

four kings boxing book

Unveiling the Impact of the Four Kings Boxing Book on Boxing Literature

Four kings boxing book is a seminal work that has transformed the way boxing enthusiasts, historians, and athletes perceive the sport's rich history and legendary figures. This compelling book offers an in-depth exploration of four of the most iconic boxing champions of all time, providing readers with detailed narratives, insightful analysis, and a behind-the-scenes look at their careers, rivalries, and enduring legacies. Its comprehensive approach has made it a must-read for anyone interested in understanding the evolution of boxing and the personalities who shaped it.

In this article, we will delve into the significance of the Four Kings boxing book, explore the stories of the four legendary fighters it highlights, and discuss why this book continues to be a cornerstone in boxing literature.

What is the Four Kings Boxing Book?

Overview and Background

The Four Kings boxing book is a detailed biography and historical account focusing on the careers of four legendary boxing champions: Sugar Ray Leonard, Roberto Durán, Thomas Hearns, and Marvin Hagler. These fighters, often referred to as the "Four Kings," dominated the welterweight and middleweight divisions during the 1980s and are celebrated for their exceptional skills, fierce rivalries, and significant contributions to the sport.

Authored by renowned boxing historian and journalist, the book combines meticulous research, firsthand interviews, and vivid storytelling to paint a comprehensive picture of this golden era of boxing. It captures the essence of their rivalries, personal struggles, and triumphs, making it an essential resource for fans and scholars alike.

Main Themes and Focus

- **Rivalries and Fights:** The book explores the legendary matchups between these fighters, emphasizing their significance in boxing history.
- **Personal Journeys:** It delves into their backgrounds, training regimes, and

the personal sacrifices made to reach the top.

- Legacy and Influence: The narrative assesses how each fighter influenced the sport and inspired future generations.
- Cultural Impact: The book also touches on how these athletes represented more than just boxing, becoming cultural icons.

The Four Kings: Who Are They?

Sugar Ray Leonard

- Known for his exceptional boxing skills, quick footwork, and charismatic personality.
- Became a national hero and a symbol of hope during the 1980s.
- Notable fights: Marvin Hagler, Thomas Hearn, Roberto Durán.

Roberto Durán

- Famous for his relentless pressure, powerful punches, and gritty style.
- Nicknamed “Manos de Piedra” (Hands of Stone).
- Key victories over many top fighters, including Sugar Ray Leonard.

Thomas Hearn

- Known as “The Hitman” for his devastating knockout power.
- Excelled in multiple weight classes, from welterweight to cruiserweight.
- Famous for his near-superhuman reach and technical skill.

Marvin Hagler

- Recognized for his formidable chin, aggressive style, and formidable fighting spirit.
- Held the middleweight title for a significant period.
- Memorable fights include his bouts with Sugar Ray Leonard and Thomas Hearn.

The Significance of the Four Kings Boxing Book

Preserving Boxing History

This book plays a vital role in documenting an era that defined modern boxing. It preserves the stories of these legendary fighters, capturing their rivalries, triumphs, and setbacks, ensuring that their legacies endure for future generations.

Educational Resource for Fans and Historians

Whether you're a casual fan or a seasoned historian, this book offers valuable insights into the intricacies of boxing techniques, strategies, and the socio-cultural context of the 1980s boxing scene.

Inspiration and Motivation

The personal stories of perseverance, discipline, and resilience shared in the book serve as motivation for aspiring boxers and sports enthusiasts alike.

Key Highlights and Notable Fights Covered in the Book

Legendary Matchups

The book provides detailed accounts of some of the most iconic fights in boxing history, including:

- Leonard vs. Hagler (1987): One of the most celebrated middleweight bouts, showcasing tactical brilliance and resilience.
- Durán vs. Leonard (1980): The "No Más" fight, a dramatic confrontation that changed boxing history.
- Hearn vs. Hagler (1985): An epic war that tested both fighters' limits.
- Leonard vs. Hearn (1981): The "Two Ton Tony," a fight that displayed speed and power.

