

A Brief History of the Sport

Archery: At A Glance

The essentials of archery have existed for more than 40,000 years. The Ancient Egyptians used bows and arrows to hunt, as well as means of war. The Assyrians have been credited with the invention of the curved bow back in 1500 B.C. The bow and arrow was likewise refined by Western Europeans as an effective hunting weapon, and the English thrived on archery tournaments throughout the Middle Ages.

Then came the invention of gunpowder, and to many sportsman the bow and arrow seemed all too technologically simple when compared to the rifle. Although archery was no longer the preferred means of hunting and war, it developed into a sport and *true* archers still enjoyed it as a recreational pastime. The two brothers, J. Maurice and William H. Thompson helped to establish the sport and push it, once again, into widespread popularity. In 1879, they succeeded in organizing the National Archery Association.

Since then, the technical aspects of archery have undergone significant change. High-tech fiberglass, carbon graphite, and aluminum bows now replace traditional wood bows. Yet, the design, strategy and excitement of the sport remains much the same and is enjoyed by millions of recreational archers worldwide.