

TELEGRAMS - "ANCIENT"

TELEPHONE NOS. 2112 & 2113

CODE - BENTLEY'S

SECRETARY

K. R. T. MACKENZIE, M.C.

DEPUTY SECRETARY

W. N. B. LOUDON



ROYAL AND ANCIENT GOLF CLUB
OF ST. ANDREWS,
FIFE.

Our Ref: H/13

3rd April, 1972.

Steven J.H. van Hengel, Esq.,
Saxenrodeweg 30,
Aerdenhout.

Dear *Steven*

When you were here for the Autumn Meeting you discussed with D. Inglis Duff the painting "Ice on the Scheldt" which hangs in our North Room.

Apparently there was some doubt who the artist was and it was thought that it might either be Vander Neer or Isaac van Ostade.

I am enclosing a black and white photograph of the picture and should be grateful if you would check with the Rijksbureau voor Kunsthistorische Documentatie and let me know what they think.

All the best.

Yours

Niel

Deputy Secretary

Encl:

WNBL/mf

W.N.B. Loudon Esq.,
Deputy Secretary
Royal and Ancient Golf Club
of St. Andrews,
Fife.

April , 17th, 1972.


Dear

This is to thank you for your letter of the 3rd of April (Ref: H/13) and the photograph enclosed therein.

The latter has been forwarded to the National Institute for Art History, and I will keep you posted of further developments.

With very kind regards, I am,

Yours



SvH/vb

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ROYAL AND ANCIENT GOLF CLUB
OF ST. ANDREWS,
FIFE.

Our Ref: H/13

9th May, 1972.

S.J.H. Van Hengel, Esq.,
Saxenrodeweg 30,
Aerdenhout,
Holland.

Dear Steven,

I am enclosing a photograph of what
I think is quite a well known painting of Dutch
origin round about 1630.

Would you please let me know the name
of the picture and the name of the artist and let
me have any other comments you may wish to make
on it.

I hope you are planning to come here for
the Autumn Meeting this year.

Yours

Nice

Deputy Secretary

Encl:
WNBL/mf

W.N.B. Loudon Esq.,
Deputy Secretary
Royal and Ancient Golf Club
of St. Andrews,
Fife.

May 16th, 1972.

This is to thank you for your letter, reference H/13 of 9th May 1972 and the enclosed photograph. Identification of a picture like this is not as easy as it seems. One essential detail necessary for it is the size of the picture. Would you be so kind as to let me have the size as yet.

Since you mention that it should be a Dutch painting I wonder whether it is just an odd photograph you have or whether the picture is actually in Scotland, and I would ask you to let me know some more about it.

As regards the photograph of the picture in the clubhouse which you sent me with your previous letter: the photograph has been dispatched to the experts, who has some trouble in placing it.


It is a very interesting painting and so far the impressions are that it comes from the vicinity of Frans de Momper or Abraham van Breen. They keep working on it and will let me have further details.

The landscape itself is probably a phantasy of the city of Utrecht, yet the spire of the church in the background is definitively that of Utrecht's cathedral .

I will keep you informed and I am looking forward to your further news.

In the meantime I have also booked a room in St. Andrews' Hotel for the September meeting, and I am looking forward to see you all again.

SvH/vb.



STEVEN J. H. VAN HENGEL - SAXENRODEWEG 30 - AERDENHOUT

W.N.B. Loudon Esq.,
The Royal and Ancient Golf Club,
St. Andrews.
Fife.

June 16th, 1972

Dear Niel,

I am enclosing a photostat of the letter which I just received from Mr. Renkens of the National Bureau of Art History regarding the painting of the Dutch winter landscape in the clubhouse. You may have some difficulty in reading it. It says:

"With my apologies for the late reply to your letter of the 17th April I may give you some comments on the winter-landscape, property of the R & A.

In spite of my thorough investigations (and those of my colleagues) I have not succeeded in locating the maker of this pretty picture with absolute certainty. This is an early 17th century work of art. By this fact alone attribution of it to masters like Aert van der Neer or Isaac van Ostade must be dismissed as impossible.

The personalities wear costume of the fashion around 1620. The maker is certainly a contemporary of Esaias van de Velde, Hendrick Avercamp and Adam van Breen. The view of the city, a phantasy on Utrecht (the cathedral with the old spire on it) , however, does not point in the direction of these masters, who never painted town views so prominently in their works, van de Velde excepted. He, however, used quite a different style in his manner of painting buildings.

