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It has been said "the history of the world is but the biography of great men," for it is they who have shaped the course of countries and, at times, the world. In the historical development of golf, the same has been true. The early giants of the game, such as Tom Morris, R.H. Taylor and Harry Vardon, set the standards of tournament play and swing theory for others to follow.

Unfortunately, in modern golf prose we are only given fleeting glimpses of these men, almost as if they belonged to a sport as esoteric as court tennis.

But in the recently published book, "A Pictorial History of Golf" by Nevin Gibson (A.S. Barnes and Co.), we're given an opportunity to study the faces of the early giants of the game and the golfing climate of their domain.

There are pictures of old Tom Morris of St. Andrews, white-haired, wince-faced, as the earliest emperor of tournament golf.

We see pictures of Bobby Jones as a boy, a man and a champion. The other greats of the 1930's are seen as lean and hungry men fighting for success. We see photos taken in the 1960's of the same men—not so lean and not so hungry, but still striking the ball impeccably.

All the great champions are in the book, and it's they who give the book continuity. The stern look of determination on the face of Harold Hilton is similar to the look on the faces of Bobby Jones, Ben Hogan and Gary Player.

The book contains more than 300 black and white and color photographs with a running text by the author, one of the foremost authorities in the golf world. The writing is terse and factual, and there is a liberal sprinkling of quotes by some of the foremost sports writers.

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