

HISTORY OF THE GAME IN 'GOLF HOUSE' ART

by

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A Rembrandt etching, "The Golf Player," and four oil paintings have been added to the collection of art in "Golf House." The oils are entitled: "The First International Foursome — England v. Scotland," "Painting of a Small Girl Playing Golf," "Thirteenth Hole of the East Course of the Oak Hill Country Club" and "Eighteenth Hole of the Lake Course of the Olympic Country Club."

The last two paintings are a gift to the USGA Museum by Henry P. Cowen, in behalf of the MacGregor Golf Company, Cincinnati, Ohio. The former paintings and the etching were the generous donation of Mr. George Weinhagen, Jr., of Rancho Sante Fe, Cal., formerly of Milwaukee, Wis.

Rembrandt Etching

The etching is 4 x 6 inches and shows a view of a man sitting in an inn while a golf player with a club stands outside. The work was done about 1654. This particular etching was originally in the F. Debois collection in Paris. It is a "First State," dated 1843, and is considered a rare item.

"The First International Foursome — England v. Scotland," played on Leith Links, 1682, is an oil by Allan Stewart. Stewart was a Scottish painter and illustrator of historical subjects and painted this work in 1919. The size of the painting is 48 x 36 inches.

The painting is based on the historic meeting in 1682 between the Duke of York, later James II, who was in residence at Holyrood. A discussion arose between the Duke and two English noblemen of his suite as to whether golf had not been played as long in England as in Scotland. The Duke championed the claims of Scotland and quoted Acts of the Scottish Parliament of 1457 with reference to the game. Similar evidence not forthcoming for Eng-

land, they proposed to decide it by playing a game on Leith Links for stakes.

The Duke selected as his partner for Scotland, John Paterson, an Edinburgh shoemaker who was the best golfer of his day and descendant of a long line of golfers. The game resulted in a win for Scotland and the stakes were handed to Paterson. He used the stake to build a house in the Canongate, Edinburgh—still standing and known as the Golfers' Land. He placed a tablet on the front bearing the Paterson Arms with the crest depicting a hand holding a club and the motto "Far and Sure."

"Painting of a Small Girl Playing Golf" is the work of an unknown artist of the English school, circa 1820. The painting is similar to "A Young Dutch Golfer," by Albert Cuyp and "A Golfing Lady," by Wybrand De Geest, both seventeenth century painters of the Netherlands school. From the costume of the girl, the pose and the background, it is possible that the artist was familiar with these seventeenth century works. The size of the painting is 6 x 9 inches.

The other two oils are of famous golf holes on courses where the USGA Open Championship was played in 1955 and 1956. Together with the oil of the fourth hole of the Lower Course of the Baltusrol Golf Club, presented by Mr. Cowen in 1953, the two oils are additions to an impressive series of oil paintings of which "Golf House" is proud and grateful. Each painting is 24 x 20 inches. All of the paintings in this series are the work of Ralph C. Reynolds.

Thus, art which captures the spirit and expresses the beauty of golf is being added to the walls of "Golf House." It makes a lively, colorful, interesting story of the history and development of the game.