Fighter Profiles and Career Milestones

The book details each fighter's rise to prominence, including:

- Early life struggles and training regimes.

- Key victories and defining moments.
- Challenges faced outside the ring.
- Their influence on boxing styles and techniques.

Why Readers and Critics Appreciate the Four Kings Boxing Book

In-Depth Character Development

Unlike many sports biographies that focus solely on fight statistics, this book delves deep into the personalities, motivations, and personal lives of the fighters, creating a multidimensional portrait.

Engaging Narrative Style

The author's storytelling combines factual accuracy with compelling narration, making complex boxing strategies accessible and exciting for readers.

Comprehensive Research and Interviews

The inclusion of interviews with fighters, trainers, and insiders adds authenticity and unique perspectives that enrich the narrative.

Critical Acclaim

Many critics praise the book for its balanced portrayal of the fighters, its historical accuracy, and its engaging writing style, making it a staple in boxing literature.

How the Four Kings Boxing Book Influences Modern Boxing Culture

Inspiring Future Generations

The stories of resilience and excellence motivate young boxers and sports

fans to pursue their dreams and appreciate the sport's artistry.

Promoting Respect and Appreciation

By highlighting the skill, dedication, and sportsmanship of these legends, the book fosters respect for the sport and its athletes.

Educational Value in Boxing Training

Trainers and athletes often use insights from the book to understand historical fighting styles and strategies, enriching their training programs.

Where to Find the Four Kings Boxing Book

Purchasing Options

- Online Retailers: Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and other major platforms.
- Local Bookstores: Many independent stores stock this title due to its popularity.
- E-Book and Audiobook Versions: Available for digital readers and those who prefer listening.

Special Editions and Signed Copies

Limited editions, signed copies by the author or fighters, and collector's items are occasionally available through special promotions or boxing memorabilia stores.

Conclusion: A Must-Read for Boxing Enthusiasts

The four kings boxing book stands as a monumental tribute to an era that defined modern boxing. It offers an unparalleled look into the lives, rivalries, and legacies of Sugar Ray Leonard, Roberto Durán, Thomas Hearns, and Marvin Hagler. Whether you're a fan seeking to deepen your understanding of boxing history, a student of the sport, or a casual reader captivated by inspiring stories of perseverance, this book provides valuable insights and entertainment.

Its detailed narratives, vivid storytelling, and historical significance make

it more than just a biography—it's a celebration of the spirit, skill, and drama that make boxing one of the most captivating sports in the world. Dive into the world of the Four Kings and discover the true meaning of greatness in the ring.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the 'Four Kings' boxing book about?

The 'Four Kings' boxing book explores the careers and rivalries of four legendary boxing champions—Sugar Ray Leonard, Thomas Hearns, Marvin Hagler, and Roberto Durán—highlighting their impact on the sport.

Who is the author of the 'Four Kings' boxing book?

The book was written by George Kimball, a renowned sportswriter and boxing historian.

When was the 'Four Kings' boxing book published?

It was first published in 2011, providing a detailed account of the golden era of boxing.

Does the 'Four Kings' book include detailed fight analyses?

Yes, the book offers in-depth analyses of key fights between the four champions, capturing their styles and pivotal moments.

Is the 'Four Kings' boxing book suitable for new boxing fans?

Absolutely, it provides historical context and storytelling that appeals to both new fans and seasoned boxing enthusiasts.

Are there any notable reviews of the 'Four Kings' boxing book?

Yes, critics praise it for its engaging narrative, thorough research, and vivid portrayal of boxing legends.

Can I find the 'Four Kings' boxing book in digital format?

Yes, it is available in both hardcover and e-book formats across various

online retailers.

Does the 'Four Kings' book cover the cultural impact of these boxers?

Yes, it discusses how these fighters influenced not only boxing but also broader cultural and social spheres.

Are there any upcoming events or discussions related to the 'Four Kings' boxing book?

While there are no official events, boxing book clubs and sports history forums often host discussions and reviews about the book.

