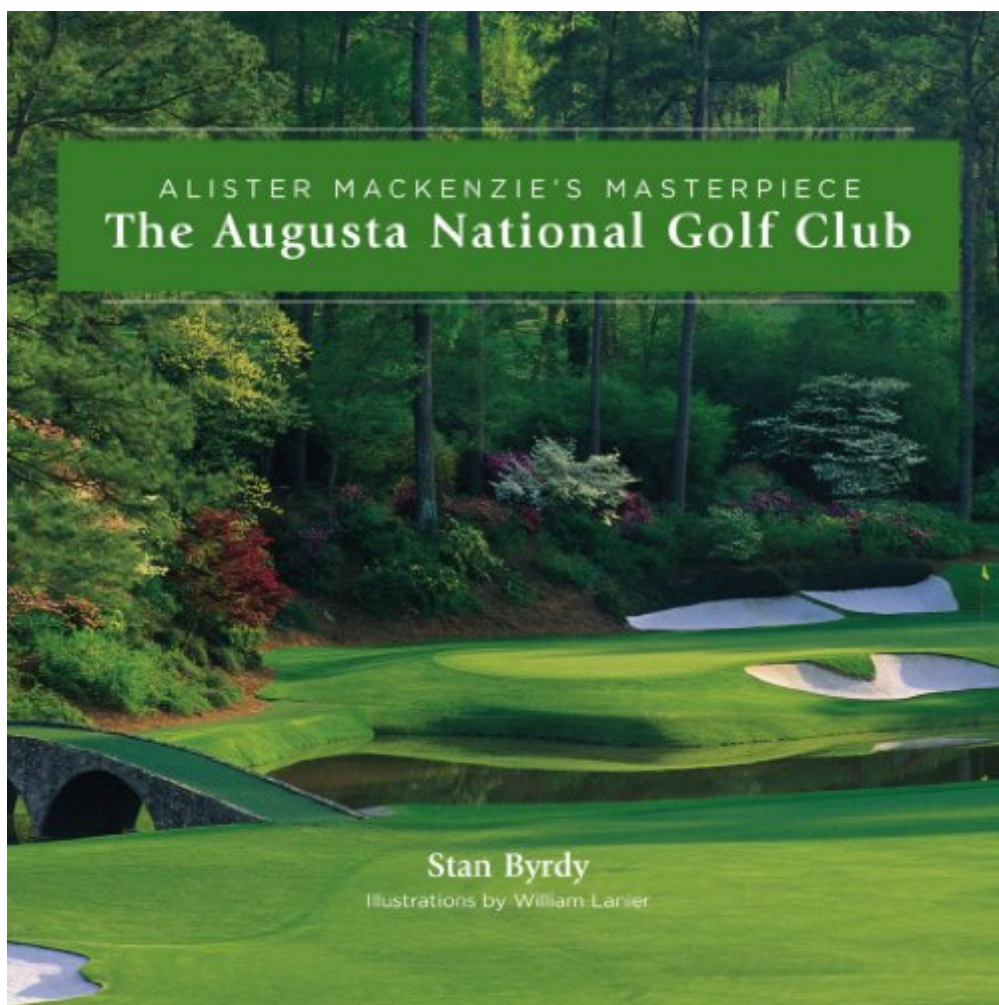


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# The Augusta National Golf Club; Alister MacKenzie's Masterpiece



