

SHADES OF WOMEN'S "LIB" 200 YEARS AGO

Modern supporters of women's "lib" have claimed that the ladies have many <sup>admirable</sup> ~~admiral~~ attributes, but the art of fisticuffs is not one of them.

However, more than 200 years ago, a lady advertised in a <sup>London</sup> news sheet her desire to engage in a bout of fisticuffs with a rival, in the following manner:

"Challenge -- I, Elizabeth Wilkinson, of Clerkenwell, having had some words with Hannah Hyfield, and desiring satisfaction, do invite her to meet me upon the stage and to box me for three guineas; each woman to hold a half-crown in each hand and the first one to drop the money to lose the battle".

And her rival's reply was ferocious:

"I, Hannah Hyfield, of Newgate Market, hearing of the resoluteness of Elizabeth Wilkinson, will not fail, God willing, to give her more blows than words -- desiring home blows, and from her no favour; she may expect a good thumping."

It seems that even the women had their eye on some stake-money in those far-off days.