Additional Resources

Four Kings Boxing Book: An In-Depth Investigation into a Modern Classic of Boxing Literature

Boxing, often heralded as the sweet science, has a rich history intertwined with tales of grit, perseverance, and strategic mastery. Among the myriad of books that chronicle this revered sport, Four Kings Boxing Book stands out as a seminal work that delves deeply into the lives, rivalries, and legacies of four legendary fighters. This investigative review aims to unpack the significance of this book, its narrative craftsmanship, and its contribution to boxing literature.

Introduction to the Four Kings Boxing Book

The Four Kings Boxing Book is more than just a biography; it is a comprehensive examination of an era in boxing characterized by intense rivalries and unparalleled talent. Authored by renowned sports journalist George Kimball, the book was published in 2010 and has since become a cornerstone for boxing enthusiasts and scholars alike.

At its core, the book narrates the intertwined careers of four heavyweight champions: Muhammad Ali, Joe Frazier, George Foreman, and Larry Holmes. It explores their individual journeys, their conflicts, and how their interactions shaped the landscape of boxing during the 1970s and early 1980s.

The Context and Significance of the Title

Why "Four Kings"?

The title "Four Kings" is a metaphorical reference, positioning these fighters as monarchs within the realm of boxing. It encapsulates the idea that each of these men reigned over their respective eras and divisions, influencing the sport's culture and global perception.

The concept also underscores the competitive nature of their relationships—each vying for supremacy, yet bound by mutual respect and the shared pursuit of greatness. Kimball's choice of title signals a narrative that is both regal and combative, emphasizing the epic scope of their rivalries.

Thematic Underpinnings

The book's themes revolve around:

- Rivalry and Respect: The complex relationships between the four fighters, especially the legendary bouts between Ali and Frazier.
- Transformation and Legacy: How each fighter's career evolved and their lasting impact on boxing and society.
- Race and Identity: The social and racial dynamics that played a role in their careers, especially during turbulent times in America.

Deep Dive into the Content

Biographical Portrayals

Kimball meticulously chronicles the personal and professional lives of each boxer, providing detailed backgrounds:

- Muhammad Ali: From Cassius Clay to global icon, highlighting his transformative journey, activism, and his resilience against Parkinson's disease.
- Joe Frazier: The gritty, relentless challenger from Philadelphia, whose fierce rivalry with Ali defined his career.
- George Foreman: From Olympic gold medalist to knockout artist, and later, a successful entrepreneur.

- Larry Holmes: The tactical southpaw who succeeded Ali and maintained a long reign in the heavyweight division.

The narrative emphasizes not just their victories but also their struggles, personal sacrifices, and moments of vulnerability.

The Rivalries and Key Fights

The core of the book examines the legendary bouts that defined their careers:

- Ali vs. Frazier I ("The Fight of the Century") (1971): A brutal, emotional clash that symbolized more than just a boxing match—it was a confrontation of ideologies and identities during a turbulent era.
- Ali vs. Foreman ("The Rumble in the Jungle") (1974): An underdog victory that cemented Ali's legendary status.
- Frazier vs. Foreman: Their intense bouts, showcasing contrasting styles—Frazier's relentless pressure against Foreman's power.
- Holmes's Reign and Rivalries: His strategic fights defending the title and interactions with the other three.

Kimball's detailed descriptions provide readers with a vivid sense of the fighters' strategies, psychological states, and the cultural significance of each encounter.

Socio-Political Dimensions

A notable aspect of the book is its exploration of the broader socio-political context:

- The Civil Rights Movement and Ali's activism.
- Racial tensions reflected in the fighters' careers.
- The influence of the era's social upheavals on boxing's cultural landscape.

Kimball weaves these elements seamlessly, illustrating that boxing was not just a sport but a mirror of societal change.

Stylistic and Analytical Aspects

Narrative Style

Kimball's approach balances journalistic rigor with compelling storytelling.

His prose is accessible yet richly detailed, allowing readers to feel immersed in the fighters' worlds. The narrative often employs direct quotes, interviews, and archival research to lend authenticity.

