

Brothers of the Book

MISCELLANEA

The Links of Ancient Rome

By Payson Sibley Wild
and Bert Leston Taylor



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Manuscript

THE CONTENTS

When this issue of the *Miscellanea* was first planned, only the Latin verses, and the English rendering of them, were at hand. These had previously appeared in "A Line-o'-Type or Two," in *The Chicago Tribune*. The additional matter is all new. Mr. Wild, in going over the Latin verses, took occasion to add the Latin *Notae*; Mr. Taylor wrote a foreword; marginal notes in Latin and English followed; then a Latin title-page was 'discovered' by Mr. Ransom; next came the important 'find' of the *Tessera Golfaria*, adding finality to the contention that the royal game of golf had its origin during the reign of Caesar Augustus, and *not*, as claimed by some, at an earlier date. But the contents were not yet complete; it remained for Mr. Fox to add the final touch by contributing two authentic sketches of actual scenes on the ancient links.

The Latin verses and notes, and the Latin title-page, by Payson Sibley Wild; the introduction, and the English verses, by Bert Leston Taylor; the hand lettering of the cover, the title-page, and the *tessera*, by Will Ransom; the sketches of episodes on the links, by F. Fox; the vignette of the three monkish brethren on the cover, by Jay Chambers; and the whole brought together in this form by Laurence C. Woodworth, who desires to make grateful acknowledgment to these brethren, to whose cordial and hearty co-operation the BROTHERS OF THE BOOK is indebted for this production.

The Scrivener.

Chicago, October, 1912.

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Wild, Payson Sibley

CAMPI · GOLFARII
ROMAE · ANTIQVAE

DE · LVDO · ANTIQVO · REGALI QVE

EXCERPTVM

EX · ACTIS · DIVRNI
C · CILNI · MAECENATIS
IN · VERSVM · MODERNVM
CONVERTIT · ET · ANNOTAVIT
P · SIBLEIVS · FERVS

*"Noster Maecenas primus narrationem credibilem explicavit
nobilitatem Augustanam solitam esse pilulam albam trans
caespitem in pocillum baculo pellere." — MENTITVS.*



CHICAGINE
IN · LINEA · SARTORIS
C1910CCCCXI

The Links of

G 1967
WS

PROLOGVS

LECTOR · LENIS · LEGE · VERSVS
TVM · MI · SERTA · PONE
NE · VT · MEREQ · SVBMERSVS
SIM · OBLIVIONE



Ancient Rome

FORE!

The Fragments from the Diary of Maecenas, discovered by Dr. Ludwig von Aberwitz, of the Department of Epigraphy, University of Hofbräu, constitute the earliest (so far as known) references to the ancient and imperial game of golf; and they show that the human nature of the pastime was the same when Horace was penning odes to the ladies as it is to-day. Many, if not most, of the devotees of golf began by sniffing at it; later they became, like Augustus, C 2 K (a contraction which stands for the common and atrocious locution, "curious to know"). Thence it was but a step to obsession.

These fragments, which now repose in the W. K. Mendax collection of priceless manuscripts, were done into Latin by Mr. Payson S. Wild, and into English by the reader's most obedient servant. Neither version has sought slavishly to pursue the original, nor has the English pressed the Latin too closely; but both are considered, by critical and kindly scholars, to have caught the spirit in which Maecenas set down his too brief account of the Emperor's conversion to one of the most fascinating of games.

It has been contended by Mr. Arthur V. Taylor, of Newark, New Jersey, and by Mr. John Cotton Dana, of the Public Library in that city (both scholars and golfers), that the pastime originated among the goatherds of Northern Italy, before the coming of the Christian Era, and photographs of a portion of a parchment

The first word.

The Links of

A dubious document.

The last word.

have been submitted in evidence; but Dr. Aberwitz is skeptical concerning the genuineness of the discovery, dismissing it, after minute inspection, as bald and unconvincing and lacking in artistic verisimilitude. The Doctor is free from the taint of professional jealousy; to him truth is more important than the bucket which draws it up. His dismissal of the parchment, while emphatic, is reluctant.

Thus, until better evidence is brought forward, the jottings in the journal of Rome's famous patron of literature will stand as the initial historical references to a venerable sport.

B. L. T.

Chicago, October, 1912

Tessera Golfaria

MAECENAS · SVVM · FLACCVM

III · ET · II · DEVCIT

SOD · AVG · RVRAL

M · IVN · C · SENTIO · COS

Vid. *Giulio Fazio* in *Libello Epigraphico*.

