the older golf clubs in Britain had a ladies membership and were hostile to the idea. While wintering abroad, these assumptions could be relaxed. A feature of the ladies competition results was that married ladies were outnumbered by the unmarried players and doubtless all these 'Miss' entrants, who all had

English names, were the daughters of wealthy parents brought to Cannes hoping for introductions to suitable unmarried men. The Golf Club may have been a high class agency d'introduction.

The ladies handicaps were quite low, with one or two scratch players, including Miss Wigham, daughter of another Scottish merchant who was off +7 and did well in British events. The Countess Torby played off a handicap of 4 and returned respectable scores. An odd finding was that, although the deeply involved Grand Duke clearly played social golf and lunched there regularly, he does not feature in any of the competition results. Hence his handicap and his form are not known. Perhaps, being a proud aristocrat, he did not risk humiliation in open competitions.

In addition to club golf, he organised some prominent events, and in England in 1905 his 'Grand Duke Michael's Team' played a challenge match against a Royal Liverpool team at Hoylake, which including Ball and Hilton. In 1907 he put up a prize of £150 for a tournament at Cannes and invited ten prominent professionals, paying their expenses. The winner was Arnaud Massy.

He had some visits to Scotland and was an honorary member at Royal Musselburgh, and met the Rev John Kerr, who later gave the Grand Duke a presentation copy of his Golf-Book of East Lothian. He played a public mixed foursome match with his wife on a visit to St Andrews, presenting his caddie, Jack Kirkaldy, with a diamond pin. Michael also played at North Berwick during their summer fashionable season and, travelling far north, was a guest of the Duchess of Sutherland at her castle during the shooting season. While there, he agreed to open the local Golspie Golf Club fund-raising fete. Since his English was not good, he brought along a fellow guest, Winston Churchill, to speak for him and this led Churchill to make a rare and witty speech about golf (q.v.).

But thereafter things did not go well for the Grand Duke. His income from Russia was cut off in 1919 and up to his death in 1927, money was tight. He kept up appearances but opportunities for his talents had dried up.

Golf – An elitist approach 'Le Collège de Bouffémont'

Huguette Rossi-Kazmierczak



IN 1924, Henri and Henriette Pichon founded the women's college of Bouffémont. It provided high-quality education for young girls aged 8 to 20 years old, from high society - Parisian and international. Of course, golf was offered to the students who would attend this establishment. The picture above is from a blotter.

The place was built in 1924 on the plans of Maurice Boutterin, Grand Prix de Rome 1909. Contrary to the dormitories that could be seen elsewhere, the young students were housed in individual rooms, one hundred in number, distributed among the three castles (*Castel-sous-Bois*, the *Manoir de Longpré* and the *Palais Scolaire*).

For the lessons, nineteen classrooms opened onto a magnificent 30-hectare park.

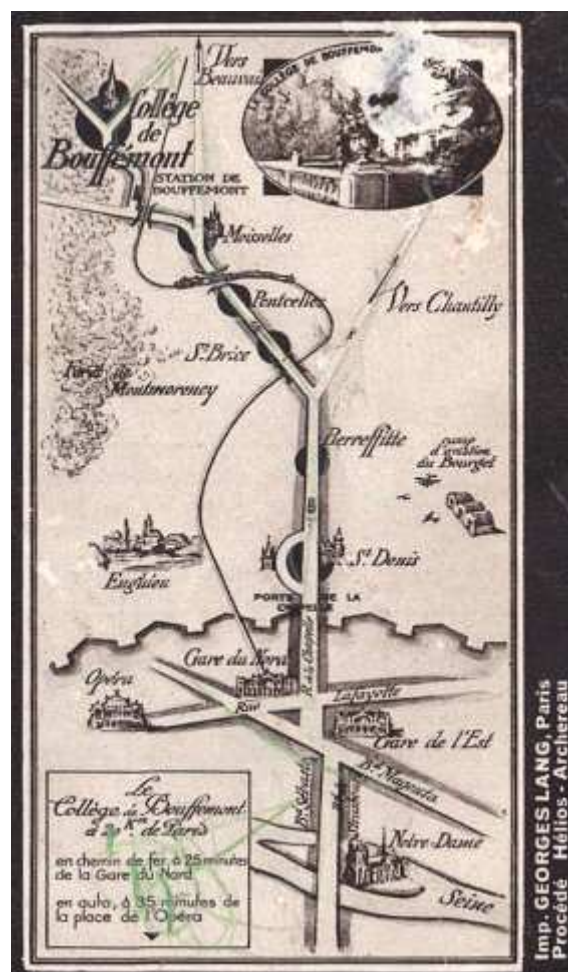
There was a splendid library of over 20,000 books, a laboratory for practical science work, a sewing room, a laundry and ironing room. But one could also have access to numerous double-walled rooms for musical studies or nine terraces for resting. There was also a doctor's surgery, a dentist's office, a hairdresser's salon, gymnasiums and even two swimming pools, one with 300 m³ of hot water and another with 1,000 m³ of running water that allowed them to take cold baths for six to eight months of the year.



As can be seen above, in front of the main building, there was a putting green. The park was offering a golf course with a few holes for play.

Henriette Pichon was in charge of it until the Wehrmacht requisitioned it. The establishment then moved to the Château de Barraix Bussoles in Lapalisse, near Vichy. Several testimonies from Jewish children and employees of this castle attest that Mrs Pichon had integrated them into the school to protect them from arrest. In 1946, the college became a sanatorium.

A stone's throw from this place, on 13 October 1991, on the park of the Baron Empain's property, was inaugurated the Paris International Golf Club. Jack Nicklaus, who had designed the course, came back to hit the inaugural drive. JBK and I, we had the pleasure to watch him play.



Thefts at the Biarritz Golf-Club Le Phare



OUR MEMBERS are certainly keeping fantastic memories from the days we spent at Biarritz Le Phare in 2018 – just after another great meeting at Pau. When we were present there, we were able to see some exceptional items in both clubs. Today, we have some bad news, and we want to inform our readers that two thefts were reported at the Biarritz G.C. – possibly at the same moment – even if the management did not notice it right away.

