

The Real Tennis Society
The Third International Conference on the History of Tennis
Thursday 24th April 2018
The Queen's Club - London

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THE BALL
A CROSSOVER FROM CAETS TO COLF

SCOTLAND AND THE FLEMISH PEOPLE

- ✘ Project of The University of St Andrews (2016)
- ✘ Flemish Immigration to Scotland during the Middle Ages
- ✘ Flemish influence on early games in Scotland

EARLY GAMES IN SCOTLAND

- ✘ Curling Bonspiel
- ✘ Cachpule
- ✘ Golf

MIGRATION WAVES TO BRITTAIN



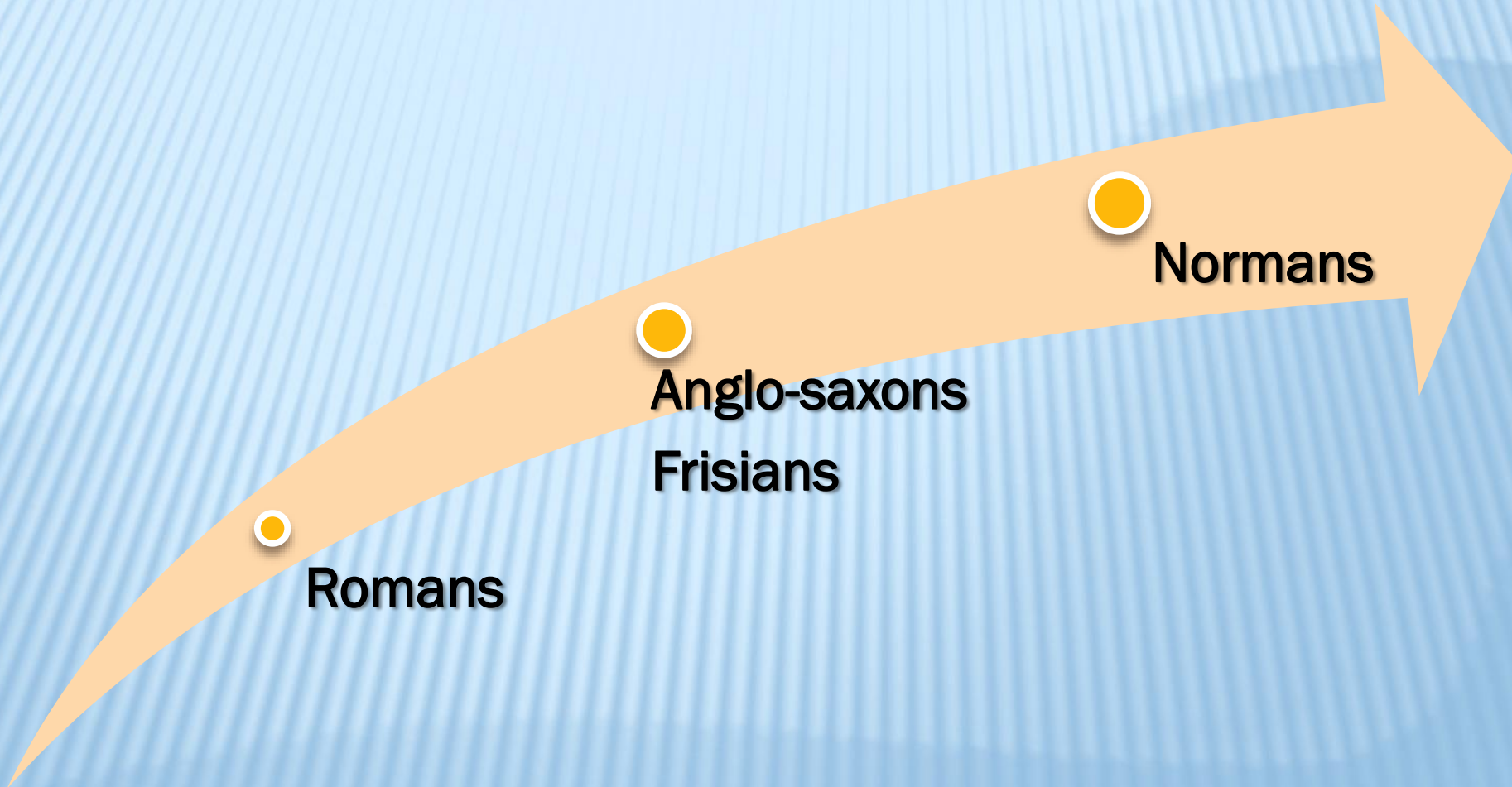
Romans



Anglo-saxons
Frisians



Normans



INFLUENCE ON ORIGINAL INHABITANTS

In Scotland:

