

For Immediate Release

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**GOLF THROUGH THE AGES · 600 YEARS OF GOLFING ART©  
Michael Flannery & Richard Leech**

**Fairfield, Iowa, November 1, 2003**—Golf Links Press announced today the forthcoming publication of *Golf Through The Ages · 600 Years of Golfing Art* by Michael Flannery & Richard Leech. Thirteen years of exhaustive research conducted over four continents, have led to what is being hailed as “the most beautiful golf book ever published”, and “the standard reference work for generations to come”. *Golf Through The Ages* is an extraordinary 440-page visual and literary masterpiece that traces the history of the Royal & Ancient sport through the medium of art, featuring 364 largely unknown illustrations, most in color, clearly documenting golf’s centuries-long evolution from medieval European club and ball games, to the modern Scottish game we know and love. In a sport historical *tour de force*, the authors reveal golf’s relationship to polo, early football and rugby, hockey, cricket, bowls and even tennis.

“*Golf Through The Ages*, a landmark publication in the literature of golf, is arguably the most beautifully crafted fine-art compendium of its kind ever published,” said Eddie Papczun, Vice-President of Golf Links Press. “We’re confident that ownership of this magnificent book will be a prerequisite for any serious golf library or collector. Its unparalleled wealth of detail includes the first depiction of a tee (1580), the roots of the word ‘fore’, a Flemish 17th century painting of a golf lesson, and pictures of ladies playing cricket and bowls 750 years ago. Golf’s debt to Pall-Mall, the source of many of its rules, is meticulously traced, as is the emergence of the caddy/professional player, the history of golf in North America, and much more, all illustrated and documented in this strikingly original book.”

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*Golf Through The Ages...Add One*

Unparalleled content is married to the art of bookmaking, where each sheet of the book is printed in Germany on Roemerturm PhoenixMotion Xantur, the world's finest paper, before making the voyage to our award-winning Canadian bindery. There, four European master craftsmen skillfully bind the 440 pages in Pentland Goat, a vegetable tanned, hand polished leather from J Hewit & Sons, Edinburgh. This prestigious company was granted a Royal Warrant of Appointment to Her Majesty The Queen for their history in supplying leather to the Royal Library in Windsor.

The work is offered in two distinctive bound versions—the large paper, full-leather **Imperial Edition**, and a quarter-leather **Royal Edition**. Golf Links Press is pleased to offer the following editions for a special pre-publication price effective immediately, continuing until 31 January 2004.

Each **Imperial Edition** (limited to 176 books) features a hand-painted fore-edge watercolor by Linda Donais Weir, one of the world's most renowned fore-edge artists. The watercolor of golf's earliest canvas, View of St. Andrews from the Old Course, is concealed under a layer of gold, so when the book's gilded edges are fanned, the Weir painting is revealed - making each and every book in the edition a one-of-a-kind piece of art. The Imperial Edition is limited to 150 copies Roman numbered I-CL, each copy signed by the authors and the artist. This edition is offered for \$2500 until the official publication, when the price will increase to \$3000. [The 'Red Letter' (a - z) Imperial Edition (\$5500) is fully subscribed.]

The **Royal Edition**, limited to 1999 copies, is numbered in Arabic, signed by the authors, and features a beautiful quarter leather binding and matching hand-made silk slipcase. Offered for \$750 from now until the book's official publication, when the price will increase to \$950.

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*Golf Through The Ages...Add Two*

About the Authors

Michael Flannery was born in Baltimore, Maryland. His studies at the University of Virginia and Vanderbilt University, included seminars under the Nobel Prize author, William Faulkner, and Flannery O'Connor. Third generation of a Scots-Irish golfing family, Flannery has played, and been a keen observer of golf around the world, for over fifty years. He is a member of St Andrews Golf Club, Scotland, Golf Club Gut Sansenhof in Odenwald, and LAPADA, The Association of Art and Antique Dealers. Thirteen years of research into the documentation and art of European ball games has given him a unique knowledge of our sporting past.

Richard Leech was born in Liverpool, England. Winner of an Open Scholarship awarded by Oxford University, Leech pursued a career successively as Managing Editor and Vice President of two major American scientific publishing houses, both with important international imprints that specialized in luxury limited editions. In 1977 he purchased the Holland Press publishing house in London. Leech was a successful sportsman, above all as an amateur footballer, first with Liverpool FC and later with Pegasus, the combined Cambridge and Oxford university team. His intense interest in art and sport, coupled with his extensive hands-on publishing experience, is manifested in *Golf Through The Ages*, a book of incomparable elegance and beauty.

Golf Links Press, based in Fairfield, Iowa, was incorporated for the publication of *Golf Through The Ages · 600 Years of Golfing Art*. Further original golf books of the highest quality are planned.

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