

Other sides



VJ & TOLLIE

Singles

In 1964⁹¹, Bluebell, a small Italian record company, imported two singles from the United States on the VJ label:

[v.1] **PLEASE PLEASE ME - FROM ME TO YOU** [VJ 581]

[v.2] **THANK YOU GIRL - DO YOU WANT TO KNOW A SECRET**
[VJ 587]

and two others on the subsidiary Tollie label:

[t.1] **TWIST AND SHOUT - THERE'S A PLACE** [T 9001]

[t.2] **LOVE ME DO - PS I LOVE YOU** [T 9008]

The Bluebell company printed the picture sleeve for the VJ singles and Tollie *Twist and shout*, while for *Love me do* the relevant US cover was imported. Since these records were released in the US in several label variations, it is possible to find different versions of these singles.

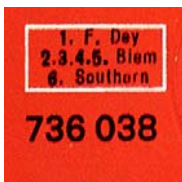
⁹¹ Some collectors think that these singles were already available in 1963, before Carisch began to press the Parlophon records, to cash in on the Beatles phenomenon. On the other hand, a 1964 illustrated Bluebell catalogue reported all the 4 singles – as well as the *'Introducing the Beatles'* LP - and even the Christmas sleeve which was issued in the U.S. for the 1964 Christmas season. Moreover, we learn from the excellent book on VJ/Tollie records [*THE BEATLES RECORDS ON VEEJAY*, B. SPIZER, 1998] that in 1964 VJ proposed to foreign record companies to purchase their records. So the import must definitely have happened in 1964, and not 1963. From the same book we also learn that VeeJay declared to Capitol the following total foreign sales of each single: VJ 581, 6,000 copies; VJ 587: 11,000 copies; Tollie 9001: 6,000 copies; Tollie 9008: 8,000 copies. According to Mr. Spizer, it is possible that Vee-Jay under-reported its foreign sales to Capitol.



▲
Back cover of Please please me. The detail on top shows the photo credit printed in some copies.



Label of the original 1964 Beatles' first! mono LP, and [below] close-ups of the 'F.Day'/'Francis Day' variations found in the publishers' box on side B.



Front cover carries the caption 'Stereo Dimension', which was the name of the series of LPs *The Beatles' first!* was part of. Other 'Stereo Dimension' LP covers and their contents were shown on its back sleeve⁹⁵.



⁹⁵ This stereo release derives from a similar Dutch issue. In fact, it maintains the same release number of that release and also the Dutch words 'Kant 1-2' for 'Side 1-2' in the back cover track list.

On side A label the name of the music publisher 'F.Day' can be found, in some copies, printed in full: 'Francis Day'.



This LP was then reprinted several times in the following years:

[P3a] THE BEATLES FEATURING TONY SHERIDAN - IN THE BEGINNING (CIRCA 1960) (244 011N)

Following the US Polydor issue, Italian Polydor released the same LP with a fold-out cover in 1970. On the front, the now classic photograph of 'Merseybeat' announcing that the Beatles had topped the 1963 readers poll:



[P3b] THE BEATLES FEATURING TONY SHERIDAN - IN THE BEGINNING (CIRCA 1960) (2418 162)

That same cover photo was used for the first re-release of the previous edition, now issued with same title but in a single cover, slightly different layout and a new catalogue number.



[P4] THE BEATLES FEATURING TONY SHERIDAN (2418 162)

This was a further re-release, with a shortened title and same number as [P3b]. The layout of the cover was slightly modified again: it now shows a yellow/orange band at the top.

● PYRAMID

In 1989 the Pyramid label issued, on coloured vinyl, nine LPs of the early 60s BBC recordings titled **THE BEATLES – RADIOACTIVE**.

● FABBRI

In 1974 the publisher ‘Fratelli Fabbri’ enclosed the single *My Bonnie* in the weekly *Le canzoni più belle* (= The most beautiful songs), on sale at newsstands. This version, unlike the Polydor issue, does not have the slow intro. The photo for this picture sleeve is taken from the 1965 photo session on top of the Hotel Duomo, Milan, from which the pic for the *Long tall Sally* Carisch single was also taken. *Yesterday* sung by Anita Bryant was on the B side. Titles on the label can be found printed in thin or thick lettering.