- ✘ Gaels (Kelts) 10.000 BC - 0 – Scoti and Picti
- ✘ Romans 0 – 400 – minimal (Hadrian's Wall)
- ✘ Anglo-saxons 400 – 600 – gamechanging
(Old Frisian > Old English)
- ✘ Normans 1100 – 1300 – gamechanging
(Latin – French – Dutch – English)

NORMANISATION OF SCOTLAND

- ✘ Flanders dominant state in Western Europe
- ✘ Norman Conquest
- ✘ King David I - Davidian Revolution - Flemish nobles
- ✘ Top down modernisation
- ✘ Anglo-normans (including Flemings)
- ✘ Establishment of burghs in support of trade
- ✘ Immigration of Flemish merchants and artisans
- ✘ New Lowlands culture - Old Scottish
- ✘ Laaglands > Lallans > Lowlands

ASSIMILATION OF FLEMISH PEASANT GAMES

Curling

- Krulbolspel >> Curling bonspiel
- Compare bol >> bowl
- National game

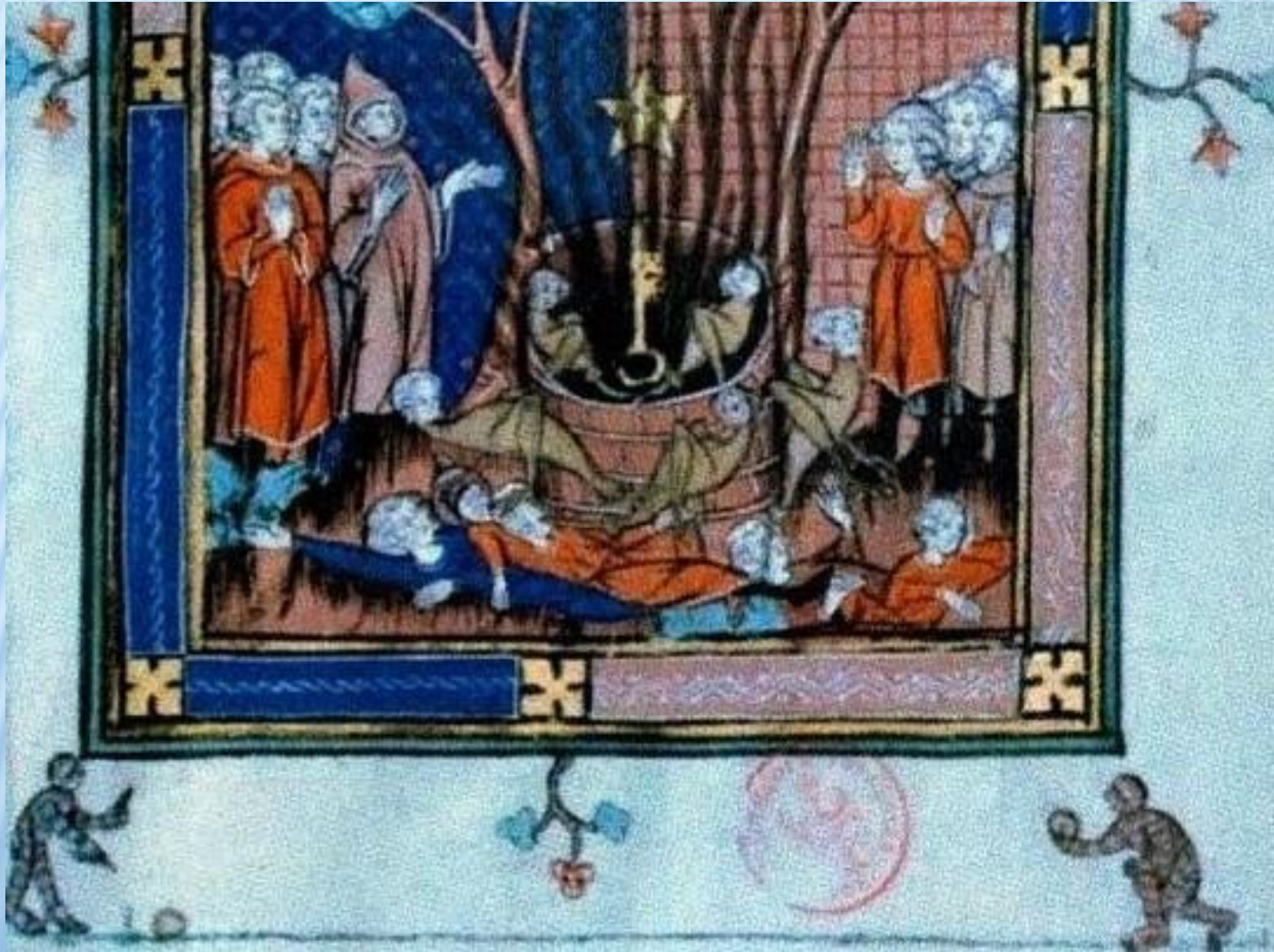
Tennis

- Caetsspel >> Cachpule
- pallacorda – pallamaglio
(tennis – pall mall)
- Royal games

Golf

- Colf (or Kolf) >> Golf
- Game of burghers and honourable gentlemen
- Royal and ancient game
- National game