Eliane Bidegain, who has done so much for the history of the Golf of Biarritz, informs us that two objects were stolen from the club.

The first was reported to us on 11 June of this year. The statue of Pierre Hirigoyen, which was in the lounge of the club, has disappeared. This statue, about 60 centimetres high, by Joël Roux (who had already made a statue of Arnaud Massy) was made of bronze and fixed on a wooden base. The disappearance certainly dates from February, even if, because of the confinement, Mr Claude Rousseau, the Director, did not realise it until June. This statue is about 60 cm high.

We were informed of the second theft on 13 August. It is a map box. It is made of wood, 17 cm high, 29.5 cm wide and 19 cm deep. It reads "Cards for Members desiring handicaps". There is an insertion slot on the top; the key is missing.

This box most likely disappeared at the same time as the statue of Hirigoyen. Most likely, when objects were moved to build a showcase in the middle of the restaurant. Objects were moved, and the box must likely have disappeared at that time.

The new President of the S.E.M., which manages the golf club, has taken steps to strengthen the protection of historic property and to better safeguard the heritage.



Pierre Hirigoyen bronze statue (left) and card-box (right)

The importance of *Tyrocinium linguae latinae* by Petrus Apherdianus – Ludimagister

By Robin K. Bargmann



THE *TYROCINIUM LINGUAE LATINAE* is a Netherlandish educational textbook by Petrus Apherdianus (Peter van Afferden, c.1510-c.1580), first published in 1552, with Latin conversation exercises containing subjects of everyday life in the Low Countries, including popular games at the time such as colf. In total the exercise book contains forty seven chapters with Latin texts and the Dutch translation of each line of text. Four chapters cover contemporary ball games: *De Sphaeris*, Clossen (Eng. ringball); *De Sphaeris missilibus*, Cloot worpen (Eng. ball shooting); *De Pila Palmaria*, Caetsen (Eng. cache or tennis); *De Clavis plumbatis*, Colven (Eng. colf). The Colf chapter contains twenty-five lines describing numerous aspects of the game of colf as it was played. It gives wonderful insights in this early game of the Low Countries in comparison to golf played in Scotland.



*Clava Plumbata*⁴

According to F. de Tollenaere the *Tyrocinium linguae latinae* by Peter van Afferden was discovered in 1956 by G. de Smet in the Württembergische Landesbibliothek in Stuttgart. This was the German edition of 1575 published in Cologne. This discovery was first mentioned in a bibliographic article by B. de Graaf in 1959⁵.

Little is known about the early life of Peter van Afferden. No information is available as to the exact year of Pieter van Afferden's birth. However, from other evidence it can be safely concluded that he lived between about 1510 and 1580. The unanimous opinion of seventeenth-century bio-bibliographers is that he was born in Wageningen and lived with his parents in nearby Afferden in Guelders. This is not the village Afferden with the same name in Noord-Limburg, causing some confusion amongst Dutch golf historians in the past. Moreover, there is no

⁴ *Clava plumbata* – Latin for a leaden club. This is the typical single club used at the game of colf played in the Low Countries from the late medieval period. It was made of a single piece of ash wood with lead sheet covering the clubhead to add more swing weight.

⁵ This article is based on two important biographical information sources: Bibliographies of Dutch

Humanists, I – Petrus Apherdianus, Ludimagister ca. 1510-1580 by Bob de Graaf & Maria Emilie de Graaf. Nieuwkoop, B. de Graaf (1968); Apherdianus – *Tyrocinium* – 1552, Oude Nederlandse Woordenboeken – republished by Stichting Instituut voor de Nederlandse Lexicologie, F. de Tollenaere en G. de Smet, Series II: 16th Century, Part 4. De Haag, Martinus Nijhof (1976).

evidence at all that he ever set foot in the village of Afferden in Limburg.

According to De Tollenaere there is a record in the university of Leuven that "Petrus Wilhelmi, Wageringus" was registered there in 1539. In all probability this is the same person as Peter van Afferden. His year of his birth is therefore to be put at about 1515 or a little later.

Van Afferden became a lector (teacher) at the Latin school⁶ of Hardewijk in 1543 and appointed rector (school principal) there in 1552. Van Afferden published the first edition of his *Methodus discendi formulas Lintinae linguae* in 1549, followed in 1552 by his popular *Tyrocinium linguae Latinae*. Other later publications were *Institutio puerorum*, *Epigrammata moralia*, *Elegia*, *Carmen Scholasticum*, e.a.. The first reference to the *Tyrocinium* – probably a privately printed booklet but not yet published – was dedicatory address to his benefactors Henricus Munster and Gualterus Brenius' *suis mecoenatibus* with a letter dated 23 July 1545 at Hardewijk. The text and date of this letter appears as foreword in the first publication and later editions of the *Tyrocinium* in 1552 (Antwerp). The first German edition of 1575 published in Cologne. In all fifty-six editions of his various books were published of which thirty-eight in the Netherlandish language, demonstrating the popularity of his educational Latin textbooks.

In 1556 Van Afferden was appointed conrector of the distinguished Grote Latijnse School in Amsterdam (founded in 1342), and rector in 1567. He received a yearly grant of 60 guilders from the Municipal Treasury plus 100 guilders from the school funds and a rent-free house in Gravenstraat. He was allowed to give private lessons there and take in pupil boarders as additional source of income.

There is a tendency to overlook the immense value of Van Afferden's Latin textbooks and primers. He taught Latin for nearly forty years of

which the last twenty five in Amsterdam. He educated whole generations of pupils. His textbooks were used in Latin schools until the middle of seventeenth century.

Unfortunately, due to the Alteration of Amsterdam⁷, whereby catholic magistracy and priesthood were officially expelled, Apherdianus, being a catholic, was relieved from his position in 1578. Not much is known of his further life and he probably died in 1580 in Amsterdam.

