A PICTORIAL HISTORY OF GOLF

Nevin Gibson
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Nevin H. Gibson

South Brunswick
New York: A. S. Barnes and Company
London: Thomas Yoseloff Ltd
The compilation of this volume was a project which exceeded the time allotted and provided numerous obstacles, many of which became insurmountable. Although it was a labor of love, it was finally completed only through the valuable assistance I received from many other people and golfing associations. And it is to these most responsive and dedicated individuals and organizations that I wish to express my most sincere appreciation for making possible this FIRST and ONLY Pictorial History of Golf.

Firestone Golf and Country Club, Akron, Ohio
United States Golf Association, Golf House, New York
Professional Golfers Association of America, West Palm Beach, Fla.
Golf World Magazine, Southern Pines, N. C.
The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, Scotland
The Western Golf Association, Golf, Illinois
The Prestwick Golf Club, Scotland
Doral Hotel and Country Club, Miami, Florida
The National Golf Foundation, Chicago Illinois
The Royal Liverpool Golf Club, England
Augusta National Golf Club, Augusta, Georgia
The Royal Blackheath Golf Club, London, England
Dunlop Sporting Division, New York

Golf Digest Magazine, Norwalk, Connecticut
Bing Crosby Clam-bake, Pebble Beach, California
The McGregor Company, Cincinnati, Ohio
Wilson Sporting Goods, Chicago, Illinois
A. G. Spalding Company, Massachusetts

And to the following individuals:

Bertram Eary, London, England
Max Elbin, Washington, D. C.
Clifford Roberts, Augusta, Ga.
Herb Graffis, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.
Will Grimsley, New York, N. Y.
Cathi Taylor, Miami, Fla.
Marshall Dann, Golf, Ill.
Joe Gambetese, Washington, D. C.
Dave Eisenberg, New York, N. Y.
Bud Harvey, Palm Beach, Fla.
Madman Morris, Tampa, Fla.
Billy Casper, California
Jack Level, Elmhurst, N. Y.
Dick Taylor, Southern Pines, N. C.
Deane Beman, Washington, D. C.
Charlie Price, New York, N. Y.
Robert T. Greasey, Palm Beach, Fla.
Bing Crosby, Pebble Beach, California
Bruce Koch, Rochester, N. Y.
Cecil Leitch, London, England
Chick Evans, Golf, Ill.
Gene Sarazen, Germantown, N. Y.
George Zaharias, Tampa, Fla.
Philip R. Wahl, Augusta, Ga.
Patricia Cushman, Palm Beach, Fla.
Tom Tully, Chicago, Ill.
James D. Dean, Cincinnati, Ohio
Mrs. Gwenn Graham, Pebble Beach, Calif.
Harry C. Eckhoff, Chicago, Ill.
R. Otto Probst, South Bend, Indiana
William A. Booe, Palm Beach, Fla.
Willie Hunter, Los Angeles, California
Joe C. Dey, Jr., New York, N. Y.
Arnold Palmer, Latrobe, Pa.
Paul MacDonald, New York, N. Y.
R. Dean English, Akron, Ohio
George Arble, Washington, D. C.
Frank Hannigan, New York, N. Y.
Robert Trent Jones, New York, N. Y.
Jackie Gleason, Miami, Fla.
Lillian Harlow, Southern Pines, N. C.

Robert T. Jones, Jr., Atlanta, Ga.
Frank Strafaci, Miami, Fla.
Robert D. Gibson, Washington, D. C.
Michael J. Connor, Akron, Ohio

And to the many others who, inadvertently, may have been omitted from the above list. My apologies for these omissions.

And to those who have departed to greener fairways:

The late, David Scott Chisholm
The late, D. M. Mathieson
The late, Tony Lema
The late, Ed Dudley
The late, Grantland Rice
The late, Robert E. Harlow
The late, Horton Smith
Contents

