

EAGHC - 10th Annual Meeting



Valescure – Saint-Raphaël – France – Oct. 1st & 2nd, 2015

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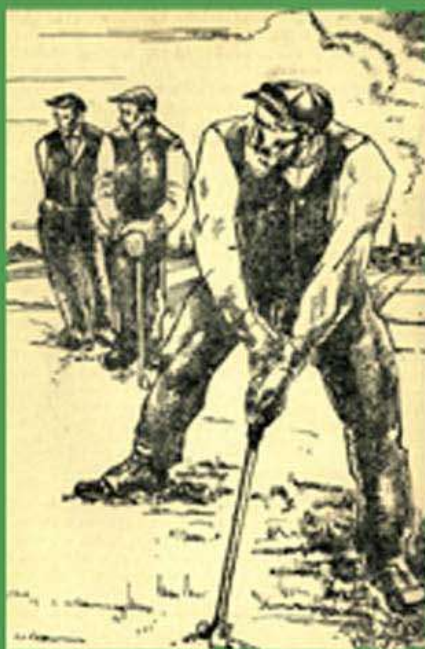
Geert & Sara Nijs



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For those who participate regularly in these conferences, we are sorry that we are going to confront you again with the ancient history of colf, crosse, golf and mail.



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For those who are new to these conferences we feel sorry that you missed our four previous presentations about the history of the continental stick and ball games.



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Perhaps you wonder why we are researching and publishing about these games and why we keep on annoying members, who are only interested in Scottish golf history, golf collectables and hickory golf clubs. Perhaps you wonder if we belong to a kind of fifth continental column whose objective it is to take away the golf heritage from the Scots.



Well, we think that in 20 minutes we can take away your wonderment or ... rather make you even more confused.

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Since more than 150 years mainly British historians have written about the continental games in their golf history books just for completeness sake or to explain that these games are the precursors of Scottish golf or to negate any relationship between the continentals and Scottish golf.



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Do you think that ... the origin of golf lies in Scotland?

Well, then you are in good company. There are several highly respected British golf historians who are convinced that golf is 'Scotland's game' and put forward arguments which support the Scottish claim. Let's mention just a few.



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Already in 1890, in 'Golf' of the Badminton Library, Andrew Lang started to defend the Scottish origin of golf against contra-evolutionary attacks by ridiculing the Low Country kolf game with his expression ...

clearly golf
is no more kolf
than cricket is poker.

