

# TEE TIME

*Journal of The International Philatelic Golf Society*

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*Whole No. 80*



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## TEE TIME

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### COLUMNISTS:

Cancellations

Australia.....Roger Weik

Great Britain.....Eiron Morgan

Japan.....Yutaka Matsubayashi

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Information about membership in IPGS is available from Ron Spiers, 8025 Saddle Run, Powell, OH 43065 USA (Rwspiers@aol.com.) **Website:** [ipgsonline.org](http://ipgsonline.org)

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## Front Postcard

The "Bonzo" Series postcard is one of four that I have with the same dog or dogs and this is the only one indicating that it has a US connection. It was printed in Britain but has a registered trademark or copyright with the U.S. Patent Office. All the others were from Britain. The cards are all signed by G.L. Studdy (?) with a year date underneath. This one indicates it was designed or signed in 1926 and mailed on May 11, 1928 from Bloomington, Illinois to Normal, Illinois.

This "Bonzo" card has movable eyes but none of the others do. The card is entitled "Keep Your Eye on the Ball". If you have cards in this series, I would love to receive color photocopies which we might be able to use on future editions of *Tee Time*.

The other three which I have are entitled: "Rabbit, I Believe", "Lost Ball" and "Dormy Six". None of the others have been used but the dates signed range from 1922 to 1926.



## EMAIL ADDRESS LIST

Michael Sander of Indianapolis, Indiana has volunteered to maintain a roster of email addresses for the IPGS. This roster will be circulated only to the members which submit their email addresses to Mike. It will not be given out to auction houses, dealers, etc.

Each member of IPGS will need to send their email address to Mike if they wish to be included. Periodically the list will be circulated to those on the list and then only additions and corrections will be sent as information becomes available.

If you wish to participate in this, please send your email address to: [mikebeckysander@earthlink.net](mailto:mikebeckysander@earthlink.net)

Mike sent out a message to those currently on the list and many individuals commented on ideas they would like to see circulated among the membership, i.e., new stamp issues, where to buy the new issues, etc. If you are interested in receiving this kind of information, please let Mike know so you can be added to the list.

\*\*\*\*\*

## THREE GOLF EXHIBITS AT NAPEX

The Sports Philatelists International Society met at NAPEX (National Philatelic Exhibition) in Northern Virginia over the weekend June 1 to June 3, 2007. There were a total of 10 sports or Olympic exhibits, including 3 related to golf.

Member Patricia A. Loehr entered both a thematic and a display class exhibit. Her exhibits were entitled "The World of Golf" and "Golfing Out of the Rough and Through the Green". She garnered silver medals on both exhibits. Congratulations Patricia.

For those of you that are unfamiliar with the class of exhibits called Display, it is similar to Social Philately in Australia. It may only be accepted in the US. One of the main differences is that this class of exhibits allows one to use non-philatelic material as well as philatelic material.

The third golf exhibit was "The Sport of Golf" by the editor of *Tee Time*. It received a gold medal.

It is always good to see one's exhibit up in the frames as it is hard to see where improvements are needed looking through a notebook containing the pages. Mine had not been shown since we moved three years ago. Looking at it again after the three years, I see many areas where I could improve it.

Going to a large stamp show allows one to not only view many exhibits, it provides opportunities to meet with other exhibitors, listened to the judges critique the exhibits and to continue looking for that elusive item that has not been found. I have a list of several items which I know exist but have yet to find. Also, there are always ways to upgrade the material which one already has in an exhibit, i.e., clearer copy of a cancellation, a more interesting usage on cover, another element and so forth. We all know that there is no such thing as a perfect exhibit so we keep on trying to improve it.

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## MANY THANKS

A very special thank you is due Eiron Morgan for the article beginning on page 5 of this issue. His research shows what can be accomplished when one is in pursuit of knowledge about a philatelic item such as his "entire". When he bought the item which a dealer sent to him, he was not certain it was related to golf. According to Eiron, St. Andrews had a number of clubs and societies during the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, i.e., Society of St. Andrew Archers.



