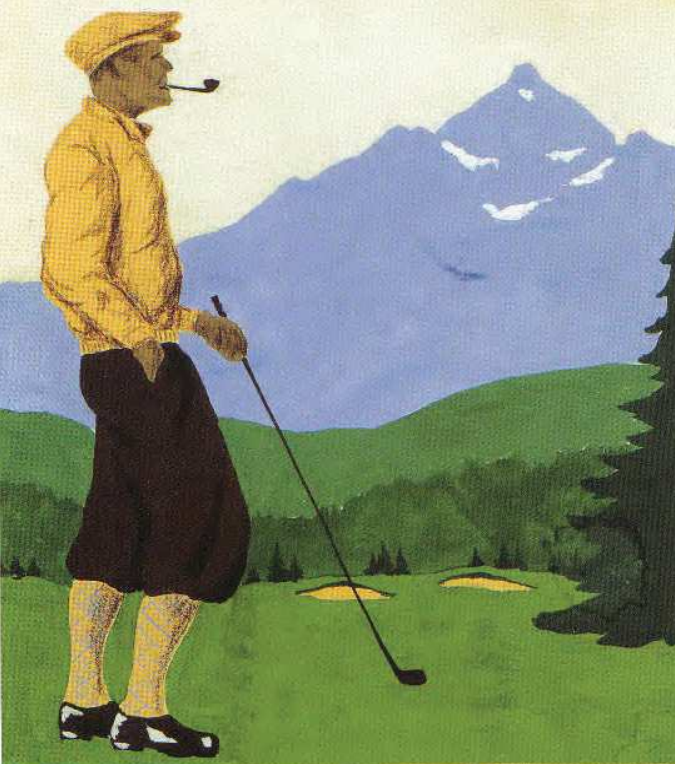
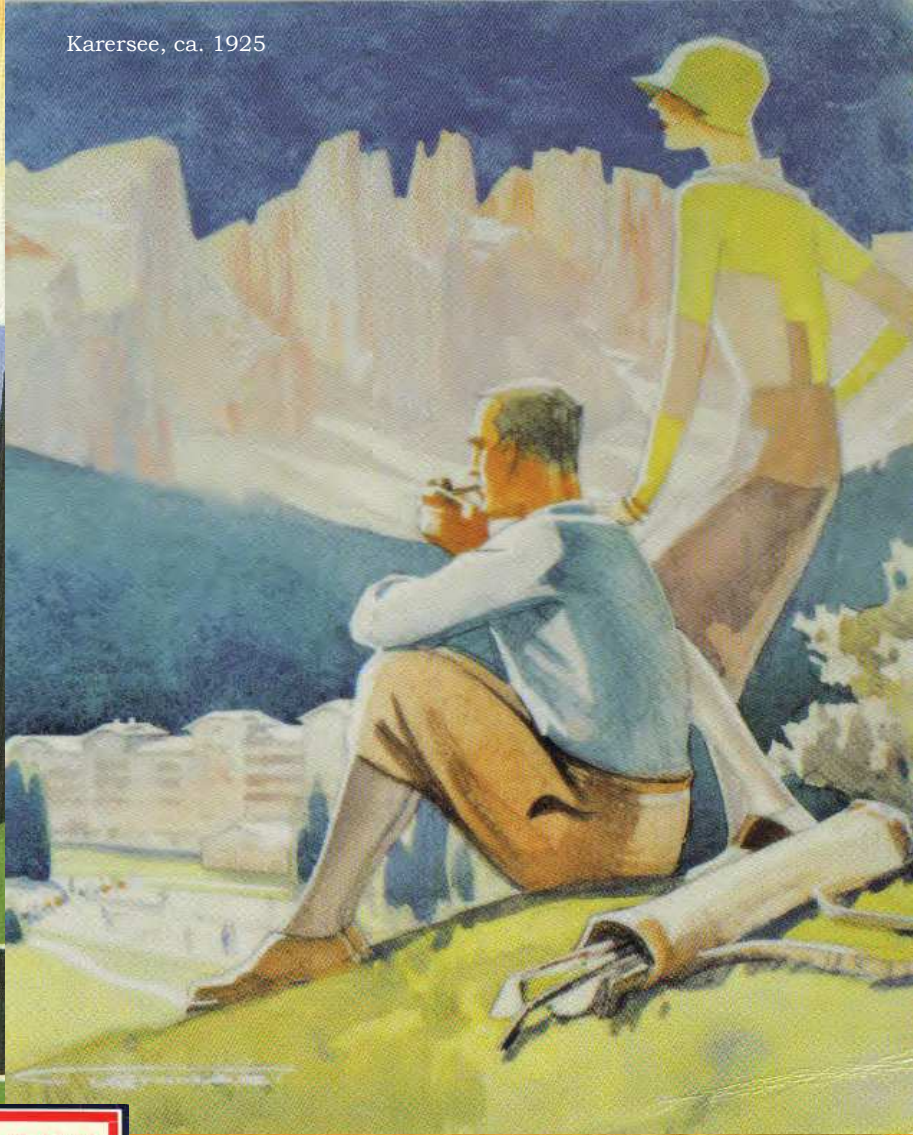


# GOLF • JGLS

Karersee, ca. 1925



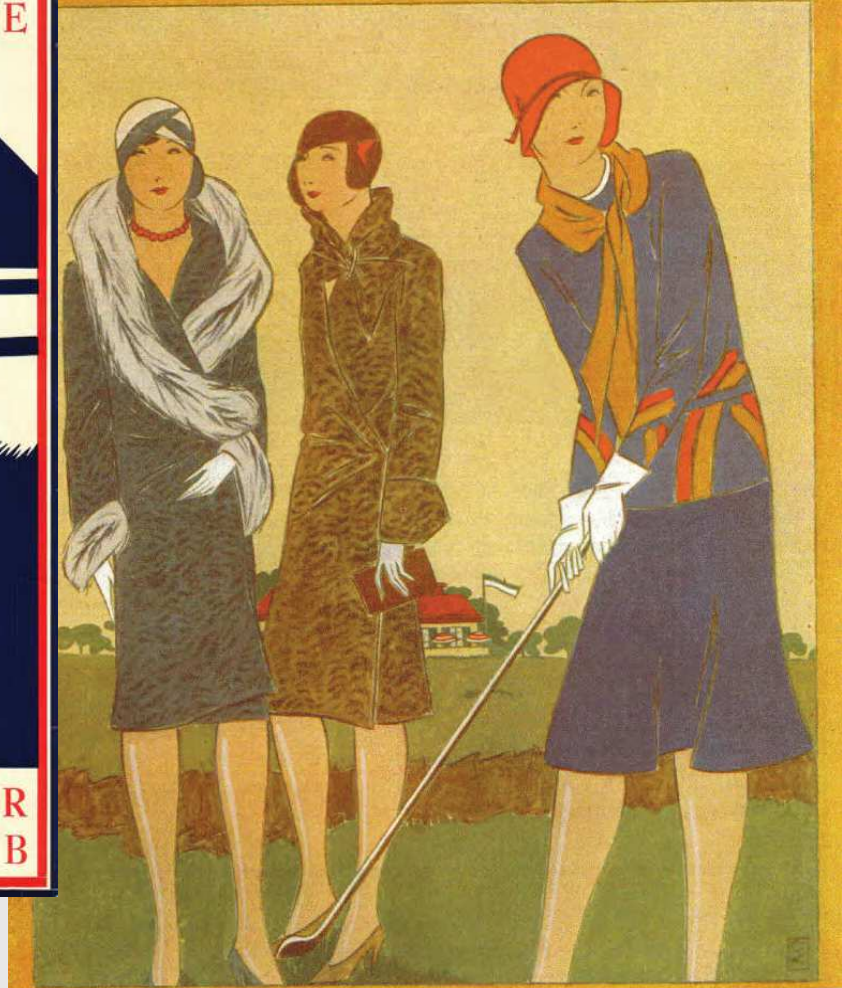
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## golfika



The Cover picture is taken from an Austrian postcard advertising golf at Semmering. (collection C. Meister)

No. 2—2007

## Contents:

President's forewords	4
Small Ads	5
Christoph Meister: Early German Club Heads	7
Jean-Bernard Kazmierczak: New Books	8
Christian Arnoldner: What a boring sport that must be!	10
Geert & Sara Nijs: St. Anthony the Great and jeu de crosse	16
Seagle Electronic Golf Library (SEGL)	22
Jean-Bernard Kazmierczak: Defunct golf courses in France; PART ii	28

## Subjects of this issue:

- Golf in Austria
- St. Anthony the Great and Jeu de Crosse
- Seagl Electronic Golf Library—USGA
  - „On the courses of Holland“
  - „Golf in the Land of William Tell“
  - „Cannes, on the Côte d'Azur“
- Defunct Golf Courses in France—part II



## Imprint

*golfika* is the magazine of the European Association of Golf Historians & Collectors (EAGHC).

The views and opinions printed within are those of the contributors or Editor and are not intended to represent an official EAGHC viewpoint unless specifically stated.

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The aims of the EAGHC are to encourage and promote an interest in the history of golf and the collecting of items connected with that history.

We welcome new members—you will find all necessary information on how to join the EAGHC on: <http://www.golfika.com/>

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EAGHC at Chantilly, Oct. 3rd 2006



## President's Forewords



**Dear EAGHC members!**

It is a real pleasure and honour to write this few words as an introduction to the second issue of Golfika-Magazine. Almost one year passed since our inaugural meeting in Chantilly and we are now more than 80 members. This proves the interest in our movement.

This year is an important one for several reasons but certainly the topmost one is the **centenary of the German Golf Union (DGV)** – the second oldest on the Continent after Switzerland. A monumental work has been achieved to track the history of golf in Germany and also to commemorate this anniversary, which we are presenting in the press review. The EAGHC also wanted to emphasize on this event by holding its second annual meeting in Hamburg. Christoph Meister, our International Vice-President and Editor of the magazine worked hard to set up this meeting at Wentorf-Reinbeker Golf-Club, founded in 1901, which was one of the seven initial clubs to establish the Union and organising a dinner at the Norddeutscher Regatta Verein, the second-oldest German sailing club, whose clubhouse stands almost at the exact place where the foundation ceremony of the DGV took place in 1907. Thank you so much Christoph and thanks also to the Board and the management team of the WRGC offering us the opportunity to hold our meeting there.

I would like also to take advantage of this tribune to make a call: we need your help. I'm definitely convinced that each of you has a nice story to share with all other members. As collectors, we all have an item which is our preferred one. It is not necessarily an expensive one or a very rare one. Just one we consider as important for personal reasons. Please, make a screening, identify such an item and write us the story: why is it an important one, when did you find it, by what chance? What is the history attached to it?

If you are a pure historian, and not collecting anything, I'm sure that during your reading you found some unknown piece of history – great or small. This is often the case when you unearth an old magazine or a forgotten booklet. Do not consider that this does not worth anything! It is always of some interest for many of our readers – often more important than what you guess.

In each case, write your text and send it to us. One page paper is enough – even less. But if you need more that's good as well. I'm sure that it is possible to publish one such a story a month and increase the interest from our members to our Association. The EAGHC will grow only if you consider that this is **your** association and by contributing to it. As we decided to emphasize on the internet for communication and information sharing the cost is modest. We can later make a paper publication of your contributions.

Thank you, to all members, for your help and support.

*Jean-Bernard Kazmierczak*

## Small Ads

**Roger Morton** professional Club Maker with over 40 years experience. Specialising in the repair and restoration of hickory shaft golf clubs.

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I'm permanently buying documents, postcards, prints and medals related to early golf courses in France. Any information is also welcome. Please write to [golfika@yahoo.fr](mailto:golfika@yahoo.fr) or call +33 608 72 87 39.