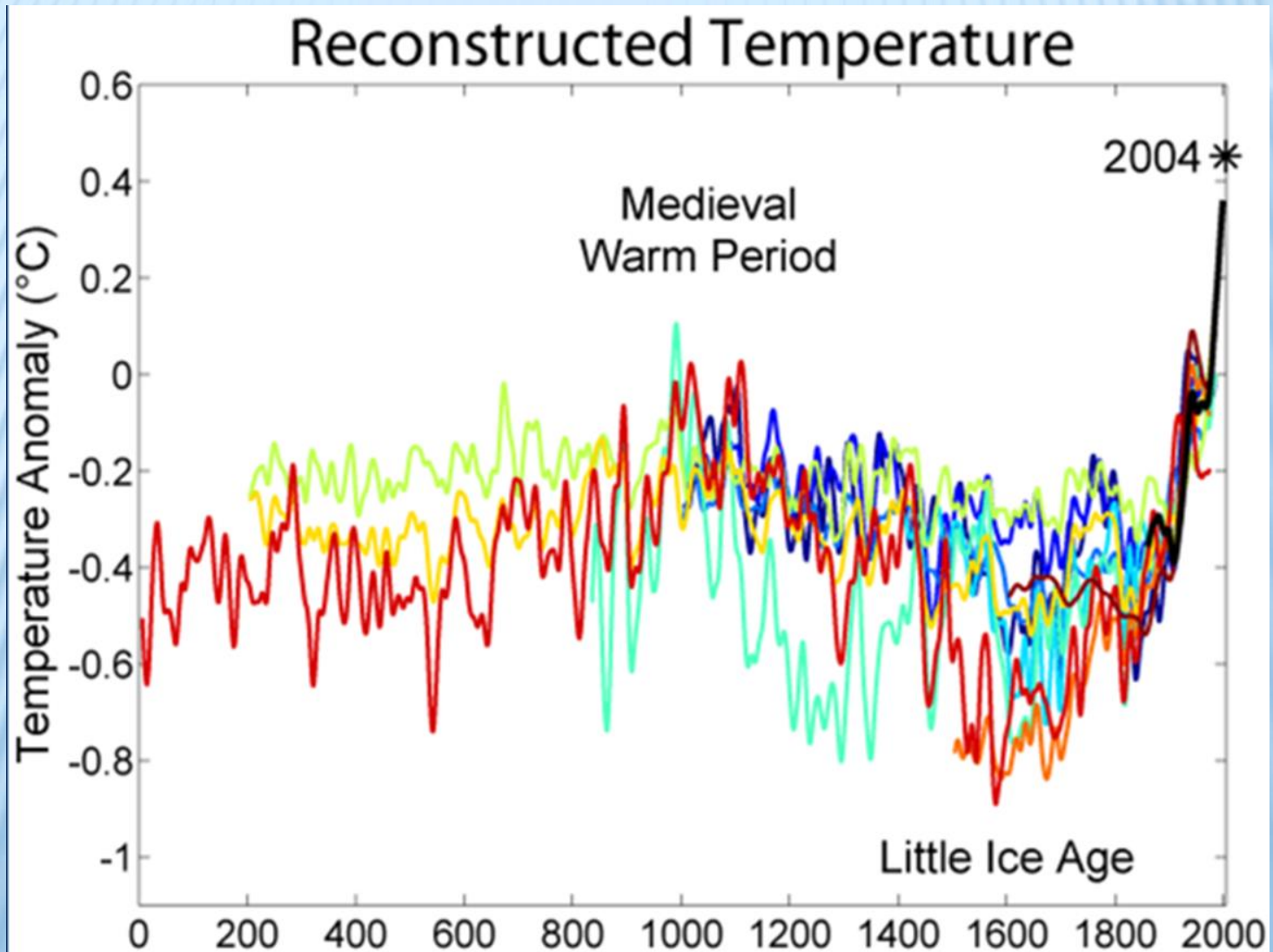
KRULBOLSPEL – CURLING BONSPIEL







LITTLE ICE AGE









WINTER PASSTIME

- ✘ Krulbol game on land moved to the ice
- ✘ Played with round wooden bols (flat side)
- ✘ First mention of the word curling in 1638
- ✘ Assimilation of krulbol game played on ice with game of throwing stones to modern game of curling bonspiel.

