



THE PRIZEFIGHTER AND THE PLAYWRIGHT

Gene Tunney and Bernard Shaw

by Jay R. Tunney

with an introduction by Christopher Newton

“Full of surprises and mind-changing insights, this compelling book tells for the first time the full story of the unlikely relationship between the world heavyweight boxing champion and the Nobel Prize and Oscar-winning playwright... a revelation.”

LEONARD CONOLLY, CORRESPONDING SCHOLAR, SHAW FESTIVAL



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SHAW
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From the beginning, it seemed a strange relationship. An odd couple, observed friends of the pair. Indeed, the friendship between Bernard Shaw, the most famous playwright of the twentieth century, and Gene Tunney, world heavyweight boxing champion and a man forty years younger than Shaw, was unique.

In this unusual and often surprising book Jay R. Tunney explores the private friendship in the spotlight of celebrity between his father and the playwright, even as they hid the crisis that bound them together. The book grew out of the author's popular BBC radio program *The Master and the Boy*, which in 2000-01 aired to some 14 million listeners worldwide.

“Friendship is the most satisfying connection in life,” wrote Tunney. “There never was constituted a human heart that did not at some time, in some long and yearning hour, long for sympathy.”

“I have never been given to close personal friendships, as you know, and Gene Tunney is among the very few for whom I have established a warm affection,” wrote Shaw. “I enjoy his company as I have that of few men.”

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