



AS A BRASH YOUNG MAN, CASSIUS MARCELLUS CLAY WAS KNOWN AS “THE LIP FROM LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY.” OVER THE YEARS, HE HAS INSPIRED MILLIONS OF PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD NOT ONLY WITH HIS BOXING PROWESS, BUT ALSO WITH HIS COURAGEOUS OPPOSITION TO WAR AND OTHER VIOLENCE, HIS FAITH AND HIS HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS. HE HAS ALSO MADE HIS MARK WITH HIS WORDS, WHICH ARE NOW IN VOGUE EVEN AMONG THE HIP-HOP GENERATION.



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FROM
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TO
MUHAMMAD ALI
THURSDAY and FRIDAY
NOVEMBER 13 and 14, 2008

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FOR A SCHOLARLY ASSESSMENT OF THE LIFE AND TIMES OF MUHAMMAD ALI, WE INVITE SUBMISSION OF PAPERS ON THE TOPICS LISTED BELOW OR TOPICS CLOSELY RELATED TO THEM. IT IS OUR INTENT TO EXAMINE ALL ASPECTS OF ALI'S LIFE, WHICH BEGAN IN THE PRE-CIVIL RIGHTS ERA AND EXTENDS INTO A 21ST CENTURY SORTING OUT THE INTRICACIES OF GLOBALIZATION.

CASSIUS CLAY

- ★ KEY INFLUENCES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF CASSIUS MARCELLUS CLAY
- ★ PRE-CIVIL RIGHTS ERA SOUTH
- ★ WORLD WAR II AND THE MARCH FORWARD AT HOME AFTER THE VICTORY ABROAD
- ★ LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY: THEN AND NOW

THE MEDIA

- ★ BLACK PRESS
- ★ MAINSTREAM PRESS
- ★ SPORTS JOURNALISM
- ★ PRINT VS. BROADCAST
- ★ ETHICS: WHAT WAS KNOWN VERSUS WHAT WAS REPORTED

RELIGION

- ★ CHRISTIAN ROOTS
- ★ BREAK WITH THE BLACK CHRISTIAN CHURCH
- ★ INFLUENCE OF MALCOLM X AND THE NATION OF ISLAM
- ★ BLACK MUSLIMS AFTER ELIJAH MUHAMMAD
- ★ ISLAM AFTER 9/11

THE SPOKEN WORD

- ★ ALI'S "RAP"
- ★ THE HIP-HOP GENERATION'S TAKE ON ALI
- ★ PLAYING THE DOZENS
- ★ TRASH TALKING

THE BOXING RING AS A PARABLE ON MANHOOD AND SEXUAL IDENTITY

- ★ HOW THE ARTS HAVE DEPICTED BOXING
- ★ SEXUALITY AND BOXING
- ★ GENDER AND BOXING
- ★ BOXING IN FILM AND THEATER



BOXING

- ★ A WAY OUT OF POVERTY; A MOVE INTO THE WORKING CLASS AND BEYOND
- ★ IMPORTANCE TO IMMIGRANTS
- ★ THE CRIMINAL UNDERBELLY
- ★ RELEVANCE IN THE 21ST CENTURY
- ★ THE ROLE OF WOMEN
- ★ ON THE ROAD WITH ALI: TRAINERS, PROMOTERS, HANGERS-ON

ALI WITHOUT BORDERS

- ★ ALI'S PLACE IN AFRICA, ASIA AND EUROPE
- ★ RUMBLE IN THE JUNGLE
- ★ THRILLA IN MANILA
- ★ THE UNOFFICIAL DIPLOMAT BETWEEN WEST AND EAST
- ★ INFLUENCE ON FIGURES AS SIGNIFICANT AS NELSON MANDELA, A ONE-TIME BOXER

WAR

- ★ WHAT IS IT GOOD FOR?
- ★ VIETNAM ERA
- ★ BLACKS IN THE WAR IN SOUTHEAST ASIA
- ★ POST 9/11 ERA
- ★ DOMESTIC PRESIDENTIAL AGENDA VERSUS WAR BUDGETS
- ★ AMERICAN LEGION VERSUS CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS
- ★ THE DRAFT
- ★ PACIFISM

CIVIL RIGHTS

- ★ ALI VERSUS THE U.S. GOVERNMENT – AND VICE VERSA
- ★ HURRICANE CARTER CASE
- ★ HOSTILITY TOWARD, THEN ACCOMMODATION WITH, THE MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.-LED CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

IMAGE MAKING

- ★ FROM TRASH-TALKING OLYMPIAN TO "DRAFT DODGER" TO WORLD-REVERED ICON
- ★ SALESMANSHIP
- ★ CASSIUS CLAY'S HIT COMEDY ALBUM, "I AM THE GREATEST"
- ★ HOWARD COSELL
- ★ LEROY NEIMAN
- ★ PARKINSON'S: PERCEPTIONS AND REALITIES
- ★ PUBLIC FACE OF HEALTHY EATING
- ★ OLYMPICS, 1960 AND 1996

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