

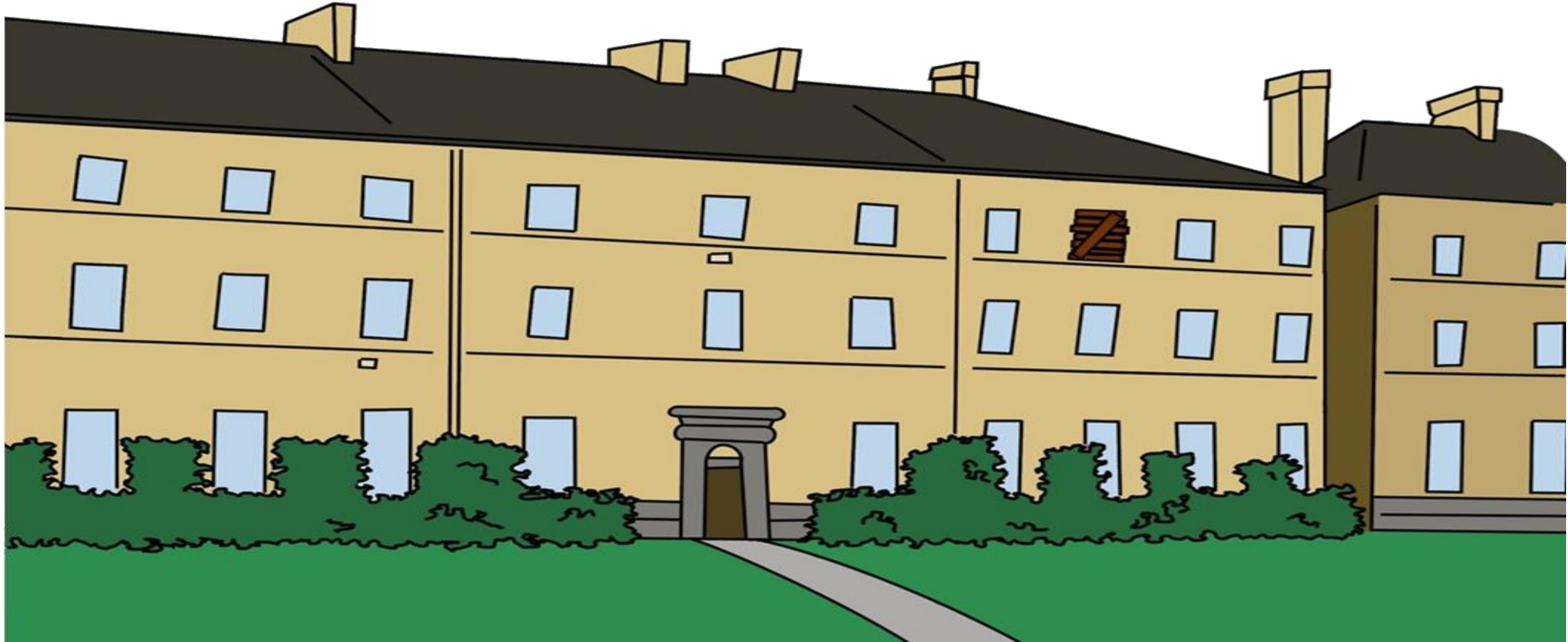
# Baker Street *Elementary*

PRESENTS  
"THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON"



# Baker Street *Elementary*

THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON  
# A026 -- PUT UP YOUR DUKES -- JANUARY, 2022



WELCOME TO TOPIC # 026... TODAY HOLMES AND I  
WILL BE LOOKING AT THE GENTLEMAN'S SPORT,  
BOXING, DURING THE VICTORIAN PERIOD.



WHEN I FIRST LISTED YOUR TRAITS IN A STUDY  
IN SCARLET, I NOTED YOU ARE AN EXPERT BOXER,  
AMONG OTHER ATHLETIC APTITUDES.



### **Sherlock Holmes—his limits**

1. Knowledge of Literature.—Nil.
2. " " Philosophy.—Nil.
3. " " Astronomy.—Nil.
4. " " Politics.—Feeble.
5. " " Botany.—Variable.
6. Knowledge of Geology.—Practical, but limited.
7. Knowledge of Chemistry.—Profound.
8. " " Anatomy.—Accurate, but unsystematic.
9. " " Sensational Literature.—Immense.
10. Plays the violin well.
11. ***Is an expert singlestick player, boxer, and swordsman.***
12. Has a good practical knowledge of British law.