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Dear EAGHC Members: Please see my website <http://www.mitchellssportsantiques.com/> for some great clubs, balls, books, and other. Tom Mitchell, member USGCS

DGV (German Golf Union) yearbooks 1931 & 1939, two very nice copies, at €100 each. 100s of golf books for sale, list available. Also bag tags, U.S. Logo and other golf balls, Yardage books & Strokesaver from my collection for sale. Please write to [DrKlang@t-online.de](mailto:DrKlang@t-online.de) Dr. Ortwin Klang, member GCS

## Holland Open

With reference to the words of our president in the forewords (p.4) to this magazine the editor herewith would like to give an example showing very nicely how our EAGHC network functions. It is only a few weeks ago, that JBK received the following request from Anthony Thorpe, Hon. Secretary of the BGCS:

*"We played a Centenary Hickory Match against Walsall and was joined by Ann Smith (nee Willard Stant) a former GB Curtis Cup player. She informed me that her Grandfather, was Mr Henry Burrows, a former Professional in Holland and five times winner of the Holland Open in 1915, 1918, 1920, 1921 and 1923.*

*Because of this achievement he had been given the trophy to keep (Trophy entitled Wisselbeker Voor Golf - Professional). She is unaware whether the trophy is the original one, or merely a replica of the original trophy. She would also like to know whether it was the Holland Open, which such players as Seve and Nick Faldo have won, or just a professional Tournament Closed to Dutch Professionals.*

*Ann has been concerned about these issues for many years but has been unable to find out any details... Can you give us some assistance in the matter?"*

A few hours later EAGHC-member Pius Muskens sent us some pictures including the following:





Uit Jacob Oosterveer's foto-album:  
de deelnemers aan het int. open kam-  
pioenschap van Nederland 1917. Zit-  
tend v.l.n.r.: A. Theunissen (Dom-  
burg), E. J. Hill (Hilversum), H. Bur-  
rows (Antwerpen), J. Oosterveer  
(Kennemer, kampioen), J. Theunissen,  
J. de Jong (caddie Haagsche G.C.) en  
B. Dunn (Noordwijk). Knielend ach-  
ter Burrows P. Oosterveer (geen lid  
van de Haagsche golfersfamilie) en  
achter J. Oosterveer A. J. Iffe (Haag-  
sche G.C.)



Almost at the same moment we received the following answer from Robin Bargmann who is currently working on the centenary book for the Kennemer Golf & Country Club in Zandvoort (where the Dutch Open was held 2007). He intends to include an article on the past winners of the Dutch Open title at the Kennemer:

*"Henry Burrows, a well known British golf professional working in The Netherlands, won the trophy at the Kennemer in 1920. This was the first time the championship for professionals was held at our club. The Kennemer was still situated in its original location in Santpoort in those days and in 1928 moved to its present premises in Zandvoort.*

*The championship was first held in 1912 and in those days was played over 36 holes which changed to 72 holes in 1934. The trophy was called "Wisselbeker voor Golf-Professionals". The word - Wisselbeker - is indeed a bit of a strange name but very commonly given to trophies that may not be kept by the winner of the championship match. The word - wissel - in Dutch means change. This means that the trophy has to change hands from past winner to next winner. The rule usually is that the winner three times in a row or five times in total is allowed to keep the trophy (as indeed the British Open championship belt was kept by five times winner young Tom Morris).*

*This rule is now relinquished. Therefore the trophy held by Mrs. Ann Smith, the granddaughter of Henry Burrows, is indeed the original trophy. One more interesting note is that the first championship was held in 1912 and that the Nederlandsche Golf Comite (later Nederlanse Golf Federatie), the Dutch Golf Federation, was founded in 1914. The first championship was therefore organized by the professionals themselves and in pioneering those days of golf in Holland many of the golf professionals hired by the newly founded clubs were British.*

*The trophy now being presented to the winner is offered by the Dutch Golf Federation. I have added a picture of the present trophy with last week's winner of the Dutch Open at the Kennemer Ross Fisher. I would be very pleased to be in touch with Mrs Ann Smith and share some notable memories with her.....Kind regards, Robin Bargmann"*





# EARLY GERMAN CLUB HEADS

By Christoph Meister



A Mashie from Chemnitz (ca. 1930)



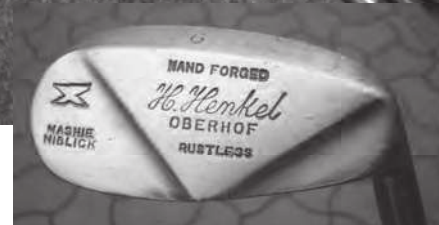
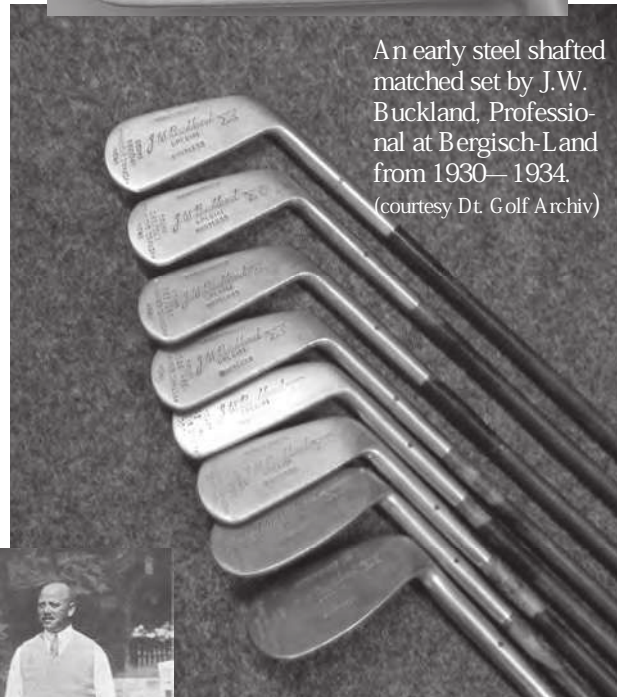
Golf Club made by August Becker, Bad Homburg, the first German Golf Profess.



**Heinrich Henkel** (pict. right) was another one of the first German golf professionals. He spent almost 30 years of his professional life at Oberhof, where he died in 1937.



An early steel shafted matched set by J.W. Buckland, Professional at Bergisch-Land from 1930–1934. (courtesy Dt. Golf Archiv)



**Percy Alliss**, a five-time top six finisher at The Open in 1928, 1929, 1931, 1932 and 1936 was head professional at Golf- und Landclub Berlin-Wannsee from 1926 to 1931. During this time he won the German Open five times. Percy Alliss played in the [Ryder Cup](#) in 1929, 1931, 1933, 1935 and 1937. His son Peter became also a professional golfer and played in the Ryder Cup. The Allisses were the first father and son pair to play in the Ryder Cup (not at the same of course) and so far Antonio and Ignacio Garrido are the only other.



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## NEW BOOKS

By Jean-Bernard Kazmierczak

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I'm very happy and proud to say here a few words about some great achievements from our members: Dietrich Quanz and Christoph Meister (with others) for an important history of golf in Germany; Georges and Nicolas Jeanneau, for two books commemorating two anniversaries. Further on, Christoph is also presenting the work from Christian Arnoldner. What a fantastic year for the history of continental golf, and what a pleasure to see our members so active, defending memories with such a brilliant style and sharing with others their knowledge of the history of the game.



**“100 Jahre Golf in Deutschland”,** Idea and Editing by Dietrich Quanz.

It is an honour to present here a monument in golf literature. The title does not need any translation and says clearly the content. We must add that it also sets up the foundations for a history of golf in Germany as never such a work has been achieved. The publishing date, 2007, has not been chosen by chance. This is the centenary of the DGV – the German Golf Federation. Such a summit is not the achievement of one single person. It is a team work. But a team needs a captain: thanks to Dietrich Quanz, who conducted the design and the editorial content of the book.

It is impossible to summarize an 800 pages book – four volumes in a slip case – in a few lines. The one interested in the details can have a look at our Golfika web-site. We prefer here to limit to some of our personal preferences. Let us just add that when reading a book on history of golf you are expecting to see, again and again, the same pictures. Surprise, not in here! In the first volume, I was unable to find more than five pictures which I knew; and pretty much the same in the others. In total, there must be about 2000 high quality illustrations.

Not surprisingly, the chronology is a general guide for the book: before 1924, 1924-1949, 1949-1990, 1990 onwards, but each of the four volumes is giving a tribute to many peculiar themes. As an example, we love the preliminary homage to ladies. And we recognize here the tact and smartness of the authors. Of course, the very early German golf-clubs (Bad Homburg, Baden-Baden and Wiesbaden British inspired spa resorts; Berlin, Hamburg, Wentorf-Reinbeck and Leipzig-Gaschwitz from local metropolitan but also Anglo-Saxon initiative) are visited. Interesting connections with other continental places are pointed out, as, for example, The Cannes Golf Club and its president The Grand Duke Michail Michailovitch. Of course, it was impossible to miss the creation of the DGV, initiated by seven clubs on May 26, 1907 in Hamburg.

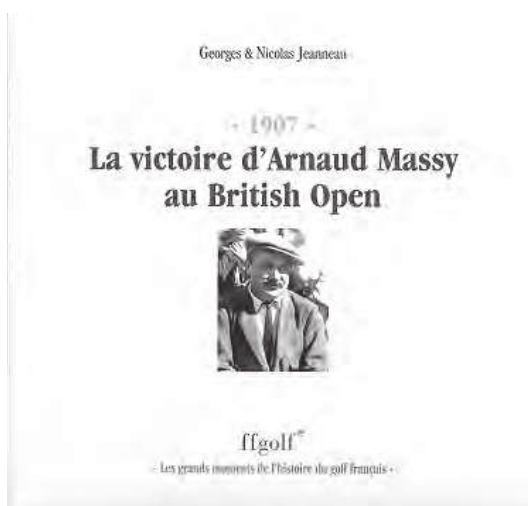
In our view, the second volume should have been the most difficult to write. A significant part concerns the black days of Nazism but is treated here with the exact balance between history and the necessary sense of distance – sometime even derision. This volume is finishing a few years after the end of WWII and has an interesting last chapter dedicated to golf by Allied Occupation Forces.

The third volume is clearly explaining the quick transition between golf to few to golf to many, while the last one, entitled “Opening up to the 21<sup>st</sup> century” is also dedicating chapters to general aspects of golf, including the ball, the rules, the collection ... This last volume is definitely the one where I’m missing my German the most.

The 80 euros price is really a bargain if you look for a top quality book on history which can be ordered at Albrecht Golf Verlag, Bajuwarenring 14, 82041 Oberhaching, Germany or call +49 (0)89 85 85 35 31 (web site: <http://www.1golf.eu/bookshop>)

**“1907 - La victoire d’Arnaud Massy au British Open”, Georges and Nicolas Jeanneau**

Arnaud Massy’s victory in The Open: another anniversary. Georges and Nicolas, father and son, did not miss it. The booklet is more than just the record of Arnaud’s performance in the Open – which is of course described, day by day. The biography of our champion is hard to trace. We have here an excellent start with all relevant milestones. Less known: Massy’s trip to the USA and his matches with Bobby Jones in 1925 (Massy will met Jones once again, in Paris, 1930). As we are now so used to it, the authors are able to unearth some great illustrations.



**“1967 - Catherine Lacoste remporte l’US Open”, Georges Jeanneau**



Lacoste, what a family! The name is known by René’s successes in Tennis. Then he got married with Simone Thion de la Chaume who won the British Girls in 1924 and the British Ladies in 1927. Their daughter Catherine was also an excellent golf player. Her victories were countless but we cannot resist to name here the three majors: US Open (1967) US Amateur (1969) and British Ladies (1969) – being the only Lady amateur to win the US Open.