EARLY CURLING STONES







CAETSSPEL - CACHPULE





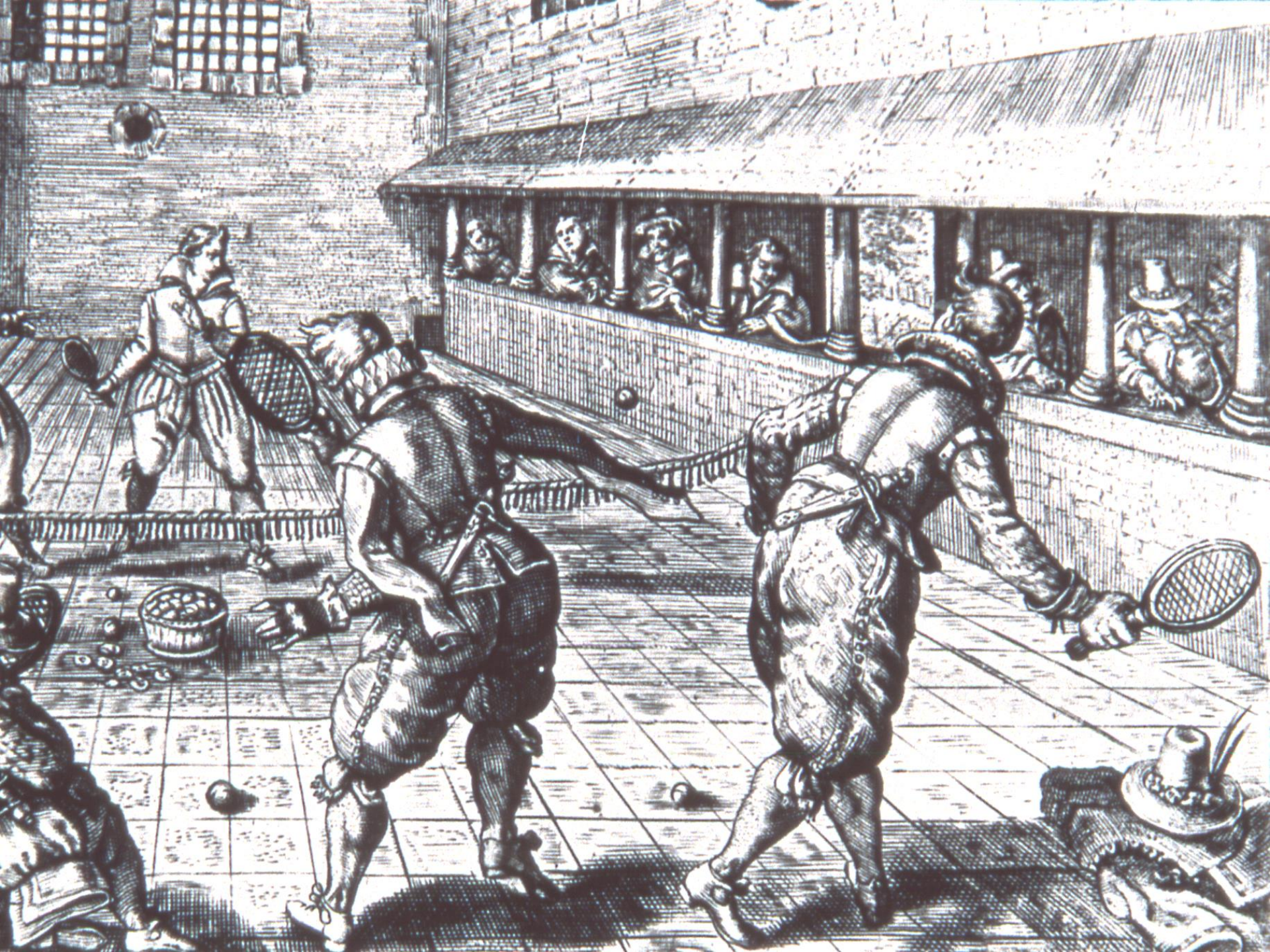
VIII

'Ten vangt gheen vis.

MEest al die de Rancket hantieren, zijn al lieden die de vis uyt het net jaghen, want wie dat wint, die behoud luttel in de hand; maer die verliest, die verachtert vierdubbelt. Andere netten worden gebruyct om yet mede te vangen, tzy dan viisschen of vogelen, tot profyte van de keucken: maer dit is de volkomen practijcke om gelt en tijd te korten, twelckmen tijdtkortinghe noemt: ende een groot deel van de beminnaers zijn van weelighe jonghelinghen snoode verachte lacketers geworden, en loopen met kackhielen, met de hielen deur de koufsen, en geven den bal op in de bane, om dat de verwaende kaetsers deur het bocken haer nastelinghen niet en souden breecken.

Ten vangt geen vis.





