



# GARY GALYEAN'S GOLF LETTER

THE INSIDE REPORT ON WORLD GOLF

NUMBER 353

OUR 32<sup>ND</sup> YEAR

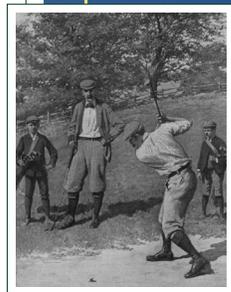
NOVEMBER 2021

Dear Subscriber:

FOR HALF A CENTURY Grant Books, located in Worcestershire, England, has led a substantial effort to publish, and publish again, historically important books that describe and reflect upon golf's important past and its extensive literary legacy. More than 100 books that focus exclusively upon entries in the library of golf have been published in limited editions and to high standards of typography, art, binding, and slip casing. These are not books for everyone. However, as Abraham Lincoln once wrote in a review of a friend's book, "For people who like this sort of thing, this is the sort of thing they will like".

We like. Grant Books' collection is comprised of rare, intriguing, and well written books that tell stories not easily found elsewhere. Most volumes are augmented by art and poetry of the period. They illuminate a time when golf and the places it was played and administrated evolved through social intercourse and social history that lie at the heart of the game that draws us.

Spotlighted below are some newly reprinted, unusual, and valuable Grant Books—19<sup>th</sup> century fiction, history, and instruction—that may serve the purpose of gift giving.



## SOME GOLF IN 1897 Compiled and Edited by D.M. Wilson, III

*225 copies, hardback with slipcase,  
8½ x 11½, 169 pages,  
multiple photos,  
maps, and graphics, £25 plus postage*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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THIS UNIQUE compilation centers on a small book that sold for six pence in 1897 and was titled *Golf Twaddle, containing A Few Hints to Duffers* by A. Twaddler, to this day an unknown anonymous author.

As he has done many times before, D.M. Wilson, III, the compiler of *SOME GOLF IN 1897* and the new publisher of Grant Books Ltd., begins by using the foreword to frame the time and place of the writing assembled for this publication. There are several noteworthy instructional pieces, the third of which is *HOW TO PLAY GOLF* by H.J. Whigham. Mr. Whigham was notable for at least four things: winning the 1896 [Shinnecock] and 1897 [Chicago] U.S. Amateurs, winning the hand of Charles Blair Macdonald's daughter, and publishing this book, which was America's first golf instruction book.

Also included are a dozen golf articles - not instructional - that appeared in various periodicals and set the

1897 historical stage. In that year, the Rules of Golf Committee was formed at the Royal & Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, the U.S.G.A. began its publication of the periodical *Golf*, the Metropolitan Golf Association was formed, Harold Hilton—an amateur—won the Open, Joe Lloyd took home \$150 for winning the U.S. Open, Thomas Edison patented the movie camera, Royal Calcutta Golf Club was 69 years old, and Queen Victoria celebrated her Diamond Jubilee as Quenn and her 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of being proclaimed the Empress of India. Who wouldn't want that? She apparently always did.

Rather than stealing any more of this book's steam about this exhilarating time for the emergence of golf in the midst of the Roaring Nineties, suffice it to say that *SOME GOLF IN 1897* is adeptly compiled with attention to the social history of the period and how golf became a significant part of it. Leg wrappings, caddie bags, the stymie, fozzling, lawn mowers, clubhouse architecture ... it is all here to be enjoyed.

**ROYAL DORNOCH MEMORIES**  
by Donald Grant

*1,000 copies, bound in card covers with a card-cover slipcase, 7 x 9½, 210 pages, with color photographs, £15 plus postage, available only from Royal Dornoch [see internet link below for ordering]*

CERTAINLY THERE ARE those who do not immediately take to the Old Course. Even Bobby Jones stormed off during his first visit; and there are those who take exception with Pine Valley, Carnoustie, Cypress Point, etc. It seems, however, that everyone loves Royal Dornoch. It usually ranks in the first five of knowledgeable players' world favorites.