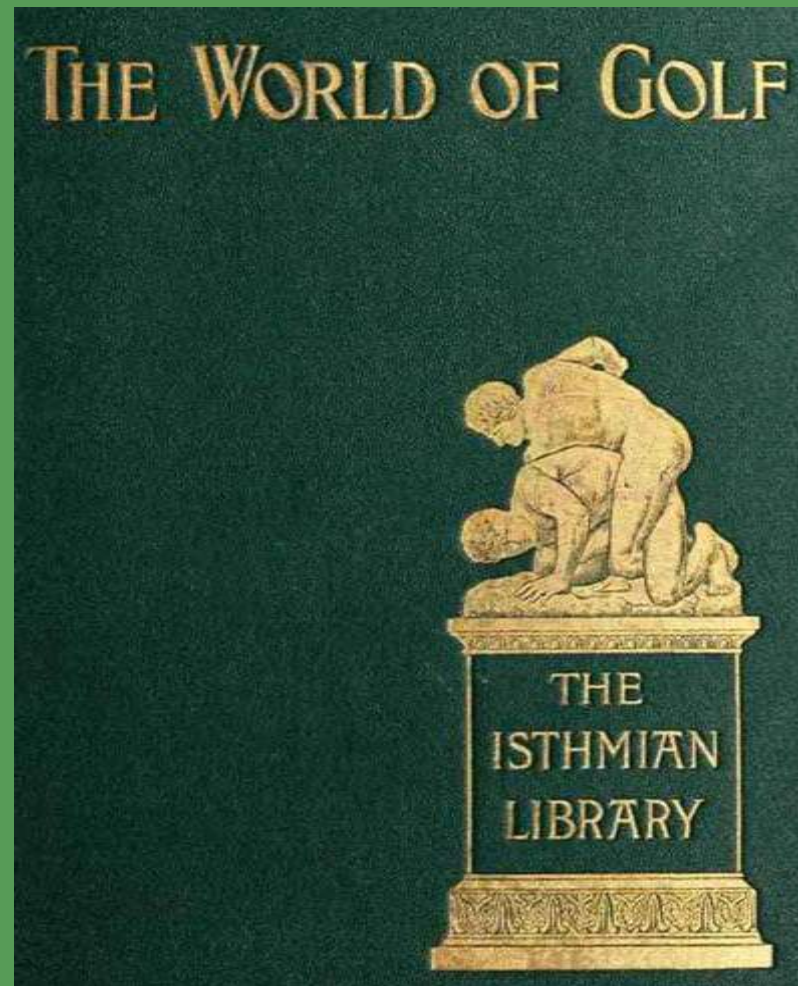


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Garden Smith in his 'World of Golf' in 1898 pulls no punches.

If the Dutch play any game akin to ours (golf) it seems more reasonable to suppose that their game was only a clumsy copy of what they saw at Leith and Musselburgh.



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David Hamilton, the Scottish historian, claims in 'Golf – Scotland's Game' from 1998 that ...

the Low Country colf game was a humble short game (a church yard game), contrary to the sophisticated Scottish game which was a long, links game.

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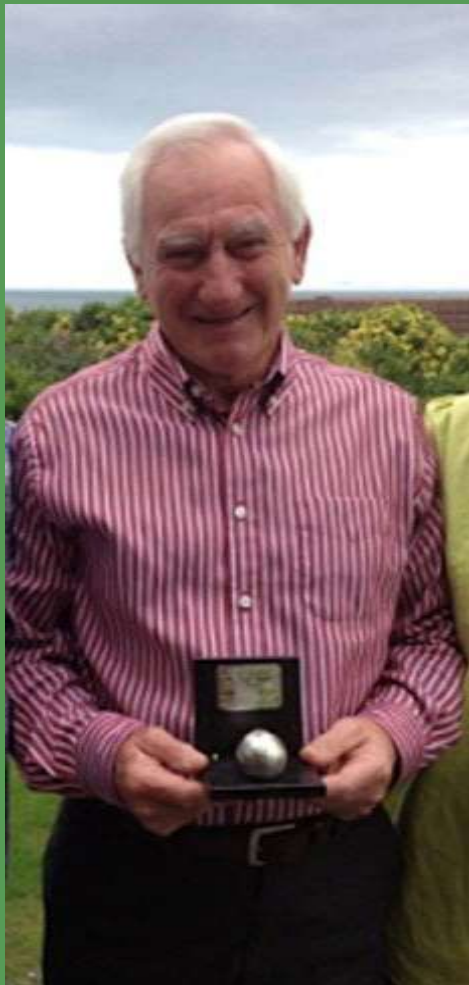
Olive Geddes, senior curator of the National Library of Scotland, expressed in her publication 'A swing through time' from 2007 her opinion that ...

the Low Country game of colf was played on ice, contrary to the Scottish game.



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Malcolm Campbell, a renowned golf history author, wrote in 1999 in 'The Scottish golf book' that ...

there have been counter-evolutionary claims in Europe, principally by the French and the Dutch but the cases are essentially flawed. They stand as nothing but imposters for both lacked the single, simple element which makes golf unique - the hole.

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Allister Macdonald in his 'Golf – Scotland's gift to the world' in 2009 stated that ...

the earliest watercolour
colf winter scene, painted
by Avercamp in 1625,
could scarcely be
evidence of Dutch origin
for a game that had been
played in Scotland nearly
200 years before that.



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Iain Forrester, proud son of Scotland and known to all, explains in 'Through The Green' in 2014 that ...

colf is a separate pastime (from golf) which shared a few links and materials with the Scottish game.

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Do you think that ... golf descends from the continent?

Well, then you are in good company. There are several highly respected British golf historians who are of the opinion that golf has continental roots. Let's mention just a few.