These two 48 pages booklets are edited by the French Golf Federation which can provide you a copy (15 euros each + p&s).





Lainz 1935



Lainz 1936



Enzesfeld 1966



## Clubnachrichten

Der April stand im Zeichen des Herzogs von Windsor. Die Zahl der allgemeinen Spielbesuche überstieg diejenige, die wir in früheren Jahren im Juni zu verzeichnen hatten. Obwohl der Platz zufolge der schlechten Witterung wirklich noch nicht in großer Form ist, hat sich Seine Königliche Hoheit sehr wohl gefühlt. Es beweist dies sein oftmaliges Spiel. Der Herzog spielte vom 5. bis 24. April fast täglich und ab diesem Tag bis zur Abreise jeden Tag ohne Ausnahme. Außer dem Pariser Platz Le Touquet hat der Herzog keinen kontinentalen Platz so oft gespielt, als unseren. Seine Königliche Hoheit nahm täglich Tee im Clubhaus und widmete dem Sekretärs-ehepaar bei seinem Abschied ein Bild mit Autogramm. Seit der Abreise trauert der ganze Platz um den — trotz seiner hohen Stellung so warmfühlenden, netten und herzlichen Gast.

Der Platz wird bis Pfingsten schon in recht gutem Zustand sein und wir erwarten einen recht regen Besuch.



Bad Ischl 1935



Bad Ischl 1935



Lainz 1935

All pictures on this page are taken from „Mittleuropäische Golf Revue“, Vienna/Prague 1935/37, Collection C.A. Arnoldner



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# WHAT A BORING SPORT THAT MUST BE!

By Christian Arnoldner

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It was count Michael Robert Althann who was chosen by his fellow golfers to go to the Emperor Franz Joseph and negotiate the lease of a piece of land to use it as the first proper golf course in Austria. The land was part of the now famous Prater park not far from the city centre of Vienna. It was the private property of his Majesty, who used it for hunting purposes.

The initial idea, however, came from the British diplomat Andrew Percy Bennett, a scratch golfer and employee at the British Embassy in Vienna. He and his boss, Ambassador Sir Plunkett were keen to establish a golf course in Vienna but preferred to ask members of the Austrian high aristocracy and the business world to join them. Count Althann succeeded in convincing his Majesty of the need for a golf course in Vienna in view of the fact that other imperial cities like Berlin and Paris and holiday resorts like Cannes, Baden Baden or St.Moritz had long since established theirs. The answer of the Emperor, although positive, was quite discouraging as he expressed his concern about “what a boring sport that must be”.



Wiener Golf Club (Deutsche Golfzeitung 1933)



Medal 1925 (private collection)

## How Golf took off in Austria

The list of the first golfers in Austria shows impressive names: three Rothschilds, the Houses of Thurn & Taxis, Liechtenstein, Kinsky were just a few impressive names; the famous architect Adolf Loos signed up as well; and of course numerous English diplomats. Lord Kilmarnock, Lord Acton and Sir Edward Goschen as new British ambassador, to name but a few. Although the members were very distinguished, numbers remained low and until 1914 the total membership figure did not exceed 75.

This was the official start of golf in Austria but, unofficially, golf was already being played in the Austro-Hungarian Empire in South Tyrol. In the famous mountain spa Meran rumour had it that the Russian Grand Duke

Michailowitsch had introduced golf as early as the 1890s. He usually spent the winter months in Cannes where, in 1891, he had founded the Golf Club of Cannes-Mandelieu while in summer time he preferred the cooler Meran.

Golf in the South Tyrol goes back even much further. There is evidence that already in 1555 a sport called “Kolbner” was played in some mountain valleys close to Meran. It was a game for adults but men only. They used to hit a sort of a ball with a sort of a club from one village to the next over a distance of about 6 km. It became very popular but then a death casualty occurred so that the Teaching Profession and the Clergy objected to the game and as a consequence it became forbidden. Still, it is supposed to have survived until about 1885 in some valleys of the South Tyrol, which is now part of Italy.



Of course the question remains how this game found its way into this remote mountain area. One possible answer could be found in the marriage between the Tyrolean Duke Sigismund dem Münzreichen and Eleonore of Scotland. Eleonore who got married to Sigismund in 1449 was the daughter of the Scottish King James I. It was him who in 1424 had banned a certain not clearly identified ball game. Naturally on Eleonore's way from Scotland to the Tyrol she must have been accompanied by a large crowd of courtiers. It can be assumed that some of them were already familiar with a kind of Golf or with the game which was banned in Scotland. May be they now practiced it far from home in the Austrian Alps, where, eventually the locals took it over.



Magyar Golf Club at Budapest-Svabhegy, 1930ca. (coll. CM)

In other parts of the then Austro-Hungarian Empire, golf courses were built in the Bohemian spa resorts Karlsbad (1904), Marienbad (1905) and Franzensbad (1905). Further in Hungary in the mountain resort Tatra-Lomnitz (1908) as well as in the second largest city of the empire, **Budapest**, in 1910 and finally in the spa resort Bad Pistyan (1913). Apparently there was also a golf course in South Tyrol - not in Meran where there were still only simple golf meadows - but a hotel course adjacent to the picturesque Grand Hotel Karersee not far from Bozen. Besides these commercially run courses there were also a few private ones belonging to wealthy people like the Czech steel tycoon Franz Ringhoffer or Count Kinsky and Count Althann.

It is no surprise, therefore, that the leading Czech golf pioneers were Franz Ringhoffer and Count Kinsky. But unlike Ringhoffer who later became president of the Prag Golf Club and the Czech Golf Federation, the latter did not get involved in any special golfing

activities after he had built his private course in Pardubitz (Northern Bohemia).

Hungarian pioneers were Count Andrassy, who first tried out golf at the Budapest race course in 1902, and the great sportsman **Desider Lauber**, who designed Hungary's first course in Tatra-Lomnitz. Later he not only became the architect of other golf courses like Semmering or Abbazia at the Adriatic coast and Bled (today: Slovenia), but also a top player, who won several international titles.



Dezider Lauber, silver-medal winner in architecture at the 1924 Olympic Games at Paris (collection JBK)

Only a few of the first courses in Austria survived the Great War, Vienna, of course, as well as Karlsbad, Marienbad, Budapest, Karersee and the Ringhoffer course. Sadly, none of them were located in the territory of the now much smaller new republican Austria. In 1926, a second course was built in this small Austria at the holiday resort Semmering south of Vienna.



Opening of Semmering Golf Course 1927 (collection JBK)

## A small golf boom

In 1927 two more followed: **Dellach** in Carinthia and, in Vienna the **International Country Club** at Lainz. The latter became a favourite course with the British King Edward VIII, who played several times there as Prince of Wales, King Edward and as the Duke of Windsor. In 1937, he took over the patronage of the club which was an extraordinary honour to a club outside the United Kingdom.

In the early 1930s, there was something of a small golf boom and new courses were built in Igls near Innsbruck, Achensee (both Tyrol) and Bad Ischl (close to Salzburg).



Golf Course at Igls, around 1935 (coll. CM)

In addition, a private course was built by Baron Eugen Rothschild and this might have been relevant when Edward VIII decided to spend his first days after his abdication in 1936 at the Baron's Schloss Enzesfeld in Lower Austria. There he found some peace and quiet after all the upheavals and the scandal provoked by his love for Wallis Simpson. During his four-month stay he also visited another castle in Austria, Schloss Wasserleonburg in Carinthia. Who knows but the nearby golf course of Dellach might again have been a reason why the Duke chose this Schloss for his honeymoon after he got married to Wallis in France. The owner of the Schloss, Count Paul zu Münster, was an excellent golfer.

Although times were not good in the late 1920s and the 1930s, this did not prevent the wealthy golfers from enjoying their favourite game nor from improving it by watching international golf heroes. In 1928 Walter Hagen came to

Vienna, followed by Joe Kirkwood and finally by **Henry Cotton** who all of them gave much applauded exhibitions in Vienna. In neighbouring Budapest even Bobby Jones paid a visit to an excited crowd of noble golfers.



**Henry Cotton in Vienna, 1937**  
v.l.r.: C. Hemingway, Count J. De Benden, H.C., R. Bleckett  
(from: Mitteleuropäische Golf Revue 1937, coll. CM)

A total of about 700-800 golfers played in Austria in 1937. Needless to say that the *Anschluss* resulted in severe changes in the whole golf scene: For instance the Austrian clubs had to become members of the DGV (German Golf Federation) and the "*Führer principal*" applied to the clubs as well. The Führer himself, however, did not play golf! Jewish golfers left the country and emigrated usually via England to Canada and the United States whilst others disappeared under tragic circumstances.

By 1939 the number of golfers had dropped dramatically to 122 names and consequently the two then existing Viennese golf clubs were turned into one

## Golf spreads in the "crown lands"

In the former "crown lands", too, golf flourished in the 1920s and 1930s, especially in **Czechoslovakia**. Besides the above mentioned old courses in Karlsbad and Marienbad, there were new courses in Prague (1926) and a few other, smaller, almost private ones. The Czech Open was established in 1935, a celebrated winner was famous Henry Cotton in 1937 and 1938. At that time, possibly about 500 enthusiasts played golf in Czechoslovakia.





1922 Magyar G.C. medal (private collection)

In **Hungary** there was still the course of the Magyar Golf Club in Budapest, which continued to play an important role among Central European golfers. The strength of their leading players like Lauber and the fabulous Erzebet von Szlávy, multiple winners of championships in Austria, Czechoslovakia and Hungary as well as in Germany and therefore one of the leading ladies in Continental Europe, was outstanding. Their tiny national team (sometimes Mrs. Szlávy had to help out the men's team due to lack of male players) repeatedly and successfully challenged the German team, the strongest nation on the Continent besides France. This was quite remarkable considering the fact that there was only a pool of around 300 golfers to choose from.



Erzebet von Szlávy (collection CM)

In 1923 a golf course was built on the legendary island of Brioni in the Adriatic Sea (see also *Golfika* No.1 – 2006). The golf course became almost as legendary as the island itself. It was probably the most popular winter resort for golfers in Central Europe who wanted to indulge in their favourite sport in the winter months as well.



The 18<sup>th</sup> tee at Lainz – the golf course which so sadly closed down after 1945 but not before Soviet troops burned down the clubhouse

(from: *Deutsche Golfzeitung* 15.10.1939, Dt. Golfverlag Leipzig)

### Development of Golf in Austria after WWII

After World War II, there was just a handful of golfers left in Austria. They could only play in Dellach and in Achensee (Tyrol). In 1949 Vienna Golf Club was re-founded with a new course, again in the Viennese Prater area, not far away from the first course of 1901.

In the 1950s, new courses opened up in Salzburg and Kitzbühel, respectively were re-established in Innsbruck and Bad Ischl. Still, the number of golfers in 1960 was a mere 700!

The 1970s were rather quiet as far as course development was concerned. Internationally, some superb performances of the leading professional golfer Ossi Gartenmaier and the amateur Klaus Nierlich were noticed. Gartenmaier became one of the best – if not the best – professionals of the German speaking countries in the 1970s, whilst Nierlich was counted among the best amateurs of the whole Continent.