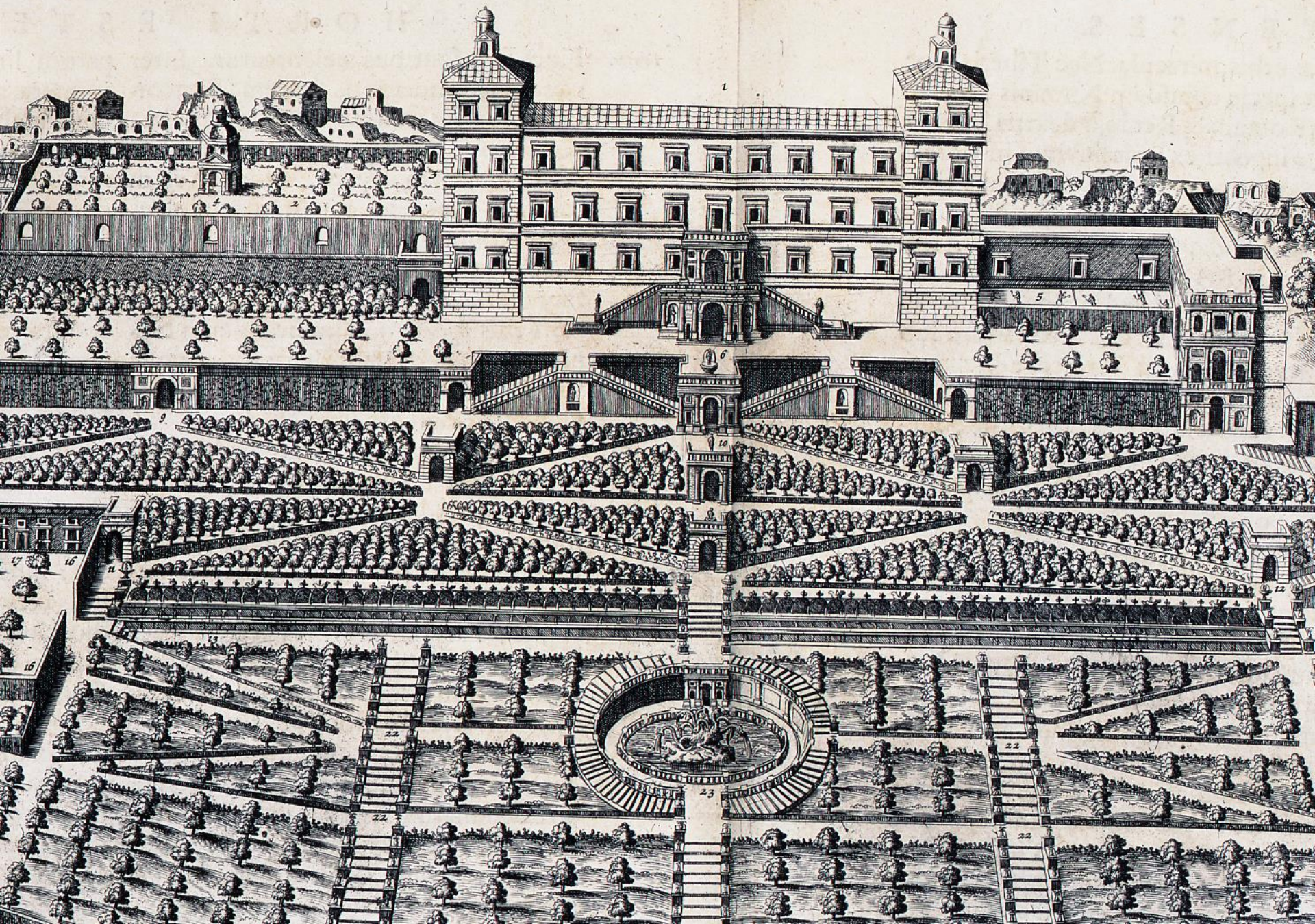
FALKLAND PALACE

















Le Palais Royal



James's House
de ST JAMES.

J. Goussier del.

PALLACORDA AND PALLAMAGLIO





VARIATIONS OF COLF GAME



Team game

- Unlimited number of players per team
- Defending/attacking each teams goal
- Played on land



Individual game 1

- Least number of strokes towards a set target (hole)
- Played on land >> ice



Individual game 2

- Least number of strokes over a set distance (pole)
- Played on land >> ice



xxx. g l*ra*. S*an*c*t*e. katherine 
A l*ra*. S*an*c*t*e. genevieve 
An*ni*. b l*ra*. S*an*c*t* uital. 
c l*ra*. S*an*c*t* ruffin 
xvi. d l*ra*.  Vigile. 
v. e l*ra*. S*an*c*t* andri 





xviii. g. kl. S. aint uerain.
v. **A** kl. S. ainte venice.
b. kl. S. aint honore.
xiiij. c. kl. S. aint uist.



7 a

b

15 c Hugois

4 d

e Exalt' anie

d Cosme r da

19 e

8 f Michaelis

g. Ieronimi

phēi









Queq; nociua vita tua sit ꝑciosa dca. **O**ra.
Balnea cū venere tūc nullū cōstat hē.
Potio sit sana atq; minutio bona.