With persistence and loyal friends he was able to pursue the information contained on the entire and achieve fruitful results related to golf. It must have been quite a thrill to find that a descendant of the addressee still lived at Tayfield and was willing to share so much information with him.

Would really love to see more of this type of research which could be published in *Tee Time* for the membership to enjoy. Eiron's article was also published in *Through the Green*, December 2006, journal of the British Golf Collectors' Society.

## OTHER THANKS

A number of individuals sent additional information on the golf check list contained in the March issue of *Tee Time*. Max Lennox of Australia sent many of the missing Stanley Gibbons numbers.

David Wolfersberger provided additional information for quite a few items and was able to add three stamps which have Scott numbers and were missed in my review. If you wish to add these three items to your list, they are: Maldives #2684 (Popeye); Mongolia #2335d (Three Stooges), and St. Thomas and Prince #1449e (Tiger Woods). Other additions and corrections have been added to the master list which I keep.

One item of note, the judges at NAPEX did point out "spurious" stamps that appeared in one of the exhibits. If you are exhibiting, you might want to be careful about adding those stamps listed as "illegal" by Scott or others. You may want to collect "gummed and perforated paper pictures" but the judges may not want to see them in an exhibit.

Hansjorg Medvejsek has provided an article which shows that a stamp from the former German Democratic Republic which featured a well known golf hotel. However, the stamp was issued to promote winter sports, especially skiing.

Hansjorg has expended quite a bit of effort to gather supplementary material to prove that the unidentified building on the stamp was actually a golf hotel. I can't help but wonder where he found the brochures from the hotel which existed many years before it came under Communist rule. Thank you Hansjorg.

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## Preserving Stamps and Covers

by George Saqqal

We received a review copy of the preservation guide from the author and it is available to collectors at George Saqqal, 7928 Third Avenue, Ste 556, Brooklyn, NY 11209. The cost of the guide is \$5.50 postpaid to US addresses and \$6.00 to overseas addresses. However, overseas purchasers have the option of remitting the equivalent amount in the form of large format commemorative stamps of their respective countries that are in mint, never-hinged condition.

Many collectors are unaware of the proper storage and handling procedures to ensure their collections survive for many years to come. Much has been learned from antiquities which have survived for centuries, i.e., the Dead Sea Scrolls which are still readable after centuries.

The author deals with paper and how we handle the collection. Are we always careful to handle the items with tongs rather than our bare hands which have many impurities which will in time destroy that which we wish to preserve? He also deals with subjects such as acid, light, heat and humidity and their effects on our collectibles. He further talks about the use of labels, tapes and the various kinds of ink and how they react to the paper and the soaking of stamps.

If you need a refresher course in preservation or if you need knowledge of how best to conserve your collectibles, you might want to consider this preservation guide. It is only a few pages but it is good advice for both the novice and advanced collector.



## POSTAL HISTORY: An 1836 Entire

Eiron Morgan

During the 19<sup>th</sup> Century postal charges were exorbitant and only the very rich in Britain would use envelopes as they constituted another sheet of paper and, consequently, doubled the postage cost. People would write on one sheet of paper which which was then folded in such a manner that the ends could be tucked in and closed with hot wax which was then impressed with the sender's seal. Such a folded letter is referred to as an "entire", and the entire described in this article, despite its mundane first impression or appearance, has a great deal of interest for the golf philatelist and golf historian.

Fig. 1 has features which may be understood by anyone; the entire was sent to William Berry of Tayfield in the Kingdom of Fife. The sender's signature is in the bottom left corner—a Mr. Belshes. The attention of the philatelist would be drawn to the manuscript '7' (top centre), and the boxed fraction for a half (top right) postal markings. The '7' relates to the postage paid in Scotland between 1812-1838 for a letter which was carried a distance of 30 to 50 miles. The boxed '½' was the Scottish tax paid for sending a letter by a carriage which had more than two wheels.