Analytical Depth

Beyond storytelling, the book offers analytical insights into:

- The technical evolutions in boxing styles.
- The psychological warfare between fighters.
- The strategic nuances that defined their fights.

This analytical depth elevates the book from mere biography to a critical examination of boxing tactics and cultural influence.

Critical Reception and Legacy

Reception Among Critics and Fans

The Four Kings Boxing Book has been widely praised for its comprehensive scope and engaging prose. Critics have lauded Kimball's ability to humanize these larger-than-life figures while maintaining analytical rigor.

Fans appreciate its detailed fight descriptions and the nuanced portrayal of rivalries. Some have noted that the book provides fresh perspectives even for those well-versed in boxing history.

Impact on Boxing Literature

Kimball's work has set a high standard for sports biographies, exemplifying how to blend narrative storytelling with analytical insight. It has also reinvigorated interest in the golden era of heavyweight boxing, inspiring new generations of fans and writers.

Potential Criticisms and Limitations

While largely celebrated, some critics point out:

- A focus predominantly on the four fighters, potentially neglecting other influential figures.
- The narrative's emphasis on American boxing, with limited discussion of international influences.
- Certain personal details that remain speculative due to the passage of time and the availability of sources.

Despite these critiques, the book's comprehensive scope and balanced perspective remain highly regarded.

Conclusion: Why the Four Kings Boxing Book Matters

The Four Kings Boxing Book stands as a vital contribution to sports literature, offering an in-depth, nuanced portrait of four fighters whose careers intersected at pivotal moments in boxing history. It captures not only their technical prowess but also their personalities, rivalries, and societal impacts.

For readers seeking an authoritative, engaging exploration of a transformative era in boxing, Kimball's work provides invaluable insights. It reminds us that boxing is more than just a sport—it's a microcosm of societal struggles, personal ambitions, and the relentless pursuit of greatness.

In the landscape of boxing literature, the Four Kings Boxing Book remains a definitive guide, inspiring both admiration and critical reflection on the sport's most iconic figures. Whether you are a seasoned boxing aficionado or a casual fan, this book offers a compelling journey into the heart of heavyweight boxing's golden age.

In summary:

- A thorough biography and analysis of Muhammad Ali, Joe Frazier, George Foreman, and Larry Holmes.
- An exploration of their rivalries, especially the legendary bouts.
- Contextualization within the socio-political landscape of the 1970s.
- A balanced mix of storytelling, technical analysis, and cultural critique.
- Recognized as a modern classic in boxing literature.

The Four Kings Boxing Book is more than a sports book; it is a cultural artifact that captures the spirit of an unforgettable era in boxing history.

Four Kings Boxing Book

four kings boxing book: Four Kings George Kimball, 2008-10 Their names are legendary: Sugar Ray Leonard, Marvelous Marvin Hagler, Thomas Hit Man Hearns, and Roberto Duran. They were exceptional boxers with unique combinations of power and speed. In another era, with few rivals of equal caliber, each might have held championship belts for years on end. But as it was, they matured together in the 1980s and fought each other as middleweights. With unforgettable courage and skill, they ruled the ring and ushered in the last Golden Age of boxing. George Kimball takes an authoritative look at the rivalries that fueled this great era in sports history. Veter.

four kings boxing book: Ringside Reflections Matthew Hurley, 2012-11 The inevitability of what was to come hung in the air but the crowd at the outdoor arena at Caesars Palace seemed as dazed as to what was happening as Duran. Hearns, now oozing confidence, approached center ring and again touched gloves with Duran. It would be the last civil thing he did. Gliding around the ring and looking like a demented, black vampire with his goatee and Jeri curls, the Hit Man, he had reassumed the moniker for the fight, went in for the kill. Pushing Duran backwards he leapt in and clobbered the cowering fighter with a vicious right hand that staggered Duran back into the ropes again. Hearns bounced backwards and then jumped in again with another vicious right hand and began pummeling his prey with a series of punches that kept Duran standing straight up. Roberto tried to move off the ropes, so Hearns lured him out and then pushed him back with two probing left jabs to the chest before dropping the coup de grace. The final right hand that crashed over Duran's guard was so brutal, the impact twisted his head to the side and sucked all the air out of the arena. A collective gasp went up as Roberto Duran fell face forward to the canvas. There would be no count. Duran's corner men jumped into the ring as Hearns leapt onto the shoulders of his handlers. It was the most dramatic knockout of Thomas Hearns' career and upped the ante for his potential challenge of Marvelous Marvin Hagler for the middleweight championship. Hearns would fight one more bout before that showdown, a three round blast out of contender Fred Hutchings, but he would never again be so brilliantly devastating.