De Graaf focusses in his bibliographical work on the often neglected heritage of the early sixteenth-century Humanism of the Northern Provinces of the Low Countries. The names of more than one hundred and fifty Humanists are listed in his work. The greatest Humanist Erasmus receives bibliographically most publicity, more than the others put together of which there are very few bio-bibliographies⁸. In his published work Erasmus would also put emphasis on the importance of physical exercise in education and described a few forms of ball games.

The importance of the *Tyrocinium*, and especially of the chapter and lines describing the game of colf played in the Low Countries during the sixteenth century, is that it gives wonderful insight into how the game is played in comparison to the Scottish game of golf. From the text it can be deduced how the game of colf was played and what the basic rules were. The game was played on land with a single lead weighted club and a ball aimed towards a distant hole in the ground. It was a long game requiring a full swing of the club at the ball. Rules and etiquette applied to the game. The turn of play was set before playing. A missed shot counted as a stroke. Lost balls occurred and were penalised. Good and bad strokes were part of the game and good fortune was also needed.

⁶ The Latin school was the grammar school of 14th- to 19th-century Europe. Latin schools began to develop to reflect Renaissance humanism around the 1450s. Scholars like the Dutch humanist, Desiderius Erasmus (1466–1536), denounced the church and the way it taught –

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Latin_school

⁷ *Alteratie* (Eng: Alteration) is the name given to the change of power in Amsterdam on May 26, 1578,

when the Catholic city government was deposed in favour of a Protestant one. The coup should be seen in the context of the greater Dutch Revolt that was breaking out in this time –

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alteratie>

⁸ Nijhoff, Wouter and M.E. Kronenberg – *Nederlandsche Bibliografie van 1500 tot 1540* (1923-1971).

It is noteworthy that an English version based on the Tyrocinium textbook was published under the title *Vocabula* by David Wedderburn (1580-1646) in 1633. He was a Scotsman and a schoolmaster at Aberdeen Grammar School⁹. His Latin textbook also contains a chapter describing early golf in Scotland. The golf chapter is titled *Baculus* in Latin (a stick) as opposed to the *Clava plumbata* (leaden club) used in Van Afferden's textbook. This would prove somewhat that Wedderburn views the Scottish game of golf as different although perhaps comparable to the Dutch game of colf. It is said that he believed the word golf to be a linguistical derivation of the Latin word *baculus*, meaning a stick or club. This would be incorrect as etymologically the word golf derives from the Dutch word colf. Also the Latin word for a hole is different in both textbooks. Wedderburn uses *fovea*, and Van Afferden uses the Latin word *scroba*, whereas the purpose and size of the hole would have been the same in both games. Interestingly Wedderburn did use the Latin terminology *pila clavaria* for a golf ball, thus referring to the word *clava* for a club as used by Van Afferden.

Following is chapter 24 in full

of *Tyrocinium linguae Latinae* by Petrus Apherdianus:

1. *Clava plumbata* – Een loden colve – A leaden club
2. *Clave lenta et commode* – Een taep ende ghemakkelijcke colve – A supple and suited club
3. *Vis ne ludamus clava plumbata?* – Willen wij colven? – Shall we play colf?
4. *Ferire pilam clava* – Den bal met den colve slaen – To hit the ball with the colf
5. *Abscedite parum, dum feriam* – Wijkt een weynich soo lange al sick slae – Stand back while I am hitting
6. *Abscedite paululum, a luce absitis, idem* – Gaet uut dat licht – Stand back, don't stand in the light
7. *Non obstamus tibi a luce* – Wy en staen u niet int licht – We are not standing in your light

⁹ Compare also to the work of Hadrianus Junius (also known by his Dutch name Adriaen de Jonghe) – *Nomenclatur*, first published in 1567 and translated in English in 1585. De Jonghe therein describes the colf

8. *Quid tibi videtur is ictus?* – Wat dunckt u van den slach? – What do you think of the stroke?

9. *Ille ictus non est poenitendus* – Dat is eenen goeden slach – That is a good stroke

10. *Amisi pilam e conspectu meo* – Ick hebben den bal verloren – I have lost the ball

11. *Pila non potest hinc longe abesse* – Den bal en can niet verre van hier zijn – The ball cannot be far from here

12. *Eccam haud procul a te* – Siet daer is den bal niet verre van u – Look the ball is not far from you

13. *Qui aberrant a pila, perditius feriendi* – Die mist, verliest sinen slach – Who misses the ball loses a stroke

14. *Non multum a scrobe absum* – Ick ben niet verre van den cuyl – I am not far from the hole

15. *Ego recta petam scrobem* – Ick salt recht nae den cuyl setten – I will aim straight at the hole

16. *Ad quem redit ordo lundendi?* – Wiens behoorte ist te spelen? – Whose turn is it to play?

17. *Ordo redit ad Ioannem* – Het is Joanis behoorte – It is John's turn

18. *Ego vicem tuam obibo* – Ick saal voor u spelen – I will play before you

19. *Haud moris est, obseruat quisque suam vicem* – Dat en is gheen manier, een yegelijke houde zijn behoorte – That is no manner, everyone shall keep his turn

20. *Praescribe mihi quid faciam, premonstra quid vieri velis* – Wijst mij hoe ik doen sal – Tell me what to do, show me how

21. *Pilam facile in scrobem propellam* – Ick wil den bal lichtelijck in doen – I will stroke the ball easily in the hole

22. *Tu ducis pilam* – Ghij leyt den bal – You are leading the ball

23. *Haud me fallum tue artes* – Ick weet u boeverije wel – I know your tricks

24. *Haud male lusi, sed fortuna non favet* – Ick heb wel gespeelt maer ten en wil niet gelucken – I played well but was unlucky

ball and game as *pila clavaria*, que *clava plumbata* expellitur. This was translated in English as 'a ball stuft with hard haire or wooll, which they use to smite in play with cudgels leaded at the ends'.

