



# GARY GALYEAN'S GOLF LETTER

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NOVEMBER 2023

Dear Subscriber:

SIR MICHAEL FRANCIS BONALLACK, OBE, Great Britain's most decorated amateur golfer and a leading figure in golf's administration as well as its national and international competitions died September 26th in St. Andrews. He was 88.

According to the Royal and Ancient Golf Club, the former Captain and earlier Secretary of the Club suffered from ill health in recent times. He was able to attend the opening ceremony of the recent centenary of the playing of the Walker Cup at St. Andrews. A member of nine Walker Cup teams from 1957 through 1973, Mr. Bonallack was given a standing ovation.



Michael Bonallack, playing captain of the 1971 GB&I Walker Cup team, accepting the Cup from Roger Wethered in St. Andrews.

Mr. Bonallack was born on New Year's Eve 1934 in Chigwell, in the Epping Forest District of Essex, England. He first won that county's Boys' Championship in 1950 and again in 1951. In 1952, he won the Boys' Amateur Championship at Formby.

During the 1960s and 1970s, he epitomized amateur golf by winning the Amateur Championship and the English Amateur Cham-

ionship five times each—all ten in the same decade. Three of his Amateur victories were consecutive from 1968 through 1970. Only Royal Liverpool's John Ball won the Amateur more times—eight—than Mr. Bonallack.

As playing captain on the 1971 Walker Cup team, he led his team to their first victory (13-11) over the U.S. since 1938. The match was played at the Old Course. "It does not get, cannot get, any better than that," he commented. That same year he received the award for chivalry and was made an Officer of the British Empire (OBE).

Twice—1968 at Carnoustie and 1971 at Royal Birkdale—he won the Silver Medal as the leading amateur at the Open. In 1959 at Muirfield, he accomplished his best-ever Open finish when he tied for 11th place just six strokes behind the winner, Gary Player. He played seven times for Great Britain and Ireland in the Eisenhower Trophy tying for individual honors in 1968.

"I never thought about missing a putt," he told an interviewer in 2012. "I was just able to see a line on the green and then play the ball along that line."

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Sir Michael Bonallack, OBE  
December 31, 1934 - September 26, 2023  
Golf Books for Gifting

### HOLIDAY GIFT RATES

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See the order form that follows on pages 5 & 6.

OBITUARY SOURCES & EXCERPTS INCLUDE:

*The Royal and Ancient Golf Club*  
*THE NEW YORK TIMES*  
*Various interviews*

In 1972, Mr. Bonallack received the United States Golf Association's highest award — the Bob Jones Award for outstanding sportsmanship.

Mr. Bonallack served as Secretary of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club (1983-1999) and as the Club's Captain (1999-2000).



In the mid 1980s, a young golf writer attending the Masters mis-addressed Mr. Bonallack as Peter rather than Michael. Mr. Bonallack then asked the writer, "Peter who? Who did you think I was?" Peter Oosterhuis came the answer. "That's alright then," said Mr. Bonallack, "Peter is a good player."

Mr. Bonallack was known especially for his short game, which the late golf commentator Peter Alliss described as follows:

*Big, wide stance, nose sniffing the ball, short, jabby swing, but all the putts went into the hole. He had the most wonderful temperament. He appeared calm yet had that steeling something that all the great champions have.*

In recognition of his outstanding role and legacy in the game of golf Her Majesty The Queen awarded Mr. Bonallack a knighthood in 1998, and he became Sir Michael.



Angela and Michael Bonallack

Sir Michael's wife, Lady Angela Bonallack, twice winner of the English Women's Amateur Championship, died last year. They are survived by their four children, ten grandchildren, and seven great grandchildren. In 1958, the Bonallacks became the first married couple to win the Worplesdon Mixed Foursomes.

As with the death of Sir Michael's dear friend and fellow competitor, William C. Campbell, who died almost exactly ten years before, a great light has gone out. ❧

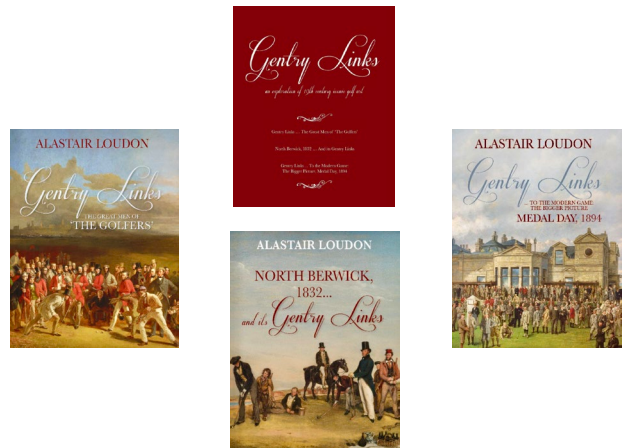
## Golf Books for Holiday Giving

Available from Grant Books

[grantbooks.co.uk](http://grantbooks.co.uk)

Cricket, horse racing, and golf are credited with literary histories superior to those of all sports.

