



# TEE TIME

Volume 19 - Issue 3

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## *Golf in the Orbit of Space Exploration Stamps*

By Andrew Ilnycky

**T**he golf topical theme is frequently interwoven with other themes; in the orbit of space exploration one can find two issues commemorating Alan Shepard's famous golf swing on the moon. In 1972, Ras Al Khaima issued a series of six stamps "The Safe Return of Apollo XIV". In 1973 Mali issued a set of stamps to commemorate five of the Apollo missions. Both series include a stamp that depicts the first ever golf swing taken outside the Earth during the mission of Apollo XIV.

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Ras Al Khaima  
Safe Return of Apollo XIV  
set of 6  
Issued 1972



Republic of Mali  
Apollo XI - XVII  
set of 5  
Issued 25-October-1973

Stamps depicting Commander Alan Shepard's six iron shot on the Moon in 1971

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## TEE TIME

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## President's Message

Since I decided to sell off much of my golf collection, I have learned many things. At first I thought it had been a mistake to have bought postcards which were country clubs and did not mention golf—especially those around the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. It appears “clubs” at that time were more of a social gathering place, golf was often added at a later date.

However, these cards are quite collectible by current members of the clubs, individuals collecting cards from the town and even public libraries putting together a city history. It has been especially fun to mail the cards “home” to the town or city listed on the card.

In a few cases I have put up cards with no city or state identified. Cards from Seaman's Hall have sold immediately. While one from Government Island has not. Any ideas where that may be?

I have found the history of quite a few clubs on the Internet. However, one has to be cautious about the research. One of the most interesting golf courses is the one which had earlier been described as a Masonic play-ground in Dallas, PA, operated by the Irem Temple of Wilkes-Barre, PA. Apparently some of the land was sold for a Masonic retirement community. They are now in litigation as to who is responsible for what. No one is interested in those cards!



**A**pollo XIV involved America's third lunar landing and the first success in broadcasting color pictures from the Moon. On February 6, 1971 Commander Alan Shepard, besides being the oldest astronaut to walk on the Moon, became the first space golfer. Using a Wilson six-iron attached to a handle of a lunar sample scoop, and bundled in a space suit which limited his swing to one hand, golfer Shepard famously hit two balls. He joked that the balls flew "miles and miles and miles." While the Moon's gravity is about one-sixth of that on the Earth, the shots did not actually fly miles and miles. In reality they flew between 200 to 400 yards, an impressive distance nonetheless!

Shepard's feat was accomplished during the era of the Cold War. The Soviet Union could not be outdone; but it took Russia, the self-proclaimed successor to the USSR, many years to figure out how the bourgeois game is played. It was not until Expedition 14 outside the International Space Station in November 2006 that a Russian cosmonaut, Mikhail Tyurin hit a 3 gram golf ball using a gold-plated six-iron golf club. Tyurin exclaimed "There it goes. It went pretty far. It was an excellent shot. I can still see it as a little dot that's moving away from us." It should be noted that this cosmic shot was actually part of a commercial agreement between the Russian Federal Space Agency and the Canadian firm Element 21, a golf equipment manufacturing company based in Toronto. Tyurin carried three balls, but only hit one, which he shanked, causing it to fly past the starboard side of the Soviet Zvyesda service module. Very alertly, Ground Control quickly directed Tyurin to proceed with other tasks. NASA officials estimated the ball orbited the Earth about a

million miles before burning up in the planet's atmosphere three days later, thus posing no further risk to the station or to other space activity.

Back on terra firma the longest drive in competitive play was recorded by Mike Austin, at the age of 64, on September 24, 1974 in the 1974 National Seniors Open in Las Vegas played at the Winterwood Golf Course (since renamed Desert Rose). Assisted by a 30 mile per hour tailwind Austin, using a steel-shafted persimmon driver drove a balata ball 515 yards on the straight and flat 450-yard par 4 Hole No. 5, and overshoot the flag by 65 yards.

The longest drive in the Guinness World Record Book is held by Kelly Murray, which occurred on September 25, 1990 at the 30-yard wide airstrip in Fairmont Hot Springs, British Columbia. No doubt the runway at an elevation of 2,658 feet provided ideal conditions for a "cart path bounce". The drive measured 684.8 yards and beat the previous record by 50.7 yards.