Within ROYAL DORNOCH MEMORIES are re-printed two smaller books written by the man who understood the draw of Royal Dornoch's course and knew its history as well as any ever have and better than most. Donald Grant (1889-1982) was born

on a farm near Dornoch 12 years after the founding of the Club. Beginning at age 13, he was a member of the Royal Dornoch team that won the Northern Counties Cup for ten consecutive years. He captained the University of Edinburgh's golf team. After graduating and before World War I, he was incarcerated at Dartmoor Prison as a conscientious objector. Prior to World War II, he assisted the Austrian Resistance and rescued the daughter of Bertolt Brecht from the Nazis.

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The first of Mr. Grant's two works contained in this new volume is titled *Personal Memories of Royal Dornoch 1900-1925*. It was originally published posthumously in 1985. It begins on the day in 1877 when the Club was

formed. It ends with a final visit to "the promontory which is today the sixteenth green—the old tenth" and what Mr. Grant refers to as the six counties panorama. The writing is as dazzling as the view he describes. From Tarbat Ness lighthouse south-east across the 20 miles of North Sea, past many familiar courses and places, to eventually where, 40 miles away, Ord of Caithness "dips his dark forehead down into the North Sea."

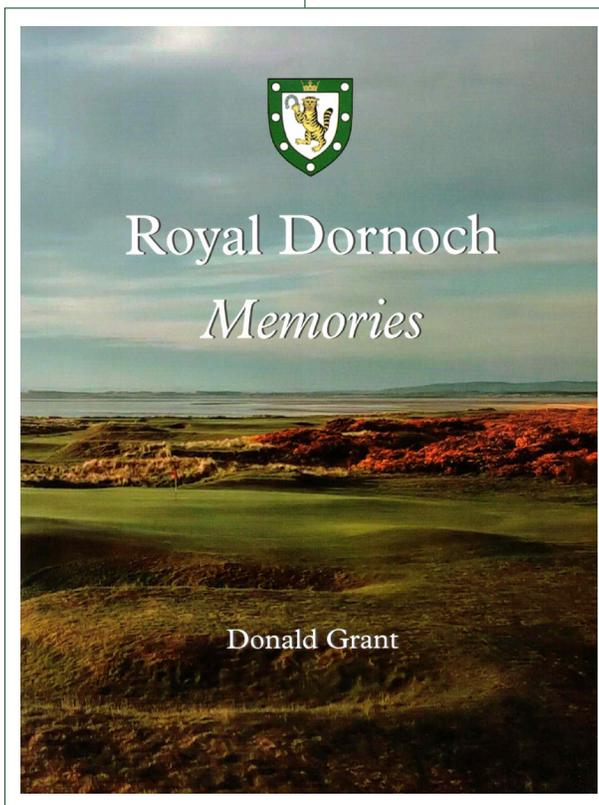
The second of Mr. Grant's works reproduced here is *Donald Ross of Pinehurst and Royal Dornoch* which was originally published in 1973.

Mr. Ross was born in Dornoch in 1872; he died in Pinehurst in 1948. This book begins, "In 1902, when Donald Ross began to study the Pinehurst terrain, I, Don Grant, began in Dornoch School to study Latin."

Following the two re-printed booklets written by Mr. Grant are a series of ten articles about Dornoch beginning in 1890 and ending with an excerpt from Herbert Warren Wind's 1964 piece titled *North to the Links of Dornoch*. While each piece sheds its own charm on the appeal of Royal Dornoch, it is Mr. Wind's language

that appeals most to the modern ear. An excerpt:

*... What is there so special about Dornoch that it*



*should nurture an exceptional architect like Donald Ross, exceptional players like Holderness and the Wethereds, an exceptional club secretary like John Sutherland, and, I am tempted to add, exceptional admirers Sam McKinlay, Dick Tufts, and Pete Dye? The answers came fast and clear the morning McKinlay and I played the course. The linksland that at first glance seems so commonplace and even unpromising reveals itself, once you have got two or three holes behind you and are into the heart of the course, to be beautiful golf country. Everything does look as if it had been there, untouched, for centuries. In its general topography—its billowing fairways, its deep and shaggy sand bunkers, the eccentric mounding around its greens—Dornoch probably resembles St. Andrews more closely than it does any other well-known course ...*

ROYAL DORNOCH MEMORIES was reproduced through the generosity of an anonymous American who is a long-standing member of the Club and stipulated that all proceeds from the sale of the book benefit the Royal Dornoch Caddie Fund.