25. Desinamus, cepit me faciet as huius ludi –
Laet ons ophouden, ick ben dit spel moede –
Let's stop, I have had enough of this game

Origins of Golf

Unfortunately, due to the abundance of texts and images of the game of golf played in that period in the northern Low Countries (or the Dutch Republic), the erroneous but understandable conclusion was made by early golf historians in Scotland that the Scottish game of golf has its origin in Holland¹⁰, a province or county in the northern Low Countries and lead steer of the Dutch Republic. This idea was occasionally but unsuccessfully defused by others¹¹ and has remained a bone of contention ever since. The contention only increased after publications by successive Dutch golf historians J.A. Brongers and Steven van Hengel, claiming that the birthplace of golf was without any doubt to be found in Holland but not, however, providing convincing documentary evidence thereof¹². Van Hengel was even being blindly supported by renowned icons in the golfing world such as the famous golf writer Peter Dobereiner, who stated that "every fact which is hall-marked 'S v H' carries a guarantee of proof, it is unalloyed by guesswork and speculation." The claim that golf was first played in Loenen, Holland in 1297 has now been proven incorrect repeatedly. Recent research outcome is now firmly pointing in the direction of the settlement of migrating Flemings in Scotland during the normanisation period in the aftermath of the conquest of England by Wilhelm I and their influence on the development of early games in Scotland.

With regards to the origins of the game of golf it is of interest to note that in 2016 a project was undertaken by the University of St Andrews (St

Andrews Institute of Scottish Historical Research) lead by Prof. Roger Mason. The overall aim of the project was to provide an accessible overview of the impact of the Flemish people on Scotland and the historical interactions between Scotland and Flanders (the southern Low Countries or modern-day Belgium) between the eleventh and seventeenth centuries.

Over time the Flemish may well have been one of Scotland's largest immigrant groups with major impact on the economy and society, thus creating a new lallans (lowlands) cultural region¹³. Focus of the project was on the changes made during the period following the Normanisation of Scotland¹⁴ and the reign of King David I (1124 – 1153), a process named by scholars as the Davidian Revolution, and thereafter. During his reign David built many burghs, Scotland's first towns, and worked on reshaping the country's political and religious society, and its economy through established regional trade. Also, its ethnicity changed permanently, replacing the old Gaelic culture and language in the Lowlands of Scotland. For the Gaels the foreigners were inglis and lallanders, English- and Dutch-speaking migrants, who helped form the lowland Scots dialect¹⁵. These migrants, clerics, artisans, merchants and others were needed to ensure further social development and economic growth of these burghs, which were kept in the royal demesne. Earlier, following King Wilhelm's Conquest of England, in which large numbers of Flemish nobles and knights participated as can be determined from the Domesday Book, many of these Flemings were invited to join the Scottish court by King David. Through his mother Margaret of Wessex and his sister Matilda's marriage with King Henry I, son of Wilhelm the Conqueror, David was at the same time a man of influence at the English court.

¹⁰ James Cunningham, first chapter of A History of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club by H.C.S. Everard, St Andrews – 1907; Martin Hardie, regular articles with illustrations in the weekly Golf Illustrated magazine, starting in 1900.

¹¹ Hutchinson, Horace G. – Golf, The Badminton library of sports and pastimes, edited By His Grace the Duke of Beaufort, K.G. (1893).

¹² Brongers, J.A. – Holland, The Cradle of Golf, in The Golfers Year (1951); Hengel, S.J.H. van – Early Golf. Naarden (1982).

¹³ The Lowlands (Scots: the Lallans or the Lawlands; Scottish Gaelic: a' Ghalldachd, 'the place of the foreigner') is a cultural and historic region of

Scotland. The Lowlands is not an official geographical or administrative area of the country – https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scottish_Lowlands.

¹⁴ Ritchie, Graeme. The Normans in Scotland. Edinburgh University Press (1954); Oksanen, Eljas. Flanders and the Anglo-Norman World 1066-1216. Cambridge University Press (2012); Toorians, L. 'Twelfth-century Flemish Settlement in Scotland' in Simpson, Grant G. (ed), Scotland and the Low Countries, 1124–1994. Tuckwell Press (1996), 1–14.

¹⁵ Murison, David – 'The Dutch Element in the Vocabulary of Scots' in AJ Aitken et al. (eds). Edinburgh, Studies in English and Scots. London (1971), 159-176.

Clearly, these aspects can only confirm that there was substantial Flemish influence in Scotland in this period. Part of this research project was focussed on the Flemish influence on early games in Scotland. The research was limited to colf and golf¹⁶, caets and cache¹⁷ (tennis), and bollen and bonspiel¹⁸ (curling). Most of the early Scottish history has fallen through the cracks of time. However, there is strong etymological evidence, supported by other mostly circumstantial documentary evidence, demonstrating the Flemish influence and how games have evolved and assimilated over time. A synopsis of the results of this research project have now been published with contributions by participants¹⁹.

Illustrations from Books of Hours picturing the game of colf played in the sixteenth century in

the southern Low Countries are shown next page. The game was usually played in threesomes with an arbiter attending to referee the game. Although the illustrations are rather primitive and compact, it can be clearly detected how colf was played. In early days the game was played with a small wooden ball. It can not be determined whether a leather ball, stuffed with feathers or hair, is here played with. The leather ball, a featherie or pennebal, had most probably made a crossover from cache or caets to golf or colf. This needs to be further researched. The full swing demonstrates that the game was played over a larger distance. The ball was played towards a hole as target. After the game wagers were settled in the nearby inn with beer or cash. In the background the skyline of the city of Antwerp is clearly recognisable.



Above: Illustration by Flemish School in Book of Hours (vellum), 16th century, Museo Patriarca, Valencia, Spain.
Below: Illustration by Simon Bening in Flemish Book of Hours - The Month of September, also called 'Golf Book' ca. 1520 Bruges, The British Library, Add.Ms. 24098, fol. 26v-27c11696-04.



¹⁶ Geddes, Olive – A Swing Through Time - Golf in Scotland 1457-1744. National Library of Scotland (2007); Hamilton, David. Golf, Scotland's Game. Partick Press (1998).

¹⁷ St John Butler, L. and PJ Wordie (eds) – The Royal Game. Falkland Palace Real Tennis Club (1989).

