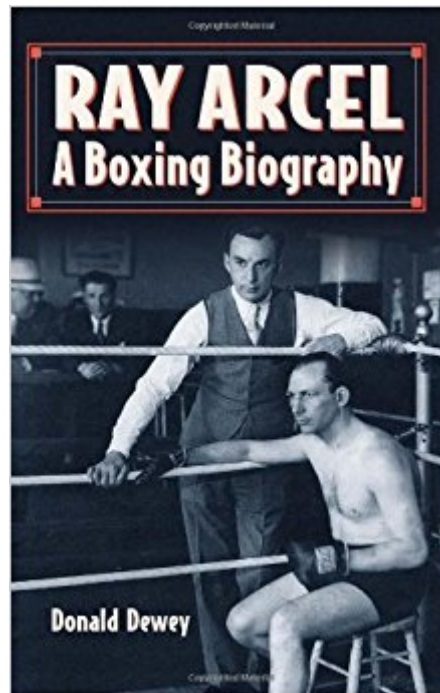




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Ray Arcel: A Boxing Biography



Synopsis

Without Ray Arcel (1899-1994), the 20th century world of boxing would have been markedly different. The credibility of it as a sport would have been greatly lessened. Arcel's prominence is all the more interesting because he made his mark not as a fighter, promoter, or manager, but as a trainer. From Benny Leonard to Roberto Duran and Larry Holmes, Arcel stood in the corner for champions of every weight division that existed in his lifetime, a record that remains unequalled. This biography chronicles Arcel's life inside the ring--and outside, where he was a highly secretive man who maintained relationships with some of the chief mob figures of his day. Through a wealth of information from Arcel's unpublished memoir, this work offers an extraordinary portrait of one of boxing's most influential and enigmatic figures.

Book Information

Paperback: 219 pages

Publisher: McFarland; UNABRIDGED VERSION edition (May 10, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0786469684

ISBN-13: 978-0786469680

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.6 x 8.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (4 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,128,267 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #215 in Â Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Sports & Outdoors > Boxing, Wrestling & MMA > Boxing #399 in Â Books > Sports & Outdoors > Individual Sports > Boxing

Customer Reviews

Expensive and very little information about Arcel and his training methods. Repeated things that were common knowledge. Very disappointed. Would not recommend this. I appreciate the work, research and time the author put into this effort but being a boxing and boxing trainer fan maybe I was expecting too much.

If you enjoy boxing and want to know about the inside of this crooked sport back when, Roy is a must read.....He has facts to share with you that I had never heard of. Roy was also one of the few Boxers and promoters who was not only a gentleman he was HONEST, That is rare for this generation

Donald Dewey is a wonderful story teller. And Ray Arcel's is a wonderful story. Dewey, whom everyone knows for his baseball books and biographies of actors, branches out here to recount the life of boxing's greatest trainer. Arcel's career spanned from the 1920s to the 1980s -- with an important hiatus from the 1950s to the 1970s. He was in the corner for 18 champions, including Barney Ross, Benny Leonard, Jimmy Braddock, Tony Zale, and Ezzard Charles -- names that thrill an old boxing fan. But this is more than a ringside biography. Dewey uncovered never before told stories about the personal life of the secretive Arcel, who was as abstemious in his personal habits as others in the ring world he inhabited were self indulgent. While promoting matches for ABC in the early 1950s, Arcel fell afoul of organized crime, which had an interest in a rival television outlet for boxing and suffered a severe beating. That's when he retired only to return to the ring to work with Roberto Duran (Yes he was there for the infamous "No mas" incident) and with Larry Holmes (for his dramatic title defense against Gerry Cooney). Dewey's Ray Arcel: A Boxing Biography is a major contribution to the literature of a sport that has over the years attracted some of the best American writers.

This is a well written and entertaining bio of the famous fight manager/trainer. The sections on Ray and Jack Kid Berg alone are worth the price (if interested also recommend tracking down Jack Kid Berg's bio, Jack Kid Berg: The Whitechapel Windmill by John Harding and Jack Kid Berg), but it's all good. Not too many bios out there of old time trainers and fighters. That he found out anything about the personal life of the very private Arcel is a feat in itself; I really appreciate it and think this bio is complete as it can be.

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