ROYAL DORNOCH MEMORIES is exclusively available directly from Royal Dornoch Golf Club by accessing this link:

<https://royaldornochproshop.com/product/royal-dornoch-memories/>

### A GOLFING IDYLL

OR

### THE SKIPPER'S ROUND WITH THE DEIL ON THE LINKS OF ST ANDREWS

by Violet Flint

*250 copies, hardback with slipcase, 7 x 9½, 50 pages, with back and white etchings, £25 plus postage*

THE REMORSE OF OUR GAME called logically upon the literature of our game for our own Dr. Faustus. The torment and joy we all feel while and after playing is an obvious opportunity for appealing to every player's double-faced, repeating dilemma ... exhilaration

v. despondence, humility v. outrage, peace v. wretchedness.

The call for this story was answered in 1892 by Violet Flint - a nom de plume for Col. J.E. Thomson - in a quickly paced poem that has been popular ever since.

This latest reprinting by Grant Books is introduced by Dr. David Hamilton, a renowned Glaswegian surgeon now living in St. Andrews. He writes succinctly:

*This is a tale told by a St. Andrews caddie of a spooky encounter on the Old Course. The fast-moving poem of 950 lines, much of it in broad Scots, appeared first in 1892, printed locally for private circulation, with second and third editions published locally in 1892 and 1897.*

Dr. Hamilton's annotations to the Scot text lend clarity e.g. *rizzared haddies* is dried haddock; *the time between the mirk and gloamin* is twilight ...

Without disclosing too much for fear of spoiling the delight and intrigue of the story, this can be written in hope of drawing you in: Skipper, a St. Andrews caddie, tells his (this)

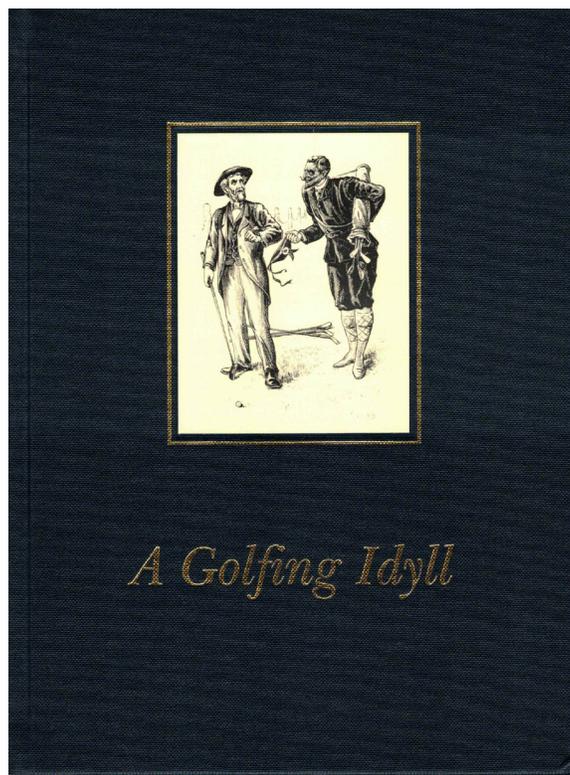
story to some fellow caddies. After some heavy drinking, Skipper decides to play golf in the night over the backwards route of the Old Course. Having birdied his 1<sup>st</sup>, he encounters another player at the 2<sup>nd</sup> tee. Strokes are settled as is a wager that includes the possibility of eternal servitude and off they go over the Old Course in the moonlight.

In 1978, A GOLFING IDYLL was Bob and Shirley Grant's first endeavor at publishing limited edition golf books. Previously, they had dealt in used golf books. The republishing this year commemorates the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Grant Books' founding in 1971.

### LETTERS ON GOLF by A Parish Minister

*175 copies, hardback with slipcase, 7 x 9½, 56 pages, with color photographs and reproductions, £23 plus postage*

IN YET ANOTHER of D.M. Wilson, III's splendid introductions to golf writings of the late 19<sup>th</sup> cen-



ture, he knits together Moray G.C. [aka Lossiemouth], Horace Hutchinson, Henry Brougham Farnie, and the Rev. Alexander Lawson.