four kings boxing book: At the Fights: American Writers on Boxing Various, 2012-08-30 A collection of essays by James Baldwin, Norman Mailer, and other beloved American writers on the primal contest in the boxing ring—and the crazy carnival world outside it From neighborhood gyms and smoke-filled arenas to star-studded casinos and exotic locales, American writers have chronicled unforgettable stories about determination and dissipation, about great champions and punch-drunk has-beens, about colorful entourages and outrageous promoters, and, inevitably along the way, about race, class, and violence in America. Like baseball, boxing has a vivid culture and language all its own, one that has proven irresistible to career journalists and literary writers alike. The Library of America presents a gritty and glittering anthology of a century of the very best writing and reportage about the fights. Here is Jack London on the immortal Jack Johnson; H. L. Mencken and Irvin S. Cobb on Jack Dempsey vs. Georges Carpentier, dubbed “The Fight of the Century”; Richard Wright on Joe Louis’s historic victory over Max Schmeling; A. J. Liebling’s brilliantly comic portrait of a manager who really identifies with his fighter; Jimmy Cannon on the inimitable Archie Moore; James Baldwin and Gay Talese on the haunted Floyd Patterson; George Plimpton on Muhammad Ali and Malcolm X; Norman Mailer on the “Rumble in the Jungle”; Mark Kram on the “Thrilla in Manila”; Pete Hamill on legendary trainer and manager Cus D’Amato; Mark Kriegel on Oscar de la Hoya; and David Remnick and Joyce Carol Oates on Mike Tyson. National Book Award-winning novelist Colum McCann (Let the Great World Spin) weighs in with a foreword.

four kings boxing book: Around the World in 80 Fights Steve Bunce, 2024-09-12
SHORTLISTED FOR SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT BOOK OF THE YEAR AT THE SPORTS BOOK AWARDS 2025 An autobiographical white-knuckle ride around the global fight game by the legendary Steve Bunce: the voice of the sport who is celebrating four decades of writing and talking about boxers and boxing. In Around the World in 80 Fights, let 'the Voice of Boxing' take you on the

ultimate sporting odyssey: to the rings of New York, to the makeshift rings of Bukom in Ghana, to the riches of Las Vegas, and to Riyadh, Atlantic City, Bethnal Green, Mexico City, Rome and Berlin. To the basement rooms in dingy pubs where old fighters chase the last round; a bullring in December under the stars; a small square on the outskirts of Naples with a ring obscured by a fountain; the abandoned centre of boxing excellence in a forest lost in East Germany; a railway arch in south London and a bin-bag packed with cash. Let 'Buncey' tell you about the conversations with Mr. T at ringside; a meeting with the Pope's people; the thoughts of Donald Trump when he had plans to make boxing great again; Don King in exile in his nineties; an overheard conversation with Fidel Castro; and a very real diplomatic incident. The hard conversations with a dead boxer's mother in the hour after a machine had been switched off. The bravery, stupidity, guts, desire and glory of the boxers in the world's most famous and unknown rings. They fought for millions, for pride, for their country and for nothing. They bled, cried and died in those rings. Around the World in 80 Fights vividly reveals the simple, wonderful and truly awful business of boxing. It is Buncey's business and this is his story.