Returning to the topic of golf on space exploration stamps it should be noted that the Apollo XIV issue honoring Alan Shepard was re-launched in 1974 when two of the Mali Apollo issues from 1973 were overprinted. Specifically, the Apollo XIV issue was overprinted on July 15, 1974 with a caption relating to the first landing on the Moon (nearly coinciding with its fifth anniversary) and the denomination was revalued from 100 to 130 Francs.



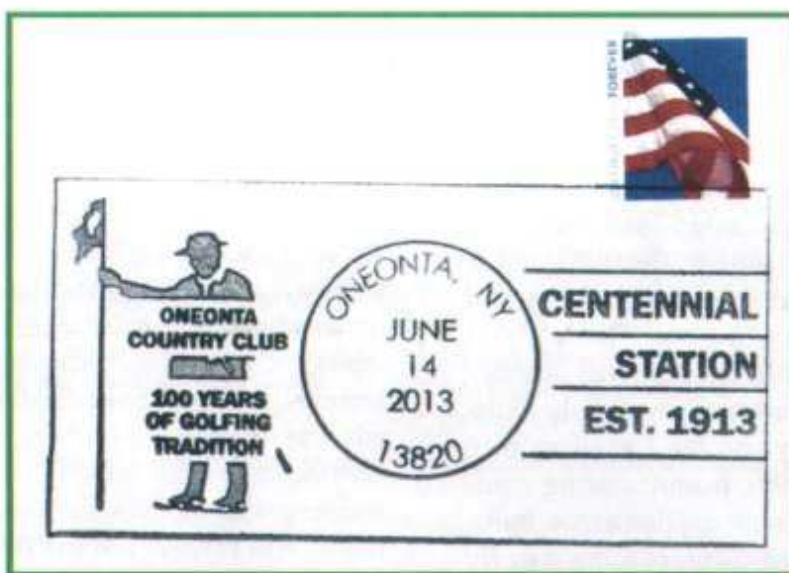
Mali Apollo XIV stamp was overprinted in 1974 ahead of the fifth anniversary of the first Moon landing.

Republic of Mali  
First Landing on the Moon 1969  
Overprinted 15-July-1974



## NEW GOLF CANCEL FROM U.S.

On June 14, 2013, the U.S. Postal Service put into use a new golf cancel for the 100th Anniversary of the Oneonta Country Club in Oneonta, NY 13820. The Oneonta Country Club was originally envisioned on July 19th, 1913 by a "meeting of gentlemen interested in the organization of a country club". These were men of action, and it wasn't long before stocks were issued and funds raised, to make this dream a reality. The original purchase of land was made in August of that same year, and memberships began soon after.



Original clubhouse



Modernized clubhouse

## UNLISTED IN SCOTT CATALOG—

Back in September 2012, we wrote about (Tee Time issue number 101) STAMPERIJA STAMP ISSUES NOT being listed in Scott Catalogs. Starting in January 2013, stamp issues that are being distributed by Stamperija are now being listed in Scott's Monthly:

January 2013 - Burundi 2011 stamp issues.  
February 2013 - Burundi 2011-2012 issues.  
March 2013 - Comoro Islands 2008-2009 issues,  
April 2013 - Mozambique 2010-2011 issues.  
May 2013 - Mozambique 2011-2012 issues, Niger 2011 issues.  
June 2013 - St Thomas & Price Island. 2008-2009 issues.