In 1857, Mr. Farnie wrote the first book on golf instruction. Mr. Hutchinson followed 29 years later with one of the earliest books on golf instruction. Golf came to Lossiemouth in 1889. And the connector between all this is the Rev. Lawson (1852-1921) who was an accomplished golfer, the first captain at Lossiemouth, and in the Club's first year wrote *LETTERS ON GOLF* under the pseudonym *A Parish Minister*.

Rev. Lawson was educated at St. Andrews, Free Church college in Elgin, was Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Professor of English literature at St. Andrews, and co-editor—with his wife—of *A ST. ANDREWS TREASURY OF SCOTTISH VERSE*.

The book is comprised of seven letters on golf, a glossary, and an appendix from *HINTS ON THE GAME OF GOLF* by Mr. Hutchinson. The original spellings and punctuation have been preserved. The letters focus on all corners of the game including the swing, putting, through the green, the stymie, equipment, forms of competition, and the library of golf.

The first paragraph of the First Letter sets the tone and reveals the author's dexterity and range:

*Some one has told a story—perhaps invented, so wicked is human nature—concerning a pundit in the Brahminical College at Benares [on the banks of the Ganges River] that when he was asked by a member of the Calcutta Golf Club if he ever indulged in the Royal and Ancient Game, he smiled and answered, “I never could see the wisdom of persecuting a poor piece of gutta-percha for a couple of miles.” Brahmins are oriental in laziness and in a somewhat stiff adherence to antique notions, and this particular pundit might have been improved by the society of the Irish gentleman of seventy who purchased a set of golf clubs, and toiled laboriously over St. Andrews links*

*with this cheerful philosophy, “Men get old before their time because they do not seek new amusements and a growing acquaintance with new ideas.” Peace to his ashes; he was an Irish landlord and not a monster.*

## Short Points

✿ The Open Championship will return to **Royal Portrush** in 2025. Competition days will be July 17-20. This will be the third time in 74 years the championship has been played there. In 2019, Royal Portrush attracted

237,750 spectators, which was a record attendance for the Open outside of St. Andrews.

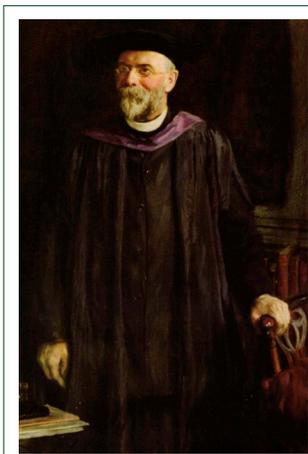
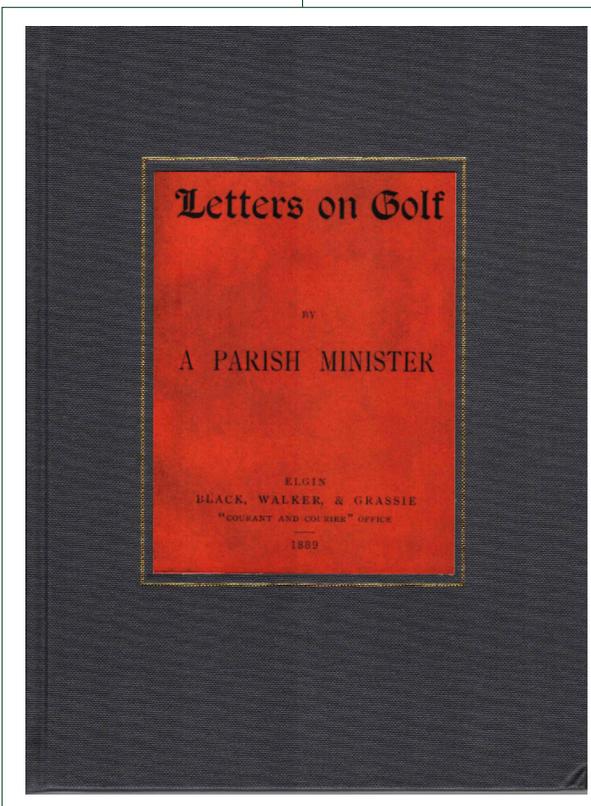
✿ **Marco Simone Golf & Country Club**, the 2023 Ryder Cup host site near Rome, officially opened its new course in September, just before hosting the Italian Open. European Golf Design re-routed and re-designed the original course in cooperation with Tom Fazio II. With the Roman skyline in the distance and the Castle of Marco Simone nearby, this will be a dramatic setting for the first playing of the matches on Italian soil.

