

THE GOLF LIBRARY ⁴⁶⁶¹⁷
Colonel R. Otto Probst 334 No. Hill Street South Bend ~~IN~~, Indiana USA

MEMBER

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THE GOLF SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

May 13-1975

Mr. S. van Hengel
Managing Director of F. van Lanshot Banquers
Herengracht 199-201
Amsterdam, Netherlands

Dear Mr. van Hengel:

A letter arrived the other day from A. A. Knuijver former editor of your Kolf Magazine. He succeeded the original editor after his death in an airplane accident over Ireland. I have known both these gentlemen since the beginning of Kolf Magazine. I have a complete run of the magazine since its beginning.

I have been collecting golf since 1922 when I began playing golf. My collection will become a part of the PGA Golf Hall of Fame, Library and Museum down in Florida. It is my intention to come to your country at some near future date to look at Kolf bunds which according to two yearbooks (1895) there were 165 of these places or clubs (at that date).

Mr. Knuijver advised me that the present editor of Kolf knows very little about Holland golf history and he also stated that you are practically the only person in Holland who knows everything on the subject of the ancient Dutch game of golf. He also advised that you were a collector of kolf and golf curiosities. I would be very happy to exchange such with you in the course of my collecting activity, should you wish.

With the assistance of the first editor of Kolf I was able to get some kolf club and two kolf balls (cambric and rubber). I would be pleased to elaborate on the subject of kolf with you and also golf as played in the United States should it be of interest to you.

Very truly yours,

R. Otto Probst

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F. VAN LANSCHOT

Bankiers anno 1737

S. J. H. VAN HENGEL, F.L.B.
DIRECTEUR

Colonel R. Otto Probst,
334 Hill Street,
South Bend, Indiana.

AMSTERDAM 1001, May 16th, 1975
HERENGRACHT 109-201 TEL. 020-64477

Dear Mr. Probst,

This is to thank you for your letter of 13th May 1975. I had known of your existence for quite some time since we are both members of the Golf Collectors Society, and it will give me great pleasure to meet you when you come to this country.

I would appreciate an early warning since I am a working man !

The number of the ancient "Kolf" (indoor) courses still in use is quite a bit smaller than that in your 1895 yearbook. The Nederlandsche Kolf Bond (whose president has become quite a friend over the years) now has some 20 affiliated clubs, all of them in the Province Noord-Holland (the peninsula north of Amsterdam).

I shall be happy to show you what little items I have managed to collect over the years. On the other hand you may wish to come to my club, Kennemer Golf & Country Club at Zandvoort to have a look at some of the items there which are not without some interest from a historic point of view.

To show you how far my efforts have come I am enclosing a copy of "Early Golf" (a further copy is available in the Golf Museum of the U.S.G.A. and in the Library of Congress). The number of copies of this publications is small and I would suggest that you refrain from advertising it (I could hardly meet a large demand).

From it you may see that "Kolf" is only the outdoor- later indoor - version of a much older golf game in this country.

First course identified and first game played on it: Loenen aan de Vecht, Boxing Day 1297. Length of course: 4500 m. Number of holes: 4. Type of game: eightsome. Score: alas unknown.

It seems doubtful that we should be able to trace the game further back than that but then - one never knows and that is also the charm of golf history.

Looking forward to seeing you here and having further news from you, I am,

very sincerely yours,

Encl.

S. J. H. van Hengel

Nº 524

COLONEL R. OTTO PROBST (RET'D.)

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M E S S A G E

TO

Mr. S. J. H. van Hengel
 Director, F. Van Lanschot
 Herengracht 199-201
 Amsterdam 1001, Netherlands

DATE May 27, 1975

Dear Steven:

Your May 16, 1975 letter arrived a few days ago and I was pleased with the copy of "Early Golf", this being my first knowledge of your history. I will refrain from any mention of it other than to collectors like yourself and I. There are 2 or 3 that would be interested and they are also members of the Golf Collectors Society.

Do you have among your books Mark H. McCormick's "Wonderful World of Professional Golf" 1973?

I have an extra copy of it. Do you plan to attend the next meeting of the Golf Collectors Society which takes place in South Carolina. I am very happy to come to know you due to the fact that I have been looking for someone to take the place of my friend the founder and publisher of Kolf. I can now definitely make plans for a trip to your

BY

SIGNED

R E P L Y

DATE

country and visit the various golf places. I would now like to enter into a definite discussion of golf literature as it appears here and in your country.

June, 10th 1975

Dear Otto,

Thank you for your letter of the 27th May.
I am afraid that I shall not make it to the meeting
of the G.C.S. at South Carolina and the way it looks
right now I shall not even make the Open in Scotland.
As I am still a working man there are certain other
obligations that keep one tied down. The more so I
look forward to seeing you here. I am away in the first
week of August and most of September (at the R. & A. in
St. Andrews) but other than that I am here most of the
time. So let me know when you intend to come. I'll show
you what modest things I have, and we can discuss golf
literature at ease. I have not got a copy of McCormick's
Wonderful World of Professional Golf 1973 so if you are
prepared to part with your double I would be very
interested in it. Hoping to hear from you before long
I am,

Nº 527

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M E S S A G E

TO

Mr. Steven J. H. van Hengel
 Saxenrodeweg 30
 Aerdenhout Netherlands

DATE July 30, 1975

Dear Steven:

I am making a belated reply to your letter of June 10, 1975. I have been very much occupied lately and will continue to be for the rest of the summer. We go to the PGA National Tournament next week in Akron, Ohio.

I will get to the McCormick book as soon as I get back and would like to hear from you again just so we maintain the contact.

BY

SIGNED