Whether or not that is true is sometimes unclear. What is clear is that golf's library is extensive and reflective — not unlike the sport itself. For this reason, and from time to time, we bring you some of the latest editions as suggestions for gifts. All of the books listed below can be previewed and ordered through Grant Books in Worcestershire, England. Their website is printed just above. In an era when more than 500 words is often considered excessive, Grant Books excels in bringing us more — these are for those who still enjoy reading and expanding their recognition of golf's fascinating past.



### THE GENTRY LINKS TRILOGY:

- The Golfers (1847)
- North Berwick, 1832 and its Gentry Links
- The Modern Game, the Bigger Picture, Medal Day 1894

The preeminent golf book publishing event of the year took place in late summer with the presentation of Alastair Loudon's impressive THE GENTRY LINKS TRILOGY published by Grant Books Ltd.

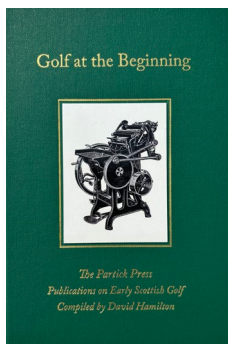
The focus of the three volumes (192 pages, 136 pages, and 260 pages) is upon the gentlemen golfers in Scotland who were important patrons of the game throughout the 19th century, set within the context of the social history of that period, and using as a central focus a revered painting in each book's era.

The three books are housed in a durable collector's box, printed on acid-free paper, and the central revered paintings focused upon in the text are each presented in fold-out format.

The boxed series is priced at £150, plus shipping.

**GOLF AT THE BEGINNING**  
**The Partick Press**  
**Publications on Early Scottish Golf**  
 COMPILED BY DAVID HAMILTON

This is a limited edition (250 boxed volumes) anthology of Mr. Hamilton's four separate books: *Early Golf in Glasgow* (1985), *Early Aberdeen Golf* (1986), *Early Golf at St. Andrews* (1987), and *Early Golf at Edinburgh and Leith* (1988). This printing combines the four as one. Original copies from 35 years ago are eagerly sought by collectors. An excerpt from *Early Glasgow Golf*:



*A recent claim in an important text that 'golf did not in fact reach the west coast of Scotland before about 1850' suggests that it is timely to review the antiquity of the game in Glasgow. Perhaps the best known date is the foundation of the Glasgow Golf Club in 1787, but it would be wrong to suppose that golf in Glasgow started suddenly with the appearance of this sociable group in that year. ...*

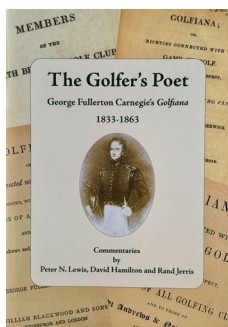
*The first record is from 1589, when the Glasgow Kirk Session, the governing body of the local church, ruled that there be 'no golf, carrickt, shinnie in the High or the Blackfriars Yards, Sunday or weekday.' ... This regulation by the Kirk seems to have been a sensible measure to protect the inhabitants of the town from the dangers of flailing sticks and flying balls when about their business in the main street or the churchyard.*

This book includes many illustrations throughout its 120 pages, is boxed in a hard slipcase, and is priced at £41, plus shipping.

**THE GOLFER'S POET**  
**GEORGE FULLERTON CARNEGIE'S GOLFIANA**  
**1833 - 1863**

**Commentaries by**  
**Peter N. Lewis, David Hamilton and Rand Jerris**

Mr. Carnegie's *Golfiana* is one of the most important historical texts in the library of golf. The collection of poems and songs illuminates stories of Scottish golf and golfers in the 1830s and 1840s. He had a gift for capturing the personalities and foibles of golfers in St. Andrews and North Berwick. The poems paint



a delightful picture of what it was like to play a six-hole round at North Berwick and the atmosphere around the first hole at St. Andrews during the feather ball era.

This is the first comprehensive study of all four editions of *Golfiana*. Commentaries by Messrs. Lewis, Hamilton, and Jerris—each well known, award winning historians—add great depth to understanding the game during the middle third of the 19th century.

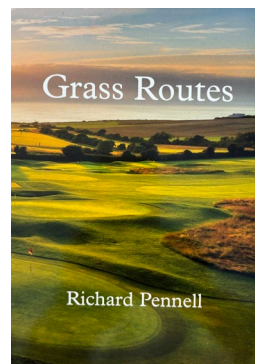
An excerpt from *The First Hole at St. Andrews on a Crowded Day*:

*'Tis morn! and man awakes, by sleep refresh'd.  
 To do what'er he has to do with zest;  
 But at St. Andrews, where my scene is laid,  
 One only thought can enter every head;  
 The thought of golf, to wit—and that engages  
 Men of all sizes, tempers, ranks, and ages;  
 The root—the primum mobile of all,  
 The epidemic of the club and ball;  
 The work by day, the source of dreams by night,  
 The never-failing fountain of delight!  
 Here, Mr. Philp, club-maker is as great  
 As Philip—as any minister of state!  
 And every cady as profess'd a hero  
 As Captain Cook, or Wellington, or Nero! ...*

This book includes numerous color maps, portraits, important paintings, and a stunning foldout of *The First Meeting of the North Berwick Golf Club* painted by Sir Francis Grant in 1832. It is comprised of 184 pages, limited to 275 copies, and the price is £47, plus shipping.