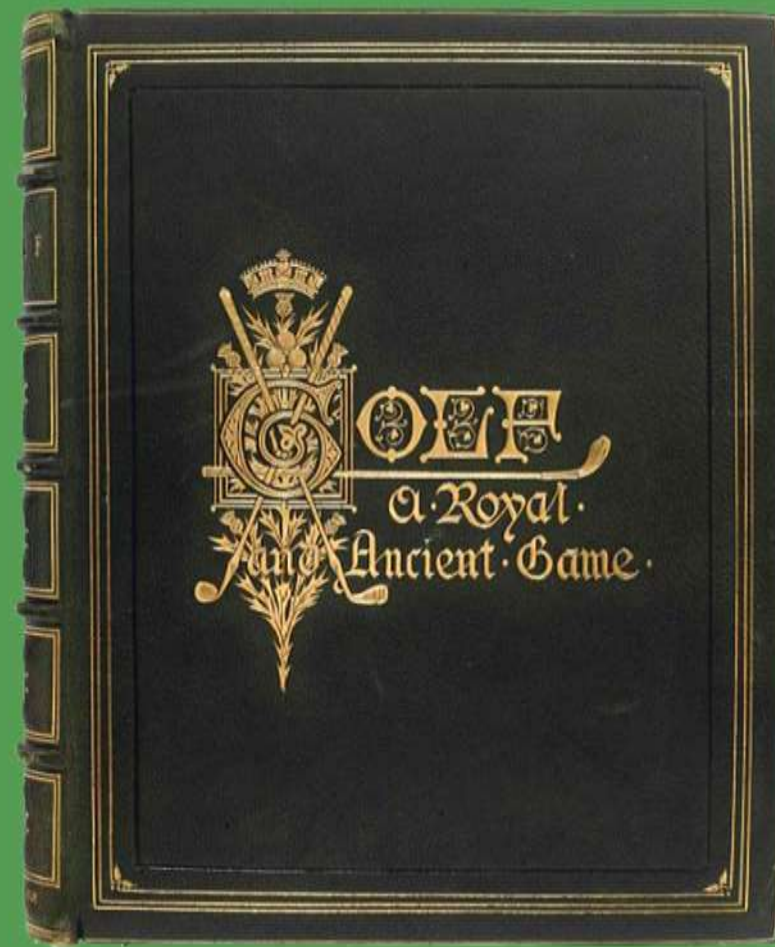


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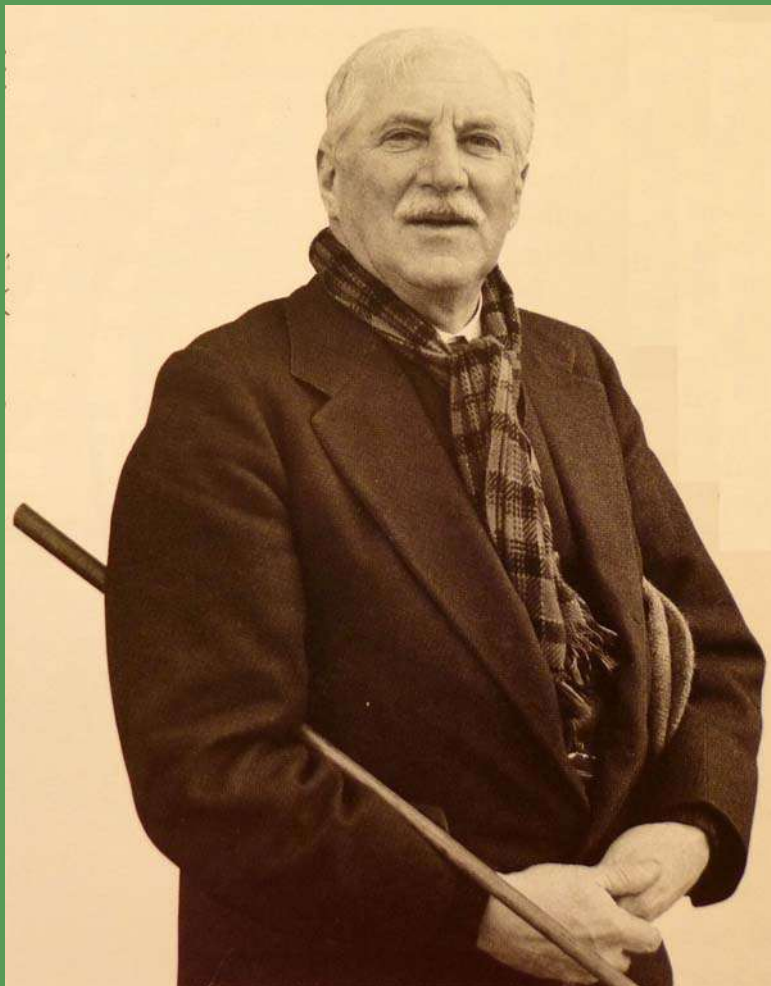
Already in 1875, Robert Clark said in his book 'Golf a royal and ancient game' ...