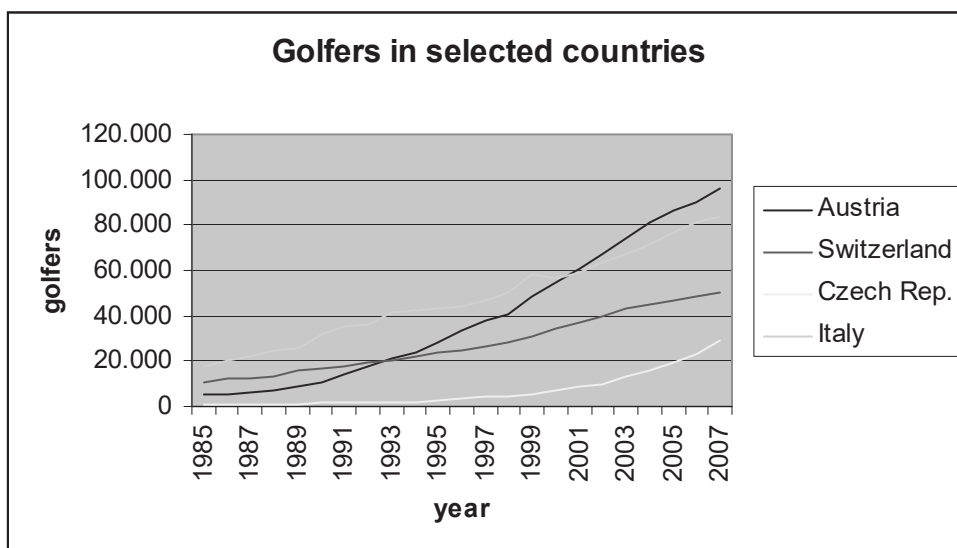
A new golf magazine (the *Golf Gazette*) was established already in 1979.

The mid 1980s marked a big step forward, when suddenly the “Royal and Ancient Game of Golf” became popular in Austria. This extreme and sudden rise in the number of players and, consequently, courses is almost miraculous. Perhaps it had something to do

with a similar awakening and popularisation of golf in Germany with Bernard Langer giving the media more reasons to report on the game. In addition ambitious young entrepreneurs imported the idea of building attractive golf resorts from abroad, resulting in the Jack Nicklaus course in Altentann (1988) near Salzburg or the 36-hole course at Gutenhof (1988) outside Vienna just to mention two of them.

Organizing golf events became attractive, too, and the first Austrian Open played in Altentann had its premiere in 1992.

In the 1990s and the following years the boom continued. In 2007 Austria has 95.000 golfers playing on 152 courses. What an incredible development! This sport can't be boring. Can it?



Christian Arnoldner is the sole author of a book published in April 2007 "*Golf, the Royal and Ancient Game*".

This well presented and large format book containing 206 pages includes quite a few rare and unknown golf historical pictures. The work, in German language though, tells us all about the history of the game in Austria and the former and neighboring Crown countries. The book is available for €49.00 plus p&p on <http://www.amazon.de> or directly through [http://www.brandstaetter-verlag.at/Buch.aspx?buch\\_id=103879](http://www.brandstaetter-verlag.at/Buch.aspx?buch_id=103879) ; Christian Brandstätter Verlag gmbH & Co. KG, Wickenburggasse 26/3, A-1080 Wien, Austria, Tel.: +43 1 51215430, [info@cbv.at](mailto:info@cbv.at)





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## ST ANTHONY THE GREAT AND JEU DE CROSSE

By Geert & Sara Nijs

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Jeu de crosse is the last surviving relative of Scottish golf. Crosse is mentionned (under the erroneous name of 'choule'), together with the games of 'mail' and 'colf' in practically every book on the history of golf. As mail and colf already died ages ago, crosse is still being played by a few hundred crosseurs in the Belgian-French border region. The game is very ancient, and was already mentioned in the early 14<sup>th</sup> century.

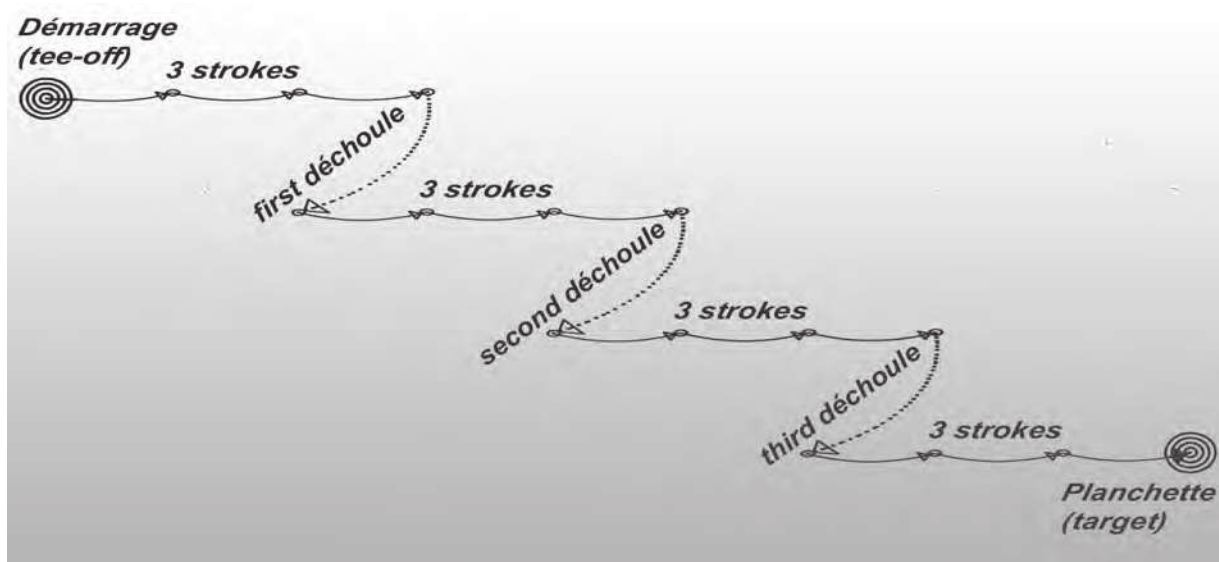
Today the game is played mainly on wasteland, pastures, etc. Crosseurs as crosse players are called, play with clubs (crosses), consisting of a wooden shaft with a metal head. The head combines in a very ingenious way two strike faces in one, a 'plat' face (long iron in golf) for distance and a 'pic' face (short iron in golf) for difficult lies.



With these crosses crosseurs hit an elliptical wooden ball, called a 'choulette' towards a target.



The game of crosse is a team sport (two against two). One team, the so called chouleurs try to reach the target (a metal plate of 180 x 18cm) within a number of strokes, decided upon beforehand. The other team, the déchouleurs, try to prevent that by hitting the ball away from the target. The teams hit the choulette in turn. The chouleurs hit three times, followed by only one hit from the déchouleurs.



As good Catholics, the crosseurs found themselves a patron saint, namely St Anthony the Hermit, also called 'the Great'.

### St Anthony, patron saint of all crosseurs

At the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> century, there was a hermit living in an area called 'Barbefosse' in the woods near the village of Havré. Havré is situated approximately ten kilometres east of the city of Mons (Bergen) in Wallonie, the French speaking part of Belgium. The hermit lived close to a small chapel, devoted to St Anthony the Abbot, also called the Hermit or the Great.

This chapel was probably built in the 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> century. It is said that already from that period people visited or made pilgrimages to the chapel to pray for protection, especially against the plague and other (contagious) diseases. We have not found any evidence that in that time, there were crosseurs who participated in these pilgrimages.



*The life-size statue of St Anthony in the chapel at Havré, worn out by the time but still worshipped as the candles and flowers show. When the crosseurs went on the pilgrimage to the chapel at Havré, a crosse (club) was placed in the right hand of the patron saint.*

### St Anthony the Abbot, also called the Hermit and the Great

Anthony was born in Egypt in 251 A.D. He became a hermit in the Egyptian deserts, when he was 20 years old. According to tradition, Anthony had to fight many demons. He had many students whom he inspired through his personal life. Nevertheless, he remained a hermit and never founded a convent community.

Anthony died in the desert in 356 A.D. when he was more than 100 years old. His remains were brought to France, first to the priory St Didier de la Motte near Vienne and since 1491 A.D., he rests at Arles.

In folklore, St Anthony plays an important role. He is the patron saint of animals, farmers, butchers, brush makers and last but not least, all crosseurs. On 17<sup>th</sup> January, his name day, guilds and brotherhoods drank the traditional half-barrel of guild beer.



Many worshippers held a novena between 17<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> January.

St Anthony was invoked for protection against, or healing from, contagious diseases like the plague, gangrene, ergotism (St Anthony's fire) and various animal (especially pig) diseases.

St Anthony is mostly portrayed as a hermit; at his feet a pig and a flame are often depicted. He holds a bible in his left hand. St Anthony could read nor write. Miraculously he could read the bible.

It is known that in 1387 A.D., a severe contagious skin disease called 'dry gangrene' broke out. Many people went on a pilgrimage to the small chapel of St Anthony and the hermit, to pray for protection against, or healing from this disease.



*The surroundings of the chapel of St Anthony have changed dramatically. Was the chapel originally situated in an open space in a forest, today the more than 600 years old chapel is surrounded by large buildings of an institute. However, in front of the chapel there is ample space for the few remaining crosseurs who would like to revive the patronage of St Anthony.*

*It is not easy to find the chapel of St Anthony; this sign, placed quite near the chapel, shows the direction. The sign also confirms the authorisation of the construction of the chapel, by pope Clemens VII in 1389. Regrettably there is no sign whatsoever about the connection between St Anthony and the crosseurs.*

Several sick people were cured miraculously and therefore the church authorities made the pilgrimage official. On 30<sup>th</sup> October 1389 A.D., pope Clemens VII gave permission to the Lord of Havré, knight Gérard d'Enghien, to build a larger chapel, devoted to St Anthony. The chapel was actually built between 1406 and 1409 A.D.

In the Middle Ages, relaxation was very scarce. In summer, there was a lot of work to do on the land; in winter, there was more time available for other activities than just work. Therefore, the pilgrimages to the chapel at Havré were usually held in the winter period, mainly on Sundays. These religious feasts had also a profane side. When the ceremonies in and around the centre of worshipping had finished, people came together for the fair, to play games, to meet each other and to eat, drink and sing.

The main pilgrimage in which thousands of believers participated was held on the 17<sup>th</sup> of January, the actual name day of St Anthony, or the previous or following Sunday.



*The standard of one of the oldest crosse societies in Wallonie: the Royal Crosseurs Society of St Georges from the village of Erquelinnes. Such standards were probably carried when the crosseurs marched to the tournament fields.*

At the beginning of the pilgrimage all pilgrims assembled in the centre of Mons and left the city through the fields with beating drums and colours flying, praying and singing towards the chapel of their patron saint in Havré. Their banners, scarves, sashes and cocardes distinguished the crosseurs from the different estates and villages. Every crosseur proudly carried his crosse over his shoulder.



*The door of the chapel of St Anthony was the final target for the crosseurs. It is not clear if this door is the original from the 15<sup>th</sup> century. The wood does not carry any damage from the impact of the many choulettes.*

After the religious celebrations, attending the mass, kissing relics and singing religious songs, the crosseurs started to play their game in the fields around the chapel. The door of the chapel was the final target. The crosseurs played probably also 'target crosse' and 'the longest drive'.

The jeu de crosse pilgrimage became so popular that in the beginning of the 15<sup>th</sup> century a certain Raoul de Longherowe, an old knight of the order of St Anthony, received approval to open a tavern in the vicinity of the chapel. This house still exists under the name of 'La Longue Roë', although not as a tavern anymore. There is still a small niche above the door nowadays containing instead of St Anthony the Abbot, the statue of St Anthony of Padova, the saint you pray to when you cannot find your golf ball in the rough.

When at sunset the games finished and an end had come to an animated day in the fields, prestigious medals were awarded to the most powerful and skilled players. The crosseurs then returned to Mons. In their midst the victors, proudly wearing the medals on their chest. A brass band or a group of tambours accompanied them with lighted torches, singing and making music. The first stop for many pilgrims was the tavern of Raoul de Longherowe, where the crosseurs drank on the victory or the defeat.