Fig. 2 shows details found on the reverse of the entire. The seal (centre) of red wax is impressed with a coat of arms bearing the legend *KEEP TRYST*. This is the personal seal of Belshes of Invermay and would have been applied by Murray Belshes either by a personal hand stamp or by using his signet ring. To the left of the seal is a vertical straight-line *BRIDGE OF EARN* post office stamp of the town where the entire was posted. No indication is given of the date of posting. In the bottom left quadrant a notation summarizes the contents—a communication from J. Murray Belshes received (or opened) on Nov.

14<sup>th</sup>, 1836, regarding a subscription for a plate to be presented to Mr. Grace, and on Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> £ 1 was sent, and this is initialed by William Berry.

Fig. 3 requires little comment. The first line suggests that there was an enclosure but, regrettably, it no longer accompanies the entire. However, more meaning is added to the contents by Behrend and Lewis (1998) who describe a meeting held, on May 4<sup>th</sup>, by the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews (more on this later). The contents of the entire put the date of writing as May 11, 1836. We do not know when this was actually posted to William Berry, but his notation (Fig. 2) began with the date of 14 Nov. 1836. Was this the date of receipt at Tayfield? Or, was it delivered earlier during Mr. Berry's absence? We can only speculate as to what happened to the entire between 11 May and 14 November.

When I first received this entire I confess to thinking that Tayfield referred to a Scottish town or village but my searches could not locate such a place. Luckily, a colleague in the British Golf Collectors' Society informed me that he lived not too far from Tayfield House which was the ancestral home of the Berry family.

1. William Berry (present owner of Tayfield House, Fig. 4) was most helpful and suggested lines of enquiry regarding information on his ancestor of the same name. Burke's *Landed Gentry of Scotland* traces the Berry line back to William Berry who was born in 1698. The second marriage of his son John (born 1725) was to Isabella in 1770. In 1788, John bought the old family propeprty of the Nairnes on which he built the Tayfield mansion house. (Isabella was of the Nairne lineage which Burke traces back to 1331). John and Isabella's eldest son, William, was born



in 1774, and it was he who received the entire which is the focus of this article. After studying at St. Andrews University and then reading law at Edinburgh University, William pursued a career in law. He (William) and his father, John, were very astute and effective businessmen and developed the Tayfield Estate as well as the ferry crossing to Dundee. Their other interests included the pier, turnpike roads and a salmon fishery. William was also very musical and competent as a player of Scots fiddle music. He also enjoyed country sports such as shooting and fishing, but his interest in golf was not known to the present family.

2. Major Murray Belshes of Invermay and Buttergask has been described by Baxter (1890) as a "personality of the most pronounced type, and whatever he took in hand felt the power of his influence" (p. 100). John Murray Belshes, born in 1782, followed a military career before returning to East Scotland in the 1820s. He became a member of the Society of St. Andrews Golfers in 1820 and joined its committee in 1823. Because of his sharp interest invitations came to join a number of sub-committees. When, in 1833, The Perth Golfing Society was granted the prefix "Royal", Belshes was not at all pleased. He argued that The St. Andrews Society, being 70 years older, had a stronger claim to the title "Royal" and on behalf of the St.