Scotland, which, though probably not the birth place, is yet the **chosen** 'Home of Golf'.



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In 1938, Major Sir Guy C. Campbell stated in 'Around Golf' that ...

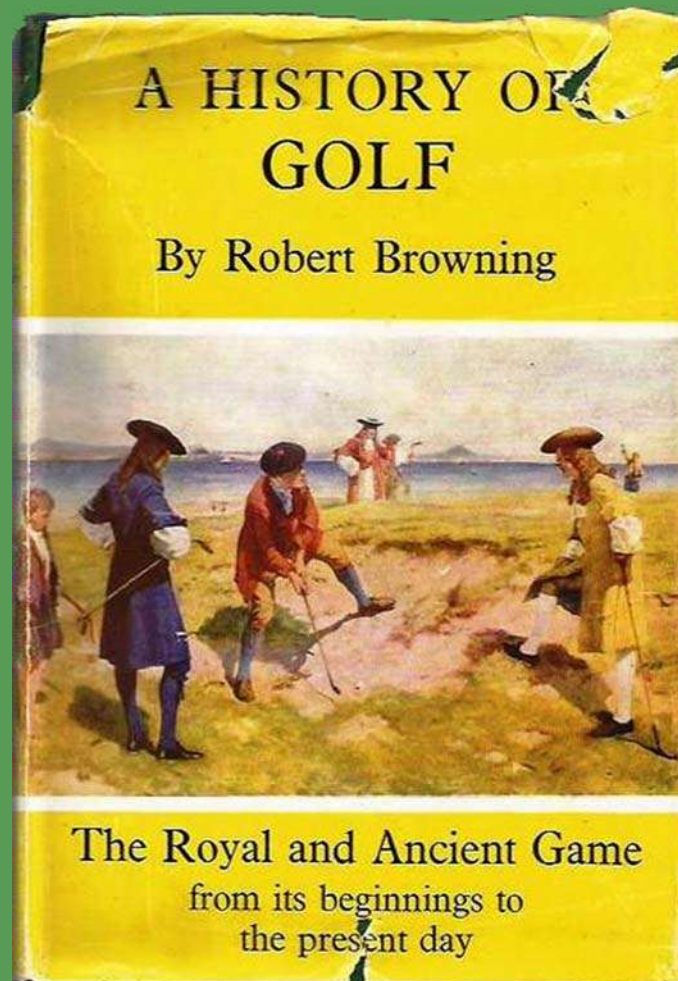
the game was cultivated in the Netherlands and crossed to Scotland before spreading to flourish all over the world.