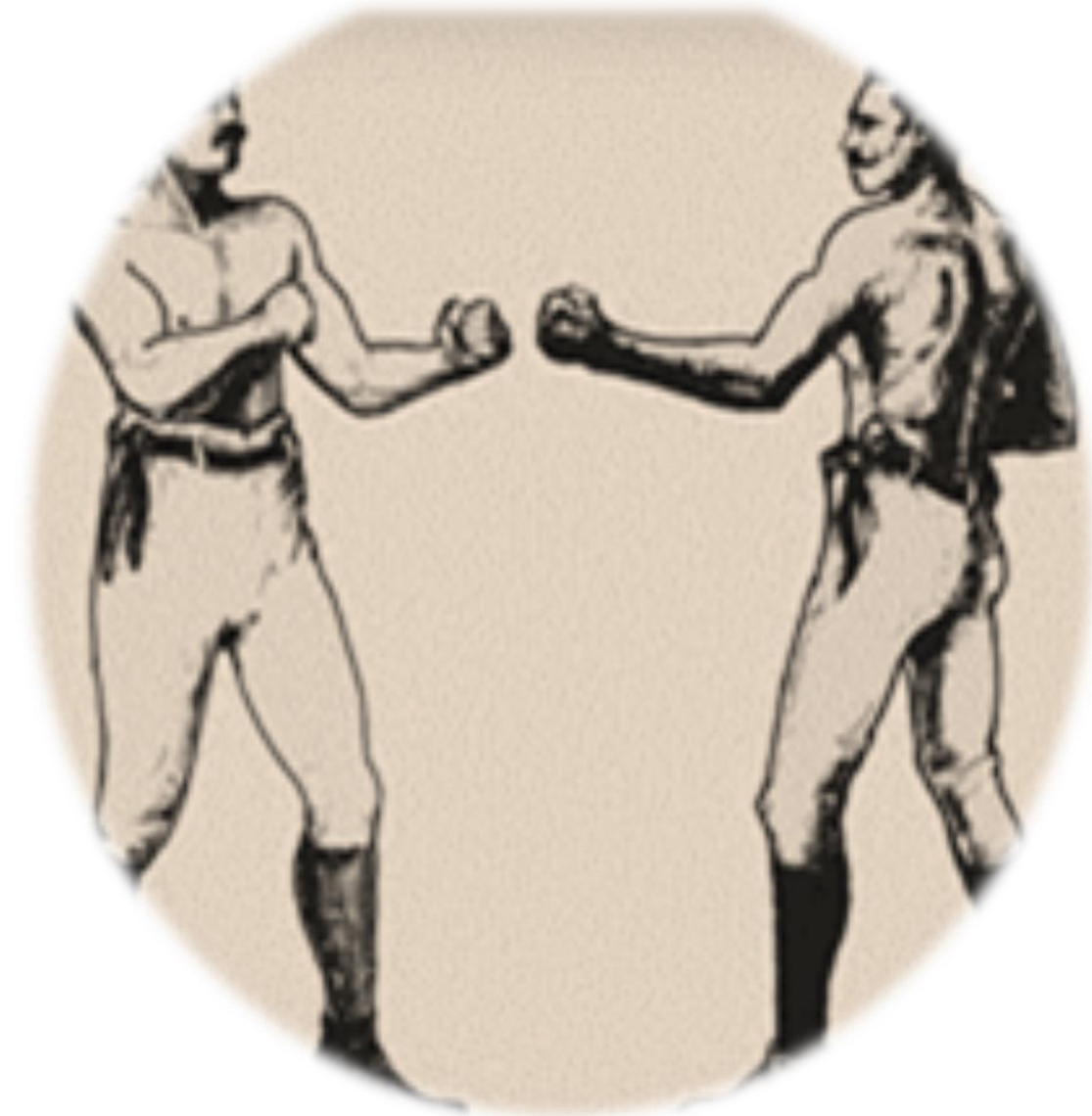
THE FIRST REFERENCE TO AN ACTUAL  
DEMONSTRATION OF THIS SKILL APPEARED IN THE  
SIGN OF THE FOUR WHEN YOU MENTIONED YOUR  
THREE ROUNDS WITH THE PRIZEFIGHTER MCMURDO  
AT A CHARITY EVENT.