Ancient Rome

I

AUGUSTUS FIT CUPIDUS SCIENDI (C II K) (a)

“Nuper, Octavi, dixisti iturum
Te mecum olim et campos visurum
Ubi libentes iam ludimus illa
Altivolante, durissima pila.
Dic mihi, vetule, saltem spectare
Nonne nunc vis, si nondum tentare?”

Frustra cum Imperatore locutus,
Impedimenta ac fustes indutus,
Abii atque quaesivi amicos
Qui iam profecti ad agros apricos.
Sed vix discesseram fessus orando,
Cum Caesar, fessus et ipse negando,
Talia reddit adstantibus fando:

“Bella, Rapinae, Incendia, Caedes,
Carmina, Litterae, Tempa et Aedes,
Quae sunt res publicae, graves et durae,
Illis furentibus nihil sunt curae;
Immo pol VINUM, MULIERES, CANTUM, (b)

*Maecenas
vult ut
Princeps faciat
quod intem-
peranter
promiserit.*

*Octavius
respondet
breuiter
“Minime pol
in tuo
daguerreo-
typo.”*

*Princeps
affirmat hunc
ludum sibi
nihil in
lusibus esse.*

The Links of

Non tantum diligunt, antea quantum!
Namque NOVICIUS LUSUS DAMNABILIS
Nescio quis, et, ut dicunt, mirabilis
Fascinavisse videtur sodales
Quondam carissimos contubernales.
Eam rem omnem non facio flocci;
Sum studiosior COMICI SOCCI,
Amo PICTURAS MOVENTES vel PONTEM, (c)
Cupidus nunquam per vallem aut montem
PILULAM ALBAM sequendi in fontem!

*Sed putat
illum sibi
investigandum
saltem.*

“At cantilenam eandem cur cano;
Num decet ipsi mentiri tyranno?
Huc AUTOMOVENENS VEHICULUM (d) fertel
Quid-INEL (e) agant comperiam certe.”

II

AUGUSTUS UTITUR LINGUA VUL- GARI SED LUDUM DISCIT

*Maecenas
pilam expellit
dum Princeps
adridet.*

Pilam expuleram aggere primo,
Cum Imperator iam illitus limo,
Clamans “Quid! Istoc est totum?” apparet,
Atque observat dum pila volaret
PEDES per caelum ad terram SESCENTOS. (f)
“En,” inquit, “sane homunculos lentos,
Qui quot diebus exercent iam dudum
Effeminatum eiusmodi ludum!

Ancient Rome

“Quam PUTRIS ICTUS hic proximus erat!
Talis ut aegre peritus pol ferat;
Tu imbecillus es, hercle, Maecenas;
Quid fluit tibimet, quaeso, per venas?
‘ATAVIS EDITE REGIBUS’—quippe;
Hoc enim luderet ludo XANTIPPE! (g)
Si non potuero longius sphaeram
Quam tu impellere, causam tum quaeram.
Clavam da mihi; ostendam, sceleste,
Ego ut faciam. Omnes adeste!”

Ita locutus, tenaciter prendit
Clavam et statim ad aggerem tendit.
Spuens confestim in mediam manum,
Pectore scelus anhelans profanum,
Agitat baculum sat negligenter;
S-s-s-t! ferit sphaeram (ut putat) valenter.
At tamen haec immobilis iacet, (h)
Atque Augustus attonitus tacet.
Puer cachinnat, qui saccum ferebat,
Temporis tamen momento silebat,
Nam ululatum iam Princeps tollebat:
“STULTE DAMNATE, AD USQUE AVERNAM
VOLO TU EAS GEHENNAM INFERNAM!” (i)

Tum ridens “Oculos,” inquam, “attollis;
PILULA illa est, minime FOLLIS.”

“Istud pro DI IMMORTALES excide!
Si placet, eris dum mortuus, ride!

