

*“Golf: History, People, and Courses”*

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Since the age of eight, when I first played golf with my father, I have been interested in how golf courses are maintained and built. Playing this great game has taught me about respect, etiquette, and above all fair play. While there are many reasons to play golf, I still enjoy playing because it is the one sport where there are no referees, no judges, just where the players themselves call penalties on themselves. My career as a student has taught me how to manage the turfgrass on these playing fields and my graduate career has taught me how to manage turfgrass pathogens. However, the more I delve in to my chosen pursuit, the more I want to know about the game's beginnings, and the more I want to know about events, people, and courses that have had an effect on what the game is today.

So, as a junior transfer student in turfgrass science at The Ohio State University, I began this collection. Initially, I was consumed with tracking down original volumes of the seminal works on golf course architecture. After realizing the prohibitive costs involved in procuring original texts from the 1920-1930's, I searched for other ways that I could collect these works without breaking the bank. I learned of a book club that specialized in classic books on golf. The "Classics of Golf" book club broadened my interests as I received their offerings every few months. I also began to search local stores, rare book stores, and other avenues for possible additions to my growing collection. I began reading about the history of the game and reading stories of the first great players. I added books to my collection on topics as far ranging as instructional books to metaphysical fiction books.

At present, my entire collection contains about 100-120 books on these varied topics. Those books that I have selected from this collection fit a group of books that focuses on the history, people, and courses that have shaped the game as we know it today. Each book in this selection was chosen because somehow the subject of the book deals with topics that have shaped and will continue to shape the face of this great game. In the future, perhaps I will achieve a station in life that will allow me to pursue those elusive first editions, but for now, I continue to collect those books that help me understand the constant evolution of this game. I guess I would best describe myself as a "student of the game".