**YOUR EXPERTISE WAS NOT TO BE TAKEN LIGHTLY...  
IN 'THE SOLITARY CYCLIST,' YOU SENT MR.  
WOODLEY, AN OPPONENT IN A BAR-ROOM BRAWL,  
HOME IN A CART.**



BY THE TIME YOU ARE SOLVING CASES, HOWEVER,  
BOXING'S POPULARITY IN BRITAIN WAS ALREADY  
WANING.

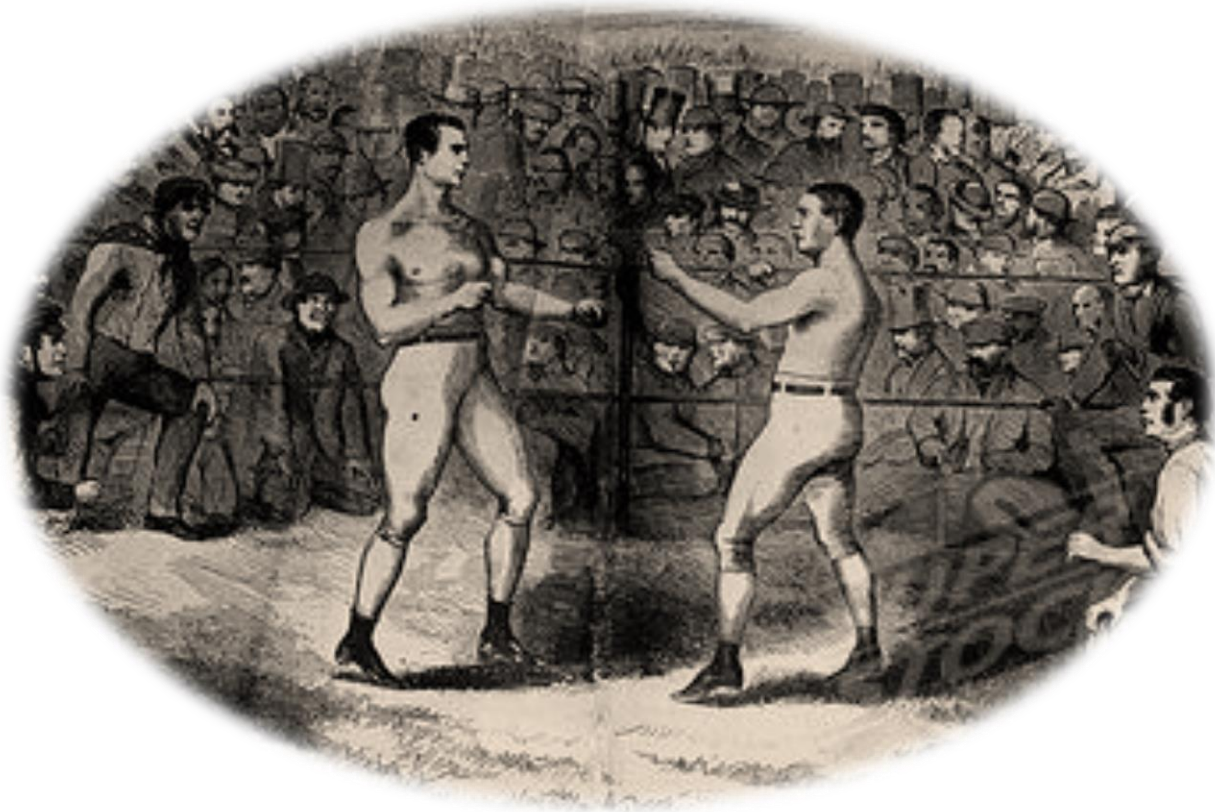


**THE FIRST RECORDED BOXING MATCH IN ENGLAND  
OCCURRED IN 1681, AND BY 1698, BOUTS WERE  
REGULARLY SCHEDULED AT THE ROYAL THEATER OF  
LONDON.**





**THESE EARLY MATCHES INVOLVED NO GLOVES AND FEW, IF ANY, RULES... OPPONENTS WERE ALLOWED TO WRESTLE THE OTHER TO THE GROUND AND HIT HIM WHEN HE WAS DOWN.**





**IN 1719, THE PRIZEFIGHTER JAMES FIGG CAPTURED THE NATION'S INTEREST AND WAS NAMED THE WORLD CHAMPION—A TITLE HE HELD FOR FIFTEEN YEARS.**



