

**W**inter provides the best time for reading, and rarely has there ever been such a diverse set of enjoyable books that involve golf course design. Once thought of as a subject for only a select bibliophiles, publishers are offering a little something for everyone.

As an economic downturn forces the golf business to reflect on its present and future, members of the industry might want to gain a better understanding of its past — and there is no better place to start than A.W. Tillinghast's writings. *Gleanings From the Wayside* (available through [www.tillinghast.net](http://www.tillinghast.net)) is the final in a series of three books by TreeWolf Productions featuring all of Tillinghast's published articles.

Whether you like Tillinghast's courses or not, you can't help but enjoy his rambling thoughts and suggestions. Golfers who've heard their share of dreadful hole-by-hole stories will love Tillie's explanation of a concept called the "Tale of Woe Committee," which consists of three deaf men who listen to golfers tell all the terrible things that happened on their links. It's a classic.

For architecture junkies, *Gleanings* contains an incredible array of photos and drawings to study, including Tillinghast's renderings of courses throughout the country. Tillinghast's personal insights into the game as collected in this timeless series should make for great reading whenever you're in the mood to hear how one of golf's master architects approached the game.

Another must read for those hoping to gain a feel for old-time golf is a modern-day account of Dornoch, Scotland. Things haven't changed much at Dornoch over the years, and Lorne Rubenstein's, *A Season in Dornoch*, (Simon and Schuster) provides an enjoyable look at the community and golfers whose life is centered around one of the world's great links. Thankfully, Rubenstein did not turn his three months visiting there into another overly sentimental journey. Instead, he provides an insightful, enjoyable look at why Dornoch endures as perhaps the model golf community.

If you want to laugh at the way-too-serious PGA Tour and learn a little something about

## An Opportune Time to Visit the Past

BY GEOFF SHACKELFORD



NEW GOLF DESIGN

BOOKS OFFER AN

ENCHANTING LOOK

INTO THE GAME'S

ELEGANT HISTORY

architecture along the way, Dan Jenkins' *The Money-Whipped Steer-Job Three-Jack Give-Up Artist* is your best bet. If a politically correct celebration of PGA Tour life is your kind of read, stay away from this one because Jenkins and lead man Bobby Joe Grooves do not hold back — all in the name of fun, of course.

"Other than Ben Crenshaw, who lives in the past and wishes his balls were gutta-percha, nobody else on the tour can jack with me on golf history," proclaims Bobby Joe, who readers will recall was not a big fan of golf history when he last appeared in Jenkins' masterpiece, *You Gotta Play Hurt*. Light on plot and heavy on hilarious sarcasm, Jenkins actually turns this into an informative look at the general history of pro golf and course design while keeping things festive.

Returning to books with a more serious flair, Brad Klein's, *Discovering Donald Ross*, sets a new standard for architect biographies. Richly illustrated and carefully researched, Klein (doesn't he work for another industry magazine?) helps us understand what drove Ross to America and how he became such a prolific designer. Furthermore, he illustrates how to read a Ross design and provides an excellent blueprint for approaching a restoration program. The only hiccup is a reference to a silly spat between the Ross Society and architect Brian Silva, a forgettable affair that would have been best left on the editing room floor in favor of more Ross drawings.

*Discovering Donald Ross* makes a bold statement about the importance of researching and understanding golf's past — information everyone with an interest in golf's present and future should explore this winter.

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