

Graveyard & Golf Links in China

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Christoph Meister
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Hong Kong Golf Club: 1889
18 hole Old Course, Dec. 1913
68 graves and 74 urns located on
today's three courses, some date
hundreds of years

Rule: "The player may lift the ball
from the coffin and drop it, not
nearer the hole, without penalty."



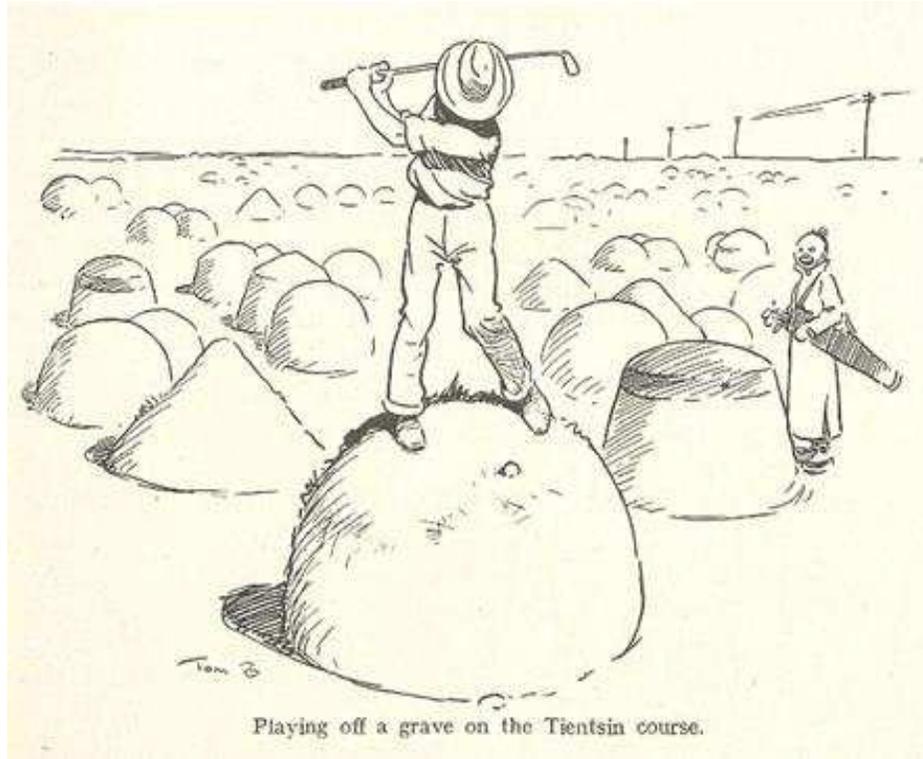


1933 Die Deutsche Golfzeitung

Shanghai Hungjao Golf Club: 1916

Name of 12th hole: “Graves”

Rule: “A golfer can pick up the ball and drop it without penalty if it lays within three club length of a brick- or wooden-grave or a coffin.”



