



PGA Historical Center



PGA Professional Errie Ball, the lone surviving participant from the first Masters Tournament, reflected on the game last fall in the PGA Historical Center.

- The PGA's original founders from 1916, of which 25 have their golf clubs on display.
- PGA Presidents – The Association's leaders from 1916 to today.
- PGA of America Competitions – Highlights the PGA Championship; Senior PGA Championship; PGA Professional National Championship; PGA Cup; along with the Association's National Championships for senior and assistant professionals, junior golfers and amateurs.
- Ryder Cup – Golf's most compelling event is immortalized, and the performers of the past come to life in this display. This display features the Ryder Cup trophy which was returned to America following a victory by the United States in September 2008.
- PGA Golf Exhibitions – The evolution of the world's largest golf tradeshow is traced from the parking lot of Dunedin (Fla.) Golf Club in 1954 to today's mammoth PGA Merchandise Show held at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Fla.
- PGA Awards – A history and description of each Award presented to PGA Professionals.
- Golf's Grand Slam Trophies – The hardware for golf's premier competitions – the Masters, U.S. Open, British Open and PGA Championship – are on display.

The Probst Library includes more than 6,000 hardcover books, more than 3,000 handbooks and yearbooks; and approximately 600 volumes of bound periodicals, including every edition of *PGA Magazine* dating back to its origins, when it debuted as *The Professional Golfer of America* in 1920.

The library is named after Col. R. Otto Probst (1896-1986), an engineer from South Bend, Ind., who began collecting golf periodicals and books in the 1920s. The collection features golf books dating from the 1700s and periodicals from the 1850s on subjects such as instruction, art, biography, golf club histories, essays, equipment, fiction, history, humor, poetry, records, reference manuals, travelogues and The Rules of Golf.

Adjoining the Probst Library is a room containing rare books of golf, including the first published Scottish Acts of Parliament of 1566, which covered in retrospect the reigns of King James I through Mary Queen of Scots. Included within the manuscript is the first identifiable reference to golf. In 1457, James II prohibited his subjects from playing golf, because it prevented training in archery – vital to the defense of the Realm. The Acts were later relaxed with the Treaty of Glasgow in 1501, as King James IV had his own clubs made and began playing the game.

The PGA Historical Center also features a one-of-a-kind gallery displaying art; golf artifacts; sculpture; trophies; glassware; games and toys; early golf training aids; the evolution of the golf club, ball and tee; and a workbench of legendary golf course architect Donald Ross that dates back to 1900.

The PGA Historical Center also features the PGA Golf Professional Hall of Fame, which honors respective PGA members and significant contributors to the Association. Located on the south portico of the PGA Historical Center, the PGA Golf Professional Hall of Fame was dedicated on Sept. 8, 2005.

The PGA Historical Center, celebrating the growth of golf in the United States, as paralleled by the advancements of The PGA, was dedicated on Dec. 4, 2002, and opened to the public on Feb. 27, 2003. Located between the PGA Learning Center and PGA Educational Center in Port St. Lucie, Fla., the center's showcase is the Probst Library, one of the world's premier golf collections of both periodicals and hardbound books. In addition, the PGA Historical Center presents memorabilia from throughout golf history, as well as displays that honor many of the Association's premier PGA Professionals and events.

A single-floor, 8,300-square foot facility, the PGA Historical Center is open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Dec. 26 through Easter Sunday. Summer hours are weekends only from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and the Center is open year-round to researchers by special appointment. There is no admission charge.

Visitors can follow a timeline that tracks the progress of The PGA of America through exhibits under a large rotunda. These displays also invite visitors to learn more about:



The names of those inducted into the PGA Golf Professional Hall of Fame are inscribed on a marble wall at the PGA Historical Center.