*ONE OF HIS PUPILS, JACK BROUGHTON,  
INTRODUCED THE SPORT'S FIRST REGULATIONS,  
AND FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS, IS CONSIDERED  
THE FATHER OF BOXING.*



*IN ADDITION TO PROHIBITING MOST WRESTLING  
THROWS, HE ALSO INTRODUCED 'MUFFLERS,' THE  
FORERUNNER OF BOXING GLOVES.*

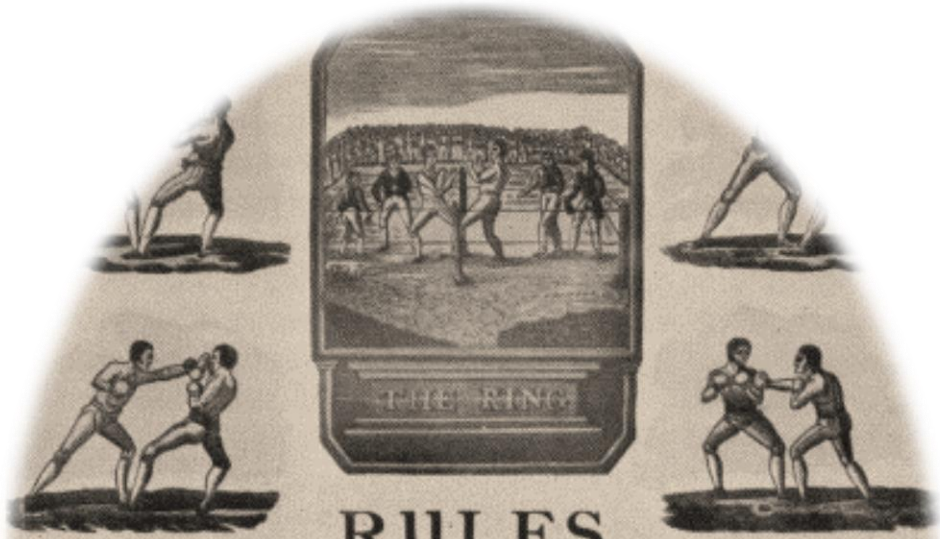


**THE SPORT ATTRACTED THE ARISTOCRACY IN THE LATE 1700s WHEN GENTLEMAN JOHN JACKSON BECAME THE MOST RENOWNED PRIZEFIGHTER AFTER DEFEATING DANIEL MENDOZA.**



ONCE INVOLVED, THOSE IN THE UPPER CLASSES  
FINANCED VARIOUS FIGHTERS AND ARRANGED  
AND RAN THE MATCHES—PREFERRING THE BARE-  
KNUCKLE STYLE TO THE 'MUFFLED' ONE.





# RULES

TO BE OBSERVED IN ALL BATTLES ON THE STAGE

I. That a square of a Yard be chalked in the middle of the Stage, and on every fresh fet-to after a fall, or being parted from the rails, each Second is to bring his Man to the side of the square and place him opposite to the other, and till they are fairly fet-to at the Lines, it shall not be lawful for one to strike at the other

II. That, in order to prevent any Disputes, the time a Man lies after a fall, if the Second does not bring his Man to the side of the square, within the space of half a minute, he shall be deemed a beaten Man.

III. That in every main Battle, no person whatever shall be upon the Stage, except the Principals and Seconds; the same rule to be observed in bye-battles, except that in the latter, Mr. Broughton is to be upon the Stage to keep decorum, and to assist the Gentlemen in getting to their places; and he always he does not interfere in the Battle; and no person pretends to infringe these Rules to be immediately out of the house. Every person who shall be upon the Stage as soon as the Champions are fet-to.

IV. That no Champion be deemed beaten, unless he fails coming up to the line in the limited time, or that his own Second declares him beaten. No Second is to be allowed to ask his man's Adversary any questions, or advise him to give out.

V. That in bye-battles, the winning man to have two-thirds of the Money given, which shall be publicly divided upon the Stage, notwithstanding any private agreements to the contrary.