*The old tavern in the neighbourhood of the chapel, built by Raoul de Longherowe in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, still exists. In the small niche above the entrance a small statue of St Anthony is placed. However, it is not St Anthony the Abbot but St Anthony of Padova.*



The crosseurs passed through the streets of Mons, in the lights of the flambeaus, shouting: 'Vive Saint-Antoine'. They stopped at the tavern 'Chez l'Borgne (or l'Bagne)' in the Rue de Basse. Behind the window of the tavern a relief, depicting St Anthony, was placed with two lighted candles. The relief can still be seen in the 'Musée Folklorique' at Mons. Sadly the tavern does not exist anymore.



*The ancient relief of St Anthony, originally placed in the window of the tavern Chez l'Borgne (or l'Bagne) in the Rue de Basse at Mons, is now exhibited in one of the local museums. It is placed in a showcase in an unsightly corner; the personnel in the museum has no idea of the relationship between the relief and jeu de crosse.*

–  
*Musée Folklorique at Mons.*

The conclusion of the day consisted of a traditional, copious meal of rabbit, sprinkled with lots of beer. The crosseurs entered the tavern to eat and drink to their hearts content. The weekly donations during the year supplied sufficient money for such a festive day. They sang the centuries old song:

*A Saint Antouaine*

*On the day of St Anthony*

*On va crocher*

*We are going to play crosse*

*Avec une soule et ein macquet*

*With a ball and a club*

*Vive Saint Antouaine*

*Long live St Anthony*

During the tournament and after the tournament, on their way back home (via several taverns) accidents occurred and fights regularly broke out. Council and church authorities had to interfere. In a text from 1478, authorities warned that measures would be taken to prevent these irregularities. In an item from the registry of the bailiff of Havré, dated 1775, the concern of the authorities about the irregularities is expressed: "The farmers cause breakage of the windows of the chapel." The authorities are of the opinion that crosseurs should not play anymore with iron crosses but that only wooden macquets may be used.

In 1846, Pierre Moutriex, poet in Mons, wrote:  
*Last night, the society came together at Brock (a pub)*

*They had a pint to bless the flag*

*They drank, they laughed, they sang together:*

*Yes, St Anthony is really a beautiful day.*

According to local historians, St Anthony is the patron saint of all crosseurs since the jeu de crosse pilgrimage started at Havré. Today, in the chapel of Havré nothing reminds us of the remarkable jeu de crosse history of the chapel.

It is a pity that such a tradition, kept alive for hundreds of years, has vanished forever. The surroundings of the chapel have changed so dramatically that it is hardly possible to imagine how crosseurs went on a pilgrimage to St Anthony.

Originally, the pilgrimage and the crosse tournament were inseparable. In the course of time, diseases like the plague and gangrene disappeared and the worshippers stopped making pilgrimages to the chapel of St Anthony.

However, the crosseurs continued to celebrate St Anthony, who had become the patron saint of all crosseurs. The feast of St Anthony became little

more than a day of relaxation for the working people. Sadly, because of the diminishing interest in the game of crosse and the building activities around the chapel, the last St Anthony tournament was held in 1971.

The relationship between crosseurs and St Anthony is not limited only to the area around Mons. In 1873, Charles Deulin, the storywriter, wrote the tale 'Le Grand Choleur'. The leading character, Roger, who lived in a small hamlet near the town of Condé-sur-l'Escaut in French Flanders, was approached by two men. These men asked Roger if he could repair a crosse. When Roger asked who they were, the answer was: "I am St Peter and my companion is St Anthony, the patron saint of crosseurs".

The song 'A Saint-Antoine, etc.' was not only known in the Mons area. In 'La vie quotidienne dans le Nord au XIX<sup>th</sup> siècle' (Daily life in the department Nord during the 19<sup>th</sup> century), Pierre Pierrard described how, in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, hundreds of crosseurs, coming from all directions, played the game of crosse in the streets of Maubeuge (France) on Ash Wednesday.

After playing crosse during the day, they all had a large meal together, with herring, inevitably sprinkled with beer and wine. Traditionally, during the meal, the crosseurs proposed to meet again on the 17<sup>th</sup> January, the name day of St Anthony. They then sang loudly the St Anthony song. It is not mentioned if the crosseurs would go from Maubeuge to Havré on a 'jeu de crosse pilgrimage' or that they went to a St Anthony chapel in the surroundings of Maubeuge.

The text and music of the St Anthony's song have been lost in the mist of time.

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(Information derived from *Robert Dascotte* - Religion et Traditions populaires dans la région du Centre, 1982; *Léopold Devillers* - La Chevalerie (knighthood) et le Prieuré (priory) de Saint-Antoine en Barbefosse, 1865; *Félix Hachez* - Fêtes populaires à Mons. Extrait du *Messenger des Sciences historiques de Belgique*, 1848; *Georges Larcin* - La Province, 1973; *Karl Petit* - La chevalerie et le Prieuré de Saint-Antoine en Barbefosse, 1943; *Pierre Pierrard* - La Vie Quotidienne dans le Nord au XIX<sup>th</sup> siècle, 1976; *Musée Folklorique Mons*, Belgium.)

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## Seagle Electronic Golf Library (SEGL)

By Doug Stark, USGA Curator of Education and Outreach

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Beginning in 2005, the USGA Museum initiated a multi-year project to digitize rare books and periodicals and make them available to researchers on the USGA website.

The USGA Museum contains the world's most comprehensive library devoted to the study of golf history. The library has more than 30,000 volumes, 300 magazines from countries around the world, and primary documents related to championship and Association history. Each year, the library fields nearly 2,000 research requests and hosts nearly 200 visitors who consult the collection. As such, there is considerable wear and tear on the collection. In response, the museum staff concluded, in the best interest of the collection, that some of these books and magazines should be removed from circulation and a surrogate copy be made.

Working with Annapolis Technologies in Annapolis, Maryland, the museum started scanning rare books and magazines and placing them on the USGA's website. Researchers now have an opportunity to browse some of the rarest books from the collection through the Seagle Electronic Golf Library (SEGL). Named in honour of Janet Seagle, the Museum's first Curator, SEGL contains full-text searchable PDF files of books and magazines. More than 70 books are searchable and the magazines currently available include *Golf*, *Golf Illustrated*, *The Golfer*, and *The American Golfer*. Presently, the museum is scanning every USGA rule book from 1896 to the present and these will be available by the end of the year.

Moving forward, the museum intends to scan material on a yearly basis and encourage more online research from around the world. More on: <http://www.usga.org/aboutus/museum/library/segl.html>

***In order to give our EAGHC members an idea about the project you will find a few nice and remarkable scans from SEGL on the next following pages (all scans donated kindly by the USGA):***



# ON THE COURSES OF HOLLAND

By J. CALBRAITH HORN

Secretary Monte Carlo and Evian-les-Bains Golf Clubs

**T**HERE appears to be no question that games played with a ball and a club, and bearing more or less of a resemblance to golf, sprang up spontaneously, and in Holland some of them, such as Kolb, are still played. That the Scottish game originated in Holland, however, is doubtful. As Sir Walter Simpson suggests, it may have had its beginning in Scotland when the herd boys knocked stones into rabbit holes with their crooks.

So far as Holland is concerned possibly the hard winters and the long season of ice sports stood in the way of the development of real golf there in the days of the infancy of the game. I recall that in 1886 I found lots of fine dunes near The Hague, Scheveningen, and other points ready made for golf courses; but much of the best ground has been built on these many years. However, golf eventually got a foothold in Holland. I know of at least seven courses now where golf is to be had in pleasant surroundings and within easy reach of hotels and villas where one may live well at a reasonable expense.

The Hague Golf Club—the leading one—has its course only eight minutes by motor from the city for which it is named and about a mile from the sea, where a converted old farm house makes a delightful home for it. In 1921 the course was enlarged to eighteen holes, and it is now a fine test of golf. It is 5,591 yards in length and there are holes of 509, 450 and 430 yards. Par is 71 and scratch 76. Eight of the new holes are among true sandy dunes, while others are in light peaty soil among higher undulations, and surrounded by three hundred year old beeches. Five others are in heavier peaty soil. They were well designed by Mr. Abercromby. The hazards, mostly natural, are after variety as well as difficulties. What with the many attractions of The Hague and the charming chateau country nearby, on the road to Leyden, this is a most agreeable section of Holland in which to play golf.

The course of the Noordwyk-on-Sea Golf Club, laid out by H. H. Hilton and Ryder Richardson and opened before the war, has nine capital holes, about 2,800 yards in length, by the shore. A water supply has been installed all over the course. The official bogey is 39; but, as will be seen by the length of the holes, 34 or 35 is probably a more correct figure. The holes are 412, 412, 206, 336, 300, 230, 156, 368 and 375 yards. E. Cremers founded this club in 1912, after he had seen how golf at Knocke, just over the Belgian frontier, had enriched that obscure fishing village. Sir Alan Johnston, the British Minister at The Hague and a good golfer, held a high opinion of the future of the Noordwyk course and played in it a great deal. Kirby, the expert Chantilly greenkeeper, visited it year before last and gave Mr. Cremers of his best about the greens, which were very good—a summer ago—after an excellent rainfall and mild winter. The record for the nine holes, 34, was made by Major Bryce, late of the Coldstream Guards, in a wartime competition.

One newspaper said that Major Bryce, a prisoner interned in Holland from the time of the taking of Antwerp, held the record for the ninth hole in 34! Noordwyk is a popular bathing resort, with some excellent hotels built around a picturesque fishing village. Of these the Palais, on the Esplanade, is only ten minutes' walk from the golf course. By train or tram, Noordwyk is one hour from The Hague. Nor does it seem very far from England; crossing from the North Sea by the Harwich night boat, one is at Noordwyk at half past eight in the morning. The season is from the end of May to the end of October. For those who like to play tennis there are nine first-class courts at the handsome Casino.



"PORTRAIT OF A YOUNG GIRL"

In the Rijks Museum in Amsterdam and attributed to Wybrand van Geest. Interesting in its bearing upon the antiquity of golf, it shows the feather ball—which may have been introduced to Scotland from Holland

Forty minutes from Amsterdam, by train or motor, is another course—that of the Hilversum Golf Club. In October, 1916, this club secured a tract of good undulating ground, with the right soil. Prior to 1919, however, the nine-hole course, in flat heather ground, was poor. In that year, thanks largely to the advice and the experiments of Mr. Beverton, an Edinburgh merchant who had settled at Hilversum, the new course was made playable, and it now ranks well. The greens are large and not flat and most of the hazards are natural. The new nine holes are 2,933 yards, with the individual holes 438, 191, 430, 334, 355, 164, 405, 279 and 339 in length. The immediate surroundings are heather and woodland, but the country thereabouts is fascinating. Then there is Amsterdam. I shall never forget the Rijks Museum and Wynand Fockinck's little shop where all the world drinks curacao instead of tea in such an interesting environment, with almost every kiromi ligneur in the shelves. The Amateur Championship of Holland was won on this course in 1920, when G. del Court van Krimpen's (plus 2) beat Calcoen van Limmen (plus 1) on the twenty-third green. The Open Championship followed there last September. The previous September a visiting team of British naval officers was badly beaten by the club, but liked the course and the holiday in Holland immensely.