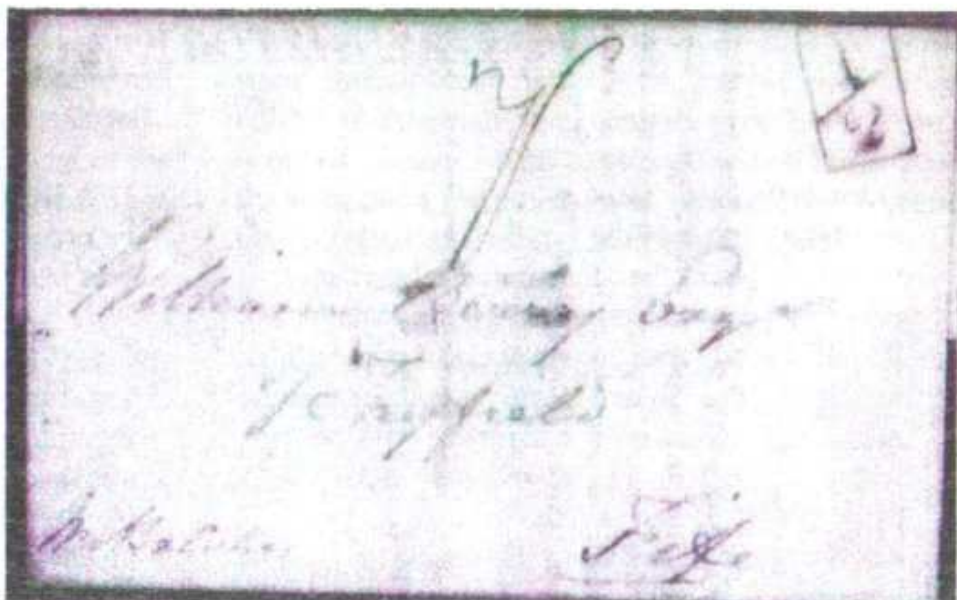


Fig. 1. The front of the entire (Life size)

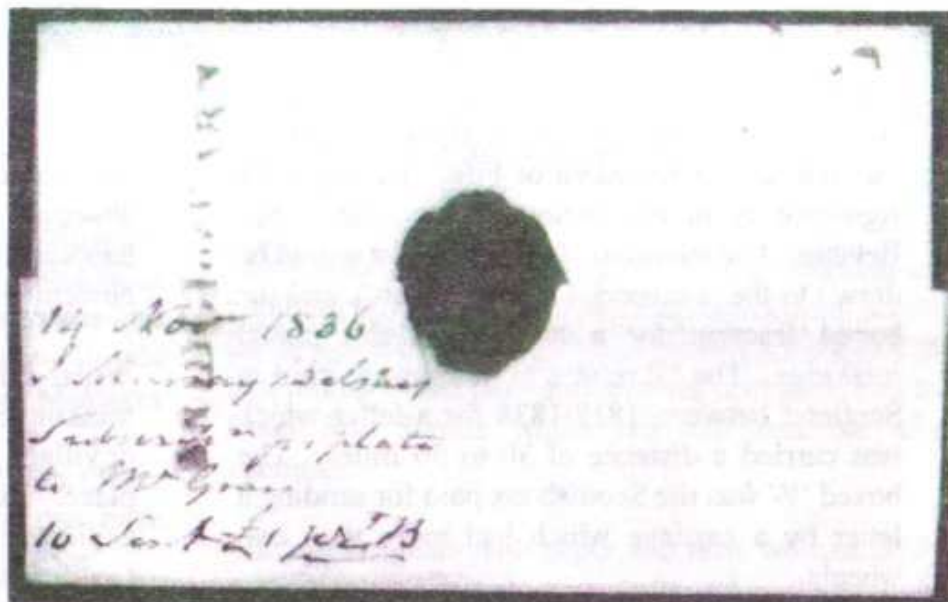
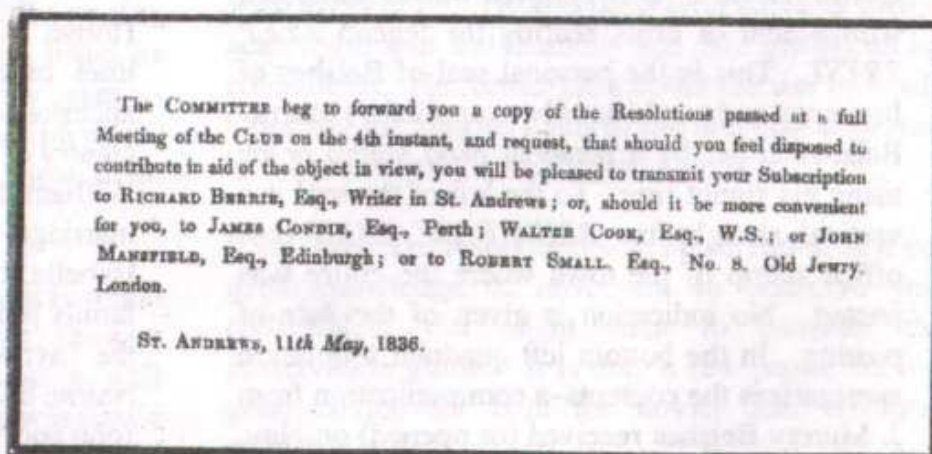