*Hic
Maecenatem
exululat (ut
ita dicamus).*

*Augustus
“fusillum
expirat.”*

*Maecenas
leniter loquitur.*

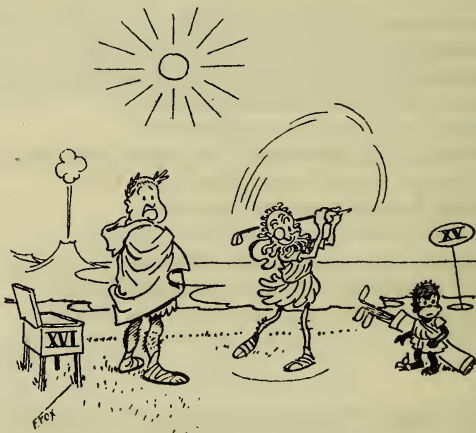
The Links of

*Princeps
lepidopieron
acquiri.*

*Maecenas
amicique
ludunt pocillum
undevicensi-
mum.*

Heus, VESPERTILIO, (j) caece, ausculta:
Quae tibi faciam ea sunt multa.
Ego et tu exercebimus soli—
Pilam amittere edepol noli!”

Nos modo CAUDAS GALLORUM MARTINI, (k)
Modo lagenas arcessimus, vini.



Ancient Rome

I

AUGUSTUS BECOMES C2K

MAECENAS:

“Octavius, I’ve often heard you say
That you’d cut out the work some sunny
day,
And have a look at our new country club.
Why not this aft, old top? Put on a sub;
Come down and watch us shoot a round of
golf,
Whether you stay to play or stay to scoff.”

“Nix on that golf stuff,” said the Emperor,
And so to prod him further I forebore.
Grabbing my clubs I chucked them in my
car,
And made the two miles to the links in par;
While Caesar, peeved at having stood me off,
Let go the following remarks on golf:

AUGUSTUS:

“War, glory, statecraft, and the Muses
Nine
No longer charm these golf-mad friends of
mine;
Wine, skirts, and song have also lost their
hold

*Maecenas
reminds the
Emperor of a
rash promise.*

*Augustus
returns a
laconic “Nix.”*

The Links of

*Augustus
defines golf
as his notion
of zero in
recreations.*

*But he
decides to
look it over.*

*Maecenas
drives, and the
Emperor sniffs.*

Beside this strange new game that, I am
told,
By old and young and wise and foolish
played is—

For which I would not give a hoot in Hades.
Me for the play or moving picture show,
A hand at bridge, or any game with go;
But chasing white pills round a vacant lot
Is my idea of entertainment, *not*.

“But here I am, singing the same old tune.
I’ve really not much on this afternoon,
And can, as old Maecenas said, knock off
And watch him shoot a hole or two at golf.
My motorcycle, boy! I’d like to see
Just wotinel this d. f. game may be.”

II

AUGUSTUS INDULGES IN STRONG LANGUAGE, BUT DECIDES TO LEARN THE GAME

I whaled the ball two hundred yards or
more—

A screamer—when up wheeled the Emperor,
Exclaiming, as he watched the sphere sail
off,

“Ye gods! Is *that* the total sum of golf!
Weaklings and mollycoddles, what a shame
To waste your time on such a baby game!

Ancient Rome

“And you, Maecenas, ‘Son of Ancient Kings’

(As Flaccus boy satirically sings
In his last book, ‘A Line-o’-Verse or Two’),
Is that the best, old scout, that you can do?
A stroke most ladylike! Why, on my soul,
I’d back Xantippe for a ball a hole!

“Say, if I couldn’t slam that piffing pill
Over the crest of yonder fir-clad hill
I’d go jump in the Tiber. Here, I say,
Give me that mallet! Caddy, stand away!”

Preluding thus, the Top Card took his
stance,
Giving the “pill” a quick, contemptuous
glance,
Then swung the driver with terrific force,
And—missed the ball a foot or two, of
course.

A caddy snickered, then discreetly blew,
And Caesar after him the driver threw,
With certain objurgations, warm and ting-
lish,
That look less rude in Latin than in English.

I laughed and said, “You see, it takes some
skill:

You didn’t keep your eye upon the pill.
The striking surface, you’ll observe, is
small;

It’s not, Octavius, a soccer ball.”

*He bawls
Maecenas out.*

*Augustus
short-circuits
himself.*

*Maecenas
speaks in part
as follows.*

The Links of

The Emperor
gets the bug.

Maecenas
and his friends
play the
Nineteenth
Hole.

"Aw, cut that out, for love of Mike!" said he.

"Laugh if you will—I grant it's one on me. Son of a bat!"—he called the nearest caddy—

"We'll learn this game *alone*. Come on, my laddie;

And if you lose this new ball in the rough
What I will do to you will be enough!"

So off they went, while we the club bar
found,

And ordered dry martinis all around.