In brief, I have not come to a solution. As the painting has definitely pictorial qualities (this goes also for the humoresque personalities on it) I shall keep the research going, hoping to once solve this riddle.

With kind regards etc. etc."

So there you are. The painting, which I personally like very much indeed, is older than it was believed to be.

It is a very good quality work of art, but the painter is not so easy to locate. This is often the case in that period.

I have thanked Mr. Renckens in your behalf and hope to keep you posted about further developments.

May I remind you of my request for the size and background of the other photograph ?

With kind regards
yours
Steven

14 juni 1972

De Heer Steven J.H. van Hengel,
Saxenrodeweg 30,
AERDENHOUT

Zeer geachte Heer Van Hengel,

Met mijn verontschuldigen voor mijn laat antwoord op Uw brief van 17 april 1972, laat ik U enkele opmerkingen toekomen over het winterse stadsgezicht, eigendom van de Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews.

Ondanks mijn herhaalde onderzoekingen is het mij (en mijn collega's) niet gelukt de maker van het aardige schilderij met zekerheid vast te stellen. Het is een vroeg 17de-eeuws werk. Alleen daardoor al is een toeschrijving aan meesters als Aert van der Neer en Isaac van Ostade uitgesloten. De figuren tonen de mode van rond 1620. De maker is stellig een tijdgenoot van Esaias van de Velde, Hendrick Avercamp en Adam van Breen. Het stadsgezicht, een fantasie op Utrecht (de Dom met de oude spits) daarentegen past weinig bij genoemde meesters, die nimmer het stadsgezicht een zo belangrijke rol toebedeelden, uitgezonderd Van de Velde. Deze echter heeft in zijn gebouwen een zeer afwijkende techniek.

Kortom, ik ben er nog niet uitgekomen. Daar het stuk stellig picturale kwaliteiten bezit (ook in de geestige figuren) zal ik zeker verder zoeken, in de hoop het raadsel eens te kunnen oplossen.

Met vriendelijke groeten en

met de meeste hoogachting,



B.J.A. Renckens.

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ROYAL AND ANCIENT GOLF CLUB
OF ST. ANDREWS, FIFE.
KY16 9JD

Our Ref: H/13

11th January, 1973.

S.J.H. Van Hengel, Esq.,
Saxenrodeweg 30,
AERDENHOUT,
Netherlands.

Dear Steven,

Inglis has asked us to acknowledge and thank you
for the copy of your Brochure in Dutch entitled:

VROEG GOLF
EN ZIJN ONTWIKKELING

which will be kept in the Library and for which we are
grateful.

Without knowledge of the language, of course, we
cannot tell whether it is, word for word, a translation
of the brochure in English which you left here last year,
entitled:

EARLY GOLF
(1972; all copyrights reserved)

but it is useful to have the English translation of the
titles under the illustrations.

From the Club point of view, we think it is best
to keep these separate from the Scrap Book which concerns
itself with the R. & A. only and does not aim at the
historical side of golf so much.

But you are to be congratulated on all the work you
have done in this connection, much of it is a class by
itself!

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Nue

Deputy Secretary

WNBL/sb

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ROYAL AND ANCIENT GOLF CLUB
OF ST. ANDREWS,
FIFE.

Our Ref: H/13

5th July, 1972.

Steven J.H. van Hengel, Esq.,
Saxenrodeweg 30,
Aerdenhout,
Holland.

Dear Steven,

I apologise for not having acknowledged your letter of 16th June and I am most interested in the information contained therein which I shall report to my Committee at its next meeting.

I am sorry not to have replied to your previous letter about the other photograph, but Inglis Duff has been on holiday and he is dealing with this. I shall get in touch with him after the Open and will let you have the information you require.

All the best.

Yours

M. J. F. Fine

Deputy Secretary

PP.

(Dictated by Mr. Loudon
and signed in his absence)

WNBL/mf

TELEGRAMS - "ANCIENT"

TELEPHONE ST. ANDREWS 72112
(STD CODE 0334)

TELEX No. 76348

SECRETARY
K. R. T. MACKENZIE, M.C.



ROYAL AND ANCIENT GOLF CLUB
OF ST. ANDREWS, FIFE.
KY16 9JD

Ref: H.8

23rd November, 1982.

S.J.H. van Hengel, Esq.,
30 Saxenrodeweg,
2116 Va Bentveld,
Netherlands.

Dear Mr. van Hengel,

Thank you very much for the copy of your "Early Golf" (1982) which I shall place with your earlier work of that title in the R. & A.'s Library.