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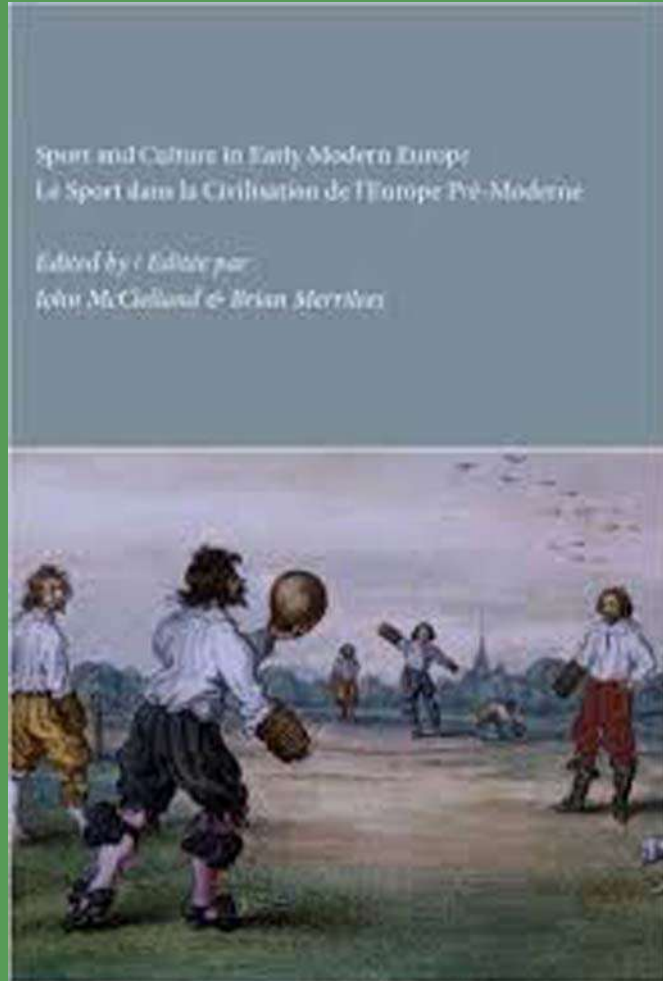
Robert Browning, in his 'History of Golf' from 1952, explains that ...

the game of 'chole' was taken up by the Scots around 1350 during the Hundred Years' War, brought it back to Scotland and transformed it into golf.



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John McClelland, the Canadian professor of history, explained in the 'Journal of Sport History' in 2006 that ...

choule, colf, pall-mall and mail à la chicane moved to Scotland were all three games were fused together to form one new all-absorbing sport.

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In his 'Triple Baugé' from 1996, Fred Hawtree, a well-known golf architect, claimed the origin of golf for the French jeu de mail.

Hundred sixty pages to prove that jeu de mail is the origin of golf.



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Our president supports the jeu de mail origin of golf on the 'Golfika' website.

He read Hawtree's book and agreed with its contents: jeu de mail is golf.

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Archie Baird, the famous owner of the Gullane 'Heritage of Golf Museum' in Scotland, explains ...

how the game developed after it arrived in Scotland from Holland between 1400 and 1500...



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Colin Montgomery, proud son of Scotland
and known to all, once said ...

Golf was born in Holland
and made in Scotland.



Do you think that ...
that golf descends from other stick
and ball games?

Well, if you think so you are in good company. There are quite some more or less respected authors who are of the opinion that the cradle of golf lies somewhere in ancient Rome, in Greece, in Egypt, in Constantinople, in Persia, in China or even in England.



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It is said that the Romans played a stick and ball game with feather balls. The game was called 'paganica'.

The Roman legions introduced this game into Scotland where the Scots learned from the Romans how to make 'featheries'.



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According to Chinese historians a golf-like game with the name 'chuiwan' was played in China more than a thousand years ago. Mongolian travellers brought this game to Western Europe where it developed into the game of golf.

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In the 14th century a stick and ball game was played in England under the name of 'cambuca'.

It is considered to be an adaptation of the Roman game paganica.

In the course of time the game conquered Scotland.



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Do you think that ...
golf wasn't golf at all?



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In the 'Encyclopædia Britannica', Heiner Gillmeister explained on the basis of linguistic research that ...

the word golf as used in the 1457 'Act of Parliament' does not stand for our game of golf, but for the ancient undisciplined game of street or churchyard 'hockey'.



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Now, you are probably as confused as we were a dozen years ago when being confronted with all these discrepant opinions from well-known golf historians about the origin of golf and what part the non-Scottish games played or rather didn't in the existence and development of the game of golf.



