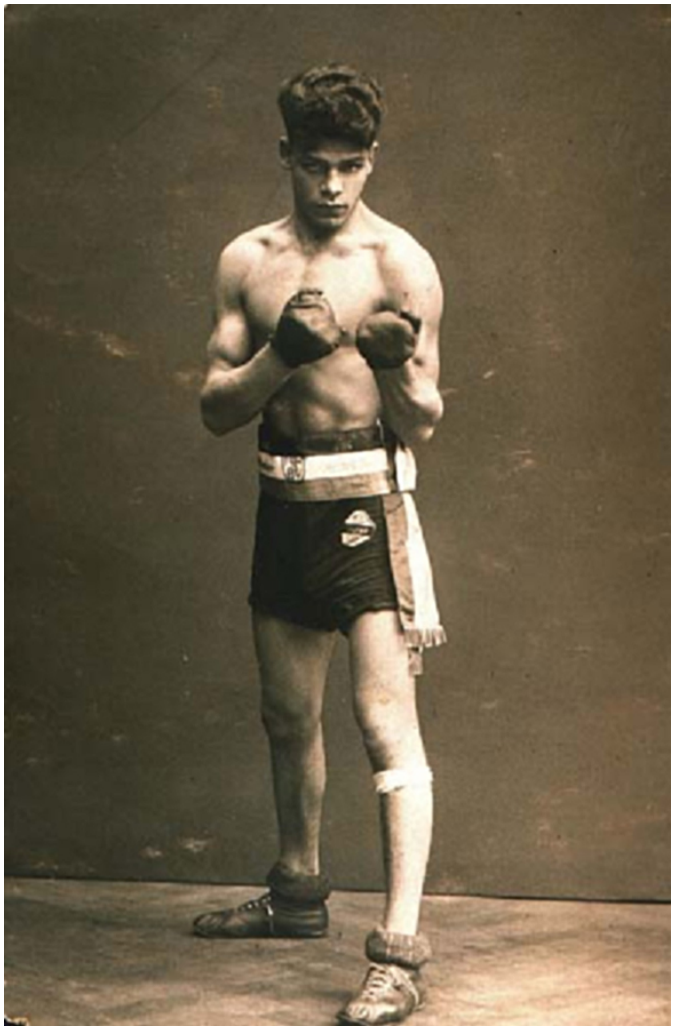
C6 Excluded



In 1933, the German boxer Johann Wilhelm Trollmann - known as Rukeli to his family and friends - won the German light heavyweight boxing championship against the reigning champion Adolf Witt. Because Trollmann was from a Sinti family, the judges at fi rst refused to recognise his victory and declared the result void. They then changed their minds in the face of public protest, but Trollmann was stripped of his title ten days later on the grounds of “unmanly” behaviour. He was arrested and deported to a concentration camp, where he is reported to have been made to box against an endless number of SS men. In 1944 he was murdered in Wittenberge, a sub-camp of the Neuengamme concentration camp.

1910 1928 1951

Did you know

... that in the 1930s, Johann Trollmann adopted the dancing style of boxing that was later to become the hallmark of the world heavyweight champion Cassius Clay (Muhammad Ali)?
... that it took the German Boxing Association 70 years to right this wrong and put Johann Wilhelm Trollmann on the list of German light heavyweight champions in 2003?

Your task

Do you know of any other sportsmen or women who were deprived of their titles for political reasons?

About the photo

Offi cial photograph of Johann Wilhelm Trollmann taken by Hans Firzlaff in 1928. Documentation Centre of German Sinti and Roma, Heidelberg, Germany.

https://www.romasintigenocide.eu/en/c