### Golf Cover from Katepwa



Illustrated is an advertising cover from the Katepwa Beach, Saskatchewan. The Katepwa Golf Course was established in 1913, with the first nine holes were laid out by a Scottish pro from St. Andrews. After many years of neglect, a new non-profit corporation (Katepwa Beach Golf Club, Inc. was incorporated in the spring of 1996) to build a new course to be designed by Greg Murphy. The cover shown above was postmarked at Regina, Sask 1922,



# NEW ISSUES

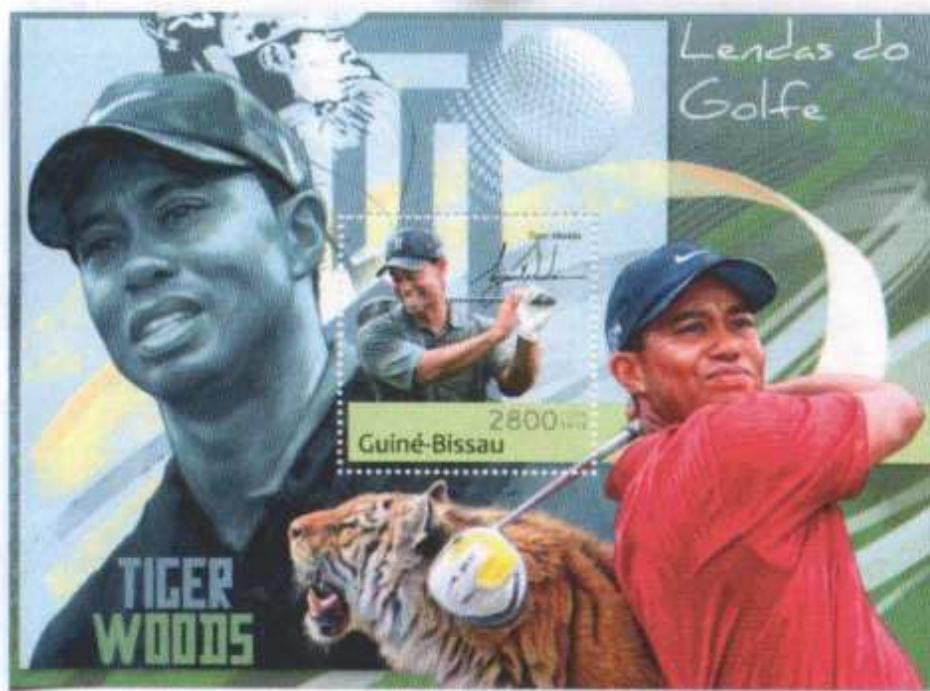


## GUINEA-BISSAU

Legions of Golf

First Day of Issue: November 31, 2012

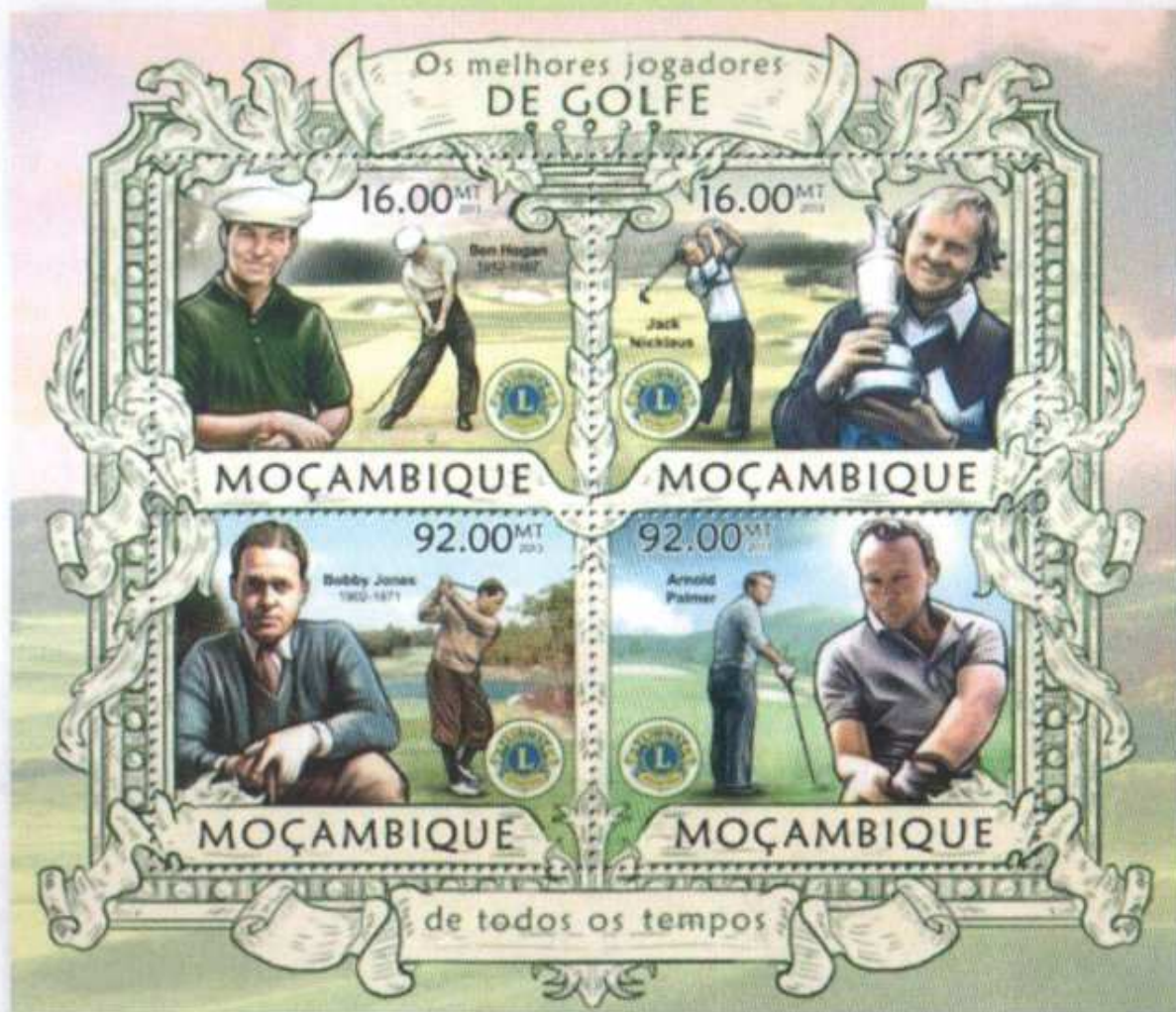
Ben Hogan  
Walter Hagen  
Jack Nicklaus  
Gary Player