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Curious by nature we wanted to know more about the continental games. The references in the golf history books were far inadequate to get a clear picture of the games.

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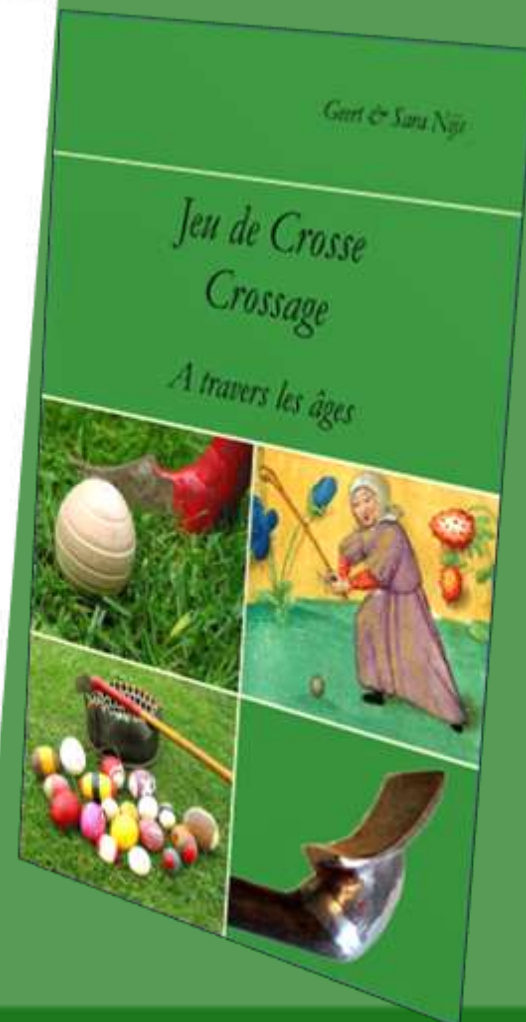
Satisfying our curiosity in archives, libraries, museums, history books, etc. resulted in the first ever book about the Franco/Belgian game of crosse:



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'CHOULE – The Non-Royal but most Ancient Game of Crosse' published in 2008, followed by its revised French edition in 2012.



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Subsequently we wanted to know more about the interrelationship between the continental games and the similarities and dissimilarities with Scottish golf if any.

Furthermore we wanted to investigate the information given by all the Different historians about the various aspects of the four games on which their opinions were built. For more than a dozen years we researched and analysed what has been written about the four games.



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The outcome of these investigations resulted altogether in three publications with the name 'Games for Kings & Commoners' containing almost a thousand pages and hundreds of pictures about the 'four musketeers'.

Subjects of our investigations were, amongst others:

Balls – Clubs – Rules – Players – Royal games – Names
Women & children – Archaeology – Playing fields – Religion
Facts & fairy tales – Art – Poetry – Proverbs – Expressions
Little Ice Age Seasons – Tournaments– Criminality
Etc., etc., etc.