Yours sincerely,

R.A.L. Burnet

R.A.L. Burnet
Librarian

RALB/GM

TELEGRAMS - "ANCIENT"

TELEPHONE ST. ANDREWS 72112
(STD CODE 0334)

TELEX No. 76348



ROYAL AND ANCIENT GOLF CLUB
OF ST. ANDREWS, FIFE.
KY16 9JD

SECRETARY
K. R. T. MACKENZIE, M.C.
K. R. T. MACKENZIE, O.B.E., M.C.

Ref: H.8

8th July, 1983

S.J.H. Van Hengel, Esq.,
30 Saxenrodeweg,
2116 Va Bentveld,
Netherlands.

Dear Mr. Van Hengel,

We have recently acquired photocopies of the 1914 Golf Illustrated and there was a tiny item which might be worth following up - if you have not already done so.

"April 3, 1914 (Page 75)

The Origin of Golf

According to the Golfers' Magazine (Chicago, U.S.A.) Archbishop Seaton of New Jersey, in reorganising his family archives, discovered that one of his ancestors introduced golf from Holland into Scotland at the beginnings of the fifteenth century - the Archbishop has determined to pursue his investigations."

I will be writing to Mr. Archie Baird with the same information, in case he may not already have it.

With every good wish,

Yours sincerely,

Bobby Burnet

R.A.L. Burnet
Librarian

RALB/DR



Tel. 023 - 24 01 69

14th December 1983

30, Saxenrodeweg
2116 VA Bentveld
Holland

Mr. R.A.L. Burnet, Librarian
The Royal & Ancient Golf Club
St. Andrews, Fife KY16 9JD

Dear Bobby,

There has been a post office strike, I have been travelling and I have an amazing backlog in my mail but all of that is no excuse for not replying earlier to your letter of the 8th July. So let me say thank you and I'm sorry.

It was very kind of you to think of me when finding the reference in Golf Illustrated. I knew about it but so far I have not been able to take it any further than what was written in the Golfer's Magazine in Chicago in 1914. The Seton family appears also in the background when the 'Book of Articles' accusing Mary Queen of Scots of being an accomplice to the murder of her husband is composed in 1567 it states that she was playing with the Earl of Bothwell in the fields of Seton House 'with the pal mall and goif.' Looking at the early development of golf in Scotland one cannot escape the impression that it was promoted by certain noble families since one finds the same names mentioned again and again. There must have been some sort of a prepared field at Seton House.

Be that as it may, it does not help us any further with the reference. Next spring I shall be in New York and, with a bit of luck, find out more about it.

With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year and hoping to see you in 1984 I am,

Sincerely yours,

Steven van Hengel

Steven J. H. van Hengel

R.A.L. Burnet Esq, Librarian
The Royal & Ancient Golf Club
St. ANDREWS, Fife KY16 9JD

Dear Bobby,

Statement of Archbishop Robert Seton in the
Golfers' Magazine U.S.A., 3rd April 1914

Since writing to you on the 13th December 1983 I have been visiting the United States. I seized the opportunity to give the archbishop the chase. Robert Seton died at the Elsiebeth Convent, Convent Station, N.J. on the 28th January 1928 (89 years old) after a life a major portion of which was spent in Rome and travelling in Europe (also to Scotland). His papers were divided into four parts, which went to: 1. the convent where he died; 2. Seton Hall College, South Orange, N.J.; 3. The New York Historical Society, New York, N.Y.; 4. The University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Ind. It proved quite a job to go through all these papers or have them gone through, but it was done. In the end we were none the wiser since no note was found supporting his statement in 1914. However, Robert Seton was a meticulous person, this can be seen from all his notes. He was not a golfer. Being what he was, he can not have made this statement without good grounds. The point is: where did he find the evidence? Having done what I did, I am now fairly convinced that the answer must lie in Scotland. The question therefore arises: where are the Seton papers in Scotland? Would they be at Register House in Edinburgh or is there anything left of Seton Palace and are they there? You being much closer to things than I, I would be very grateful if you could be of help in this field. You always get some material out of searches of parts of the golf history. It may amuse you to go through the notes I compiled on Stuarts, golf and pall-mall and on early Setons. In this framework one wonders whether the later Stuarts played golf at all or only Pall Mall, and whether William Mayne who was clubmaker to James VI/I in 1603 (nobody said he was golfclubmaker) made mallets for pall mall or clubs for golf? I would be grateful for some help in the foregoing matter. Trusting that you will watch an interesting Open in the meantime,

Yours sincerely
Steven

Steven J.H. van Hengel