One of the best nine-hole courses in Holland is that of the Domburg Golf Club—which Mr. Elont founded and Warren, the Knocke professional, laid out. Near both Flushing and Middelburg, it is a course of 2,730 yards which was opened in 1914. A few of the best holes, notably the fourth and sixth, 510 and 525 yards long—are played over the year round. The ground is similar to the Deal links and there is room for another nine holes. Last July the Women's Championship was played on it. Like the courses of The Hague and Noordwyk, it is so readily accessible from England that it should accomplish much in the way of cementing the Anglo-Dutch friendship which Mr. Cremers has had at heart in fostering golf and other sports in Holland. In the neighborhood, as well as in Flushing and Middelburg, there are plenty of hotels and pensions. The caddies, boys and girls, in time-honored costumes of the country, are a treat to the artistic eye; visitors go to the Middelburg markets from long



THE HILVERSUM GOLF CLUB'S COURSE, NEAR AMSTERDAM



THE QUIANT HOME OF THE NOORDWYK-ON-SEA GOLF CLUB





### LOOKING DOWN FROM THE TWELFTH TEE ON THE FINE COURSE OF THE HAGUE GOLF CLUB

Near the capital and only about a mile from the sea, it attracts a very interesting assembly of visitors every year from all parts of the world

distances to see peasants in attire we changed in fashion by the passing of centuries. I have walked many miles along a beautiful shore beloved by artists, from Knocke in Belgium to Breskyns in Holland, close by Middelburg, where Napoleon and Josephine stayed when preparations were being made to conquer England. What perfect cooking and wine there still is in the old Inn. And how jolly the fisher lads and lassies look as they stroll in hands, with linked arms, along the



### IN THE ROUGH AT THE EIGHTH HOLE ON THE SPORTY DOMBERG COURSE

Where the girl caddies are very picturesque in their peasant attire besides being excellent bag-toters

sea dike after their midday meal. The Domburg Golf Club has adopted the Zeeland motto, "Luctor et emergo." Sunday playing is permitted.

There is a nine-hole course also near Haarlem, that of the Kennemer Golf Club; but the ground is not yet so good as at the other courses. It is somewhat flat.

Then there is the nice little Doornsche course of nine holes among the pines and heather near Zeist and Utrecht. With some water hazards, it is (Cont'd on page 60)



### TWO MILES FROM ARNHEIM IS THE MOST INTERESTING NINE-HOLE COURSE OF THE ROSENDAEL GOLF CLUB

The picture shows the last hole, which is two hundred and sixty-six yards in length, and the commodious clubhouse in the background

rather short at present. The Methusalem of Dutch golf, I saw it in 1897, soon after it was started by Jonkheer Louis van Loon, who had absorbed the golf microbe at Cannes. It was there a bit costly in lost balls.

The leading pioneer of golf in Holland is A. del Court van Krimpen—a keen student of the history of the game in his country. He had been much aided by E. Cremers and Mr. Elont. Centuries ago one of his ancestors used to visit Ayr in connection with the linen trade with Scotland and he may have introduced there the feather ball—which came from Holland. This is the ball shown in the accompanying reproduction of a portrait in the Rijks Museum in Amsterdam—a portrait attributed to Wybrand van Geest and especially interesting in its bearing upon the antiquity of golf. Mr. del Court van Krimpen has his own nine-hole course at Rosendale, near Arnhem—one of Holland's famous resorts. This course, perhaps, provides the best golf in Holland. On heather and among pine trees, it is very sporting. The length is 2,809 yards, with holes of 415 and 420, the par 66 and the scratch 72 for the two rounds.





**PETER GANNON**  
Of Chicago, winner of the Amateur  
championship of Switzerland at Sama-  
den, St. Moritz

which the annual amateur and professional championships are held.

There are three courses at St. Moritz, the headquarters of the Engadine Golf Club, an eighteen-hole one for men and a nine-hole one for women at Samaden (at which the player arrives after a romantic walk along the banks of a mountain stream) and a nine-hole course near the Kulm Hotel in St. Moritz proper. The Kulm, however, is a trifling affair. Still, the little course is a very attractive one, being set high amidst some of the most picturesque scenery in all the wide world, while it is part and parcel of the Engadiner Kulm. Indeed, those who do not take their golf too seriously prefer to dally around the baby course, instead of going as far afield as Samaden. The stern golfer, on the other hand, who makes a business of pleasure, tramps to the more important course directly after breakfast, plays, lunches deliciously off freshly-caught trout and Alpine honey, to play again till tea-time.

There have been many discussions from time to time in the press as to which is the longest golf course, and which course has the highest bogey. I do not remember ever having seen it stated which is the highest course in the world. While I am not *au courant* with the claims of all the New World courses to this distinction, I have it on credible authority that Mexico City possesses a course situated at an altitude which is without rival. In Europe the claim is incontestable. The Engadine course at Samaden is by many hundreds of feet the highest on the continent where the Royal and Ancient game originated. On this course one is playing at

## GOLF IN THE LAND OF WILLIAM TELL

*With Its Eleven Courses, Switzerland, in Proportion to Its  
Size, has More Extensive Facilities than Any Other  
Country of Continental Europe*

By WILLIAM BARDSLEY

**R**ELATIVELY few Americans realize that Switzerland is rapidly becoming a veritable paradise for golfers. No other word could properly describe the wonderful scenic environment of the sport in this little republic, even if there were only one course. But golf has grown to such an extent in Switzerland that at present there are no less than eleven courses. For the most part this increased popularity of the Royal and Ancient game is due to the admirable work of the Swiss Golf Association, under the auspices of

over six thousand feet above sea level. Its claim to notice does not, however, end with the mere fact of its abnormal height. The Engadine course has a great deal more than its unique position to recommend it to golfers who pursue their favorite game abroad.

It might be imagined at first hearing that in addition to the exercise afforded by the game itself, that of mountaineering has to be added—a somewhat doubtful attraction to those who like to take their pleasures wisely and not too well. In point of fact, the course is as flat as any seaside links. The Rhaetian railway brings the visitor to St. Moritz, up from Coire, through some of the most interesting scenery in the world and the track climbs spirally to enter the Engadine Valley where a long vista of perfectly level ground lies between the towering peaks. The Engadine course is surrounded by mountains from which the snow never melts. Yet on the course itself, no exertion beyond the normal is required of the player.

There is a feature about golf at six thousand feet which holds possibly as much interest for the scientist as for the golfer. I refer to the effect of the rarified atmosphere on the flight of the ball. At this height there is, of course, less resistance to moving objects like a golf ball. It should be, and is quite possible for smiters like Hunter, Ray or Tolley to reach nearly four hundred yards with their tee shots on the Engadine course, while the modest eighteen-handicap man can turn home from his hole with tales of distances achieved

which perhaps savor more of a fishing yarn than of the strictly veridical game of golf. It is not advisable for visitors to do much golfing in the first three or four days in the Engadine. It takes that time to become accustomed to the difference in breathing, but once acclimatised there is a total absence of that tired feeling often experienced after a round on the average course.

The river Inn, which takes its source in the Lake of Sils, close to the famous Maloja pass leading down into Italy, flows past the course



**R. STEINERT, JR.**  
Of New Haven, a member of the New  
Brook Country Club, Orange, Conn.,  
runner-up to Gannon



THE CLUBHOUSE OF THE KULM NINE-HOLE COURSE AT ST. MORITZ



WITH ITS BACKGROUND OF ETERNAL SNOWS  
The picturesque setting for the Montreux Golf Club is quite close to  
Lake Geneva



AT ONE OF THE FAVORITE SPAS: RAGOZ-PFÄFERS  
Golf on its fine nine-hole course is most interesting in the gorge of the  
Tamina





**THE PALACE HOTEL AND LINKS AT MALOJA**

Ten miles from St. Moritz in the Upper Engadine is this very interesting nine-hole course

way northward to join the mighty Danube, of which it is one of the chief tributaries. In the old days before the river was banked up it must have spread right across the broad open valley which was hollowed out in far-off ages by the stupendous glaciers that originally covered this region. All around the golf course huge mountains tower, their lower slopes clad with fragrant pine woods and their crests wreathed with dazzling white snow. The Engadine Golf Club was formed thirty years ago. The course measures over six thousand yards, and although quite level is varied by a number of natural hazards. Several small streams meander across it, here and there the ground is broken and giant pine trees, which never come into the line of play, mount guard over the fairways. The turf is light and resilient, drying up immediately after rain, and there is little run on the ball, even in the driest season. The soil being sandy, there is no mud; the greens are very large, medium paced and dead true, and are kept in first-class condition, so that they are delightful both for pitching on and putting.

Of all the picturesque and charming places in Switzerland for the golfer,



**THE ENGADINE CLUBHOUSE AT SAMADEN**

Which can be reached in ten minutes by rail or twenty minutes by motor from St. Moritz

Lucerne is today among the most attractive. The cool and bracing Alpine air and the magnificent mountain panorama, coupled with the most favorable climatic conditions for summer golf, afford an opportunity for the visitor to enjoy healthful pleasure and exercise under the most favorable conditions. Long before the war, thanks to the initiative of Colonel Hans

de Pfyffer, one of the founders of the Swiss Golf Association and its president, the Lucerne course had its beginning on the Sonnenberg, where a large number of American visitors and many English and Swiss golfers gathered each year for the friendly rivalry so keenly enjoyed by the devotees of the mashie and the niblick. The course on the Sonnenberg was a nine-hole one, but after the war a new course was built on the Dietschiberg, on the other side of the town, which is easily accessible from all parts



**THE MARVELOUS SCENIC PANORAMA AROUND THE LUCERNE GOLF CLUB**

Located at Dietschiberg. This course is being extended to eighteen holes

of Lucerne in fifteen minutes by train and funicular railroad. Since the laying out of the new course on the Dietschiberg constant attention has been devoted to improving the fairways and the greens and today, with the enlargement to eighteen holes, it will rank as one of the most interesting and sporting courses in Europe. As distinguished (Continued on page 66)



**ONE OF THE BROAD FAIRWAYS OF THE ENGADINE CLUB**

This is the only eighteen-hole course in the country; Lt.-Col. C. J. Simpson is honorary secretary



**OVER FIVE THOUSAND FEET ABOVE SEA LEVEL**

Is the links of the Montana Golf Club, situated above Sierre in the Rhone Valley





SOME OF THE DISTINGUISHED VISITORS THAT ARE TO BE FREQUENTLY FOUND ON THIS VERY POPULAR FRENCH COURSE. From left to right: Col. George Harvey, ex-ambassador to Great Britain from the United States; Lady Markham; Lloyd George, former British premier, and Herbert Pulitzer, of New York.

## CANNES, ON THE CÔTE D'AZUR

*The Fourth Oldest Golf Club in France, which has Flourished Despite Many Obstacles*

By J. GALBRAITH HORN

THERE is no monotony about golf on the Côte d'Azur unless you are out of form, and curse even the everlasting sun and the resulting perpetual spring, with its scented carpet of wild flowers and invisible choir of songbirds. Each course has its special qualities, but one hazard is present on all—trees, age-old olives, pines, holm oaks, gnarled cork trees, orchard trees, and so on, all fitting the scene. The red porphyry rocks of the Esterels everlastingly enhance the blue



FEW CLUBS HAVE SUCH AN ATTRACTIVE CLUBHOUSE AS CANNES

surface wonderfully on the arrival of rain. The old clay-soles can now be used for lessons or a relief and won't course. Even there a canal v the hazards. The course is six thousand yards long; narrow with plenty of natural hazards, pines, bushes, broom, sand bunkers, two rivers, the sea and a mimosa hedge, which always attracts Sandy Herd's ball. There are dog-leg holes, undulating greens and everything the heart of the golfer can desire after plenty of rain. The



GRAND DUKE CYRILLE  
Has a very slashing style of play

of the Midland Sea, and,

".....Malgré la guerre,"

"Malgré tout, le ciel reste bleu."

Cannes was invented by the great Lord Brougham on his way to Italy. He never got there, but lived at Cannes from 1834 until his death there in 1868. The Cannes Golf Club is the fourth oldest in France—quite a Methuselah south of the Tweed. It was founded in 1891, and has flourished like a green bay tree despite all sorts of difficulties. The club now owns all the ground, which at the beginning belonged to many proprietors, and water has been laid onto the greens. This is the sole sand links on the Riviera; the sand there is about the only real thing on the coast, and is sold for a high price.