Fig. 2. The rear (Life size)





Andrews Society he petitioned King William IV. Belshes asked that the King grant the Society of St. Andrews Golfers the new title "The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews" and that he become its Patron. The King agreed to the first of these but declined to become its Patron. Again Belshes wrote to the King's secretary and urged a reconsideration of the earlier decision and reinforced his plea by pointing out that as one of the King's titles was Duke of St. Andrews there could be no one better suited to becoming the Society's Patron. The King agreed! This was in January 1834 and in March a meeting of the Society passed a unanimous vote of thanks for Major Belshes for all his hard work on behalf of the Society.



*Fig. 4 Tayfield House*

Major Belshes became Captain of the now Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews in 1835 and he was not the kind of person to rest on his laurels. For the Spring Meeting in 1836 he donated a "Silver Cross of St. Andrews" medal for annual competition at Spring Meetings. In the Autumn of 1836 he was re-elected as Captain—the first and only time for a R&A Captain to serve a double consecutive term in office. It was during his first year in office that Major Belshes sent the entire to William Berry of Tayfield and it is, therefore, an appropriate moment to consider the entire's contents and the third character in this 'story'.

At a meeting of the R&A on May 4<sup>th</sup> 1836, the following resolution was passed:

It having been the anxious wish of a very great number of members of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews to convey to Charles Grace Esquire, their secretary, some particular mark of the high and grateful sense they entertain of the very kind and handsome manner in which he has, for a period of twenty four years, gratuitously devoted his time and attention to the management of their affairs, and the promotion of their best interests; and at the same time, bearing in mind that his late respected father contributed his valuable service in a similar manner for thirty years, they resolved in testimony of this that they would present him with plate in value of not less than one hundred guineas.

(Behrend and Lewis, 1998, page 106)



Charles Grace was the R&A's Secretary and some interesting insights into the functions of golf's early secretaries are given by Stirk (1998). The post was unpaid and a secretary was the 'servant' of the Committee and accountable to it. He listened to members' complaints and grievances and seldom got praised. Behrend and Lewis (1998) state that Charles Grace also acted as treasurer and banker; recorded wagers at Club dinners; took minutes at committee and at subcommittee meetings, and resolved issues relating to the rules and the course. Charles's father, Stuart Grace, served as Secretary since 1782 and was joined by his son in 1812 when they worked as joint secretaries for a short time. By 1836 Charles Grace had been in office for 24 years and continued until his death in 1838. Grace's business partner acted as Secretary on an interim basis and he was succeeded by Charles Grace's son, Stuart, who took over and remained in post for 43 years. The Grace family almost monopolized the post of Secretary for just over 100 years!

It took a year to collect the money for Charles Graces's plate (Fig. 5) and plans were made for the presentation to be made during the 1837 Spring Meeting. This Spring Meeting equalled the best of any previous meetings; there was Charles Graces's presentation; the inaugural competition for the Belshes' Silver Cross Medal; the announcement of the King's presentation of The Royal Medal; as well as the special dinner to honour Colonel Belshes (recently promoted). At the St. Andrews Town Hall, the Captain (Colonel Murray Belshes) chaired the dinner to honour Charles Grace;

The Chairman rose with feelings of peculiar satisfaction to drink the health of Mr. Grace their Secretary, and to present to him in the name of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, a testimonial of affection and respect and grateful attachment in which he is held in the Club. (Behrend and Lewis, p. 107)



*Fig. 5 The Salver presented to Charles Grace in 1836, held by Mrs. Mary Grace, widow of his great, great-grandson, David Grace*

The remarks of Col. Belshes bring to a close this 'story' of the 1836 entire. But, has it really ended? Successive Johns and Williams (Berry) have and still do live at Tayfield House; Col Belshes' Silver Cross Medal is still played for each year by members of the R&A; a member of the Grace family retired as Treasurer to the R&A in the 1950s; and Charles Grace's silver plate is still treasured by Mrs. Mary Grace, widow of Charles Grace's great, great-grandson, David Grace.



