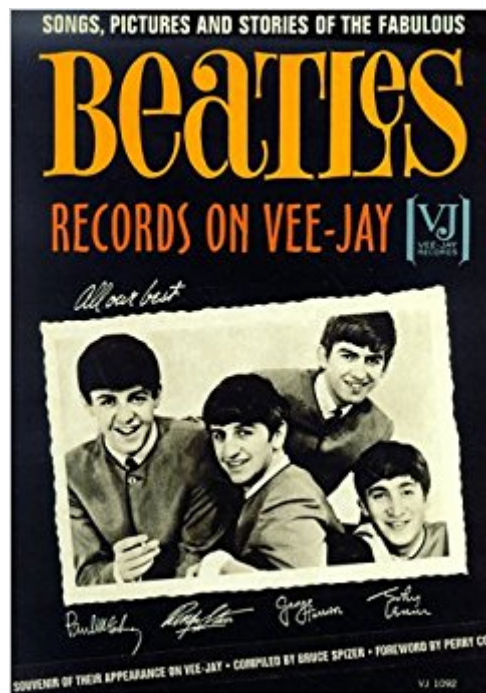




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# Songs, Pictures And Stories Of The Fabulous Beatles Records On Vee-Jay



## Synopsis

Although most of the Beatles American records were released by Capitol Records and later by Apple Records, the group's initial recordings appeared on Vee-Jay, an independent label based in Chicago that specialized in blues and gospel recordings.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A gorgeously presented, thoroughly researched and lovingly detailed book that anyone interested in The Beatles' career 1968 on must have. -- Beatlefan, March/April, 2003  
I can't tell you how impressed I am with the thoroughness of your research and writing. It's a beautiful book as well. I haven't had a chance to digest it thoroughly, and look forward to spending more time with it. -- Alan Livingston, President, Capitol Records (1961-1968)  
I have just received your magnificent book on the Beatles. As a total "anorak" I loved the record labels and album covers. -- Jo Wallace, London, UK  
I received the VJ book yesterday and had a tough time putting it down. I commend you on an excellent job. -- Rob Freidman, Weston, FL  
I would just like to say that The Beatles Records on Vee-Jay book is by far one of the best in the Beatles collectible market today. Being a graphic designer and a Beatles fan, I am impressed by not only the content, but the quality of the layout, the attention to detail and the computer-generated documents where needed. I was completely astonished at having obtained the original artwork production invoices. So, koodos to everyone involved! -- Andrew Croft, Toronto, ONT  
I've enjoyed your book on The Beatles Records on Vee-Jay immensely, and am longing for your in depth research on Capitol Records as well. (Please do it!).

Once again, wonderful book!!! -- Robert Koenig, Minneola, NY  
Incredibly illustrated and detailed. -- Gary Johnson, Rockaway Records  
It's awesome and you've done a great service. I'm sure you'll be getting many responses. -- Robert York, Tacoma, WA  
One of the nicest Beatles books to come out in years. -- Mitch McGeary, Lacey, WA  
Well researched and masterfully compiled, this colorful book is a must have for Beatles record collectors and historians, as well as anyone having any interest in the group. No matter how much you think you know about the Beatles and their records, you'll know so much more after reading this entertaining and informative book! -- Perry Cox, author of The Official Price Guide to the Beatles Records and Memorabilia

Songs, Pictures and Stories of the Fabulous Beatles Records on Vee-Jay is intended to serve as both a good read and a valuable reference guide for the casual music and Beatles fan as well as the serious collector. I hope you enjoy reading and using the book as much as I enjoyed putting it together.

I received my copy of this book a couple of days ago with the similar Apple book (see my separate review of that one). I bought it on the strength on the Author's similar Capitol volumes and boy it's amazing how much research this guy puts into his work. The Vee-Jay story was pretty much an unknown quantity to us Aussies so it's all the more fascinating to read the twists and turns of Vee-Jay's involvement in Beatlemania back in 1963-64. The chapters are mind-boggling to read. All 4 Capitol & Others vs Vee Jay legal cases are thoroughly detailed though I have skimmed through these because it's just so much to take in. The chapter on "Introducing The Beatles" was my main interest because I have a copy of the Mono Version #1 LP which I bought in an Auction here over 10 years ago. I have verified that it's the real deal thanks to this book + Perry Cox's "Beatles Price Guide". No, it's not for sale either!! The label representations and pictures of old original 45's are amazing and enough to drool over. I can't add much more than my colleague reviewers here other than you must have this and the Author's other books (On Capitol #1 & 2 & On Apple) if you're a serious Beatle nut like me. Even if you're not it's a wonderful addition to any Rock Music book library.

