

S.J.H. van Hengel
30 Saxenrodeweg
Aerdenhout
Netherlands

9th September 1972

The Director of the
Institute of Arts
Minneapolis, Minnesota
U. S. A.

also to the attention of Mr. Dean O.M. Leland

Dear Sir,

Some time ago I again had Mr. Robert Browning's 'A History of Golf' of 1955 in my hands. I was looking at the reproductions of Paul Brill's painting of 1624 in it. I would very much like to have a photograph of that painting in a size of about 18x24 cm. Two copies if you can manage that, please.

Being interested in the early history of golf and somewhat versed in these matters I beg to disagree with Mr. Brownings views. I should think that what is painted on the painting is a game of 'jeu de mail-à la chicane'. This French game which must be considered older than chole and much more widespread than the latter must also be considered more of a forerunner of present-day golf than chole ever was. I can be more precise if I get the photographs. Some details are not too clear from the reproductions in the book.

Needless to say that I shall be happy to reimburse you for the expenses in sending me the photographs. Looking forward to your reply and thanking you in advance for your kind cooperation

I am, sincerely yours

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THE MINNEAPOLIS INSTITUTE OF ARTS

201 East 24th Street, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55404 Telephone: 339-7661 Cable address: Minnart

September 14, 1972

Mr. S.J.H. van Hengel
30 Saxenrodeweg
Aerdenhout, The Netherlands

Dear Mr. van Hengel:

I am enclosing, with our compliments, two copies of our painting by Paul Brill. I am grateful for your comments in your letter of September 9th and shall look forward to receiving your further thoughts as to whether the game of chole or "jeu de mail-à la chicane" is represented.

Sincerely,



Samuel Sachs II
Chief Curator

SS/mo

October 4th, 1972

Mr. Samuel Sachs II,
Chief Curator,
The Minneapolis Institute of Arts,
201 East 24th Street,
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55404.

Dear Mr. Sachs,


This is to thank you for your kind letter of September 14th and the two photographs which you kindly enclosed. They are of very superior quality indeed to the reproduction I have seen so far.

Closer study of the photographs convinces me that this is most likely a game of "Mail à la chicane", chiefly because:

1. The size of the balls;
2. The clear preponderance of mail-mallets and mail balls in the shop on the right;
3. The absence of a player playing a "déchole", so characteristic of chole;
4. The fact that the painting hails from Rome; mail was **played** all over Europe at the time, whereas the play of chole was limited mainly to northern France and Belgium.

For your guidance I am enclosing a manuscript of mine which may give you some more background.

With kind regards , I am,

Yours truly


Enclosure.

THE MINNEAPOLIS INSTITUTE OF ARTS

201 East 24th Street, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55404

Telephone: 339-7661

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October 11, 1972

Mr. Steven J. H. Van Hengel
Saxenrodeweg 30
Aerdenhout, Holland

Dear Mr. Van Hengel:

Thank you for your letter of October 4th and the interesting information contained therein.

I am grateful, also, for the copy of "Early Golf" which will be extremely useful for my files.

Please let us know if there is anything further we can do to assist your researches.

Sincerely,



Samuel Sachs II
Chief Curator

SS/mo