four kings boxing book: *The Hurt Business* George Kimball, John Schulian, 2013-08-01 From Jack London to Joyce Carol Oates, *The Hurt Business* is the ultimate boxing book covering a century of the greatest fighter and the writers who have followed 'the sweet science'. Beginning with Jack London's account of the 1910 championship bout between Jack Johnson and James Jeffries (for which the Call of the Wildman called for and coined the term The Great White Hope), and ending with Carlo Rotella's 2002 homage to Larry Holmes (Champion at Twilight), *The Hurt Business* is a near century's worth of rip-roaring reveal. Some of it comes ringside, like Norman Mailer et; some of it comes from the gym, like Pete Hamill's *Up the Stairs with Cus D'Amato*; and some of it comes from so far behind the scenes you feel as if you've been eavesdropping - Thomas Hauser's excerpt from *The Black Lights*. For fans of Norman Mailer's *The Fight* or George Kimball's *Four Kings: Leonard, Hagler, Hearns, Duran and the Last Great Era of Boxing*, *The Hurt Business* belongs on the shelves of any fan of boxing or sublime sports writing.

four kings boxing book: *Boxing in America* David L. Hudson Jr., 2012-06-21 This book presents a sweeping view of boxing in the United States and the influence of the sport on American culture. Boxing has long been a popular fixture of American sport and culture, despite its decidedly seedy side (the fact that numerous boxing champions acquired their skills in prison or reform schools, the corruption and greed of certain boxing promoters, and the involvement of the mob in fixing the outcome of many big fights). Yet boxing remains an iconic and widely popular spectator sport, even in light of its decline as a result of the recent burgeoning interest in mixed martial arts (MMA) contests. What had made this sport so enthralling to our nation for such a long period of time? This book contains much more than simple documentation of the significant dates, people, and bouts in the history of American boxing. It reveals why boxing became one of America's leading spectator sports at the turn of the century and examines the factors that have swayed the public's perception of it, thereby affecting its popularity. In *Boxing in America*, the author provides a compelling view of not only the pugilist sport, but also of our country, our sources of entertainment, and ourselves.

four kings boxing book: *Fighting Talk* Bob Jones, 2013-08-16 From 'A Low Blow' to 'Went the Distance', a fascinating and lively examination of the regular use of terms from the boxing ring in our everyday language. Have you ever stopped to notice how often your local newspaper or favourite magazine uses the terms 'On the Ropes', 'The Gloves Are Off' and 'Knockout Punch'? How often TV newsreaders will say that a politician has 'Thrown His hat in the Ring', is a 'Big Hitter', is 'Taking it on the Chin', is 'Down for the Count' or has the 'Killer Instinct'? Knight of the realm, leading businessman, colourful and controversial commentator, and boxing aficionado Sir Robert — Bob — Jones certainly has. Over a period of years he made careful note of how often terms cropped up and then retraced their etymological origins in boxing history. The result is a lively, entertaining, and thought-provoking miscellany of boxing terms that are now part of our everyday English language. Some have strayed far from their original meanings, others are more frequently in use

now than at any other time. Jones asks why that might be, and his answers are, well, a knockout.

four kings boxing book: Latino History Day by Day Caryn E. Neumann, Tammy S. Allen, 2013-05-09 This title takes a calendrical approach to illuminating the history of Latinos and life in the United States and adds more value than a simple this day in history through primary source excerpts and resources for further research. Latino/a history has been relatively slow in gaining recognition despite the population's rich and varied history. Engaging and informative, *Latino History Day by Day: A Reference Guide to Events* will help address that oversight. Much more than just a this-day-in-history list, the guide describes important events in Latino/a history, augmenting many entries with a brief excerpt from a primary document. All entries include two annotated books and websites as key resources for follow up. The day-to-day reference is organized by the 365 days of the year with each day drawing from events that span several hundred years of Latino/a history, from Mexican Americans to Puerto Ricans to Cuban Americans. With this guide in hand, teachers will be able to more easily incorporate Latino/a history into their classes. Students will find the book an easy-to-use guide to the Latino/a past and an ideal starting place for research.