Preface
Acknowledgments
1 The Beginning to 1900 17
2 1900 Through 1930 50
3 1931 Through 1949 100
4 1950 Through the Present 142
Appendix (Past Records) 203
  Amateur Leaders to 1885 203
  Professional Leaders to 1885 204
  All-Time Leaders to 1918 205
  Leading Golfers of America 1918 to 1935 206
  Leading Golfers of America 1935 to 1957 207
  All-Time Leaders 1885 to 1958 208
  All-Time U.S. Professional Leaders to 1968 209
  All-Time Immortal Golfers of the World 210
  U.S. Open Championship (Past Records) 211
  British Open Championship (Past Records) 212
  National PGA Championship (Past Records) 214
  Masters Tournament (Past Records) 215
  U.S. Women's Open Championship (Past Records) 216
  Ladies' Professional Championship (Past Records) 217
  U.S.G.A. Men's Amateur Championship (Past Records) 218
  U.S.G.A. Women's Amateur Championship (Past Records) 220
  P.G.A. Hall of Fame Members 223
  The Vardon Trophy Winners (Past Records) 224
  P.G.A. Championship (Prize Money Awarded) 225
  All-Time Official Money Winners (Men) 227
  Annual Leading Money Winners 1934 to 1966 228
  Ladies Annual Leading Money Winners 1948 to 1967 229
Index 235
FEAST OF ST. NICHOLAS
Home of a cobbler in Holland. Painted by Jan Steen 1626–1679. Boy in center with golf club and ball which from all indications appear to be authentic in every respect. (This painting was discovered by H.S.C. Everard in the Rotterdam Gallery in 1902. Mr. Everard wrote the book, The History of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews in 1907, William Blackwood & Sons) (Photo by courtesy of the late D. Scot Chisholm)
Old leather ball, "Feathery," on left was made by William Gourlay, famed ball maker, up until 1848. The hand-hammered gutty, in center, was used from 1848 to about 1851; then the machine-marked gutty was used up until 1902. Doctor Coburn Haskell, a dentist from Cleveland, Ohio, invented the rubber ball which is used today.
Locations of golf clubs and courses in Scotland in 1852. Dates of activation are as follows: (1) 1744, (2) 1754, (3) Home course of (1), (4) 1761, (5) 1832, (6) 1786, (7) 1780, (8) 1787, (9) 1851, (10) 1851, (11) 1851, (12) 1824, (13) 1797, (14) 1839, (15) 1810, (16) 1846, and (17) 1774.
Posed above are the leading professional golfers of the world during the 1850’s at the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, Scotland. From left to right are: James Wilson, caddie and Clubmaker, Bob Andrews (The Rook), Willie Dunn, Willie Park, Alan Robertson, Old 'Daw' Anderson, Tom Morris and Bob Kirk. (Photo by courtesy of D. Scott Chisholm)
This most historical page from a Flemish book of Hours was executed between 1500-1520 by Simon Bennink, a renown artist during the time of Queen Katherine. At the foot of the calendar devoted to the month of September is a miniature which by its roughness, compared to Bennink's own work, is suggestively the effort of a pupil. It is the closest resemblance of golf as played in Scotland during this period. Furthermore, it is one of the earliest paintings in Holland which actually depicts golf clubs, balls and a hole. The game is also being played on ground, not ice. This book of Hours, bought from Ernest, Baron de Polnitz of Schloss Babenwohl, Bregenz, on April 13, 1861, and known as The Golf Book in the British Museum, consists of thirty vellum folios bound in book form. This miniature has been reproduced in several books on golf, but without stress on a significance that it is surely arresting; i.e., golf in the same, if primitive, form as used today, depicted at the time, the early sixteenth century. (Sir Guy Campbell, History of Golf in Britain. Shenval Press, 1952)

