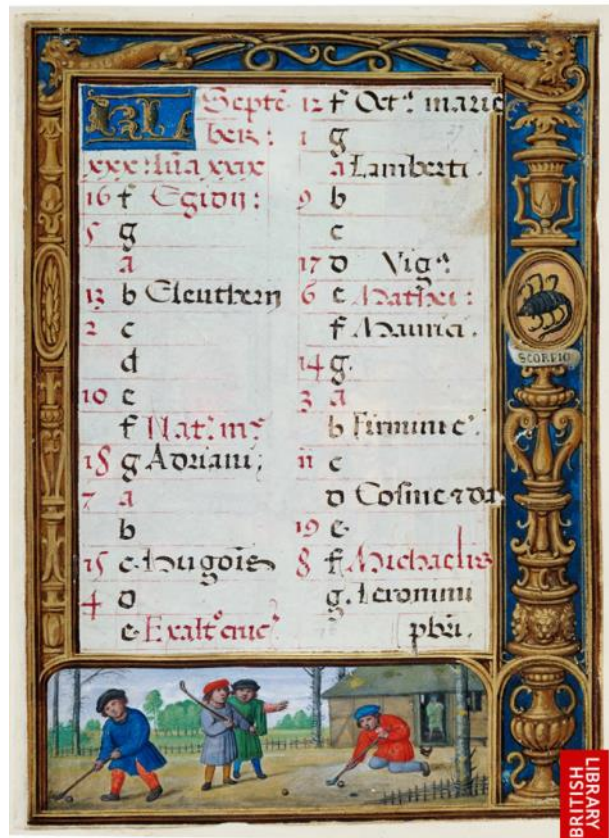# *Earliest paintings of colf players*

The folio is from the so-called "Golf Book of Hours, made by Simon Bening in Bruges in the county of Flanders around 1520.

At the bottom of this folio a match of early colf is depicted. And the detail shows clearly that one player is putting the ball into a hole, the target of the match.

The kneeling position when putting is very common in Flanders. It is one of several early depictions of people actually playing the game of colf.

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The triptych of 'The temptation of St Anthony' was made around 1500 by the famous painter Hieronymus Bosch from the town of 's-Hertogenbosch in the Duchy of Brabant. The painting was made on a wooden panel divided in three sections which are hung together and can be displayed open or closed.

Also the rears of the side panels are decorated with presentations. These rear presentations are done often in grisaille, different (fifty ☺) shades of grey. On the rear of the right side panel Christ is depicted carrying the cross. At the extreme left of the panel three boys are visible. One of them is holding a colf club.

Museu Nacional de Arte Antiga, Lisboa (Lisbon)

The painting 'The Martyrdom of the Saints Crispin and Crispinian was made in 1494 by Aert van den Bossche. The painting shows the torture and killing of the men because of their faith.

In the centre background a secular picture is visible of people playing on the frozen surface of a lake.

National Museum, Warszawa (Warsaw)

The famous painting 'Hunters in the snow' was made by Pieter Bruegel in 1565. It was one of the first paintings which had no religious context. On the foreground we see hunters coming back after hunting in the fields. In the background people are enjoying themselves on the ice.

The detail of the painting shows that the ice has been freed from snow. People are walking, playing a precursor of the Scottish curling game, ice dancing, and some are playing the game of colf.

Kunsthistorisches Museum, Wien (Vienna)