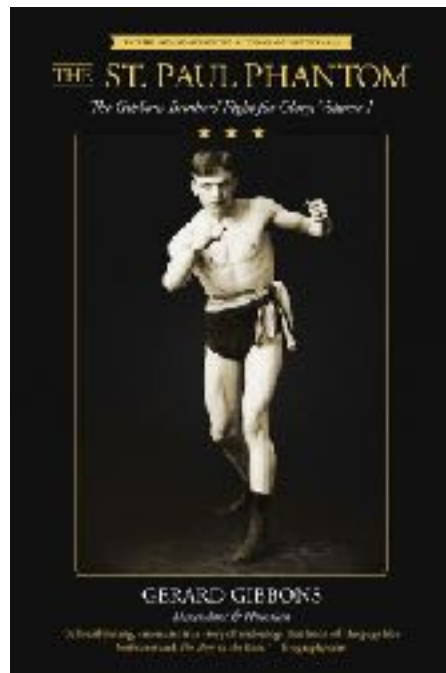


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE ST. PAUL PHANTOM BRINGS A FORGOTTEN AMERICAN STORY BACK INTO THE RING

***New narrative nonfiction epic resurrects boxing legends
Mike and Tommy Gibbons and the turbulent America that made them***



***Author, historian, and filmmaker Dr. Gerard Gibbons draws on family archives
and thousands of historical sources to recover an extraordinary story of sport,
immigration, race, war, celebrity, and the American Dream***

LOS ANGELES — August 31, 2026 — Before sports became a billion-dollar industry, before radio and Hollywood transformed athletes into celebrities, and while much of America still outlawed prizefighting, two sons of Irish immigrants fought their way from poverty on the streets of St. Paul into the center of American history.

On September 15, author, historian, filmmaker, and Gibbons-family descendant **Dr. Gerard Gibbons** will publish ***The St. Paul Phantom: The Gibbons Brothers' Fight for Glory, Volume I***, an expansive work of illustrated narrative nonfiction about legendary boxing brothers **Mike and Tommy Gibbons** and the extraordinary era that carried them from immigrant neighborhoods to international fame.

Born into an Irish American family in St. Paul, Mike and Tommy rose from poverty and prejudice to become celebrated fighters known as the **“Shining Knights of the Ring.”** Their story reaches far beyond sports, unfolding amid some of the defining forces of early 20th-century America: immigration, race and the color line, faith, class, women’s suffrage, World War I, the 1918 influenza pandemic, and the explosive growth of mass media, professional sports, and celebrity culture.

Their world intersects with an extraordinary cast of historical figures, including **Theodore Roosevelt, Harry Houdini, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Nellie Bly, Jack Johnson, Joe Gans, Sam Langford, Bat Masterson, Grantland Rice, Damon Runyon,** and many others.

At the center of the story is **Mike “The St. Paul Phantom” Gibbons**, one of boxing’s most cerebral and elusive fighters. Rather than relying on brute force, Mike helped perfect a sophisticated form of “scientific boxing” built on movement, timing, defense, and strategy. His younger brother **Tommy** followed him into the ring, and together the brothers became two of the most remarkable fighters of boxing’s golden age.

Drawing on never-before-seen family archives, rare historical photographs and illustrations, as well as thousands of primary and secondary sources from libraries and collections around the world, Dr. Gibbons spent years reconstructing not only the lives of Mike and Tommy, but the rapidly changing America surrounding them.

“This isn’t just a sports story. It’s an American story,” says Dr. Gibbons. “It’s about family, belief, reinvention, resilience, and the fight to become something greater than your circumstances.”

The narrative moves from neighborhood gyms, firehouses, churches, and outlaw prizefights to **Madison Square Garden, Havana, World War I military camps, and boxing’s great arenas**, while exploring the human story beneath the spectacle: brotherhood, ambition, romance, family pressure, faith, sacrifice, and the costs of pursuing the American Dream.

Arriving during America’s 250th-anniversary year, ***The St. Paul Phantom*** also examines themes that remain strikingly contemporary — immigration, racial inequality, masculinity, media power, celebrity, war, pandemic, economic uncertainty, and the ways history remembers some people while forgetting others.

Advance reviewers have called the book an **“electrifying and inspiring rendition of the American Dream”** (*The U.S. Review of Books*), an **“epic American odyssey”** (*Self-Publishing Review*), and **“lively, wonderfully vivid, truly engaging”** (*Kirkus Reviews*). Oscar-nominated *The Fighter* screenwriter-producer Paul Tamasy calls it “the kind of true story Hollywood spends years looking for.”

MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES

Dr. Gibbons is available now for national and international media coverage, including:

- **Book reviews and advance reviews**
- **Author interviews** for print, digital, radio, television, and podcasts
- **Feature stories and historical articles**
- **Sports, history, culture, genealogy, and American-life coverage**
- **Book excerpts for publication**
- **Illustrated excerpts featuring archival photographs and artwork**
- **Q&As, profiles, guest essays, and contributed features**

Review copies, the complete Advance Reader Copy, author biography and Q&A, chapter summaries, historical background, advance praise, and high-resolution archival photographs and illustrations cleared for media use are available through the digital press kit.

Dr. Gibbons will also make a brief **St. Paul/Twin Cities Homecoming Book Launch September 12–19**, surrounding the September 15 publication.

ABOUT FIGHT FOR GLORY

The St. Paul Phantom: The Gibbons Brothers' Fight for Glory, Volume I is published by **Fight for Glory Press**, an independent publishing and media company dedicated to recovering and sharing the extraordinary story of Mike and Tommy Gibbons through narrative nonfiction, archival research, historical imagery, film, educational programming, and live events.

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Digital Press Kit: <https://bit.ly/4cq0zy0>

Review copies, interviews, excerpts, archival images, and feature opportunities are available now.

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