¹⁸ Smith, David B – Curling: An Illustrated History. John Donald (1981).

¹⁹ Fleming, Alexander and Roger Mason (eds) – Scotland and the Flemish People. Birlinn (2019).

The Start of Golf in Romania

Douglas MacKenzie



IN THE SPORTSMAN IN 1924, clearly recognisable as part of a 'we need a couple of hundred words for this corner of the page' piece, a journalist wrote: "The writer remembers an enthusiastic golfer who was interested in oil and found it necessary to settle in Rumania; within a few months words came from him that after laborious exertions he had succeeded in forming out of rough scrub, with old tin cans, something approaching a course upon which the Royal and Ancient game was possible."

Admittedly a rather vague and hard to verify claim to being the first course in Romania so, until more details appear from some long-forgotten memoir in a dusty antiquarian bookshop, the first course in the country will continue to be the Bucharest Golf Club.

Before I move to the story of the Bucharest Club, which is as torturous as root canal treatment, a lighter interlude. The Romanians, in fact, invented golf. I was told the story by a Bucharest taxi driver propelling me at breakneck speed to the airport while insisting on maintaining eye contact rather than looking at the road. The theme of 'we invented everything' is a typical hangover from Ceaușescu who adopted the nationalist anthropologists accounts from the early 20th century that Latin was a dialect of Dacian/Thracian and that the Dacians were the survivors of Troy (though the great helmsman might just have made that one up over a few glasses of țuică). I was surprised to find some historical precedent for the golf story. When I say 'historical', what I mean is that another manic taxi driver, probably with a team of horses rather than a Dacia Logan told the story to an Associated Press reporter in the 1920s. Supposedly the peasants of Romania were then still playing (and possibly the EU's Common

Agricultural Policy would not dissuade them now) porca inherited from the ancient Dacians where a crooked stick knocks a ball of bone or wood into a hole. When the conquered Dacians were pressed into the Roman legions and sent to ancient Britain they took the game with them and the autochthones of Scotland, who clearly had never thought of knocking something about with a stick, were entranced. The Scots, not liking porca, meaning pig, as a name for the game changed it to "gaugh" the sound a pig makes [really?] and hence golf. Porca pies no doubt, but inventive.

Most accounts of the creation of the Bucharest course, and they are few and sparse, compress a few organisations, the Jockey club, the Automobile club, the Country club and their activities, into a very short time frame when in fact the developments took much longer. For example, an article on the Royal Romanian Automobile Club in România Liberă suggests a few of its members got together at the end of the 1920s and got the country club and all its activities going. Firstly, this was five or six years after everything was running and considerably longer since things got started. The earliest stirring of activity down Băneasa way was the development of a new racecourse.

The Jockey Club had very rich backers, General Manu, Cantacuzino, Prince Ghica, Prince Barbu Știrbei, Prince Sturdza, Prince Șutzu, Kogălniceanu, Marghiloman, Chrissoveloni, a Who's Who of Romanian society, and the support of King Carol I. Even if the names mean little to you I mention them because the same ones appear again and again in this story. Their financial power explains how the initial hippodrome plan of the architect Berindey in 1907 grew and grew to 52 hectares in 1910 and 62 hectares in 1915.



The new racecourse opened in 1905, demolished in 1960.

Now, if we follow the Jockey Club's description of the history, its vice-president Alexandru Marghiloman founded the Cercul de Sporturi "Băneasa Country Club", and obtained another 15 hectares from City Hall for riding and playing polo. And, according to this account, he then offered to the mayor that he would take another 30 hectares and transform that into a park for the city. The horsiness is completely believable: Marghiloman was a better horse breeder than a prime minister with 28 Romanian Derby winners but what would be his interest in all the other activities of the country club, golf, swimming, tennis (which the Jockey Club account does not even mention)? The article on the Automobile Club rather tails off with them muttering about consulting m' learned friends as to who owns what in the deeds of the club.

An article in Q Magazine in 2014 (again in Romanian) at least synthesises the competing claims. The Country Club "Sporting Circle" was founded in 1920 at the headquarters of the Jockey Club with 143 members each paying a registration fee of 4000 lei and 2 corporate bodies, the Jockey and Automobile clubs with capital of 500,000 and 200,000 lei respectively. This article introduces another character to the cast, the American businessman "Colonel Grabel". In this version he goes with Marghiloman to see Corbescu, the mayor. In this version, rather than Marghiloman's magnanimous gesture, the mayor grants the land for the country club only if its members agree to develop the "National Park" (later briefly Carol II Park, I V Stalin Park before becoming Herăstrău Park, though officially since December 2017, Parcul Regele Mihai I al României but I've yet to hear anyone call it King Michael's Park) at the club's expense. This was agreed and, as I wrote above, the same names from the development of the hippodrome run

through to the development of the club and the new public park. Max Ausschnitt, Negroponte, Dimitri Chrissoveloni, the princes Cantacuzino, Ghica and Barbu Știrbey are all mentioned, rich and powerful backers, 'thin cheeks' (obrazele subțiri) is the Romanian expression Q Magazine uses to describe them, and suggests that their inclusion could mean there were no 'serious objections' to the two developments and that even the opposition press could recognise 'evidence of public devotion'.

Well, that's one story. The American press tells a quite different one after the country club is completed in 1923 (the main work on Herăstrău Park was much later, 1930-35, and the park opened in 1936). The country club was completed 'through American enterprise', despite 'great popular protest' and 'against strong opposition from the anti-foreign clique which opposed the project for two years'. Perhaps the New York Times let the cat out of the bag when it wrote 'the object of the club is to afford recreation to members of the American colony' but noted 'any Roumanian or foreigner is eligible to join'. Maybe being Canadian the Ottawa Journal could be a little more open, suggesting that the influx of North Americans, 'has resulted in a distinct anti-foreign campaign in Bucharest. Rumanians claim that foreigners through their influence at Court are obtaining all the most valuable concessions in the country and have succeeded in manipulating import regulations so that their goods flood the markets'. But no sooner does the window begin to open it slams shut again. 'The full story of the difficulties with which those interested in building the club had to contend cannot yet be told for diplomatic reasons but some day in the future it will make interesting reading and throw a brilliant sidelight on the ramification of policies in Eastern Europe.' Well, we're still waiting.