THE FIRST PICTORIAL EVIDENCE OF GOLF BEING PLAYED IN ENGLAND

Long before Scotland and England wrote about the subject of golf, the Dutch Artists thrived on golf paintings. The golfer depicted above is in the east window of Gloucester Cathedral, England. This window dates from the mid-fourteenth century and is the only pictorial evidence of golf being played in England at the time. (Photo by courtesy of the Dean and Chapter of Gloucester Cathedral)
Tom Morris, Jr., wearing the famous Championship Belt which became his permanent property in 1870 after winning three consecutive British Open titles. Young Tom also won in 1872 for four consecutive wins. (The British Open not played in 1871.) He was only seventeen years old when he won his first title. Young Tom met a tragic death on Christmas day at his youthful age in 1875. He was considered without refute as the first immortal professional golfer of the world. (Photo by courtesy of David Scott Chisholm) Caption from W. W. Tullock, *The Life of Tom Morris*, T. Werner Laurie, 1908.
David Strath, friendly foe and golfing contemporary of Young Tom Morris. The two were the leading professionals in the late 1860's and 1870's. Although David never won the British Open title he was second only to Young Tom. He was runner-up on two occasions. Both these youthful professionals died at an early age, Tom in 1875 and David in 1878. David was the professional at Prestwick Golf Club. (Photo by courtesy of David Scott Chisholm) Caption from Horace G. Hutchinson, *The Badminton Library*, Longmans, Green & Co., 1890.
“Mrs. Foreman’s,” the famous inn on the Musselburgh Links, where many Oldtimers have refreshed. The flag on the right is the third green where Tom Morris & Willie Park’s big challenge was disrupted and discontinued in 1879 due to the unruly spectators. The Musselburgh course was the home of the Honorable Co. of Edinburgh Golfers, the Oldest Golf Club in the world, during a period. (Photo from the book Famous Golf Links, by Horace G. Hutchinson)
Willie Dunn who won the first (unofficial) professional championship in the United States. He defeated Willie Campbell in September of 1894 at Shinnecock Hills Country Club. He scored a 97 to Willie Campbell's 100. This was the first golf match of any significance ever held in the United States. (Photo by courtesy of David Scott Chisholm) Caption from James P. Lee, *Golf in America*, Dodd, Mead & Co., New York, 1895.
Lady Margaret Scott, the first feminine immortal golfer. Lady Margaret won the first three consecutive British Ladies Golf Championships then retired from competitive play. She won in 1893 through 1895. Her excellent style of play was exceeded only by her beauty. Later, she played many friendly matches on the Continent. (Photo by Courtesy of Golfing Annual) Caption from David S. Duncan, *The Golfing Annual*, Horace Cox, 1896.
The great Harry Vardon, who had won three out of the last four British Open Championships from 1896 through 1899, made a good-will tour to the United States in 1900. His trip was commercially sponsored by the Spalding people to promote the "Vardon Flyer" golf ball. During his visit, Vardon participated in approximately 67 golf matches. He won over 50, lost 2, halved 2 and lost 11 while playing against the better ball of two opponents. He also won the U.S. Open Championship. His venture to America had a magnetic impact and it proved a potent stimulant to American golf. (Photo by courtesy of David Scott Chisholm) Caption from Harry Vardon, My Golfing Life, McClure, Phillips & Co., 1905.
Harold H. Hilton was the second British amateur golfer to reach the height of immortality. By 1913, he had won four British Amateur titles, two British Open titles, four Irish Open titles and one United States Amateur Championship. Not only a master golfer but an excellent golf writer. He wrote five outstanding books and was the first editor of *Golf Monthly*, the best golf magazine of Great Britain. (Photo by courtesy of Robert E. Harlow, Golf World Magazine)
Mr. William Innes, Captain of the Royal Blackheath Golf Club, England, 1778. The red coat was the uniform for the Blackheath golfers of the day. The Blackheath Golf Club was the first golf club in England. Golf was played there in 1608, however, the club was not formed until sometime later. (Photo by courtesy of the Royal Blackheath Golf Club) (A print from a lost painting by Lemuel Francis Abbott, RA)
Eglinton, Earl of, 25
Eisenhower, President, 163
Eisenhower Trophy, 158
Encyclopedia of Golf, 40
Erlington Golf Club (Wash.), 39
Essex County Country Club (Mass.), 39
Evans, Charles "Chick," 66

Fairfield Golf Club (Conn.), 39
Fazio, George, 142
Featheries, 23
Firestone Country Club (Ohio), 196
Fleck, Jack, 145
Foxburg Golf Club, 37, 39
Furgol, Ed, 145

Gentlemen Golfers, 17
Gieberger, Al, 192
Glasgow Golf Club, 21
Glennie, George, 25

"Golfer's Garland" (1st Golf Song), 31
Golf World Magazine, 100
Goodrich Rubber Company, 50
Grand Slam, 91
Grey Oaks, N.Y., 39
Guldahl, Ralph, 105
Gutties, 25, 50

Hagen, Walter C., 63, 73, 74, 76, 81, 91, 100, 105
Harlow, Lillian, 100
Harlow, Robert Elsing, 100
Haskell, Dr. Coburn, 50
Havemeyer, Theodore, 41, 49
Held, Edmund R., 73
Herd, Sandy, 52, 70
Hilton, Harold H., 186
Hogan, Ben, 105, 121, 142, 145, 176, 192
Homestead Golf Club (Va.), 202
Hopkins Cup Matches (First), 150
Hopkins, John Jay, 100, 150
Hoylake (Scotland), 35, 73, 202
Hutchinson, Horace G., 37

Innerleven Golf Club, 21
Insurance City Open, 176
Inter-Collegiate Golf Asso., 50
International Golf Asso., 150

James I, King, 17
James II, King, 17
James III, King, 17
James IV, King, 19
Jameson, Betty, 121
January, Don, 202
Jekyll Island Golf Club (Ga.), 39
Jones, Bobby, 73, 74, 76, 100, 103, 145
Jurado, Jase, 100
Kirkaldy, Andrew, 37