● CURCIO

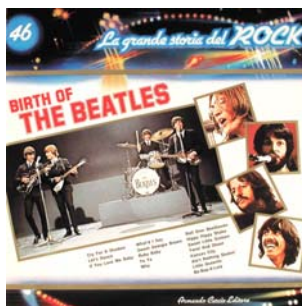
In 1981-82 the publisher Curcio distributed, with the weekly *La grande storia del rock* (=The great history of rock), two LPs titled **BIRTH OF THE BEATLES**. The first one, (no. 46 of the series), contains part of the Star Club and Polydor recordings while the second LP (no. 81) has the remainders of the Star Club tapes. A third LP (no. 38) is partly dedicated to Pete Best’s post-Beatles records (the rest of the LP contains Lonnie Donegan recordings). Here, Pete Best was “lucky” again, as the LP cover shows a photograph of a member of the Pete Best Combo...

● DE AGOSTINI

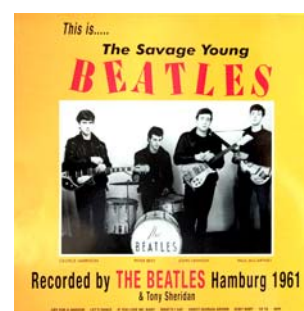
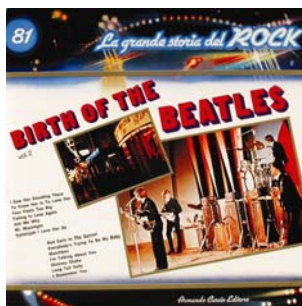
An LP on the ‘De Agostini/Polydor’ label could be purchased at newsstands. The publisher De Agostini distributed it with the publication *Il rock*. It contained the early Polydor recordings, (same as [P1]).

● ABRAXAS

In 2000 this record company released **THE SAVAGE YOUNG BEATLES** on the Get Back label originally issued in 1966 in the USA on the Savage label.

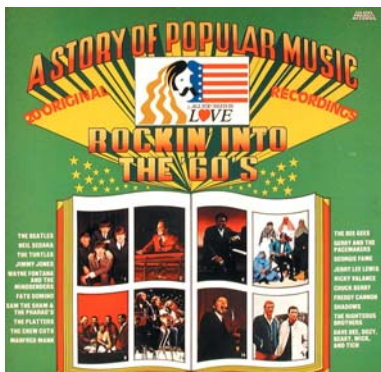


Cover of the Fabbri weekly with My Bonnie



● PHANTOM

This label eventually issued a 33rpm 7" record promoting a radio program titled 'The other side of the planet Beatles', where snippets of Beatles songs can be heard. No cover was printed.



● VARIOUS ARTISTS COMPILATIONS

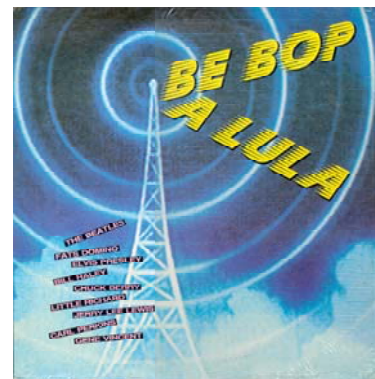
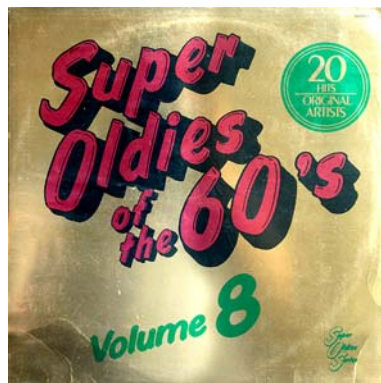
In December 1977 Polygram distributed a various artists compilation on the 'Theatre Project Records' label [9199 991] called **ROCKIN' IN THE SIXTIES**.

All you need is love - which was also the sub-title for the compilation - was included in the album.

In 1983 another compilation titled **FLIPPER MIX** was released on the Philips label [812 016-1]. It contains songs from the 60s. The Beatles are present with *Ain't she sweet*. A variation can be found on the top right hand corner of the back cover, as it is possible to find copies with or without the 'SN' logo.

In 1984 the UK Audiofidelity record company released a set of various artists LPs, made in Italy, titled **SUPER OLDIES OF THE 60's**. Vol. 6, 8, 9, 10 and 11 contain Beatles tracks taken from the Star Club recordings: *A taste of honey*, *Red sails in the sunset*, *Matchbox* and *Till there was you*, *Kansas City*, *I saw her standing there*.

In 1986, the Five Records company released a compilation LP, titled **BE BOP A LULA**, [FM 13576]. It contains *What'd I say* and *Money* from the Star Club tapes.



▲
The back sleeve of Flipper Mix can be found with or without the SN logo (it stands for Servizio Novità = New releases service).