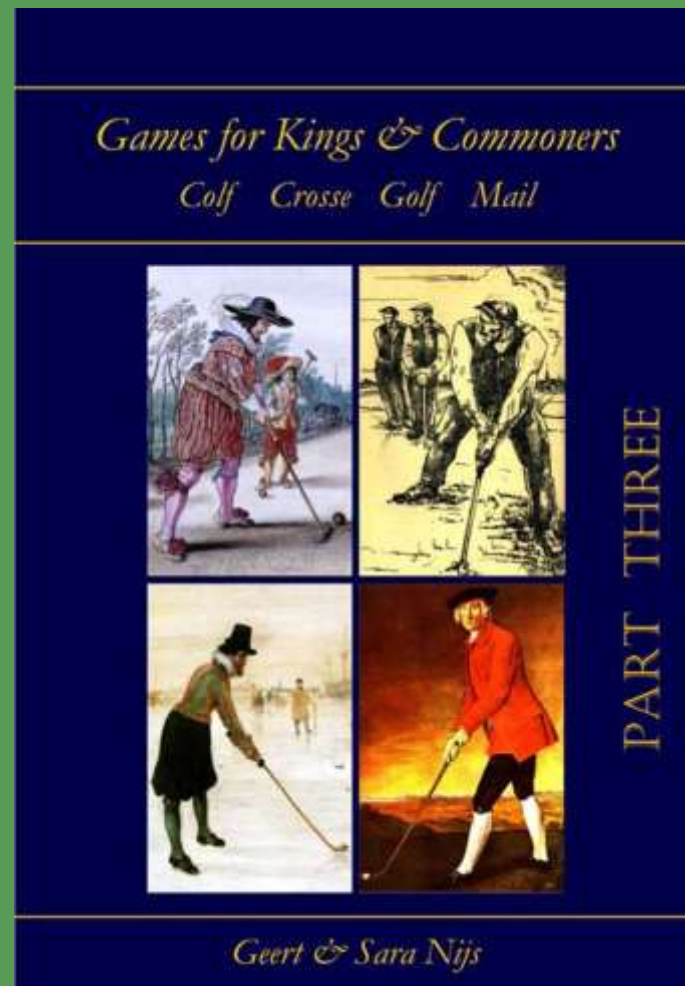
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Today we feel proud to present to you the final part of our trilogy:

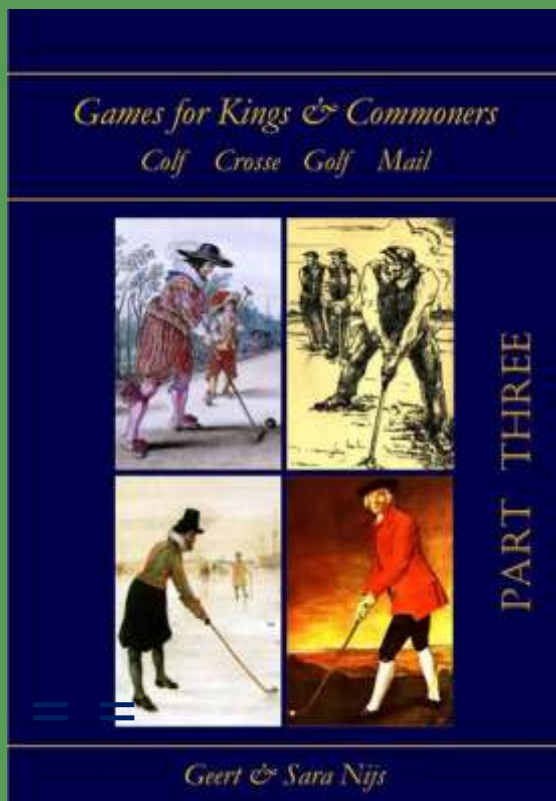
Games for Kings & Commoners PART THREE

For only 25 € you can read our analysis of what has been said or hasn't been said during 150 years about the history of golf and the continental precursors or separate pastime games.

