



THIS SPORT OF OURS

SCOOP GALLELLO

International Veteran Boxers Association

The birth of boxing began in England back in the 1700's though fighting with the fist goes way back to the beginning of time. Broughton's rules of boxing were introduced to the Flitic Gentry in 1743, from there the rules were modified by Lord Queensbury. Many of the rules that govern boxing today, began by Broughton's and Queensbury Rules, though vastly improved. The sport of boxing came to England via the Romans, who got the idea from the Greeks. The first mention of boxing in literature was inscribed in "Homer's-Iliad," recalling the battle between Epeius and Euryalus. Both fighters wore primitive forms of boxing gloves. Boxing became an Olympic Sport back in 688 B.C. John Shoto Douglas, the 8th Marquis of Queensbury, along with his friend John Graham Chambers, drew up the first set of boxing rules, which later came down to us as the "Marquis of Queensbury Rules." Though boxing rules were adopted in England in 1838, known as the London Prize Ring Rules," which preceded the Marquis Rules, but were not as concise and adaptable as the rules set up by the "Marquis." Jack Broughton was known as the "Father of English Boxing," who also devised his own set of rules... The longest bareknuckle fight between Jack Smith and James Kelly in Melbourne, Australia lasted for 6 hours and 15 minutes. In 1825 Patsy Tunney and Jack Jones boxed the greatest number of rounds, 276. When the Romans conquered England in A.D. 43, and remaining there until A.D. 410, they brought with them the art of Pugilism with the cestus covering the fists. The cestus was made of leather, with prongs of metal used as gloves. Many bouts were fought minus the metal prongs... In 1714 James Figg was recognized as the First English Heavyweight Champion. Down thru the years boxing history has recorded the names of Jack Black, Daniel Mendoza - who is recognized as the First Jewish Boxer to gain the Heavyweight Title, Henry Pearce, John Gully, Jim Belcher, Tom Cribb, Tom Spring, Tom Sayers, Jim Ward, Jim Macs, Frank Slavin, and many others of bygone eras... Nothing very different has changed thru the years. Boxing has been accused of "Fixed" fights, etc. In jinks in sports did not just begin. Jim Ward was accused of "Throwing" fights so he and his friends could win in big bets. The "Doctoring" of Boxing Gloves, as in the recent "Panama Lewis" Case, is not a new gimmick. Back in the early 1890's Captain Robert Barclay, a boxing trainer at Gentleman Jackson's Gym, doctored gloves by removing some of the padding, as Panama Lewis was accused of doing. Every sport where big money rules, you will see greed ruling the roost. Baseball has it's "Black Sox" scandal. Basketball Players "Shave Points," Football Players have been indicted for betting. Jockeys "Pull" Horses, etc.

The first "Bareknuckle" fighter between the era of 1750 - 1890 was Monsieur Petit. In 1730 the first known Italian boxer was Tito Alberto di Carni. The first recognized Black Heavyweight Champion was Tom Molyneux. In that era, many slaves took up the sport on the suggestion of the land owners. Many were promised their freedom if they won important betting bouts, and this is how the talented Molyneux became a free man. From the birth of our great sport, to the present day we have had some great fighters, and some not really as great, but all of them gave thrills to the spectators. The above mentioned along with the likes of John L. Sullivan, James J. Corbett, Jim Jeffries, Bob Fitzsimmons, Jack Johnson, Stanley Kitchell, Mickey Walker, Harry Greb, Sugar Ray Robinson, Rocky Marciano, Joe Louis, Muhammad Ali, Henry Armstrong, Benny Leonard, Sugar Ray Leonard, Roberto Duran, Ernie Charles, Archie Moore, etc., etc., etc. down the line. All were tremendous contributors with fine records, and not forgetting fellows like Willie Pep, Sandy Saddler, Phil Terranova, Barney Ross, Jimmy McLarnin - we can go on and on thru boxing history. But the one Gladiator with the Best Boxing Record of all was a famous Greek Fighter named Theagenes of Thasos, Champion of the 450 B.C. Olympic Games. He was the winner of 1,406 battles.