

In memoriam Prof. Dr. Heiner Gillmeister 1939 – 2021



(Professor of Middle English at the University of Bonn from 1968 till 2004 and a scholar of the history of sports. Retired Member of the Department of English American and Celtic Studies at the University of Bonn)

On Thursday 25th of March the famous sport historian and linguist, Prof. Dr. Heiner Gillmeister passed away.

Heiner Gillmeister was born in Brühl on 27th of February 1939 and showed a passion for ball sports, and all things connected, from an early age. He also showed a talent for football.

Heiner Gillmeister was the scientist who became well known for the systematic and worldwide study of the origin of the terminology in tennis and golf, thereby discovering and explaining the origins of these sports. He was also involved in the research of other sports including Cricket. His investigations featured an in-depth research into the language-based conclusions.

Through his irrefutable, solid argued publications and presentations of the origins of these sports, Heiner Gillmeister was able to change the afore accepted truths of these matters in a sometimes forcible way. He unintentionally continued to disappoint the British with his opinions.

With his passing a passionate expert in his field has left us.

His Symposium 'The Cradle of Golf', that was presented on 6th of June 2014 at Landgoed Bleijenbeek, was delivered as a direct motive of the foundation of the Dutch Golf Museum. Not that he tried to claim that the Dutch were the inventors of the modern game of Golf, but to show the rich golf history of the low lands and to learn from it. A rich social history that has much to say about our culture and international influences. This is frequently depicted in our many documents and artworks of Dutch Masters. This evidence comes literally and figuratively above ground by excavations and further research.

We are pleased to have personally known Heiner Gillmeister as a pleasant person and a convincing scientist who gladly visited our museum. He spoke and understood our Dutch language expertly.

We, the board of the Dutch Golf Museum, will miss him badly. Our thoughts are with his wife Anja on her loss.

John Ott, chairman

Ferd Vrijmoed, treasurer

Jacques Schuiling, secretary

Heiner Gillmeister visiting the Dutch Golf Museum



From left to right
Heiner Gillmeister, John Ott,
Ferd Vrijmoed, Arnout Janmaat



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