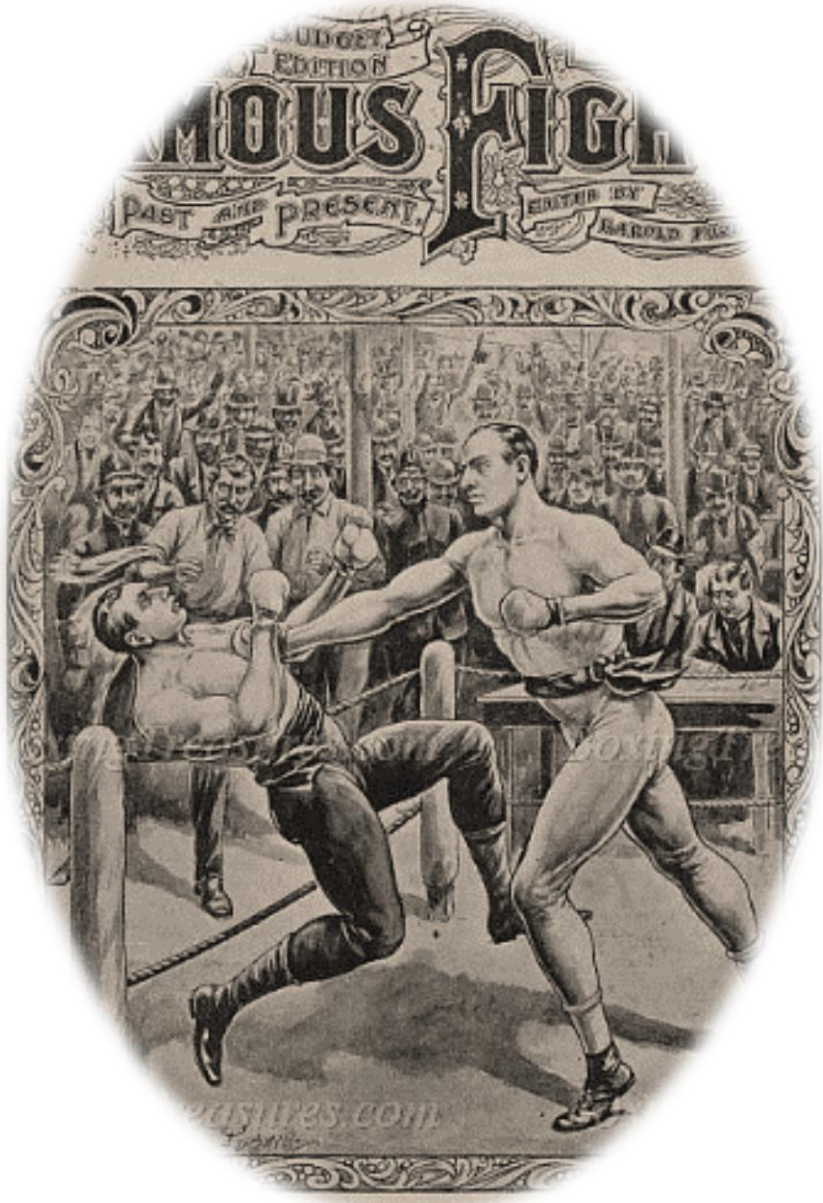
VI. That to prevent Disputes, in every main Battle the Principals shall, on coming on the Stage, choose from among the gentlemen present two Umpires, who shall absolutely decide all Disputes that shall arise about the Battle; and if the two Umpires cannot agree, the said Umpires to choose a third who is to determine it.

VII. That no person is to hit his Adversary when he is down, or seize him by the hair, or any part below the waist, or to be reckon'd down.

By the several Gentlemen at Broughton's Court Road, London

**NEW RULES WERE INTRODUCED IN 1838, DESIGNATING THE SIZE AND SHAPE OF THE RING, SETTING OUT THE LENGTH OF THE ROUNDS, AND OUTLAWING PRACTICES LIKE EYE-GOUGING.**





BETTING ON THE OUTCOME HAD BEEN AND CONTINUED TO BE A MAJOR DRAW FOR FANS, WITH THE FIGHTERS' PRIZE MONEY HUNG FROM ONE OF THE STAKES FORMING THE RING (HENCE, THE TERM 'STAKE' TO DESIGNATE ONE'S WINNINGS).





*SOME MATCHES ATTRACTED AS MANY AS TWENTY-THOUSAND SPECTATORS.*





**DESPITE THE PROHIBITION OF SOME PRACTICES,  
MANY STILL CONSIDERED THE SPORT TOO BRUTAL,  
AND IN 1867 NEW RULES WERE INTRODUCED,  
SUPPORTED BY JOHN SHOLTO DOUGLAS, THE  
NINTH MARQUESS OF QUEENSBERRY.**



THESE REGULATIONS SPECIFIED A NEW LENGTH FOR THE ROUNDS WITH RESTING PERIODS IN BETWEEN, THE USE OF GLOVES, PROHIBITED ALL WRESTLING AND REQUIRED A FIGHTER KNOCKED DOWN TO STAND UP AGAIN WITHIN TEN SECONDS OR ELSE THE MATCH WENT TO HIS OPPONENT.