Good experience

This is for all the beatle fans who wanted to know everything about vee jay. I do believe the Beatles on Vee-Jay is just a sentence or two in most biographies. Vee-Jay was something that the Beatles

were picked up by before Capital came to their senses. However, if you want to know everything about it from the physical shape of the records in detailed description, from which warehouse a disc was manufactured, to the details of the royalty rates and how vee jay got hold of the beatles recordings and how they chose to release them. Only a lawyer can be this detailed and this good at describing the legal issues of the Beatles various contracts. The Beatles on vee-jay is a complicated matter, something someone from today wouldn't understand but the rock and roll business wasn't always so organized or money oriented, it was a much different world. A world of Singles, which don't exist anymore, a world of EPs which never caught big in America. The story how veejay marked down an ep to a singles price to help sell copies is priceless. Not only is this a book on the beatles it gives a grand idea on how rock and roll was marketed in 1963-1964. Initially you might think these are books are dull and obsessive but these books are essential, the pictures alone are worth the price of each book in the series, never mind all the text, the text is also detailed and thorough, remember if there's something that doesn't interest you, you may skip over that part i'm sure they'll be plenty in this book and the others that will interest you.

Wow. A great book about a little known part of the Beatles history. Most British fans will probably never even heard of the Vee-Jay records - so for that reason I suggest they well steer clear of this book. It tells the history of each record in so much detail that it is almost exhausting. Most fans will probably not care about the different labels designs and misprints on the sleeve... and which record processing plant they were made in... but to all of the Beatles collectors out there who want to know every possible thing about the band, then this book is a dream. Not only does it cover all the ground in exhaustive detail, but it is also accurate - a not inconsiderable detail when you read about Vee-Jay in other books. For example, Bruce lays to rest some of the fables about the Introducing The Beatles album. It is also lavishly illustrated. Well worth the high asking price.

This is a definitive Beatles book. I am so thankful for Mr. Bruce Spizer for coming up with such an excellent source of material, and handily placing it together into one magnificent hard-bound volume. The full-color illustrations are out-of-this-world! I never knew that so many different label and jacket variations ever existed before this. The very day that I purchased this book, I also purchased what I consider to be THE ultimate companion album; an imported CD by The Beatles, entitled "The V-J Story", which contains ALL sixteen original Beatles songs first issued on the V-J label. The good news is that ALL sixteen songs are in beautiful stereophonic sound (with the exceptions of "Love Me Do" and "P.S. I Love You", which are only monophonic recordings

electronically reprocessed into "fake" stereo). Nonetheless, this CD makes a perfect companion to Mr. Spizer's book. By all means, get this disc if you ever come across it.

The story itself is absolutely mind boggling. This incredible tale has more loose ends than a rastafarian hat factory, and just as incredibly, Mr. Spizer pulls all of the threads together into a coherent whole and ties it up in spectacular fashion. The bumbling, cheating, lying, greedy characters that make up the story of how a record company missed the brass ring and lost the Beatles almost plays out like a soap opera....but it's all true! This is one of those cases where the truth is stranger than fiction. And while the story plays itself out, one is overwhelmed by the sheer volume of product that an albums worth of songs engenders. If you think that Capitol "Butchered" the Beatles, you ain't read nothin' yet. The book is replete with scads of dazzling pictures of everything from record labels to court documents and everything in between. If you're a dihard Beatles fan or a just interested in stories with a twisted plot, you won't be disappointed with this book.

Since this book has received nothing but 5-star reviews and is generally thought of as definitive with regard to the material it covers, surely it is time it was reprinted so it can be enjoyed by a wider audience? There may be those who can afford \$600 for a 242-page book, but I regret I am not among them. Given the continuing interest in The Beatles and the ongoing re-issue of many of their works, the publisher seems to be missing a trick here. Let's have another edition, please!

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