Kirkwood, Joe, 100
Knollwood Golf Club (N.Y.), 40

Lacoste, Catherine, 202
Lacoste, Rene, 202
Ladies Golf Union, 40
Ladies Professional Golfers Asso., 150
Lamb, Henry, 37
Lawrence, Willie G., 41
Leitch, Cecil, 23
Lema, Tony, 196
Leven Thistle Golf Club (Scot.), 21
Little Slam, 105
Little, W. Lawson, 105
Liverpool Golf Club, Royal (Eng.), 35, 37
Los Angeles Open, 142
Lowery, Eddie, 60
Lytham & St. Annes Links, 40

Macdonald, Charles B., 39, 41, 49
MacFie, A. F., 37
MacKenzie, Dr. Albert, 103
MacSpaden, Harold "Jug," 121
Maiden, Stewart, 74
Mangrum, Lloyd, 142
Massengale, Don, 202
Massey, Arnaud, 57
Masters Tournament, 103
Mathison's poem of "The Golf," 35
Mayne, William (1st Clubmaker), 17
McDermott, John J., 57
Held, Edmund R., 73
Herd, Sandy, 52, 70
Hilton, Harold H., 186
Hogan, Ben, 105, 121, 142, 145, 176, 192
Homestead Golf Club (Va.), 202
Hopkins Cup Matches (First), 150
Hopkins, John Jay, 100, 150
Hoylake (Scotland), 35, 73, 202
Hutchinson, Horace G., 37

Innerleven Golf Club, 21
Insurance City Open, 176
Inter-Collegiate Golf Asso., 50
International Golf Asso., 150

James I, King, 17
James II, King, 17
James III, King, 17
James IV, King, 19
Jameson, Betty, 121
January, Don, 202
Jekyll Island Golf Club (Ga.), 39
Jones, Bobby, 73, 74, 76, 100, 103, 145
Jurado, Jase, 100
Kirkaldy, Andrew, 37

Kirkwood, Joe, 100
Knollwood Golf Club (N.Y.), 40

Lacoste, Catherine, 202
Lacoste, Rene, 202
Ladies Golf Union, 40
Ladies Professional Golfers Asso., 150
Lamb, Henry, 37
Lawrence, Willie G., 41
Leitch, Cecil, 23
Lema, Tony, 196
Leven Thistle Golf Club (Scot.), 21
Little Slam, 105
Little, W. Lawson, 105
Liverpool Golf Club, Royal (Eng.), 35, 37
Los Angeles Open, 142
Lowery, Eddie, 60
Lytham & St. Annes Links, 40

Macdonald, Charles B., 39, 41, 49
MacFie, A. F., 37
MacKenzie, Dr. Albert, 103
MacSpaden, Harold "Jug," 121
Maiden, Stewart, 74
Mangrum, Lloyd, 142
Massengale, Don, 202
Massey, Arnaud, 57
Masters Tournament, 103
Mathison's poem of "The Golf," 35
Mayne, William (1st Clubmaker), 17
McDermott, John J., 57
Meldorn, "Wild" Bill, 74
Melville, James (1st Ballmaker), 17
Merton Country Club (Pa.), 202
Metropolitan Golf Association, 50
Middlecoff, Cary, 145
Middlesexboro Golf Club (R.I.), 39
Montclair Golf Club (N.J.), 39
Montreal Golf Club (Canada), 39
Morris County Golf Club (N.J.), 39
Morris, Jr., Tom, 27
Morris, Old Tom, 25
Murphy, Bob, 186
Musselburgh Golf Club, 21, 40

National PGA Championship, 150
Nelson, Byron, 105, 121, 142
New Brunswick Golf Club (N.J.), 39
Newport Country Club (R.I.), 39, 41
Nicklaus, Jack, 179, 186, 191, 192, 200, 202
North Berwick Golf Club (Scot.), 21
North Devon Ladies Club, 40
Norwich Golf (Conn.), 39

Oakmont Country Club (Pa.), 142
Olympic Country Club (Cal.), 145, 191
Orthez, Battle of, 35
Otsego Golf Club (N.Y.), 39
Ouimet, Francis, 57, 60, 100, 192
Author Nevin H. Gibson, who brought the widely acclaimed *Encyclopedia of Golf* to the sporting world, has also included an Appendix with up-to-date records on past winners of all the major tournaments. Members of the Hall of Fame, Vardon Trophy winners, all-time official money winners, annual leading money winners, and ladies' annual money winners are all included for the benefit of the golfing buff.

*A Pictorial History of Golf* is a work which can only come along once in a great while. It deserves to be on the shelf of every person who has ever picked up a club, whether pro or amateur. But it has appeal, also, for the person who is not a golfer but rather a connoisseur of beautifully illustrated books. The history of golf has been both colorful and exciting. This book will show you how much so.