# The Marquess of Queensbury Rules

- 1: To be a fair stand-up boxing match in a 24-foot ring, or as near that size as practicable.
- 2: No wrestling or hugging allowed.
- 3: The rounds to be of three minutes' duration, and one minute's time between rounds.
- 4: If either man falls through weakness or otherwise, he must get up unassisted, 10 seconds to be allowed him to do so, the other man meanwhile to return to his corner, and when the fallen man is on his legs the round is to be resumed and continued until the three minutes have expired. If one man fails to come to the scratch in the 10 seconds allowed, it shall be in the power of the referee to give his award in favour of the other man.
- 5: A man hanging on the ropes in a helpless state, with his toes off the ground, shall be considered down.
- 6: No seconds or any other person to be allowed in the ring during the rounds.
- 7: Should the contest be stopped by any unavoidable interference, the referee to name the time and place as soon as possible for finishing the contest; so that the match must be won and lost, unless the backers of both men agree to draw the stakes.
- 8: The gloves to be fair-sized boxing gloves of the best quality and new.
- 9: Should a glove burst, or come off, it must be replaced to the referee's satisfaction.
- 10: A man on one knee is considered down and if struck is entitled to the stakes.
- 11: That no shoes or boots with spikes or sprigs be allowed.

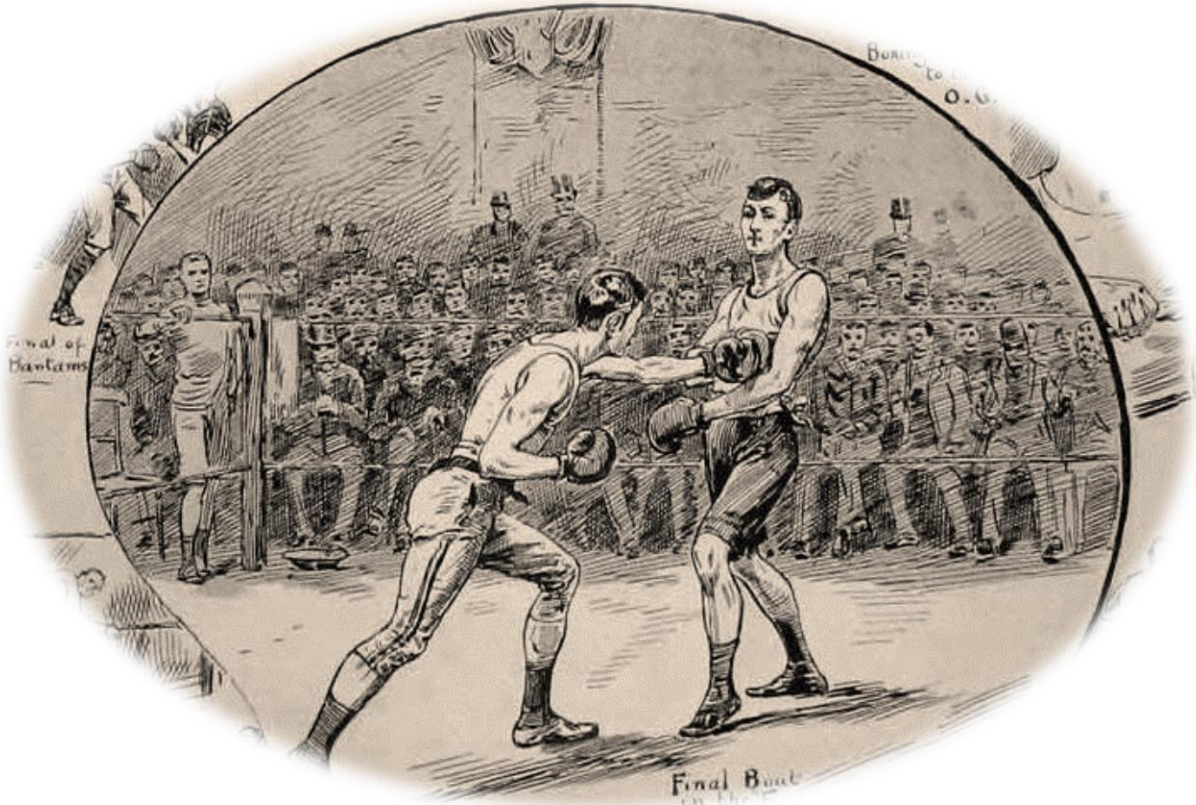
The contest in all other respects to be governed by revised London Prize Ring R