Tientsin Golf Club: 1895

B. Darwin “Golf in the Far East”, C.B. Fry’s, Jan. 1910

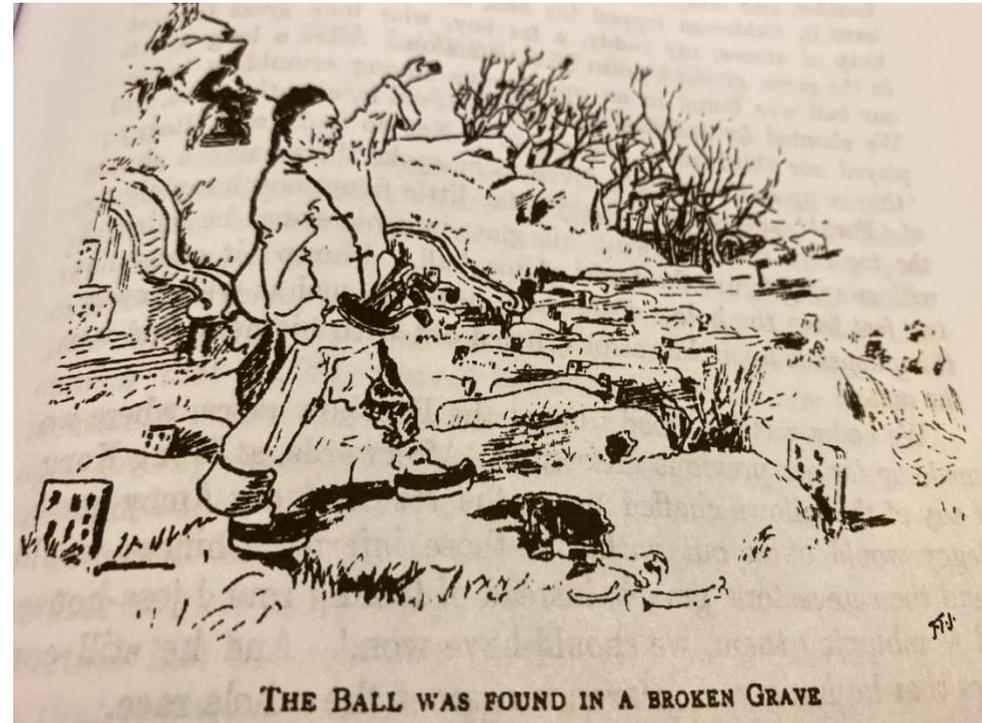
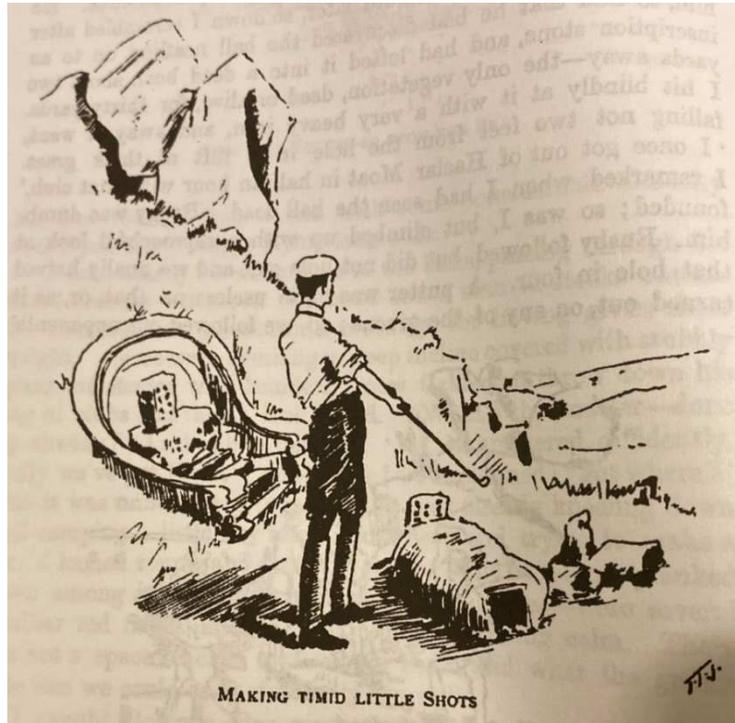
“The golf course situated on a large, flat plain, close to the town offered a convenient burial-ground, much to the inconvenience of the golfers.”

“A bargain was struck, whereby, for a payment of four taels, a coffin could be removed.”

***New York Times*, April 7, 1914 “Golf Links Laid Chinese Graveyard: Tientsin Club Uses Grave Mounds as Bunkers”**

Major Palmer E. Pierce quoted:

Rules: “If a ball rolls into an open grave it may be lifted without penalty.



Amoy (Xiamen) & Kulangsu (Gulangyu) Golf Club: 1897

Badminton Magazine of Sports & Pastimes, August 1898

“A Foursome at Amoy”

“The first green was on the near side of a wall which apparently separated two large graveyards, and was the only spot not covered with graves or stones.

“Reggy gave me a look of inexpressible scorn, and trudged after it, his long legs being very useful in negotiating graves and tombs.”

The Game in the Far East.

SOME INTERESTING PHOTOS OF GOLF IN CHINA.

THE good fellowship and friendly rivalry of sport must always be potent factors in promoting a better understanding between nations, and, although Kipling says that "East is East and West is West, and never the twain shall meet,"

signs are in many ways that the sharp line of demarcation which has always separated Eastern and Western civilization is gradually breaking down, and that Western ideas and institutions are ultimately destined to prevail everywhere.

Among the many good works of the "Handy Man," the services he has rendered as a pioneer and disseminator of golf and other civilized sport among the heathens in foreign parts must not be forgotten. In this respect, indeed, the actions of our glories have provided an object lesson in the benefits of peace hardly less effective than that afforded by the sight of her armament.

We are indebted to the courtesy of

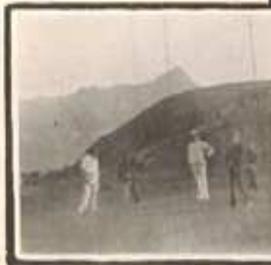


ON THE FIRST GREEN, GRASS ISLAND COURSE.

grass in China. Two of the photos were taken on the golf course of the Japanese Settlement Island, KAI-LANG-SH, ANNAM. This course is very sporting. In fact, too much so, as it consists chiefly of heathens, the principal ones being Chinese grooms, with which the island is covered.

The other photos illustrate a very sporting course made on Grass Island, Miao Bay, about twenty miles from Hong Kong, by naval officers. The course was originally started by the Japanese, and completed by the Australians and Chinese. It consists of nine holes, the hazards being hills, rocks, scrubwood, etc. The lies through the green are better than in most courses yet known.