1876
L
VV









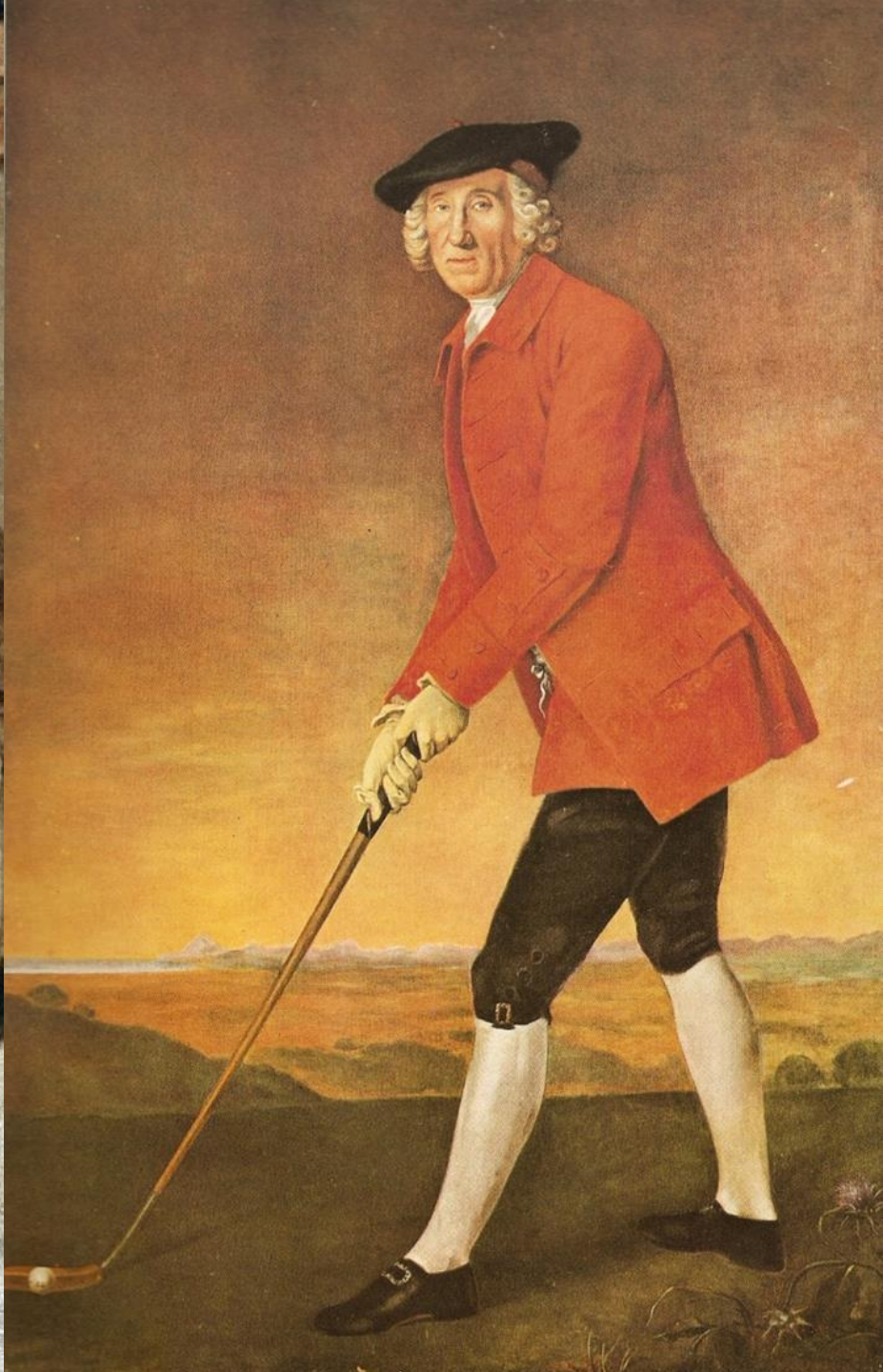












QUESTION TIME

- ✘ Flemish Colf << >> Lallans Colf (1100-1400)
- ✘ Wooden ball
- ✘ Crossover from Cachpule to Golf (c.1450)?
- ✘ Dutch Kolf << >> Scottish Golf (1550-1750)
- ✘ Featherie ball
- ✘ Documentary evidence is lacking