four kings boxing book: Manly Art George Kimball, 2011-04 This compilation of boxing-related commentary, criticism, reportage, and analysis represents the decade's best from award-winning sports journalist George Kimball. With selections culled from a wide array of publications including *Boxing Digest*, the *Irish Times*, ESPN.com, and TheSweetScience.com, this is a hard-hitting look at the current state of the sport. Kimball pulls no punches as he dissects the triumphs, defeats, and mistakes of the major figures in boxing from yesterday and today—including Muhammad Ali, George Foreman, Manny Pacquiao, Oscar de la Hoya, and dozens more—bringing all the controversies and personalities vividly to life.

four kings boxing book: Cassell's Dictionary of Slang Jonathon Green, 2005 With its unparalleled coverage of English slang of all types (from 18th-century cant to contemporary gay slang), and its uncluttered editorial apparatus, *Cassell's Dictionary of Slang* was warmly received when its first edition appeared in 1998. 'Brilliant.' said Mark Lawson on BBC2's *The Late Review*; 'This is a terrific piece of work - learned, entertaining, funny, stimulating' said Jonathan Meades in *The Evening Standard*. But now the world's best single-volume dictionary of English slang is about to get even better. Jonathon Green has spent the last seven years on a vast project: to research in depth the English slang vocabulary and to hunt down and record written instances of the use of as many slang words as possible. This has entailed trawling through more than 4000 books - plus song lyrics, TV and movie scripts, and many newspapers and magazines - for relevant material. The research has thrown up some fascinating results

four kings boxing book: Combat Sports David L. Hudson Jr., 2009-05-13 Fistic combat represents the greatest human drama in all of sport. Roman gladiators thrilled citizens and emperors alike when they entered the octagon to face an intense, life-threatening experience. Boxing, the sport of kings, also has its roots in the ancient civilizations of Greece and Rome. Banned in 500 A.D. by the Emperor Theodoric, it resurfaced twelve centuries later in England. John Milton praised it as a noble art for building character in young men, and sports writer A.J. Leibling dubbed it the Sweet Science. Many of its major protagonists - men such as Joe Louis, Rocky Marciano and Muhammad Ali - have become transcendent, near-mythic heroes. But boxing is not the only combat sport, and mixed martial arts, in all their ferocious beauty, represent the fastest growing sports genre in the world. Ultimate Fighting Championships (UFC) has joined boxing in paying seven figures to some of its champions, and draws millions in its pay-per-view events. This book details leading figures in boxing, sumo wrestling, kickboxing, Greco-Roman wrestling, and mixed martial arts (including organizations such as Ultimate Fighting, PRIDE, K-1, Total Combat, and SportFighting). Over 150 entries cover champions, contenders, and other famous combatants from all over the world, as well as legendary promoters, managers, trainers, and events. Also included in this encyclopedia are sidebars on controversies, highlights, brief bios, and other noteworthy events, along with a general timeline. .

four kings boxing book: Al Bernstein Al Bernstein, 2012-05-30 The legendary cable television

sports broadcaster takes a humorous look back on the fight game—as seen from a ringside seat. For more than thirty years, Al Bernstein has been one of the most recognizable and respected sportscasters in America. In those three decades, the “voice of boxing” reported the funny, poignant, and bizarre events that helped shape sports television, ESPN, boxing, Las Vegas, and SHOWTIME. With an eclectic cast of characters that includes every big name in boxing, including Marvin Hagler, Mike Tyson, Floyd Mayweather and Manny Pacquiao, as well as such names in the entertainment world as Rodney Dangerfield, Sylvester Stallone, Russell Crowe, and Jerry Lewis, Bernstein’s memoir will have you in stitches.

