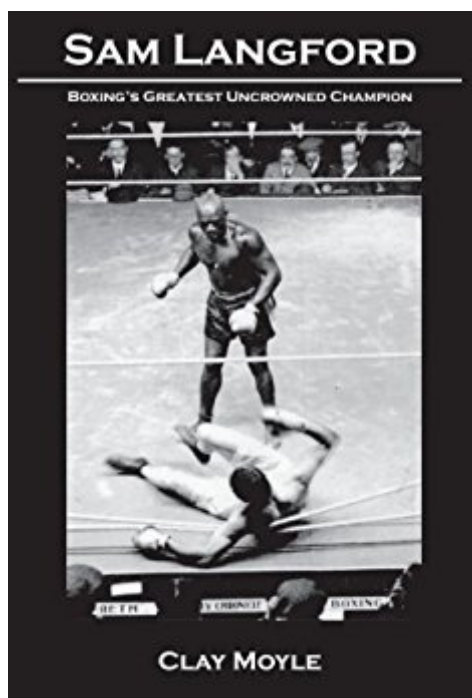




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Sam Langford: Boxing's Greatest Uncrowned Champion



Synopsis

A compelling and thorough biography of the great Sam Langford. Standing no more than 5'7" tall, Sam Langford was one of the 20th century's greatest fighters. In 1951, the great featherweight champion Abe Attell was asked if Sugar Ray Robinson was the best of all time, either as a welterweight or middleweight. He named Stanley Ketchel as the greatest welterweight he'd ever seen and said that, as for the middleweights, he'd take Sam Langford, "the greatest of them all at that poundage." Remarkably, the man Attell felt was the greatest middleweight fighter in history fought and defeated many of the leading heavyweight contenders of his day. Over time, he matured physically and grew into a light heavyweight, then began fighting heavyweights on a regular basis, but he was almost always the much smaller of the two combatants. Nat Fleischer, founding editor of The Ring magazine, called Sam one of the hardest punchers of all time, and ranked the little man seventh among his personal all-time favorites. "Sam was endowed with everything. He possessed strength, agility, cleverness, hitting power, a good thinking cap, and an abundance of courage. He feared no one. But he had the fatal gift of being too good, and that's why he often had to give away weight in early days and make agreements with opponents. Many of those who agreed to fight him, especially of his own race, wanted an assurance that he would be merciful or insisted on a bout of not more than six rounds." Other leading sportswriters of that era had even higher opinions of Sam. Hype Igoe, well known boxing writer for the New York Journal, proclaimed Sam the greatest fighter, pound-for-pound, who ever lived. Joe Williams, respected sports columnist of the New York World Telegram wrote that Langford was probably the best the ring ever saw, and the great Grantland Rice described Sam as "about the best fighting man I've ever watched." At the time of Sam's induction into the Boxing Hall of Fame (October 1955) he was the only non-champion accorded the honor. Many ring experts considered Sam the greatest pound-for-pound fighter in the history of boxing. Under different circumstances he might have been a champion at five different weights: lightweight; welterweight, middleweight; light heavyweight; and heavyweight. Blind and penniless at the end of his life, Sam lived quietly in a private nursing home. But when one visitor expressed sympathy for his circumstances, Sam replied, "Don't nobody need to feel sorry for old Sam. I had plenty of good times. I been all over the world. I fought maybe 600 fights, and every one was a pleasure!" With 98 photographs and illustrations, primarily from private collections.

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Customer Reviews

Everyone asks me how the old-time fighters would shape up against today's champions. The correct phrasing of the question should be 'How would today's fighters shape up against the old-timers in the old-timers era?' The answer is simple... they wouldn't. The old-timers, at their peak, would simply trash the modern generation. How would today's fighters survive, for instance, if there was no 3 knock-down rule... or no automatic standing 8-count, where one COULD be saved by the bell - and be compelled to come out for the next round... or if required to go 15 rounds or longer... or if one could attack a floored opponent the moment his gloves left the canvas... or if fighters risked arrest and/or imprisonment merely by entering a ring. In an era when boxers were REAL boxers, Sam Langford, like many of his peers, was up there with the best of them. Jack Johnson is regarded as one of the Heavyweight Division's great champions. Sam Langford was little more than a jumped-up middleweight, but Johnson refused to give Sam a shot at the Heavyweight Title. Why? Because Johnson was petrified of Langford and shied away from him, not for years; but for ever. Johnson never gave Sam the opportunity to challenge for boxing's supreme prize. In years to come, when history is called upon to select its greatest fighters of all time, Sam Langford, believe me, will be up there, right near the top of the list. You don't believe me? Well read this book and make up

your own mind.

Sam Langford is a legend in pugilism and sport. A legend that is often forgotten or at the very least diminished when referencing the greatest boxers and fighters of all time. No greater account of his life and times has ever existed than this superb book, outside of the stories told by the mythic man himself, Mr. Sam Langford. A wonderful immortalization of the Sam Langford story, in its entirety. Required reading for any self proclaimed enthusiast of pugilism. A fantastic journey through every known era of the uncrowned Champ's life and ring career. Clay Moyle should be very proud of this work. A permanent place is reserved in my boxing library for this book. Enjoy.

Well, I was going to come on here and rave about the brilliance of this masterpiece, but everyone else's five star reviews already covered all my points and admiration. Now that I am here all I can say is bravo Mr. Moyle and please write us more.

SAM LANGFORD: BOXING'S GREATEST UNCROWNED CHAMPION is an excellent biography of an all-time great, who has sadly been all but forgotten today. A complete biography that includes blow-by-blow accounts of Langford's major fights and many rarely seen photos. Highly recommended for anyone interested in the fight game as it was a century ago.

Sam Langford has always been regarded as one of the true All Time Greats of the prize ring. Clay Moyle's lovingly detailed history cements that opinion in my mind. Every Canadian sports fan should read this fantastic story and every boxing fan who can read English should pick it up now.

Never knew much about him. My friends into boxing didnt either. I do now. Loved the book.,

outstanding

Just a great book about an uncrowned champion who deserved the title and the fame that went with it. Clay Moyle's book is just brilliant, filled with rare photographs and stories. Very readable and he doesn't get bogged down with the intricacies of the fights which can get boring. I hope he writes more books like this one, would LOVE to see a book on Sam McVea and Joe Jeannette written!

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