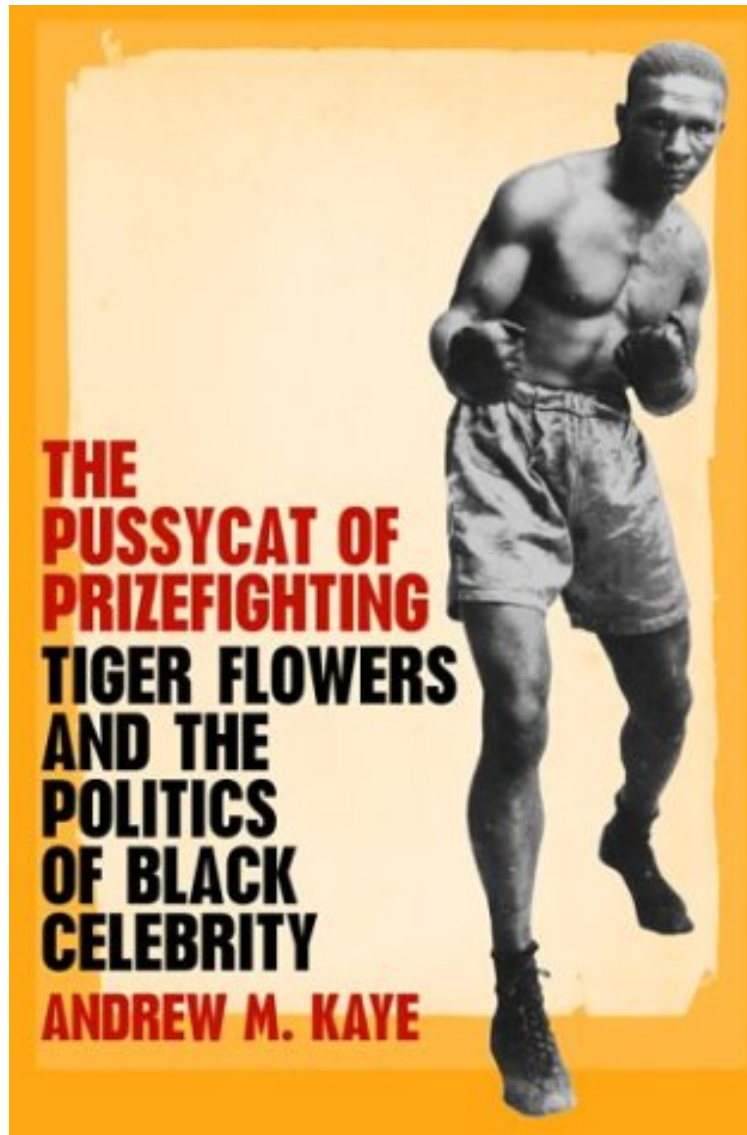


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## The Pussycat of Prizefighting: Tiger Flowers and the Politics of Black Celebrity

*Andrew M. Kaye*

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**Andrew M. Kaye : The Pussycat of Prizefighting: Tiger Flowers and the Politics of Black Celebrity** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Pussycat of Prizefighting: Tiger Flowers and the Politics of Black Celebrity:

5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. not to be confused with a biographyBy A CustomerIf you are hungry for information on "Tiger" Flowers only beprepared for a snack. The actual information concerning Mr. Flowers if put

back to back probably covers 15 pages. 2 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Andrew M. Kaye lands a knock-out!! By A Customer It was worth the wait! In this well-written and carefully researched work, we finally have a full, no-holds-barred account of the enthralling story--at once gritty and heart-touching--of one of the most remarkable athletes, black or white, of the early 20th-century. It's a measure of Kaye's talents that, in the process of telling this compelling story, he also richly illuminates the time and place in which Flowers lived and fought. Highly recommend for anyone interested in sports history, Southern history, or American history. 3 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Poor Tiger By Stephen I have always been a fan of Tiger Flowers. I was intrigued by stories of him as a child. I must say as a social history and/or biography of Flowers this book is a complete flop. I was lucky enough to purchase a rare copy of Flowers biography published in 1928 by Edney and Flowers' widow. The book leaves much to be desired, a contention which Mr. Kaye agrees with. Interestingly, despite this fact Mr. Kaye seems to use the Edney book as his major source for Flowers life. It would have been nice to have had a hometown hero's life done in a more concise fashion. Sadly, Flowers legacy seems as neglected today, after the publication of this book, as it was before hand. Poor Tiger.

In 1926 Theodore "Tiger" Flowers became the first African American boxer to win the world middleweight title. The next year he was dead, the victim of surgery gone wrong. His funeral in Atlanta drew tens of thousands of mourners, black and white. Atlantans would not grieve again in comparable numbers until Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination in 1968. Flowers, whose career was sandwiched between those of the better-known black boxers Jack Johnson and Joe Louis, was not America's first successful black athlete. He was, however, the first to generate widespread goodwill among whites, especially in the South, where he became known as "the whitest black man in the ring." *The Pussycat of Prizefighting* is more than an account of Flowers's remarkable achievements - it is a penetrating analysis of the cultural and historical currents that defined the terms of Flowers's success as both a man and an athlete. As we discover the sources of Flowers's immense popularity, Andrew Kaye also helps us to understand more deeply the pressures and dilemmas facing African Americans in the public eye.

From Booklist "The whitest black man in the ring," middleweight Tiger Flowers was a wildly famous world champion in the 1920s. Historically situated between two archetypal black champions--flamboyant, reviled Jack Johnson and credit-to-his-race Joe Louis--Flowers gets little attention from boxing historians these days. But, as Kaye argues, his life story says much about the complexity of race in sports and beyond. Flowers, widely characterized as a charming gentleman, was held up as a role model by many in both the white and black communities, while some of his black peers considered him a prototypical Uncle Tom. Although Kaye focuses on Flowers' life and the public response to his career in his native Georgia, readers also learn much about the fascinating history of boxing in black America. The slow pace and professorial tone will turn off those accustomed to a more accessible style, but this textured portrayal of the Jim Crow South and one of its black heroes makes a significant contribution to the history of race relations. John Green Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved "Engagingly written, this is sport history at its best." -- John D. Fair, author of *Muscle Town, USA* "Kaye's work has nuance, depth, and insight that ranges far beyond the career of Tiger Flowers." -- Randy W. Roberts, author of *Papa Jack: Jack Johnson and the Era of White Hopes* "Wonderfully illuminates black Atlanta of the period. . . . [A] must read for boxing aficionados and students of American culture. -- Southern Scribe From the Publisher A fresh look at black athletes and the perils of stardom