

On Course

News & Thoughts from Forrest Richardson & Associates, Golf Course Architects

Fall 2016



PHOTO BY DAVE SANSON © 2016

Hole No. 7 at the new Mountain Shadows Short Course, Arizona

“...May not also the simple delights of the game and its surroundings, with their effect upon the mind and the emotions, be included under the allurements and the mystery of golf? Has anyone yet sung these delights of the game? The comradeship in sport, the friendliness, the community of sentiment, the frankness of speech, the good-will, the generosity in trifles?

Or of the links themselves? The great breeze that greets you on the hill, the whiffs of air—pungent, penetrating—that come through green things growing, the hot smell of pines at noon, the wet smell of fallen leaves in autumn, the damp and heavy air of the valleys at eve, the lungs full of oxygen, the sense of freedom on a great expanse, the exhilaration, the vastness, the buoyancy, the exaltation?”

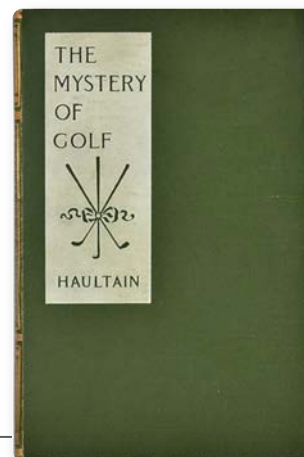
— ARNOLD HAULTAIN
from *The Mystery of Golf*

THE MYSTERY OF GOLF

Rarely does a book so simply capture the essence of a topic than the *The Mystery of Golf*, a 1908 masterpiece of writing by Arnold Haultain. A first edition sits in our library.

From time to time the writing of Haultain creeps to me. On more than one late afternoon walks to check on progress while finishing Mountain Shadows, the eloquent words of Haultain seemed to seize the moment — “...the whiffs of air ... that come through green things growing...” to cite just one.

As the year turns toward a new one, this simple edition of *On Course* reminds us of these mysteries — each one carefully pieced together to form the greatest game ever imagined.



Haultain on golf...

THE NATURE “...in golf the contest is not with your fellow man. The foe in golf is not your opponent, but great Nature herself, and the game is to see who will over-reach her better, you or your opponent.”

THE DRAMA “... at every hole is enacted every time a small but intensely three-act drama. Eighteen dramas, some tragical, some farcical, in every round... And, best of all, they are acted in the open air, amid delightful scenery, with the assurance of healthy exercise and pleasant companionship.”

THE GREEN “So many take such extraordinary pains to reach the green in as few strokes as possible, then forget that, unless they take just such pains, it will cost them as many strokes more to hole-out...”

THE UNIQUENESS “... there is no other game in which these three fundamental factors — the physiological, the psychological, and the social or moral — are so intimately combined or so constantly called into play.

FORREST RICHARDSON & ASSOC.

Phoenix | Los Angeles | 602-906-1818 | www.golfgroupltd.com

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