1867

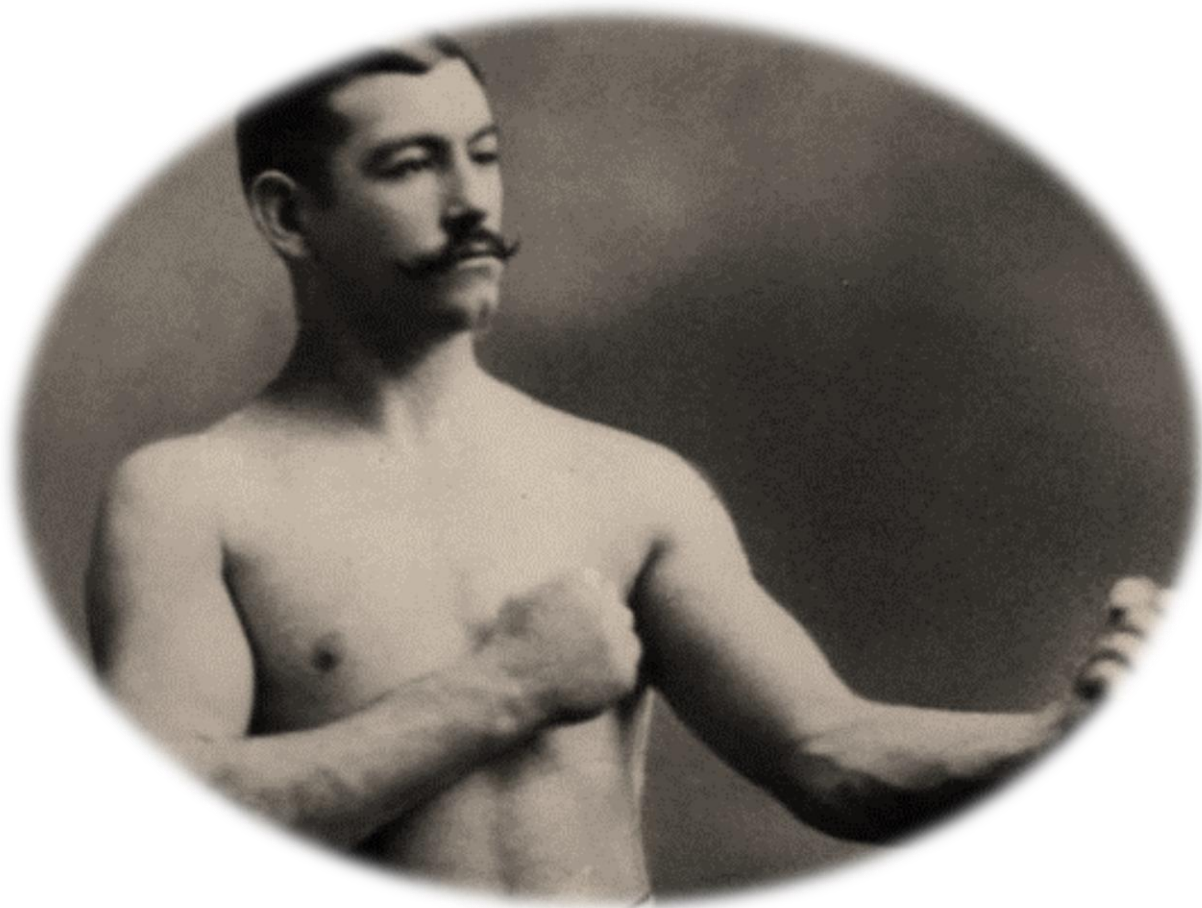
by John Graham Chambers, a member of the British Amateur Athletic Club.  
Published 1867 under the sponsorship of John Sholto Douglas,  
ninth marquess of Queensberry.

