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May 2009



Inventory

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Frederick Guthrie Tait

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Golf Match Books and diaries, 1886-1900, of Frederick Guthrie Tait (1870-1900).

Freddie Tait was one of the most important amateur golfers of the late Victorian era. His father, Peter Guthrie Tait, Professor of natural philosophy at Edinburgh University, was also a keen golfer. Freddie and his siblings learnt to play golf on the links at St Andrews and Musselburgh from an early age. Later, father and son carried out scientific experiments on the flight of a golf ball. Freddie Tait went on to win the amateur championships twice in 1896 and 1898, he twice came third overall in The Open, and was the leading amateur on six occasions.

In his three Golf Match Books, Tait records and comments on his performances and those of his opponents [including many of the great names of golf notably Old Tom Morris, J H Taylor and Harry Vardon], the weather and condition of courses played.

Freddie Tait was accepted for Sandhurst in 1889 and is credited with introducing golfer there. After joining the Black Watch, he served in the Boer War and was killed in action at Koodoosberg in 1900.

Bought, 2009

- 1 Golf Match Book, 1886-1890
59ff.
- 2 Record of Matches played, 1892-1896
59pp.
- 3 'Golf: A Book for Recording Matches'. 1896-1899
50pp.
- 4 Pocket diary, 1899
90ff.
- 5 Pocket diary, 1900
25ff.
- 6 Boer War diary, 1898. Most pages blank.
43ff.
With map of the Transvaal and Orange Free State, press cutting 'Diary of the War' and printed order of service for 'Memorial Service for Lieutenant F G Tait, killed in action at Koodersberg, 1900', 12pp.