*I acknowledge a debt of gratitude for help and encouragement in researching and writing this 'story' to William Barry of Tayfield. Ron Beatt, David Hamilton, John Pearson, and Edward Playfair (golf historians); Dr. John Mackay (postal historian); and Dixon Pickup (heraldic expert).*

References:

Baxter, P., *Golf in Perth and Perthshire*. Perth. 1890.

Behrend, JE and Lewis, P., *Challenges and Champions*. St. Andrews, 1998.

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Stirk, D., *Golf History and Traditions*. Ludlow 1998.

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## TRACKING THE PAST

by Hansjorg Medvejssek

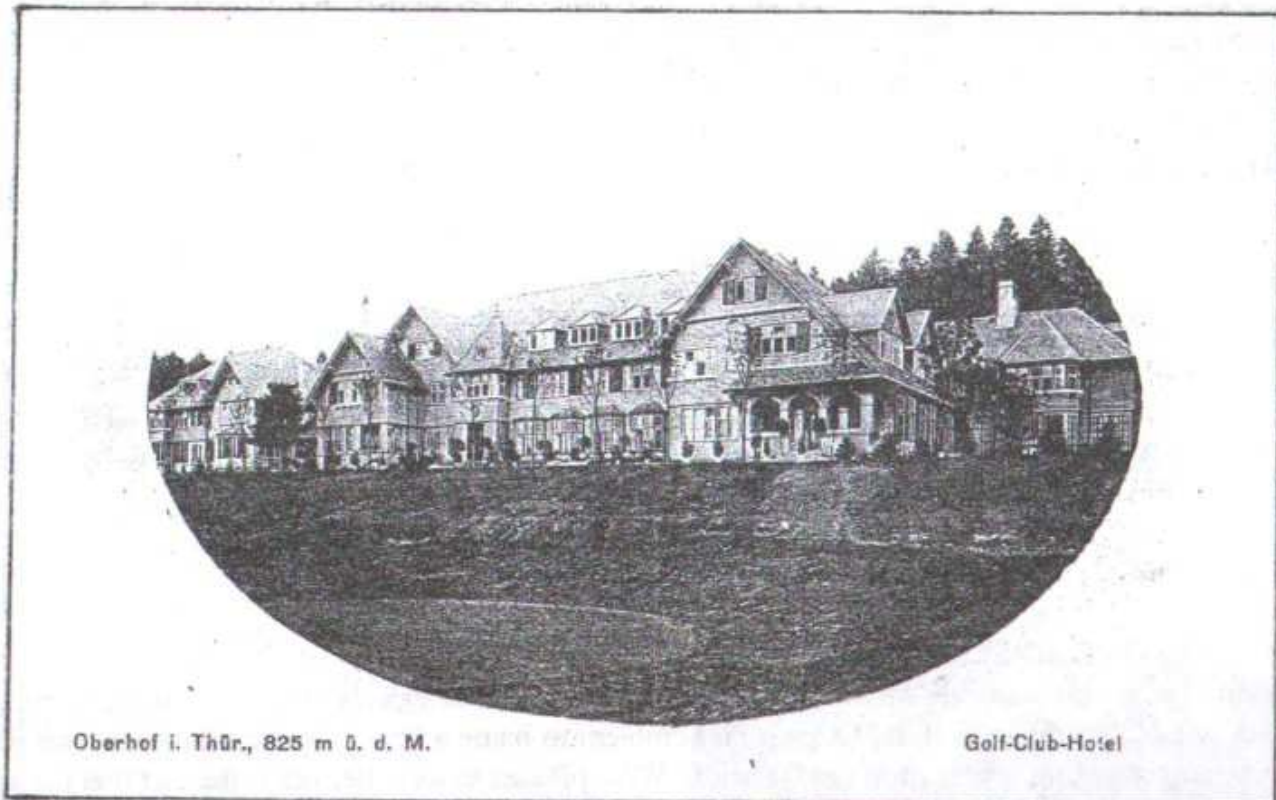
It has been revealed by accident that a golf stamp of the divided state of Germany was issued in 1964. It is hard to believe that this stamp is from the Communist part of the country which would have preferred to deny golf sports. The lucky occasion of the reunion of Germany brought back reality and the splendor of the ancient era of the Duke of Saxony. *[According to Scott, this is number 738.]*