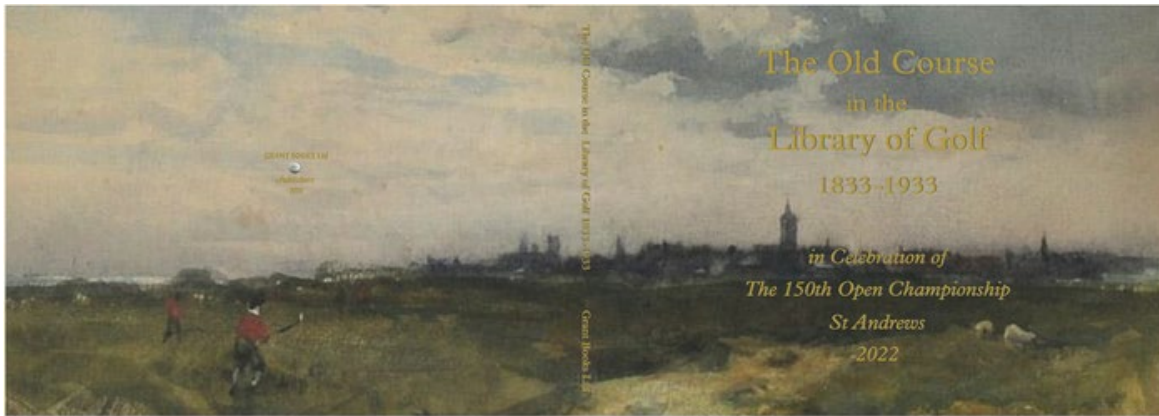
**GRASS ROUTES**  
**by Richard Pennell**

A resident of Surrey, Mr. Pennell has been described as “a careful observer about golf's many attributes, vicissitudes, and virtues”. This is his first book, produced after 20 years working in golf—including as secretary and general manager at Woking.



This is a series of reflective essays accompanied by color photographs of some of Great Britain's most compelling courses including the Berkshire, New Zealand, Woking, Ashridge, Borth & Ynyslas, Aberdovey—where Bernard Darwin played as a child—and more. Mr. Pennell has a way with words and a sound view of the places that drive our love for this game.

This is a 208-page soft cover book, slipcased, limited to 1,000 copies, and priced at £15, plus shipping.



**THE OLD COURSE  
IN THE LIBRARY OF GOLF 1833-1933**

*The Old Course in the Library of Golf, 1833-1933*, commemorates the 150th Open Championship's return to St. Andrews in 2022 for its 30th playing there.

The book is focused between 1833 and 1933 so as to start with George Fullerton Carnegie's first edition of *Golfiana* and to end with *Golf Courses: Design, Construction and Upkeep*, edited by Martin H.F. Sutton, and Dr. Alister MacKenzie's *St Andrews Manuscript*.

Chronologically arranged, this anthology transports the reader through a hundred critical years of the history of the Old Course using words, artwork and maps that were chosen after a careful review of the approximate 500 books and booklets that golf bibliographers count as the number of such published golf sources for this period.



For a Happy Thanksgiving:

*Rows of spotless plates winked from the shelves of the dresser at the far end of the room, and from the rafters overhead hung hams, bundles of dried herbs, nets of onions, and baskets of eggs. It seemed like a place where heroes could fitly feast after victory, where weary harvesters could line up in scores along the table and keep their Harvest Home with mirth and song, or where two or three friends of simple tastes could sit about as they pleased and eat and smoke and talk in comfort and contentment.*

Kenneth Grahame  
THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS  
Badger's Kitchen

Included are golf authors: Balfour, Bauchope, Bauer, Bennett, Carnegie, Chambers, Clark, Colt, Dalrymple, Darwin, Everard, Farnie, Fleming, Hilton, Hutchinson, Lang, Low, Macdonald, MacKenzie, Simpson, Smith, Sutton, Tulloch and Wethered. They describe and illuminate the Old Course as it appeared to them during the period 1833-1933.

The book includes images provided by permission of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, as well as text and images provided by permission of the Bernard Darwin Estate, and the Estate of Raymond M. Haddock.

The book's singular focus is the Old Course itself—not the town, not the history of St. Andrews, not the golfing societies nor clubs, not the game nor its personalities, not the championships nor competitions—simply the Old Course itself as expressed timelessly in the exposition, photography, art, and cartography.

The book is in landscape format, casebound, with dust jacket and with cover and slipcase gold-blocked. The volume is 304 pages and includes more than 150 images, many in color. Price is £63, excluding shipping.

Yours vry truly,

Gary A. Galyean  
Editor & Publisher

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