

# LELAND COLLECTION NOW IN "GOLF HOUSE"

*Entire Library  
and Memorabilia  
Given to USGA*

**T**HE USGA Golf Museum and Library, which sprang from the mind of former USGA President George W. Blossom, Jr., of Chicago, in 1936, has received a coming-of-age gift of unprecedented proportions. The Museum and Library are housed in "Golf House" in New York.

O. M. Leland, of Minneapolis, Minn., a member of the USGA Museum Committee, who has spent over 20 years assembling one of the world's finest golf libraries and other golf memorabilia, has donated his entire collection to be perpetuated for all time in the home of American golf. In combination with our present "Golf House" Library this may well prove to be the most comprehensive collection in the world.

The donor, now Dean Emeritus, has been associated with the University of Minneapolis since 1920, first as Dean of the College of Engineering and Architecture and the School of Chemistry, and later as Dean of Administration.

The gift embraces more than 3,000 volumes, old and curious golf clubs, several hundred different brands of golf balls including wooden, feather and gutta types, pictures, paintings and photographs.

The library is all-embracing, ranging from ancient Scottish histories and books in German, French, Dutch and Swedish to music and psychology.

The books are divided into the following subject-groups:

Sports—with references to golf.

Related sports, kolven, chole, mail, shinty, cricket, curling.

Non-sports—with references to golf.

History, biography, reminiscence.

Fiction, essays, humor, poetry, drama, music, anthologies.

Instruction, rules, forms, equipment, psychology, etiquette, handicapping, caddies.

Courses, clubs, societies.

Annuals, yearbooks, periodicals.

Architecture, construction, clubhouses, turf management.

Pictures, prints, cartoons, maps.

Personalalia and correspondence.

One of the rarest items in the collection is a 1566 compilation (the first printed) of the Acts of the Scottish Parliament which includes the following famous decree of James II's XIII Parliament, issued in March, 1457: "It is decreed and ordained, that the fute-bal and golfe be utterly cryed downe, and not to be used."

Another priceless trio are the three editions dated 1743, 1763 and 1793 of Mathison's *The Goff*, a poem of 358 lines describing a match between Pygmalion (the author) and Castalio. This is the first printed book on golf and this is probably the only such set in existence. It is interesting to note that the third edition is dedicated "To All The Lovers of Goff in Europe Asia Africa and America".

The first American book devoted entirely to golf, Spalding's *Golf*, 1893, is already a rarity. In fact, Dean Leland's copy is thought to be the only complete copy in existence.

The section devoted to related sports is extensive and should provide more fuel for the fire for those who decry the oft-repeated assertion that golf was derived from the French *jeu de mail* or the Dutch *kolven*.

Such an immense and generous gift cannot be gauged by its intrinsic value, which in itself is considerable. It is the product of years of research and eager planning, of international bargaining and careful custody.

Cataloguing of this vast collection will, of necessity, take time, but it is hoped to have it on display in the comparatively near future. It is intended to retain a substantial part of this library in toto and present it under the heading of the O. M. Leland Library.