Originally on the north side of La Napoule road, the eighteen holes of the men's course are now all on true sandy links among the pines and waste ground by the sea. The course looks like a Sahara in summer, but recovers a green

Torrent de Riou is a fine water hazard, and the crossing of the river Saigne by ferry-boat is a charming incident of the round. The course is in very good order this winter, in spite of the fact that last summer was one of the driest on record, with no rain until the end of October. Luckily the forest fires in the Esterels did not get there; no damage was done either to the clubhouse or to the course. There will be many American golfers playing over the course this year. The Olympic games alone will bring a considerable number to France, and even out of season there is a great American demand for golf at this resort on the Riviera.

The Grand Duke Michael, from first to last, has devoted himself to the interests of the Cannes course. Many problems have been solved gradually. Grasses that lived through even the greatest summer droughts have been encouraged, and it is no longer necessary



GRAND DUKE MICHAEL  
President of the Cannes Golf Club  
©USGA





LOOKING DOWN THE NINTH FAIRWAY ON THE LEFT AND ACROSS THE EIGHTH GREEN ON THE RIGHT AT CANNES

to resow the course each year. Italian rye grasses, certain festucas and notably *Poa bulbosa vivipara* have done yeoman service.

In the old days there was a lot of almost court ceremony. The waiters were strikingly garbed in the red and white colors of the club, as were the members at the club ball and cotillon—a very smart affair, when the coats of men were faced with red. One awaited the imperial president to begin lunch. The crowds now playing have made the old traditions impossible. The Grand Duke's one hundred guinea purse was one of the great events of the season, practised and schemed for long before.

The clubhouse, originally an old farm, is charming with its great umbrella pine and its quarter-mile avenue of mimosa trees. A debt of

gratitude is due to devoted secretaries and captains and members of the committee. The present energetic secretary is Major B. A. Harvey. Sir Arthur Crosfield, the captain of the club for twenty years, has been succeeded by Admiral Lord Wester Wemyss, who lives at Cannes.

In 1899 Countess Torby changed an old farm into the popular tea pavilion—called the Geisha Villa—to which each member contributed a piece of furniture or china, and to which the pet cow, Francine, gave her milk.

Mr. Colt has made wonderful progress on the new millionaire course—that of the Cannes Country Club—which is at Mougins above Valauris, about seven miles from Cannes—with the (Continued on page 40)



TO REACH THE TENTH TEE THIS QUIET FERRY IS UTILIZED AND THE NOVELTY IS A FEATURE OF THE COURSE





GOLF DE L'ERMITAGE — LE PECQ

#### LE PECQ (France)

Golf de l'Ermitage. Hon. Sec., Golf de l'Ermitage, Le Pecq (S. et O.); (p), L. Trouvet and Julien Orenge. 12 holes. Station—St Germain via St Lazare (5 minutes), and Ermitage via tramway from Paris Etoile St Germain (50 yards). Visitors (no intro. needed for members of a recognised golf club), 5 francs per day; 20 francs per week; 45 francs per month.

Hotels.—**Henri IV., Louis XIV.**

Source: Golfers  
Handbook 1912



GOLF DE L'ERMITAGE — LE PECQ (S.-&-O.)



Golf de l'Ermitage en 1902 (collection JBK)

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## DEFUNCT GOLF COURSES IN FRANCE Part II – Going North

By Jean-Bernard Kazmierczak

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In part I, we reviewed the early golf courses which no longer exist. In this second part, we'll be travelling in the northern half of France – following the French novelist Marcel Pagnol we decided to consider that everything which is not south of Avignon is north! Here again, most of the defunct courses are located in tourist areas: seaside and spas. But close to Paris, the picture has changed as well. Also, for most of these courses, many questions are remaining unanswered. If any of our readers are able to add any information, we shall happily publish it on the golfika web-site.

It is told that in 1896, a small group of sportsmen, namely Pierre Deschamps, Captain Essex Digby, MMrs L. Diaz-Albertini, Paul Hottinguer, J. de la Lombardière, the Duc d'Uzès and the Count Jacques de Pourtalès, decided to create the first golf course close to **PARIS**. After some prospecting tours, they decided to rent a meadow of about 40 acres located twenty miles west from the city, precisely at **Le-Mesnil-le-Roi**. A nine hole course was hastily arranged which they named Société du Golf de Paris; the Marquis de Jaucourt was elected as president.



A few years later, G. Hetley and Henry Cachard, an American lawyer, joined the club and soon convinced their fellows that the place did not fit with the fame of the Capital. The prospecting started again and in 1901, not one but two places were found. It seems that it was difficult to choose between the two locations as there were as many players in favour of the first place as of the second one. Finally two new clubs were created while the original one, at Le-Mesnil-le Roi, continued for a few more years and was still in existence in 1902.\*

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\* Left: A very rare medal of the "Société du Golf de Paris" when it was located in its original place at Le-Mesnil-le-Roi (with courtesy of Georges Jeanneau).



THE CLUB HOUSE, MESNIL-LE-ROI.

(with courtesy of Georges Jeanneau)

One of these two new clubs established its grounds in a place called La Boulie, near Versailles, slightly closer to the city of Paris than was the original club. It soon became the high society golfing place and it was the golf club where the smart set goes to. This club inherited of the name "Société du Golf de Paris". Pierre Deschamps was its first president – he later founded the "Union des Golfs de France" a precursor of the French Federation of Golf. Due to its historical importance, this club would deserve a much longer place for discussion, but, as it is still in existence, we'll keep it short.

The second one was established at Le Pecq – a place elected by many of the impressionists, close to Saint-Germain-en-Laye. There, Mr. Jean Boussod owned a landed estate where he was breeding racehorses. With the help and support of Mr de la Lombardière, he decided to build a nine holes course on this site. The club house was a very picturesque old farm lying between the river Seine and the hills of Saint-Germain. The club was named **Le Golf de l'Ermitage**. In 1910, the professional was L. Crouvet; he was holding the course record with 34 strokes. The club was considered as an old fashioned one and the course not really



challenging, often described as a “*ladies course, in a hazardless sward without any natural difficulties*”. It did not survive to the Great War.

Nevertheless, the place was appealing and when a renewal of the game arrived in the 1920s a project to open a new club resurrected. In 1925, thanks to Le Duc de Guiche who then owned the land, the Golfer's Club was able to design an 18 holes course, 5380 yards long, named **Le Golf de Marly – Le Pecq**. Jean Alsuguren was the first teacher there; later, in 1937, the professional was Paul Hausseguy. It closed in 1960 when the motorway was under construction. It is interesting to note that the wooden club house moved from Le Pecq to the Golf de Saint-Germain-en-Laye, a few miles from there, where it can still be seen.

Aside this historical part, there is an unsolved question. It is interesting to note that Mr L. Diaz-Albertini was also, with Le Vicomte de Janzé, a founder, in 1886, of the “Société de Sport de Puteaux” which was a very posh sport club, well known for its tennis courts. Browsing the few papers and documents related to this club, we never found any reference to golf play... until we received an e-mail from Steve Sayer. Steve kindly forwarded us an extract from the Philadelphia Public Ledger (Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>, 1916) in which Ben Nicholls was writing:

*“In the year 1894, at the age of 17, I was called to France to lay out the first golf course in Paris, which was but a miniature affair on an island situated in the Seine. In connection with this work I became acquainted with the Viscomte de Janze, one of the oldest leaders of golf in the district of Paris and the man who is responsible for the excellent course of La Boulie, Chantilly, as well as for several others.”*

If Nicholls is not making any mistake, some golf project in Paris could have started about 1894 – two years before Mesnil-le-Roi. After many time spent in research, we consider that this is still an open question.

Ten miles further west, in the city of Aubergenville a small group of players drafted, just before WWI, a few holes, but the place was never considered as a true golf club.

However, the idea was there, the location was good and finally the **Sporting Club de France** decided to build a golf course. On October 6<sup>th</sup> 1923, was inaugurated the **Aubergenville Country Club** in a place called Elizabethville in honour of the Belgian Queen (who took refuge there during the Great War). The Honorary President was S.E. le Baron Gaiffier d'Hestroy, ambassador of Belgium, the elected president was le Comte de Montgomery and the vice-president le Duc de Mouchy (who was then the President of the French Golf Union). Under supervision of Mr Serond, landscape architect, the course was soon extended to 18 holes. The XVII century castle (Château d'Acosta) was refurbished as into a clubhouse. During the war, as in so many places, the land was used to grow potatoes. The club never reopened.



In **NORMANDY**, **Deauville** was a very attractive city since mid nineteenth century. In 1899, the prince de Poix, with the help of the count Florian de Kergorlay and Mr Robert Hennessy, created one of the first golf club in France which was initiated by French players!

Two courses were laid out: a 18 holes (5100 yards) and a short 9 holes for the ladies. It soon became an important club in the region, attracting many Brits. In 1911, when the count Antoine de Gontaut-Biron was the president, the club had 240 members. Dominique Coussies was the professional before WWI. After the war, Arnaud Massy had this position for a short while.

The club recovered from the break of the Great War. Even if the ladies course was no longer active, the club continued to grow and had 350 members in 1925. But, with 5100 yards for 18 holes, it was considered far too short according to the new standards. In 1929 the “New Golf” was created a few miles from the old course which did not survive to Second World War.

TRIANON-HOTEL aux Terrasses (100° d'Alt.  
par LE TRÉPORT-MERS (Seine-Inf)



3 HEURES de PARIS  
6 SERVICES RAPIDES  
Cure d'Air - La Mer  
Tennis - Hockey

GOLF

**Le Tréport Terrasses:** The club was founded in 1910 and Willie Park laid out an 18 holes courses on the cliff, overlooking the sea. A funicular permitted to go to the club. It closed at the beginning of the Great War. In 1924, there was a tentative to reopen it; 9 holes were repaired and the play started again for a short period of time.

**Le Havre** also had a golf club before WW1, certainly as soon as 1910. Initiated by Mr. Denis and located at Harfleur it was a nine holes course. The professional was William Trickett. Pretty successful, it had more than a hundred members but disappeared with WWI.

This club must not be confused with another project which started in the late 20s, initiated by Matthews, Orel and Wolfson in Le Havre. The club, located at Octeville, was opened in 1933 by Mr. Chardine but did not survive to WWII. Several years later, in 1955, on the same place the club resurrected and is still active.

**Houlgate Sarlabot**, not very far from Dives, opened in 1930 and was soon shadowing Cabourg golf club. It was an 18 holes course -

but the play was limited to only 8 holes when the season was finishing. Pretty long, based on the standards of the time, as it was just below 6000 yards, it was considered as rather tricky. In 1934, the Committee, presided by M. Viguiet, decided to reduce some of its difficulties. The club did not reopen after the war.

**GOLF LINKS**  
PARAMÉ - ST-MALO - ST-SERVAN

**BRITTANY**  
The Golf links of PARAMÉ, ST-MALO, ST-SERVAN are beautifully situated on the peninsula of the Guimorais between the Havre de Rothéneuf and the sea 6 k. from Rochebonne-Paramé (trainway or bus) good roads for cycling and motor.

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For 6 months: Gentlemen 40 fr. - Ladies 15 fr.  
+ 3 " " 30 " " 10 " "  
+ 1 month " 20 " " 5 " "  
+ 1 day each 2 " "  
Any one wishing to join the club and requiring further information will please communicate with the Hon. Secretary:  
Mr. COOPER-MEESSE, Villa Esperanto, Train station Casino de Paramé or the Hon. Treasurer: Mr. JONAS CHAPPELLE, Boulevard Chateaubriand Rochebonne-Paramé.