Tiger Woods



**MOZAMBIQUE**  
The Best golf Players  
First Day of Issue: February 20, 2013.



Ben Hogan - Jack Nicklaus - Bobby Jones - Arnold Palmer



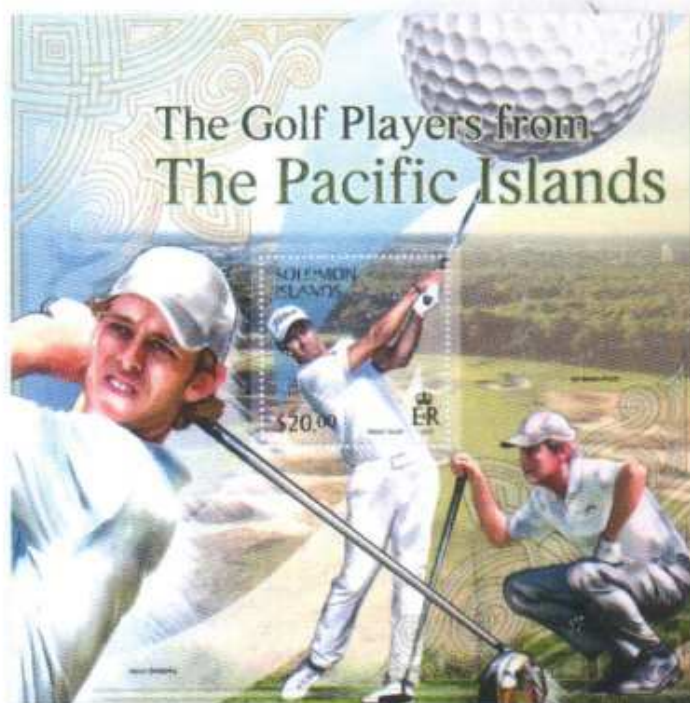
Annika Sorenstam



**SOLOMON ISLANDS**  
 The Golf Players from The Pacific Islands  
 First Day of Issue: May 3, 2013



Frank Nabilo - Richard Green - Aaron Baddeley - Michael Campbell



Adam Scott - Ian Baker - Finch