## Synopsis

In 1931, Alister MacKenzie teamed with golf legend Bobby Jones to design the game's ultimate test, the Augusta National Golf Club and this book reveals the true genius of the course like no other. Working together, MacKenzie and Jones created what could not have been achieved singularly; a design capable of showing its teeth in humbling the best golfers in the world, while at the same time playable to members of much lesser skill. Rare photographs shine a spotlight MacKenzie's Masterpiece and Bobby Jones's dream. The Augusta National Golf Club will help you understand why the course has a reputation of legendary proportion and how MacKenzie single-handedly changed forever the way courses are built. Drawing upon his military background as a camouflage artist, MacKenzie incorporated hidden elements seamlessly into the natural lay of the land. In an era when the use of hazards as a means of penalty was popular, Mackenzie injected a new design perspective. His utilization of bunkers, trees and water was sparing and then only to insert a measure of strategy. MacKenzie's cost effective layouts called for a minimum of artificial features and a maximum of mental labor, and his thirteen rules of Golf Architecture were so simple in concept they were regarded as revolutionary. Author, Stan Byrdy served as Sports Director at WJBF-TV in Augusta from 1985-1994 and at NBC Augusta from 2006-2009. During that time Stan won 12 concurrent "Best of Augusta" Magazine awards and numerous Georgia and South Carolina AP and UPI honors. He covered the Masters Golf Tournament from Jack Nicklaus's historic win in 1986 through 2009 and is the author of two historical golf books on Augusta. Stan also served as coordinating executive producer for the Emmy-nominated documentary, "Augusta's Master Plan; From Sherman's March to Arnie's Army", which represents the first full-length documentary in Georgia Public Broadcasting's 50-plus year history. Stan's work has been featured on PBS stations, ESPN, CNN, The Weather Channel and ABC News affiliates.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is the most unique book ever done on the Augusta National. The Author, Stan Byrdy, is a local historian and broadcaster, and an Augusta insider! This is an oversized, coffee table, book. It provides amazing historical information and Masters stories, but the best thing about it is the vintage photographs of each of The National's original holes. The book also has yardage-book-style drawings of each original hole (circa 1934), and the modern-day hole -- so you can make side-by-side comparisons of how each hole has changed over time. The complete architectural history of each hole is also provided! This is a very important book for the golf fan, and a must-have for everyone interested in the Masters, or the Augusta National Golf Club, Bobby Jones, and Alister MacKenzie.

I purchased this book and subsequently returned it. For all of its promise regarding documentation of changes to the course and side-by-side drawings comparing the original holes to the present-day versions, it was a supreme disappointment. I am very knowledgeable on the subject of The Masters and the Augusta National Golf Club, and nothing in this book can't be found in the other four or five exceptional books on the history of the tournament and the golf course. What's more, the diagrams of the holes are not in proportion (i.e., the drawing of the 1934 version of a hole is not drawn in the same scale as the drawing of the present version of the same hole); for a course which has been lengthened by hundreds of yards over 70 years, it would be nice to be able to compare such yardage changes in the side-by-side drawings. As presented, however, each individual drawing is shrunken or enlarged to fit the dimensions of the page, and scale is not considered. The drawings are also clumsily drawn and lettered by hand, which is not aesthetically pleasing in the least and is

exceedingly amateurish; given the wide range of easily accessible graphic design software now available, this is inexcusable. I cannot recommend this book. Instead, a purchaser is much better off buying the books by Frank Christian, David Owen, David Sowell, or Charles Price.

This book was an excellent choice for serious golfers. People who love the game of golf love the Augusta National Golf Course and the Masters. The pictures of the holes and of the course make you feel like you are there. You can feel its beauty. It is a great book to give as a gift.

The book is full of history, lots of interesting facts and many diagrams and old photographs that really tell the story of Augusta National. I especially enjoyed Alister Mackenzie's philosophies on how the golf course was designed and laid out. Fantastic!

I actually got to walk out on this course. The Augusta National Golf Club grounds crew (a relative of mine worked there) get to play the course one day a year, on "Play Day" in May. I was the lucky guest of my relative. No picture book or video can do this course justice. You actually have to be there to see how big and "wavy" some of the hills and greens are. Anyway, this book has a lot of good photos, like the one with Bobby Jones and company standing near what today is the 12th hole. I also like the original hole illustrations set next to illustrations of what the holes look like today. This is a great book to add to your Masters Collection.

Bought this book as a coffee table picture book showing Augusta's beauty and when I received it came to find the entire thing (except the cover) is in black and white! Waste of money.

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