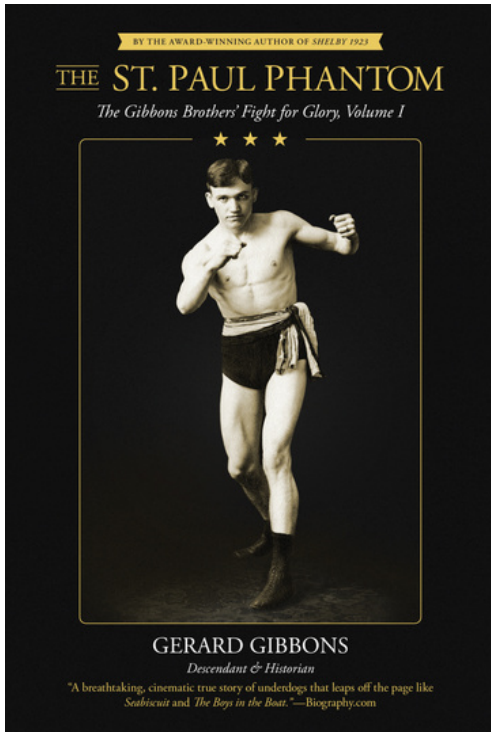




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The Biography/Memoir Shelf

The St. Paul Phantom: The Gibbons Brothers' Fight for Glory

Gerald Gibbons

Independently Published

<https://drgerardgibbons.com/>

979-8995115014, \$24.99, PB, 534pp

Amazon

<https://www.amazon.com/St-Paul-Phantom-Gibbons-Brothers/dp/BoGWLXX1MX>

Barnes & Noble

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/the-st-paul-phantom-gerard-gibbons/1149866498>

SYNOPSIS

For Mike Gibbons, a penniless, bullied Irish American kid from the hardscrabble streets of St. Paul, the fight is destiny. Beneath the light of Halley's Comet in 1910, Mike and his younger brother, Tommy, vow to punch their way out of poverty and become champions of the outlawed prize ring.

Guided by a priest, a firefighter, and a beloved sportswriter (and mentored by America's first Black champions, Joe Gans, Jack Johnson, and Sam Langford) Mike pioneered a dazzling new style of scientific boxing, one that prizes strategy over brute force. It carries him from backroom brawls to the roar of Madison Square Garden and into the orbit of titans such as Harry Houdini, Tex Rickard, President Theodore Roosevelt, General John J. Pershing, Joseph Pulitzer, William Randolph Hearst, and F. Scott Fitzgerald. As his legend grows, he earns the name "The St. Paul Phantom."

But Mike's meteoric ascent, shadowed by romance and sacrifice, is fraught with conflict. Torn between his immigrant father's bloody rebel past and his mother's fear for his life, he falls for a fierce-willed suffragist who demands that he abandon the ring forever. His loyalty is tested further when his greatest rival turns out to be his own brother.

Mike and Tommy's daring quest spans rails and oceans, to the nation's grand arenas, to the birth of jazz and cinema, to the eruption of race riots and the rise of organized crime; from famine-weary Ireland to Gotham's bedlam, quake-scarred San Francisco, and the immaculate shores of Havana. Just as their dreams come within reach, World War I and the devastating influenza pandemic upend the globe, calling them to trade gloves for uniforms and help strengthen America's fighting forces.

In the war's aftermath, an aging Mike returns to the ring for one final shot at the world middleweight championship against a dangerous young fighter he once trained.

The St. Paul Phantom: The Gibbons Brothers' Fight for Glory by Gerald Gibbons is more than the biography of a boxer, it's also a sweeping historical epic that illuminates the American experience and the common ground that binds us together. Lavishly illustrated with dozens of rare, never-before-seen photographs and more than 75 original pen-and-ink illustrations, ***The St. Paul Phantom*** is an inspiring, panoramic true story of courage, faith, love, brotherhood, and redemption-and a powerful reflection of the hope, promise, and opportunity of the American Dream.

CRITIQUE

A deftly crafted sports themed biography that reads with all the drama and emotional engagement of a novel, ***The St. Paul Phantom: The Gibbons Brothers' Fight for Glory*** is the extraordinary true life story of a man in extraordinary times and of special appeal to readers with an interest in 20th Century Boxing history history collections. This is an informative and inherently fascinating read from start to finish and unreservedly recommended for personal, professional, community, and college/university library collections and supplemental 20th Century Sports/Boxing History curriculum studies lists.

RECOMMENDED! A detailed and richly-documented unforgettable saga of courage, ambition, and glory forged in the dawn of modern America... Deftly crafted, with all the drama and emotional engagement of a novel... Unreservedly recommended for personal, professional, community, and college/university library collections and supplemental 20th Century Sports/Boxing History curriculum studies lists