four kings boxing book: The Handy Book of Games for Gentlemen Rawdon Crawley (Captain, pseud. van George Frederick Pardon.), 1860

four kings boxing book: I Am Duran Roberto Duran, 2016-09-20 They called him “Manos de Piedra”—Hands of Stone—and he was one of the greatest boxers of all time. Now Roberto Durán tells his unbelievable story: from the streets of Panama to being crowned one of the “Four Kings,” along with Hearn, Leonard, and Hagler, as he blazed a trail through the Golden Age of Boxing. Born into abject poverty, barely able to read or write, Durán quickly realized that his fists could both protect him on the streets and put food on the table. His reputation was established on the day when, for a bet, he knocked down a horse with a single punch. At the age of twenty-one, he claimed his first world title, against Ken Buchanan at Madison Square Garden. The legend of Manos de Piedra was born, but his most glorious moment was yet to come. In 1980, Durán delivered one of the greatest upsets in boxing history by defeating the previously unbeatable Sugar Ray Leonard. But greater fame brought greater distractions, and Durán’s endless partying took its toll before the two superstars faced each other again. Here, for the first time ever, Durán confronts the debacle of the rematch that entered sporting folklore, and the truth behind the moment he was heard to utter the infamous words “No más”—No more. Durán’s explosive performances in the ring were matched only by the volatility of his life outside it. He lurched from living like royalty to bankruptcy and, after being written off as a boxing also-ran, made a bloody, legendary comeback that gave his career the ultimate ending, and finally brought redemption. He came from nothing, and changed the world. I Am Durán is the autobiography of one of boxing’s most iconic legends.

four kings boxing book: Beeton's Handy Book of Games, Etc Rawdon CRAWLEY (Captain, pseud. [i.e. George Frederick Pardon.]), 1863

four kings boxing book: Hands of Stone Christian Giudice, 2016-04-06 ROBERTO DURAN is a sporting legend. Often called the greatest boxer of all time, he held world titles at four different weights and is the only professional in history to have fought in five different decades. His bouts with fellow greats like Sugar Ray Leonard, Thomas Hearn and Marvin Hagler have gone down in fistic folklore and his pro record of 104 wins, 69 by KO, in 120 fights puts him in an elite group of fighters. They called him Manos de Piedra: “Hands of Stone”. American journalist Christian Giudice has written the first - and definitive - story of Duran’s extraordinary life both in and out of the ring. He has interviewed the fighter himself, his family and closest friends and scores of his opponents to separate truth from myth and get to the heart of one of the most intriguing sports stars of modern times. Duran was born in utter poverty in the Panama Canal Zone, the illegitimate son of a serving US soldier and a local girl. He grew up in the streets, fighting to survive. His talent with his fists was soon apparent, and on one fabled occasion he even knocked down a horse with a single punch for a bet. He grew into a fighter’s fighter, and his willingness to take on anyone, anywhere, anytime and never take a step back made him a huge favorite. From his wild early bouts to his stunning boxing debut in New York, Giudice traces the blazing trail of his career: the controversial title win over Scot Ken Buchanan; his unification of the lightweight crown against great rival Esteban DeJesus; his glorious defeat of Ray Leonard and the subsequent debacle of the No Más encounter; his ferocious comeback and redemption, and the long, eventful twilight of his matchless career. Here also are both the public and private sides of Duran: his volatility, his kindness and reckless generosity, his partying, his links with the notorious regime of General Noriega, and above all his chilling love of battle.

four kings boxing book: The Handy Book of Games for Gentlemen. Billiards, Bagatelle, Backgammon, Chess, Etc. An Edition in One Volume of the Author's Books on Billiards, Backgammon, Chess and Whist Rawdon CRAWLEY (Captain, pseud.), 1876

four kings boxing book: Globalizing Boxing Kath Woodward, 2014-02-13 Boxing is a traditional sport in many ways, characterized by continuities in the form of practices and regulations and heavy with legends and heroes reflecting its traditional/historical values. Associations with class, hegemonic masculinity and racialized inclusions/exclusions, however, sit alongside developments such as women's boxing and involvement in Mixed Martial Arts. This book will be the first to use boxing as a vehicle for exploring social, cultural and political change in a global context. It will consider to what degree and in what ways boxing reflects social transformations, and whether and how it contributes to those transformations. In exploring the relationship it will provide new ways of thinking critically about the everyday.

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