So the club was built for the great and the good of Bucharest and welcomed with open arms by the city or it was strongly opposed because it was a playground for Americans. Like much of 20th century Romanian history, there are two diametrically opposing views, even on the founding of a Golf Club!

Which account is closer to the truth? I think one aspect of it is particularly illustrative: in addition to golf, tennis, polo and the lake for swimming and boating, the sports complex included a baseball diamond. Who but Americans wants to

dress in pyjamas and play rounders? And it was not an afterthought: it was central to the opening ceremony. That ceremony was led by the Royal family and was choreographed either to show the club's importance to Romania or to emphasise that Brătianu and the PNL were in charge and could deal with foreign influence as they saw fit, take your pick. There was a solemn procession, blessed by some high-ranking Orthodox priest, followed by the raising of the club and national flags and the playing of the national anthem. The Royal family then split up. The Queen of Yugoslavia, the former Princess Maria of Romania, threw in the ball for the first baseball game in the Balkans which was between Americans resident in Bucharest and members of the Romanian government staff; King Ferdinand hit the first drive on the golf course; Queen Marie started the polo match; and Prince Carol served first on the tennis courts.

And who was the American "Colonel Grabell" and what was his role in the development? I have seen him identified as Colonel Grabell even in a published peer-reviewed paper in Romania.



Colonel Edwin St John Greble (Image courtesy of Kelt Smith)

There were two newspaper stories syndicated in the United States after the country club opened and one version, with which the New York Times ran, misidentified him as Charles Greble of Philadelphia. He was, in fact, Colonel Edwin St John Greble, born on 9 November 1887 (1886 in the passenger list of the Lusitania in 1914) in Fort Mason, San Francisco, a son of a Major General of the same name. He had a glittering career at West Point and, on graduating, joined the Field Artillery. In 1907 he became one of the first ten recruits to the aviation section of the

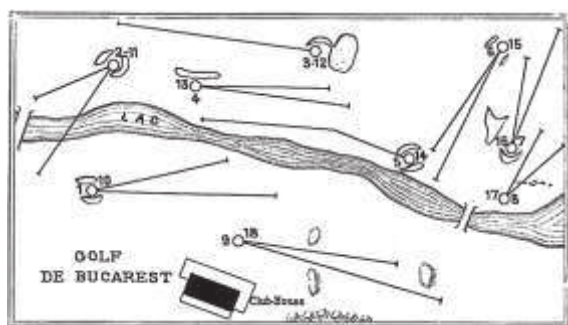
army but, after flying solo, his father's intervention saw him reassigned. He was a junior adviser to Presidents Taft and Woodrow Wilson before serving as a Field Artillery Observer to the French Army at the beginning of WWI. He returned to the US, resigned his commission and joined the Baldwin Locomotive Company. One of its activities was making ammunition and he set up the proving ground at Lakehurst NJ before being in charge of the guard at the Eddystone factory in Pennsylvania. An explosion here killed 124 people and injured many hundreds more, thought at the time to be German, and later Russian, sabotage it is now recognised as likely to have been a tragic consequence of equipment malfunction. On America's entry to the war he became a major, later the colonel of the 100th Field Artillery and was wounded in the Meuse-Argonne offensive.

After demob he rejoined Baldwin Locomotive Works and became manager for South-Eastern Europe, based in Bucharest. He devised what were innovative trading strategies for the time. Romania could swap oil for locomotives, Serbia grain and a plan was afoot for Russia to pay with wine. What drew him to the country club project? Many early golf clubs were formed and courses laid out by people who simply wanted to play golf. Greble was a keen sportsman who had played polo and had an interest in horse racing which probably put him in contact with the Jockey Club but there is no record of an interest in golf or tennis. He had played football at West Point, been on the fencing squad, captained the lacrosse team and set the Academy pole vault record. Nor did he stick around to enjoy the club. His wife Florence left for New York from Constanța on the SS Asia on 11 May 1925 with their three children, the youngest having been born in Bucharest, with Edwin travelling back separately via Southampton at the same time. This departure may not have been his choice. Following failed negotiations the Baldwin company filed suit against the Romanian government, in Philadelphia and in Bucharest, for its failure to pay for locomotives bought in 1919-20. By the time Greble was sailing for home, the Bucharest court had found in Baldwin's favour with a bill to the Romanian government of \$9,000,000 to be settled within three months. I imagine it would make the chat with politicians in the bar after the monthly medal a little edgy.

Was it a straightforward business opportunity for him to develop the club? The Birmingham News

(Alabama) was sure the idea of a country club was Greble's and 'by sheer pertinacity and at some personal risk, Col, Greble pushed his idea through'. Yet there is a report which says that all the money he invested was repaid to him in 1933 'at the insistence of the Royal household' as if this was unexpected, an act of generosity or a flare-up of Carol II's xenophobic nationalism rather than an agreed return on investment.

Good if you've stuck with me this far. What about the golf course? It was nine holes, or rather nine greens, so it could be played as 18 as the 1931 golf map shows. I cannot say at this stage who designed it. I believe the first professional, who also served as a greenkeeper, came quite a bit later (so far no documentation to show when) but, as the Sinaia course was laid out in 1925 with the 'technical assistance of a British diplomat', I assume in the absence of a greenkeeper the Bucharest course followed a similar pattern.



A map of the course in 1931 though I am not convinced it is correct given the 1940 report below.

The layout from 1931 shows four holes on the other side of the lake, the first description I read was the back nine were across the water and the Franz Gautier account of 'Golf Holidays in Romania', in the Deutsche Golfzeitung of 1940, talks about being able to take a boat, 'steered by an old bearded Russian man, always in a daze', across the 60m lake after the first three holes. The main point is that the course once was on two sides of the lake but in communist times land was seized and the course was curtailed to the current six holes..