The Chinese boys become excellent saddlers in a short time, and many of them can play and the right club for the occasion. They have also learnt several operations which appear to relieve the minds of some guffers after a finish, or a slip into the sea, and achieve the ball



SECOND GREEN, GRASS ISLAND COURSE.



WAITING OUT OF AN OLD GRAVE TO THE SIXTEENTH HOLE, KU-LANG-SH ISLAND.



FROM GRASS ISLAND RECORD GREEN.

Lieutenant Craig, of H.M.S. Oona, presently on the Chinese station, be these interesting photos of golf in China. In sending the pictures, Lieutenant Craig writes as follows:

"I enclose some photos which may be of interest to you, as illustrating, to a certain extent, the progress of the Royal and British

signify on these mountains. Some typical saddles appear in the back groups."

China, north the Ultras Yachi, from the British point of view, their opinion of embracing the national game of Scotland.



EU-LANG-SH, EIGHTH GREEN.



LUNCH NEAR THE SECOND HOLE, GRASS ISLAND.

“After a long search our ball was found in an open grave among crumbling bones. We shouted for instructions, and removed it, counting one, and play our third on to the green.”

“If those infernal Chinese would mend their ancestors’ graves, instead of fooling round joss-houses and worshipping them, we should have won.”



HALF-TONE PLATE ENGRAVED BY C. SCHWARZBURGER.

THE FOREIGN SETTLEMENT OF I-CHANG AND THE GRAVEYARD GOLF-LINKS.

Ichang (Yichang): *St. Andrews Citizen Saturday* 16 September 1899

GOLF GOSSIP by Cleekum

“A great graveyard extends from the walls of Ichang city for a mile along the bank of the Yangtze river and half-a-mile inland.”

“The foreigners even manage to play golf in this graveyard, a course of a thousand hunkers and hazards, with fine drives insured from teeing grounds fixed on certain superior mandarin mounds.”



MR. C. E. HOLWORTHY (I.M. CUSTOMS)
DRIVING FROM THE FIRST TEE.



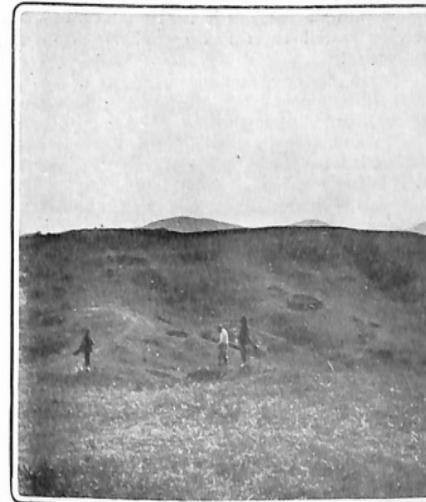
LOOKING TOWARDS THE SIXTH HOLE—
..... IN A VALLEY.

Decorative flourish
**Bunkers of
Chinese Graves**

THE newest links in Asia have recently been inaugurated at Chinkiang, on the Yangtze River, in China. A fine sporting course of nine holes has been opened on the hilly downs overlooking the river. Playing members are as yet only half-a-dozen, but with the links an accomplished fact there are—as the missionaries say—plenty of “enquirers” among the small band of foreign residents. The crater-like excrescences seen in the photographs are Chinese graves, which are thick on certain hills, and make heart-breaking bunkers for the ball that doesn’t fulfil the player’s intentions.



MR. B. J. TOMS (H.M. CONSUL) ON THE
NINTH GREEN.



APPROACHING THE NINTH HOLE: VIEW
LOOKING TOWARDS THE SECOND.

**Chinkiang
(Zhenjiang): 1905**
*Bunkers of
Chinese Graves*
**“The crater like
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MR. C. E. HOLWORTHY (I.M. CUSTOMS)
DRIVING FROM THE FIRST TEE.

The Spirit of the Links
by Henry Leach, 1907

“These are Chinese graves, and they are said to make most excellent hazards. There are pig-tailed fellows for caddies, and it was carefully ascertained that no Chinese sentiment is injured in the matter.”



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**Foochow
(Fuzhou):
1910
Customs
Compound
at Pagoda
Anchorage**

Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News November 8, 1935

GOLF IN A GRAVEYARD

“This course was laid out entirely over a Chinese graveyard situated on the face of a hill, of gradient about one in five. There was a grave every few yards mostly with large stone fronts, lots of rocks, tufty grass, two joss houses, and a couple of cows; in fact, about three-quarters of an acre of golfing purgatory.” C. G. N. Graham, Lieut. -Commander, R.N. (1927)

**Were all early golf courses
in China built on graves?
Probably!**

Thank You!