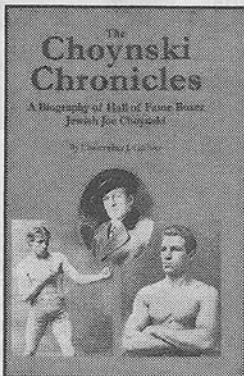


# The Choynski Chronicles

By Christopher J. LaForce

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**Book Review by John Rinaldi**



This publication makes no secret of our love of the rich history of the great sport of boxing. Well, author Christopher J. LaForce has unearthed a treasure of wonderful boxing stories pertaining to one of the most important fighters of the early heavyweight division and gloved boxing era - Joe Choynski.

Even a casual boxing fan, or one who has at least seen the film *Gentleman Jim*, has heard of Joe Choynski through his storied fights with James J. Corbett, especially their epic June 5, 1889 battle that was fought on a barge in the Benicia Harbor near Fairfax, CA. That battle ended when Joe was KO'd in the 27th round.

Mr. LaForce presents that bout and plenty more in such vivid detail, that I felt I was in that crowd on that chilling barge watching the thrilling contest.

The exciting, page-turner book covers Choynski's life and career. Besides Corbett, fights against such historic legendary foes such as Bob Fitzsimmons, James J. Jeffries, Kid McCoy, Joe Walcott, "Sailor" Tom Sharkey, "Philadelphia" Jack O'Brien, Jack Johnson and Marvin Hart are all provided in glorious detail.

Although Choynski never weighed more than 169 pounds, he KO'd Jack Johnson in three rounds in 1901 and battled James J. Jeffries, who probably outweighed Joe by more than 40 pounds, to a 20-round draw in 1897.

This marvelous opus is filled with newspaper accounts of the fights and plenty of quotes from Choynski himself, along with his opponents.

A chapter I found particularly fascinating was when Choynski was the chief trainer for James Jeffries in his ill-fated comeback fight against Jack Johnson in 1910. Just the stories relating to the training camp is worth the price of this fabulous book.

When one is finished reading, the skill and courage of Joe Choynski emerges triumphantly.

*I highly recommend this book.*

It can be purchased online, at Amazon and in bookstores.