Caddy and ferryman at the Bucharest C. C, c. 1940

Exactly when the first professional arrived is unclear but he was Jean-Baptiste Lamaison who appears to have been an assistant or instructor at the Biarritz club as he played with that affiliation in the 1921 French Open at Le Touquet and in the same competition at Dieppe in 1923. He was recruited by Prince Puiu Ghica, and this post was a big deal. When Pavel "Paul" Tomita became Lamaison's assistant in 1930 the professional was earning 30,000 lei a year plus lessons at 200 lei an hour. To put this into perspective, an engineer at the time would earn around 3,000 lei a year. Tomita was a country boy from Pianu de Jos in Transylvania whose elder brother, Ioan, had gone to work in the city. Ioan began as a porter in the Hotel Continental (still going strong on Calea Victoriei) and rose to become manager. In this capacity he got to know Lamaison and found out he was looking for a lad between 14 and 17 who would learn golf and be his assistant. A postcard was duly despatched to Pianu de Jos and Pavel, born 1914, came to the city. Lamaison checked his muscles, had him hit a few balls with a wood and pronounced, 'Pavel is right for golf'. He never looked back: until his death in 2004 "Uncle Pol" was Romanian golf.



Lamaison returned to France in 1932 and was replaced by the young Sussex professional Joe Baker who had just won two Sussex assistant professional championships. Undoubtedly he was instrumental in Tomita's development and after his spell in Romania ended in 1938 Baker arranged for Pavel to come to his next club, East Brighton, for eight months which allowed him to qualify as a PGA professional.



Royal Romanian Golf Club, Sinaia, 1931

As the illustration above, from 1931, shows, this was the Royal Romanian Club but the sometimes claimed 'passion' for golf in the Romanian royal family is overstated. King Ferdinand swung the first club at the opening ceremony of the Bucharest club (that Queen Marie was the first woman to play is not supported by the description of opening day); Prince Nicholas was the club president but I have seen no record of him playing, his interests lay in motor-racing; Queen Marie also bestowed her patronage but has no mention of golf in her autobiography; Carol II, shall we say, expended his energies elsewhere. Describing the establishment of the course under the rubric, 'the Balkans are becoming civilised', an Iowa newspaper wrote 'it is hinted that the Romanian Royal Family will take up golf next summer'. But the club at Sinaia, despite being close to the summer royal residence of Peleş Castle was really just the Bucharest club at altitude. It was open between 15 June and 15 October with playing privileges granted automatically to members of the Bucharest club but also open to visitors. It may have been so since its creation but certainly by the mid-1930s the professional at Bucharest was also the professional here and the club secretary was the same at each club.

It would be untrue to say there was no practical interest in golf from the royal family. As early as September 1933, when he was 11, newspapers

reported, 'At Sinaia there is an excellent golf course and the Prince uses it often', that prince being Prince Michael after he had been King Michael I and before he became King Michael I again. He genuinely did have an interest in golf and had lessons from both Joe Baker and Pavel Tomita. I found the latter's account of his reunion with the King when he was allowed to visit Romania again in 1992 quite touching.

Golf in the 1930s

With two prime ministers assassinated in the 1930s, Romania was certainly politically 'interesting' and the jockeying of the various European power blocs over Romania's future alliances, and even more importantly, its oil, seems to have made the Bucharest Country Club as much a den of spies as the bar of the Athenaeum Palace Hotel with the future SOE spy mistress Vera Atkins (Maria Vera Rosenberg), Montague Chidson and Leslie Humphries to the fore. It might have been this which saved the club after the war, much easier for the Securitate to bug everyone in one place. Murat Williams, interviewed about his time as a political officer at the US embassy here in the late 1940s said even conversation on the course had to be guarded as it would be reported by the caddies. The club championship was treated as the Romanian national championship, and so described in the US press, and generally won by someone from the American legation, or a wife thereof for the women's event. George Wadsworth won it three times on the trot in the mid-1930s when a humble legation secretary. In his ambassadorial career he seemed to favour the furtherance of golf over the promotion of US policy. Starting with his time in Turkey, he established a golf course in Ankara, but then became what the Toledo Blade called the 'Johnny Appleseed' of golf, setting up another nine courses in the Middle East including a three hole course in the sands of Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, with oiled greens. I would not have mentioned the club/national championships at all were it not for the opportunity it gives to use what I think is one of the most charming golf portraits ever.

It is of Louisa Crozescu, women's national champion in 1926, a demure young lady with a substantial hickory-shafted spade mashie on her shoulder (see next page)



Louisa Crozescu © topfoto.co.uk

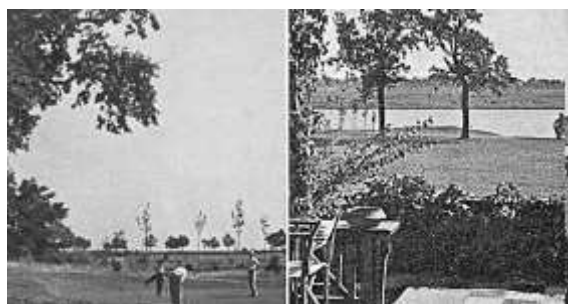
It was not all American diplomats and British spies, there was still a contingent of wealthy Romanians, perhaps where Mlle Crozescu belonged. Dumitru Minovici, director of the oil company Creditul Minier and later founder and curator of the Bucharest museum of Early Western art which bears his name, played regularly. Dimitri Chrissoveloni was one of the founding members of the club and, two generations on, in an interview with Adevarul, Jean Chrissoveloni (he of Cărturești Carusel bookshop fame among other things) said his parents "Nicky" Chrissoveloni, the banker, and Georgette Lakeman 'played a few games of golf together [there] then married' (in 1941). The club had a membership of around 450 in the 1930s.



The Bucharest Country Club clubhouse in 1931 and 1940.

