Masters Golf Books

There have been many books written about Augusta National and the Masters and it can be a tough subject to sort out. The publication of a new book featuring Herbert Warren Wind’s writing about the course gave us the inspiration needed to tackle this big subject.

The Best of the Best

1. *The Making of the Masters* by David Owen provides extended insight into this lesser known golf god, Augusta co-founder Clifford Roberts. Owen was granted access to the archives of Augusta National, which is rare, and thus the book has an unusually detailed look behind the scenes. Filled with tons of little known facts about the course and its original plans done in a great writing style. (1999)

2. *A Golf Story: Bobby Jones, Augusta National, and the Masters Tournament* by Charles Price (1986). Jones took Price into his confidence and befriended him for many years. He also had access to the Augusta archives, so it is a very good historical look at both Bobby, the club and the tournament. Some fascinating tidbits to discover, for example Jones landed in France on D-Day plus one when he was in the military. A worthy book, but more than a few extended diversions away from Augusta, and some of Price’s analogies are a bit dated. Also published in a deluxe edition. (1986)

3. *The Story of Augusta National* was written by co-founder Clifford Roberts. The three-part story of Augusta: The course and its designers; The Masters; The men who have played the course and who have made it so memorable. (1976)


5. *America's Gift to Golf: Herbert Warren Wind on The Masters*. In our view Wind is the best writer that golf literature has ever seen. Wind coined the term “Amen Corner” and this is only the beginning of his genius. The only question is why did the world have to wait until 2011 to have all his writings on Augusta published in one place? Brilliant. (2011)
Masters Rarities

The Masters Tournament was published in 1952 with a foreward written by Bobby Jones and Cliff Roberts. The book was produced by Augusta National and includes a map of the course and a plan for crowd control. The book was issued in appreciation to those who have actively contributed to the success of the Masters Tournament.

Summary

Rarely comes up for sale

Suggestions On How To See the Masters Tournament was first produced in 1949 and is an 11 page softcover. Written by Bobby Jones, this small softcover booklet is produced each year by the club. Recent editions are easy to come by, the original 1949 is not. Those in the early 1950s also fetch premium prices.

Very difficult to find
**The Rest of the Masters Books** (date of publication order)


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*Augusta Revisited: An Intimate View* by Furman Bisher (1976). Bisher was a sports columnist & editor for the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* for 50 years and covered the Masters for a long time. Good solid history, depth and breadth of period and historical pictures. Detailed chapters on Snead, Palmer, Hogan, Sarazen, Nelson, Demaret, Goalby and Nicklaus.

*The Masters: an illustrated history* by Dawson Taylor (1981)


*The Masters: Golf, Money, and Power in Augusta, Georgia* by Curt Sampson. The book jumps around a lot and isn’t the most balanced view of the club. (1988)


*Augusta: Home of the Masters Tournament* by Steve Eubanks. Not as perceptive or deep as other Augusta books. A me-too effort. (1997)


*One Week in April: The Masters: Stories and Insights from Arnold Palmer, Phil*

I Remember Augusta: A Stroll Down Memory and Magnolia Lane of America’s Most Fascinating Golf Club by Mike Towle. Quotes about Augusta and the Masters. Some interesting, some not. (2000)

Tales from Augusta by Jim Hawkins. (2002)


The Augusta National Golf Club: Alister MacKenzie’s Masterpiece by Stan Byrdy. For the golf course architecture fan. Chronicles the changes to the course over time on a hole-by-hole basis. (2005)

Golf Heaven: Insiders Remember Their First Trip to Augusta National Golf Club by John Andrisani. Somewhat interesting, parts a bit dry and formulaic. (2007)

The Masters: 101 Reasons to Love Golf’s Greatest Tournament by Ron Green, Sr. (2008) Light, breezy and a quick read. Entertaining and often funny and a lot of anecdotes about players.

Freddie & Me: Life Lessons from Freddie Bennett, Augusta National’s Legendary Caddie Master by Tripp Bowden. A former Augusta National caddie life lessons he learned from the late Freddie Bennett, the fabled club’s legendary caddie master. More of a tale about two unlikely friends. Rarely do you see a new book on Amazon with all 5 star ratings, but this book achieves it, although I thought it a bit clichéd and the use of slang becomes overbearing. (2009)

Augusta National Golf Club Photo Gallery of 8x10 Images: Exclusive Sports Photography from Famed Photographer by Phil Reich. (2010)

The 1986 Masters: How Jack Nicklaus Roared Back to Win by John Boyette (2011). Self-explanatory and a good book that tells one of the most compelling golf stories of our era. The better of the two (see below).


Other Masters Items:

Champions of Golf: The Masters Collection. Produced by Grand Slam Ventures in 1993. Each year's Masters champion is illustrated accompanied by a removable 2½ x 5” gold foil-stamped double-sided card. The set came in two different versions, with a limited edition gold foil version (imprinted border and bar on the front of the card) scarcer than the gold ink variety. The concept never took off as it was short lived, lasting a little more than 10 years. An uncommon collectible book. As few as 300 subscribers completed this collector's binder, receiving yearly updates through 1998.
Masters Annuals. The first Masters Annual was produced in 1978 and covered the first forty-one years of the tournament from 1934-1978. Clifford Roberts’ summary of each year’s tournament is included as well as pictures of the respective winners. Each subsequent year the club produces an annual which details the tournament from beginning to end. Unlike the softcover Masters Journal which is produced pre-tournament, the Annual is a hardcover and is produced after the tournament each year so it includes coverage of the entire tournament and a picture of the winner wearing his green jacket.

From the 1997 Master’s Annual