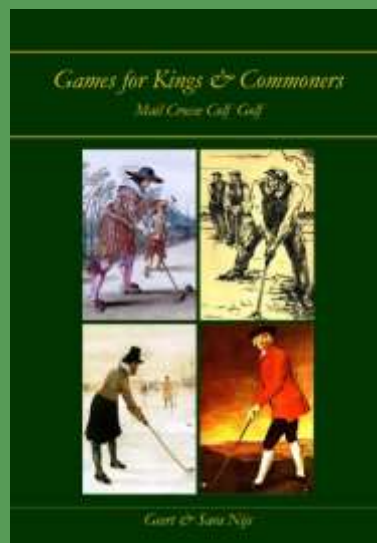


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€ 25



ONE

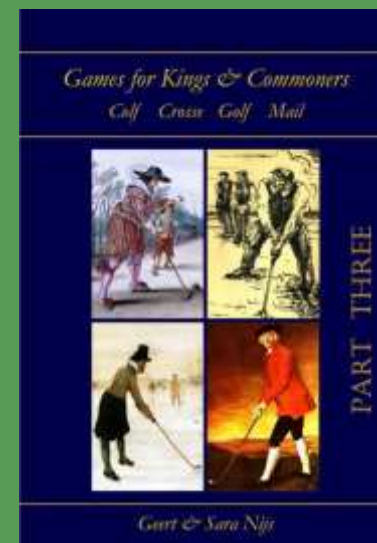
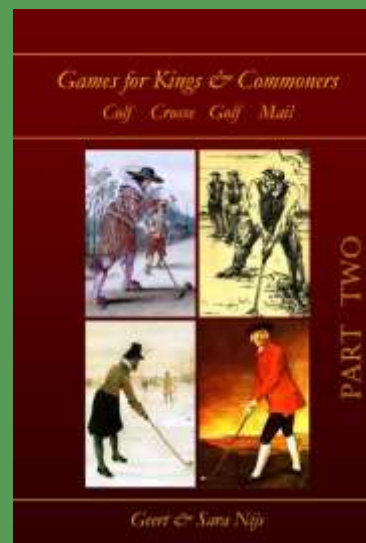
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TWO

+

THREE

= € 60

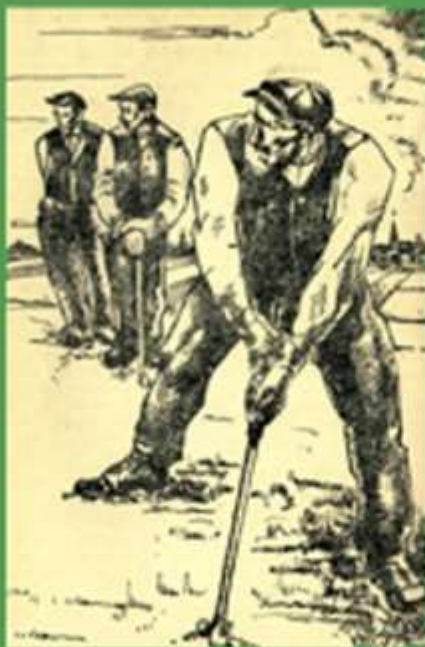


You don't need to pay more than 60 € if you want to indulge yourself in the contents of the complete trilogy.

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And what do we think ourselves?

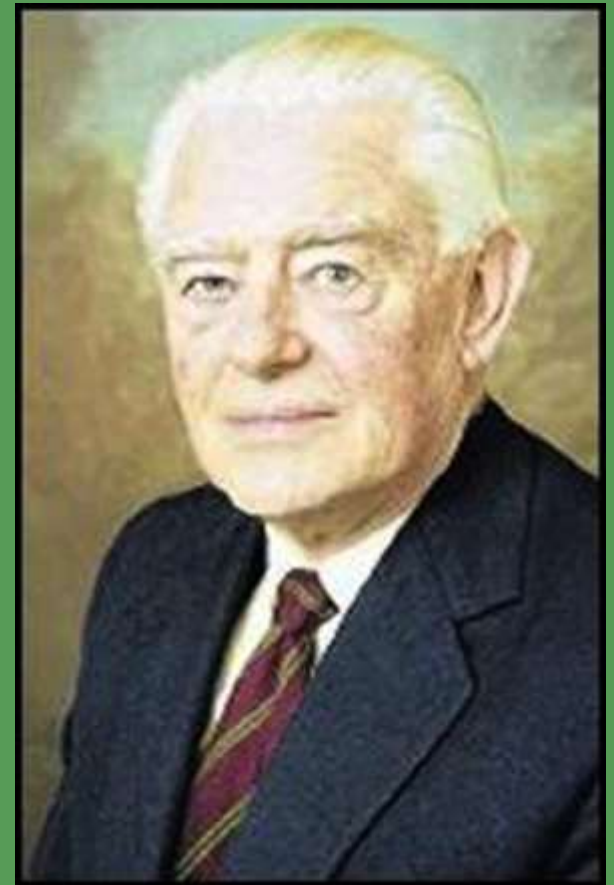


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We agree with David Ian Stirk that ...

probably comparable stick and ball games evolved independently in different places and at different times, developing along local lines and being played by groups of People who were unaware of each other.



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Thank you for your attention (and for your orders)!



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