Ancient Rome

NOTAE

“*Hic symbolus qui in MS. invenitur et doctos iam confundit, mihi vero significare videtur: Cupi-du (o)-(s) Kiendi.*”—DR. ABERWITZ.

Aberwitz quamvis non erret, non tamen observavit Americanum quendam plane cum MS. consimiasse. Quid?

Trinitas, si non sancta, saltem humanissima. Nisi legisti libellum ingeniosum cum eodem titulo ex stilo Iohannis Addingtoni Symonds, illud volumen statim emas vel hercle furtim rapias.

“*‘Pons asinorum’ fortasse.*”—ABERWITZ.
O tu verveix Aberwitz! Inscius semi-verum dicas!

Maecenas notat: “Exemplum anni XX A. Chr. fuit machina,” quod nobis terminum-a-quo huius fabulae dat, nam Augustus vero novam machinam quotannis coemit.

Mentitus (vid. “Commentaria Commenticia”), cuius iudicium est acre tersumque, dicit has syllabas frequentes esse apud scriptores antiquos, et recordatur e. g. fabulam veterrimam Cockneiam de uxore mortua, cuius animus superas ad auras reversus in conclavi spirituali cum marito ita locutus est:

“*Esne beata, Maria?*”

“*Sic, ‘Enrice.*”

(a) C II K

(b) *Vinum mulieres cantum*

(c) *Pontem*

(d) *Automovens vehiculum*

(e) *-Inel*

The Links of

“*Beatior quam olim eras mecum?*”

“*Sane, 'Enrice.*”

“*Ubi gentium es, Maria?*”

“*In 'El, 'Enrice.*”

(f) *Pedes
sescentos*

“*Saepe multo longius volvebatur pilula si humus arida duraque erat.*”—SCHOLIUM.

(g) *Xantippe*

Incertum est utrum feminae Augustanae pilula alba luderent necne. De hac re opus est evidentia. Incredibile fere est Romanos urbanos obiurgasse et ex campis golfariis expulisse mulieres volentes ludere, quod hodie tam saepe fit.

(h) *Immobilis
iacet*

In margine MS. scriptum est pertinenter hoc: “Tu, tiro, oculum agglutinabis pilae!”

(i) *Stulle
damnate,
et cetera*

“*Principem sempiternae consuescere novissimas verborum profanorum formas quaerere notum est. Ubi Orcorum tamen Gehennam compererit, doctis silentibus, metas scientiae nostrae excedit.*”—
ABERWITZ.

Ad puerum an ad pilulam loquatur Caesar nescitur, nec nostra refert. Satis graphica sunt verba.

(j) *Vespertilio*

Syn. Anglice “*Caddy.*”

(k) *Caudas
Gallorum
Martini*

“*Permixtio delicatissima mellis, malorum citreorum, amarorum, ‘aquae igneae’ et olivarum pipere refertarum.*”—PLINIUS TERTIUS.

Ancient Rome

IN PREPARATION

A few of the books now in preparation by the BROTHERS OF THE BOOK are listed below. They will not necessarily be issued in the order given. Detailed announcements will be sent to all members of the brotherhood in due course.

SONGS OF THE LOVE UNENDING, *by* Kendall Banning

THE GREAT THOUSAND YEARS, *by* Ralph Adams Cram

THE SQUIRE'S RECIPES, *by* * * *

FRIENDSHIP, *by* Lucile Heckelblower

THE BEATIFICATION OF THE NOVICE, *by* Charles B. Reed

ET IN ARCADIA EGO, *by* Theodosia Garrison

THE EAST WINDOW, *by* Bert Leston Taylor

MY LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT, *by* James Howard Kehler

NOTE

Article X of the Rules of the Order prescribes that the publications of the BROTHERS OF THE BOOK are exclusively for the members thereof, but this first issue of the *Miscellanea*, appealing as it does to Latinists and Golfers, as well as to mere booklovers, will enjoy a suspension of this rule, and may be circulated outside of the brotherhood.

A copy of this issue is sent to each of the brethren without charge. Members may procure additional copies for twenty-five cents each. Any copies remaining may be had by non-members for fifty cents each.

BROTHERS OF THE BOOK

Information regarding the BROTHERS OF THE BOOK, its aims, functions, and requirements for membership, may be obtained by addressing the Scrivener, Laurence C. Woodworth, Fine Arts Building, Chicago.

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