

Iain Crawford

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Steven J.H. van Hengel, F.I.B.,
Saxonrodweg, 30
2116 V.A. Bentveld,
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Dear Steven,

First, I must apologise for being so slow in writing to you to thank you for your great kindness and hospitality when I visited you in Bentveld. It has been occasioned only by the fact that I could not, until today, obtain an extra copy of my St Andrews book to send you and I did not wish to let you have an incomplete set.

Despite the calumnies on the claims of the Dutch to have invented golf contained in the St Andrews book, I hope you will be pleased to have all three to add to your bookshelves. More - and timely - obeisances to your scholarship will be paid the next time I write a golf book !

In the meantime, thank you very much indeed for your great kindness in receiving me and talking to me so fascinatingly about the origins of golf. I look forward eagerly to our meeting again very soon on the links of either Holland or Scotland.

Please accept these books with my best wishes and my most grateful thanks for your friendly welcome and knowledgeable kindness. Please call me the next time you are coming to Scotland so that we may have the opportunity of meeting and I may have the pleasure of returning some of your hospitality.

With best wishes
Yours sincerely



Iain Crawford

Iain Crawford Esq
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Dear Iain,

This to thank you for your letter of the 30th October and the enclosed books. I have read them with great pleasure, particularly since the tree courses are well known to me. The books give a number of details, particularly about the surroundings, which I did not know. I must also thank you for writing the three kind inscriptions into them.

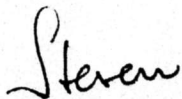
I am quite used to the sometimes weird allusions made to early golf this side of the North Sea and they amuse me. It is interesting to see how many of the existing beliefs about the history of golf are based on the inspired but unfounded writings of some enthusiastic Victorian writers who disposed of a good sense of phantasy.

It was a pleasure to have you here. Now that you know where it is: Haste ye back!

I shall certainly not miss calling on you when next I am in Scotland.

With kind regards,

yours very faithfully,



Steven J.H. van Hengel