[www.britishboxers.co.uk](http://www.britishboxers.co.uk)

SHIFTS IN MAINSTREAM CULTURE, PARTICULARLY THE EVANGELICAL MOVEMENT AND THE RISE OF THE MIDDLE CLASS AS WELL AS A SHIFT TO AMERICAN BOXERS DOMINATING THE SPORT, LED TO A DECLINE IN BRITISH INTEREST.



*JOHN L. SULLIVAN, AN IRISH-AMERICAN,  
CLAIMED THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP IN  
HEAVYWEIGHT BARE-KNUCKLE BOXING IN 1882  
AND 1889, AND A THIRD TIME UNDER THE  
MARQUESS OF QUEENSBURY RULES IN 1892.*



*FOLLOWING THESE VICTORIES, MANY STATES IN THE US RECONSIDERED THE SPORT'S LEGALITY.*

NEUROLOGY

# Ban Boxing

Nelson G. Richards, MD

Boxing is defined as "a sport in which two fighters battle each other with their fists. . . . The boxers throw powerful punches as each tries to win the bouts on points, render his opponent unconscious, or force him to give up the fight." The ultimate result of a boxing match is a knockout, which, by definition, is a concussion or more severe brain injury. Lesser degrees of winning may be achieved by an unfair "chup—a "technical knockout" or the accumulation of enough blows to cause overt confusion with loss of consciousness (and posture). The acute effects of brain damage include subdural hematomas, cerebral hemorrhage, diffuse axonal injury, and cerebral edema, ischemia, and degeneration of the vertebrae, or eyes

abnormalities on examination; he and one other had had episodes of inappropriate behavior. Computed tomography, however, revealed signs of brain injury in four of six professionals and one of eight amateur boxers. Two professionals and four amateurs had EEG abnormalities that could have been caused by brain injury. Twelve had psychological test results that implied brain injury.<sup>5</sup>

Casson et al<sup>6</sup> examined 18 former and current boxers with neurologic examination, EEG, CT, and neuropsychological tests. Eighty-seven percent of the professional boxers had "definite evidence of brain injury." All boxers had abnormal results on at least one of the neuropsychological tests. They concluded that brain damage is a common occurrence in professional boxing.



OVER THE YEARS, VARIOUS STATES IN THE U.S.  
HAD OUTLAWED THE PRACTICE BECAUSE OF ITS  
PERCEIVED VIOLENCE.



**THE ECONOMIC APPEAL AS WELL AS NATIONAL PRIDE, HOWEVER, LED THE FORMER COLONIES TO RELAX SUCH RESTRICTIONS.**





*IN ENGLAND, BOXING HAD BEEN ILLEGAL SINCE THE 1700s, BUT THE LAWS HAD SIMPLY NOT BEEN ENFORCED DUE TO THE SPORT'S POPULARITY.*



**DESPITE OPINIONS CONCERNING BOXING'S UNREFINED ELEMENTS, VICTORIANS STILL CONSIDERED IT, UNDER APPROPRIATE CIRCUMSTANCES, A GOOD MEANS OF BUILDING SKILL, COURAGE, AND CHARACTER.**



**4.—HITTING WITH THE LEFT AT THE BODY.**



**THUS, MY OWN ABILITY IN THIS ARENA  
REFLECTED AN UPPER-CLASS TEMPERAMENT  
TOWARD THE GENTLEMANLY DISPLAY OF  
FISTICUFFS WHETHER IN A RING WITH A  
PROFESSIONAL FIGHTER OR A BAR WITH A  
SUSPECTED CRIMINAL.**



SO, WE HAVE COMPLETED TOPIC # 026 IN OUR SERIES...

IN TOPIC # 027, WE WILL LOOK AT THE TEMPERANCE MOVEMENT DURING  
THE VICTORIAN PERIOD.



## REFERENCES FOR THIS TOPIC:

- DOYLE, ARTHUR CONAN; RYAN, ROBERT. THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES
- [HTTPS://WWW.BRITANNICA.COM/SPORTS/BOXING/THE-BARE-KNUCKLE-ERA](https://www.britannica.com/sports/boxing/the-bare-knuckle-era)
- KRISTINE HUGHES, THE WRITER'S GUIDE TO EVERYDAY LIFE IN REGENCY AND VICTORIAN ENGLAND. (CINCINNATI, OH: WRITERS DIGEST BOOKS, 1998).



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"THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON"

IS CREATED THROUGH THE INGENUITY & HARD WORK OF:

JOE FAY  
LIESE SHERWOOD-FABRE  
RUSTY MASON  
&  
STEVE MASON