**BRETAGNE**  
Les Golf links de PARAMÉ, ST-MALO, ST-SERVAN sont admirablement situés, sur la presqu'île de la Guimorais, entre le Havre de Rothéneuf et la mer à 6 k. de Rochebonne-Paramé (train ou omnibus), bonne route pour autos.

**TARIF**  
Pour 12 mois: Messieurs 50 fr. - Dames 20 fr.  
(Par personne en plus de la même famille: 10 fr. chaque)  
Pour 6 mois: Messieurs 40 fr. - Dames 15 fr.  
+ 3 " " 30 " " 10 " "  
+ 1 " " 20 " " 5 " "  
Par jour 2 fr. par personne.  
Pour plus amples renseignements prière de s'adresser à:  
Secrétaire: COOPER-MEESSE, Villa Esperanto, Station du Train Casino de Paramé, ou au Trésorier JONAS CHAPPELLE, Boul<sup>d</sup> Chateaubriand, Rochebonne-Paramé.

In **BRITTANY**, located close to Saint-Malo and not far from the great Dinard GC, **Paramé and La Guimorais** are forgotten places. We must emphasize that there were two different courses! According to "Brittany for Britons", a guide book for tourists published in 1896: "*The Paramé links consist only of six (rather short) holes, but are a great convenience for practice, as they are close to the hotels, while La Guimorais links are two or three miles off, necessitating a special bus.*" The course (most probably a 9 holes course) was built in 1893 and considered as "*the most sporting that the most ardent lover of golf novelties could desire*". For the ladies, it was also offering a short course on the Rothéneuf road. The clubhouse, hosting the headquarters of the club, was located in the Mme Thierry's café where lunch was served. Upstairs, it was possible to wash as two rooms for gents and two others for the ladies were used as a locker room.

Both courses disappeared with the Great War.

Not to be mistaken with Pornic, about 20 miles from there, **Pornichet**, might be considered as the first club of La Baule\*. It was created about 1910, facing the ocean. With no more than 1610 yards, its 9 holes were pretty short. Nevertheless, the course was tricky, strewn

\* The "true" Golf Club de La Baule was in fact created in 1926, located at Le Pouliguen.



with ponds, barriers, hedges, pine woods and bunkers. The longest hole, the 8<sup>th</sup>, was 284 yards and considered as the most difficult as well. The club had less than 50 members before WWI but was still active between the two wars.

A special place must be dedicated to spas. Their fashion was growing and growing in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and very modern and luxury hotels were built in order to attract tourists. To increase the interest of British travellers, a golf club was often created. After WW2, many of these places suffered from the lack of local interest in golf and from the decline of attractiveness in spa.



**Contrexéville.** Only a few things are known about this club, certainly attached to the spas. It was clearly in existence in 1910. It survived WWI and might have some activity in the period between the wars. Finally it completely disappeared in 1940.



Not far from this place, **Martigny-les-Bains**, was laid out in 1911 by Mr. Cowington, from Nice GC. The course was situated on the southern slope of Haut-Mont at 1300 feet, with a fantastic view on the chain of the Vosges. It was a very undulating 9 holes course but pretty with 2400 yards – the longest hole being the 3<sup>rd</sup> with 390 yards. After WW1, in 1924, there

was an unsuccessful project to resurrect the course.

We shall also say a few words about **Aix-les-Bains**. The club which started in 1925 (soon extended to 18 holes) still exists. Nevertheless, it is interesting to note that, in 1895, a club was created by local doctors at Corsuet, close to Aix-les-Bains, to attract patients to the waters. It was a 9 holes course, laid on a ten hectares ground (25 acres). Its life was extremely short as the society stopped in 1898. A new experience started about 1905. Willy Armour was the professional there in 1911.

In the same issue of the Philadelphia Public Ledger we referred to above, Ben Nicholls was writing: “*Viscomte de Janze cabled for me to return to France. The commission he had for me was to lay out a course at a town called Aix-les-Bains, on the eastern frontier.*”

*In my arrival there I met a Monsieur le Docteur Brachie, the leading physician and multimillionaire of the place. It was a fine task he had fixed for me! “Nicholls” he said “I want a golf course in Aix-les-Bains. The race track is vacant only a certain portion of the time, and during the season that golf is played it is under water due to the fact that we are in the lowlands, surrounded by mountains. However, far up on the mountain side I have a piece of land. After breakfast we will take the mules and look over this property with a view to building a course there.”*

*We had some difficulty looking that land over owing to the fact that it was heavily wooded. I saw some beautiful olive and fig trees, but more important, I also saw 60 husky Italian laborers equipped and ready to work. After threading our way through this mountainous woodland and taking another look at the 60 huskies, I promised to give Monsieur Le Docteur a golf course in six weeks.*

*“Nicholls, if you can do that the Bank of France is open to you. Moreover, I will have King Leopold of the Belgians and King George of Greece present for the grand opening”.*

*[...] However, three days before my time limit expired we were ready to entertain royally at the grand opening of the Aix-les-Bains Golf Club. I have scored a few victories on the golf links, but the greatest triumph on my books is*

*the wallop I handed Old Father Time on the eastern frontier of France.*

*King Leopold and King George were carried up the side of the mountain on the opening day by means of mule litters [...] for the opening match.*

*Monsieur le Docteur Brachie and our humble savant stepped to the first tee with the two rulers, while a gallery of some 200 gathered behind. The moment was so tense that I all but forgot a mark of respect, which I, as the professional employed by the club, must observe. It is hard for the American to understand why I should be forced to remove my hat when playing before royalty, but such is the case. Therefore, I grabbed off my cap and flung it into the bushes by the side of the tee.*

*No greater gallery of royalty ever followed a golf match in those early days of the game on the continent. His Majesty, King George, after driving my ball from the first tee, noticed my hat in the bushes and picked it up. "Nicholls," said he, "here is your cap."*

*I refused to put it on and King George forthwith carried the cap over the entire nine holes. I am proud to say that I am still in possession of that same cap.*

Les **Bains-du-Fayet**, close to Chamonix (Haute-Savoie) is an interesting case study. A reference to this club can be found in the Williams golf catalogue (no date, but certainly 1914) and the only information we got is from an advertising booklet for the spa. It is describing it as a 9 holes course, 3210 yards, exclusive property of the Savoy Hotel & Hotel des Bains. This course was opened in September 1910 and designed by Cowington (from Nice, France and Samaden, Switzerland). It did not survive to the Great War.

In 1921 the **Uriage** golf grounds were initially created for the clients of the *Hotel des Alberges*. It was a much skimped course. The spas were not far from the hotel but were not considering the place with any real interest, not supporting the project, so the course was not well furnished and was not very attractive. It regained some interest when the city of Grenoble paid some attention to the course.

Just before the war, Michel Alsuguren was the local pro, succeeding to C. S. Chambers.

In 1928, at **Combloux**, in the gardens of the Grand Hotel PLM du Mont Blanc, was erected a small 6 holes course, mainly for the clients. The longest hole was no more than 155 yards, all other were about 80 to 90 yards. In 1930 there was a project to extend it to 9 holes.

In 1923, W. S. Fernie (Tom Fernie's brother and son of the great champion) designed a small 9 holes course at **Brides-les-Bains**. It is sometimes stated that Fernie was also the professional of the club. It was more a practice ground, not to say a miniature course, as the total length was only 1060 meters! Some competitions were organised every week-end, in the season, by Mr Guenning, the club Secretary.

**Pougues-les-Eaux**, at 80 miles north of Vichy, was founded in 1929. Its 9 holes, 2210 yards long, were located at about 500 yards from the most famous "route nationale 7" going from Paris to the French Riviera.



**Saint-Honoré-les-Bains**, also created in 1929. It was a 9 holes course, created by M. Lesage and was in activity for only a few years, not surviving the great depression. In 1937, the magazine *Le golf et les golfeurs* was writing "the greens disappeared for a long time". In our collection we have a postcard featuring the club-house, postally used in 1934, on which the title "Le club-house" was crossed out, clearly indicating that it was no longer in use.

**La Bourboule**, in Puy de Dôme, a 9 holes course, 2400 yards long, was created in 1919. In 1925 there was a plan to extend it to an 18 holes but this was never achieved.



## OTHER PLACES.



According to "Guide Plumon, 1938", **Le Puy-en-Velay** was planned to open in 1939 with a nine holes course 2820 yards long and there was possibly some initial game but the second world war stopped the project in an early stage. Some evidence of golf play there is given by two postcards, one feature the club-house and the second showing two ladies at putting.

The golf course of **Le Mans** was located near the famous race cars ground. It was a 9 holes and an inaugural match was organised on May 27<sup>th</sup> of 1935 with eight players: the local pro, R. Rouly, E. Lafitte from Biarritz, L. Ghintran (Lyon), W. Cunningham (Tours), F. Cavalo (Paris, La Boulie), M. Dallemagne (Saint-Germain-en-Laye), A. Boomer (Saint-Cloud) and A. Boyer (Nice). This first match was won by Aubrey Boomer with 66 shots.



**Sélestat, Golf d'Alsace** was created in 1925 at three quarters of a mile from Strasbourg. Lucien Desportes was the professional at that time. The club house was built in a very typical art deco style.

**Douai, Golf des Quinsons**: private property of Mr Paul Hénin Belgium Consul (created in

1930), nevertheless a project to affiliate the club to the French Golf Federation was in discussion. In 1937 an unusual competition was played there which opposed twins! Mrs M.-J. Hénin and her brother were the winners of 3 teams participating.

The **Valenciennes** golf course was designed in 1914, just before the Great War. Even if the 1924 Golfers' Handbook is listing the club, it remained abandoned until 1925: a group of players tried to reopen it, unsuccessfully!

**Sainte Cécile** Golf Club is listed in the 1924 Golfer's Handbook, in reference to Boulogne (Boulogne sur Mer, on the Channel). It was controlled by the Municipal Casino Co Ltd. The only confirmation we were able to find is a postcard with the caption "Welcoming the English champion, Director of the Ste Cecile Golf Club". Boulogne, to which the Handbook is referring to, is located at 15 miles from Ste Cécile. At mid distance between Wimereux (the official Boulogne Golf Club) and Sainte Cécile, there was another club: Hardelet. And still twelve miles southern, Le Touquet was an important club. So, it is hard to imagine that a fourth golf course was laid in such a region - without any significant trace. The most serious hypothesis is that this Club was without any course. But this is only a guess.

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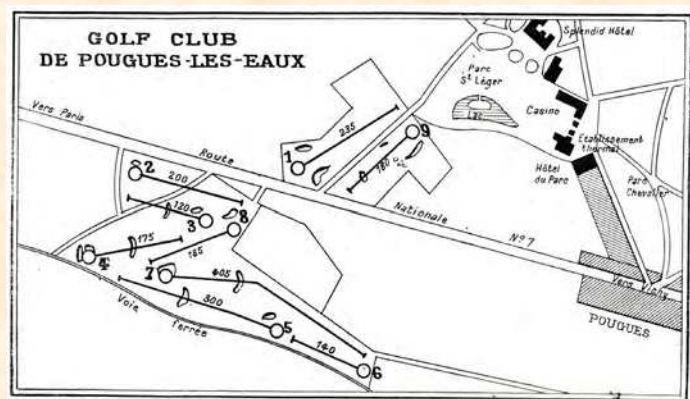
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## Defunct Golf Courses in France— A selection of postcards (all from collection J B K)



**LA BOURBOULE (AUVERGNE)**  
**REINE DE L'ARSENIC**  
VILLÉGIATURE DE L'ÉLITE



POUGUES-les-EAUX - Le Golf



**BRIDES  
LES BAINS**

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