On the occasion of their 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the sovereign state "DDR" (1949-1990) unknowingly created a golf stamp. The stamp is one in a set of 15 stamps identifying various aspects of life, i.e., workers, industry, consumer goods, buildings, and the Leipzig Fair emblem to name a few. Among the set is one with a woman skier promoting winter sports in Oberhof. What pleases us as collectors is the fact that the stamp shows a painted yet almost real picture of the Duke's Golf Club Hotel in Oberhof, "Thüringen", built in 1912.





If you look closely, you will find exactly the same roof scenery including the identical arrangement of the fronts and windows as shown on the copy below of the postcard from the 1920s. This proves that the building on the stamp is none other than the old golf club hotel of Oberhof.



According to Hansjorg, the course fell victim to the confusions of the war and has never been at the disposal of the wonderful game of golf until today. All attempts to revive the old tradition failed so far due to nature conservation reasons and their regulations.

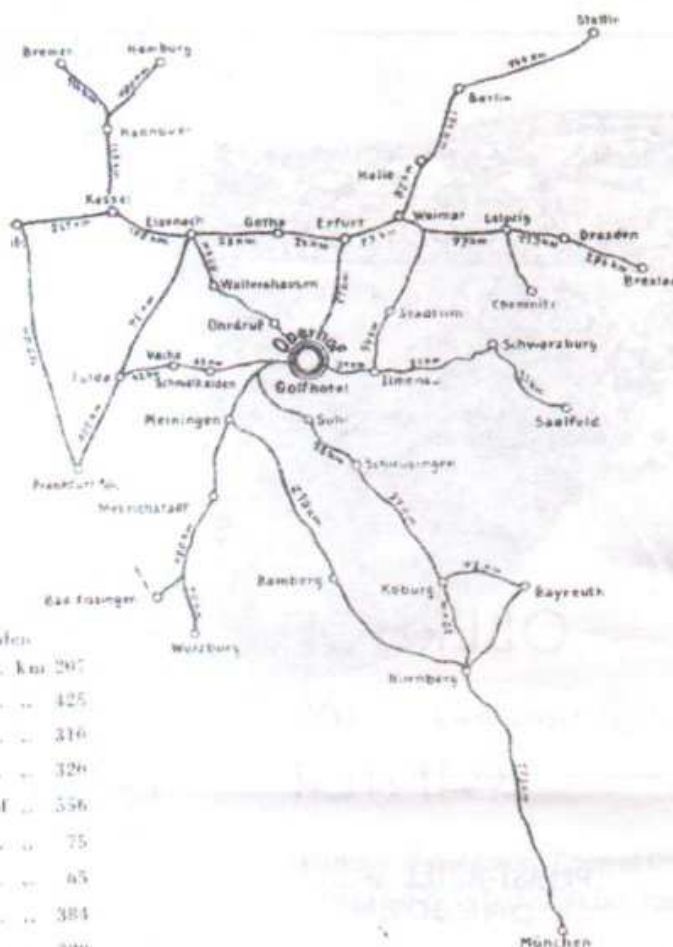








# AUTO-KARTE ZUM GOLFHOTEL



Frankfurt a. M. - Fulda - Vöhl - Schmalkalden - Oberhof	207
Köln - Kassel - Eisenach - Oberhof	425
Hannover - Eisenach - Oberhof	316
Berlin - Halle - Erfurt - Oberhof	326
Breslau - Dresden - Leipzig - Erfurt - Oberhof	556
Weimar - Stadtilm - Ilmenau - Oberhof	75
Koblenz - Schöningen - Suhl - Oberhof	65
München - Bamberg - Meiningen - Oberhof	384
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