✿ **Yale University** has retained Gil Hanse “to create an architectural restoration master plan” for its course that was designed by C.B. Macdonald and Seth Raynor and opened in

1926. For years, the course has been protected by the lack of attention it received. This will be a delicate moment for an important piece of American art.

✿ **Bogle Run**, a 14-hole short course by Bill Coore, has opened to acclaim at Barnbogle Golf Links in Tasmania. The short course, comprised of 12 par 3s and 2 par 4s, on duneland even more dramatic than its parent courses, *Dune* [Tom Doak and Mike Clayton] and *Lost Farm* [Mr. Coore and Ben Crenshaw]. The dune ridge upon which Bogle Run is routed, allows views of all three courses and the ocean beyond.

✿ A new course is planned for a **Cromarty Firth** site—about 15 miles south of Dornoch. The Highland



THE REV. ALEXANDER LAWSON

Council has received a request for a Scoping Opinion, which comes before a full planning application, from the landowner, whose family has farmed around the site for 150 years, according to a piece in GOLF COURSE ARCHITECTURE MAGAZINE. The landowner bought the land in question two years ago. Golf was planned here previously at the Nigg, Cromarty and Castlecraig G.C., which was founded in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. “Founded in 1890 as a nine-hole course,” the magazine reported, ‘Castlecraig was extended to 18 holes in 1907. The course became popular because of regular visits by the Royal Navy’s Home Fleet to the nearby port of Invergordon. It ceased to exist in the early 1960s.”

✚ **Joseph F. Beditz, Ph.D.**, president and C.E.O. of the National Golf Foundation for the past three decades, writes insightful reports on trends in the golf industry. He often asks the questions that are on everyone’s minds and answers with data gathered from the foundation’s members. In recent pieces, Dr. Beditz offered a point of view on the question of the continuation into the future of the elevated level of golf activity resulting from the pandemic.

He wrote: *[In mid July] Golf Datatech released its latest reporting rounds played up 0.4% nationally for June and +23% YTD. More importantly, at least to NGF, that year-to-date rounds are still running 19% ahead of the 2017-19 average. ... Also of note, year-to-date rounds at public courses are up 26% versus 13% at private clubs. This is a reversal from last year when rounds gains at private clubs exceeded those at public courses.*



For M.T.R.:

*“One of the things that saddens a man as he grows older and reviews his life is the reflection that his most devastating deeds were generally the ones which he did with the best motive. The thought is disheartening. I can honestly say that, when George Mackintosh came to me and told me his troubles, my sole desire was to ameliorate his lot. That I might be starting on the downward path a man whom I liked and respected never once occurred to me.”*

P.G. Wodehouse  
THE SALVATION OF GEORGE MACKINTOSH

There are 38,081 golf courses located in 82 percent of the world’s 251 countries. The United States leads with more than 16,000 courses, which is 42 percent of the world supply. Japan is next with 3,140 courses (8 percent); and the United Kingdom comes third with 3,101.

Just last month, Dr. Beditz reflected “that the number of golfers per 18 holes appears to be returning to a balance that existed 20 years ago”. He attributes this to a healthy economy and a decade of bull markets for stocks that has added to higher household net worth. He adds that there has been “a decidedly positive media narrative about golf” in major publications that was largely absent before the pandemic.

✚ **Golf’s Modernized Rules of Amateur Status**, effective January 1, 2022, were published recently by The R&A and the U.S.G.A. The changes hope to make the Rules easier to understand and apply. Player and golf industry feedback were sought in making the changes. “The result is a set of Rules that removes many of the restrictions that previously applied to amateur golfers,” a joint press release states, “while ensuring that the integrity of the game is protected by limiting the form and value of the prizes an amateur golfer can accept.”

The new Rules identify the following acts that will result in a golfer losing their amateur status:

- Accepting a prize with a value exceeding \$1,000 (£700) or accepting money in a handicap competition.
- Playing as a professional; or accepting payment for giving instruction (some exceptions).
- Accepting employment as a golf club professional or membership of an association of professional golfers.

Yours vry truly,

Gary A. Galyean  
Editor & Publisher

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