We have already met Franz Gautier and his dazed Charon. He wrote an account of "Golf Holidays in Romania" in 1940 for the *DGZ* (in German) covering both the Bucharest and Sinaia clubs. He had travelled down the Danube with his father and a friend and was the last pre-war

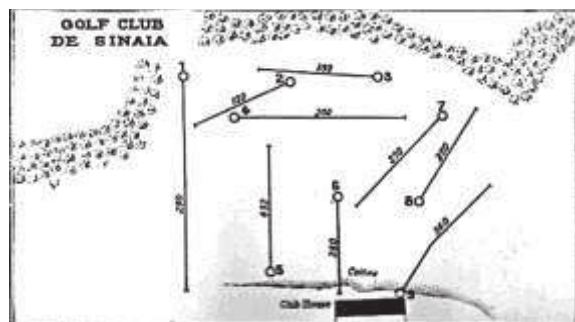
German junior golf champion, having won in 1938 from the Berlin Wannsee club and in 1939 from Vienna (post-annexation). On his arrival in Bucharest, and looking for the golf course, he met an employee of one of the Romanian oil companies he knew from the Vienna Golf Club. A game was quickly arranged and Gautier was surprised by the quality of the players in Bucharest. 'In the short time I was there I must have met a dozen men with single figure handicaps'. To avoid the heat, he started at 5pm, the latest possible for 18 holes with darkness falling at 8pm. 'The course is a fairly short 18 holes of 4660m (5096 yards) which fits attractively into its environment. It is somewhat hilly and its particular charm is that a 50 meter arm of a small loch cuts it in two. The first hole begins with a difficult drive through the trees to get a clean shot to the green. If one is too long, which can easily happen as the ground is very quick because of the dryness, then the green is guarded by bunkers.' He warns of the 300 meters of the 2nd hole running parallel to the loch and the green being right beside it with the water capturing many a stray ball. The third is easier and, post dazed ferryman, he recommends the 12th and the view over the loch with the restaurants round about and the yacht and tennis clubs. The 16th he finds one of the best on the course with a shot over the water which 'demands courage from a weaker player'. Clearly the course description does not fit the 1931 map where the 1st hole is not shown but, from the description is probably the same as it is now, and the older map shows the 5th as the hole running along the lake. Either the course had changed or the map is simply wrong as Gautier's article is supported by photographs.



A view of the second green then looking from the clubhouse to the 3rd green.

On the following two weekends he played at Sinaia, 'about three hours on the train' from Bucharest. Surely one of the few rail routes in Romania that is faster now than it was pre-war. 'The turf is moist so good sport can be had'.

'[Holes] are both uphill and downhill though most are short. Their particular challenge is afforded by exceptionally small greens'. The Golfer's Handbook entry for 1935 showed a cost to play of 200 lei per day or 1000 per week.



Course map, Sinaia, Romania, 1931.

He signs off with the paragraph. 'Finally we travel to Kronstadt (Braşov) in Siebenbürgen (Transylvania) where I have the opportunity to assure myself how true German-ness persists throughout the centuries despite the most severe storms. This conclusion among Germans in a foreign land made me proud of my Vaterland and my Volk'. In other words, thanks for the trip down the Danube and the golf holiday, I'll now tip my hat to the national consciousness demanded by the League of the Reich for Physical Exercise (NSRL).

Other pre-war courses

There were six courses in operation in Romania before the Second World War. The other one to make the international guidebooks of the period was the Ploiesti (then Ploesti) course in the Teleajen valley, valley probably making it sound more picturesque than it was as it was built in the grounds of an oil refinery. Before the war this operated as the Rafinăria Româno-Americană and it was the American employees who built the golf course sometime before 1935 which is the first guidebook listing I see for it. The course occupied 50 hectares of the 250 hectare site, though the refinery only took up 100 hectares in the 1930s. The course was open to visitors with a 50 lei daily charge for as long as they wanted to play.

I expect this was the first of the five lost courses to disappear in the Second World War. Romanian oil was vital to the Axis war effort and

the refinery was heavily protected by anti-aircraft emplacements as the USAF found with the huge losses suffered by Liberators bombing in Operation Tidal Wave in 1943.

In 1936 two golf courses were built in the Black Sea coastal resorts of Mamaia and Eforie Nord where one might have thought Romanian golf tourism would begin. Clearly they had little chance to develop before war engulfed Europe and I am not even certain they lasted long enough to be shut down by the communists in 1948.

The final course was at the Palatul Ştirbei, at Buftea in Ilfov about 20km from Bucharest. I know nothing of the course layout and I understand Prince Barbu Ştirbei³ was a member of the Country Club but, well, sometimes you just can't wait for a teetime. It also sounds like something the communists were not going to enthuse about so in 1948 it was gone too.

All this meant that the only golf club with which Romania went into the second half of the 20th century was the old Bucharest Country Club renamed the Diplomatic Club, down to 6 holes. Although there has been talk of extending it again that is yet to happen.

Notes

1. It might seem odd that having said Pavel Tomita was Romanian golf I wrote so little about him. Firstly, the scope of my research is hickory era golf ending in the 1930s. Secondly, Tomita is probably the only topic in Romanian golf previously covered online or in magazines. There is a good interview (in Romanian) on the Golf Romania site and one in English with the Baltimore Sun
2. I am enormously grateful to Christoph Meister who sent me copies of French and German pieces on the Bucharest and Sinaia clubs when I started believing there was absolutely no material to draw on.
3. It was stated that there was little interest from the Royal Family before King Michael then all sorts of Princes were mentioned playing. These princes were members of prominent Romanian families but not part of the Royal household. Indeed, the deal was that Romanian royalty would only marry foreign royalty so as not to favour any of the Romanian families. This all went a bit pear-shaped in the 1920s.



Below: The two 'CSB' (1932 and 1946) are from the (now) Diplomatic Club in Bucharest – then CSB (Cercul de Sporturi Băneasa)

The Sinaia one from 1938 is from the Royal Romanian Golf Club, Sinaia, beside the Royal castle of Peleş.

The vase on the wooden stand in the group photo is inscribed 'Teleajen Golf Club 1934 Winner W.R. Young' (not visible in picture)

Courtesy of Case Antiques, Inc., Knoxville, TN - www.caseantiques.com”

