

THE GREAT R&B FILES

(# 11 OF 12)

Updated July 9, 2019

The R&B Pioneers Series

Compiled by Claus Röhnisch

Special Supplement: Top 30 Favorites



- featuring the Super Legends'

Ultimate CD compilations, their very first albums,

** and ± .. plus their most classic singles.*



Top Rhythm & Blues Records

- The Top R&B Hits from 30 classic years of Rhythm & Blues

THE Blues Giants of the 1950s

THE Top Ten Vocal Groups of the Golden '50s

Ten Sepia Super Stars of Rock 'n' Roll

Transitions from Rhythm to Soul – *Twelve Original Soul Icons*

The True R&B Pioneers – *Twelve Hit-Makers of the Early Years*

Predecessors of the Soul Explosion in the 1960s

Clyde McPhatter – *The Original Soul Star*

The John Lee Hooker Session Discography

The Clown Princes of Rock and Roll: The Coasters

Those Hoodlum Friends – *The Coasters*

The R&B Pioneers Series: find them all at
The Great R&B-files Created by Claus Röhnisch
<http://www.rhythm-and-blues.info>

(try the [links](#) for youtube)



Vol 1. Top Rhythm & Blues Records
The Top R&B Hits from 30 classic years of Rhythm & Blues

Vol 2. The John Lee Hooker Session Discography
Complete discography, year-by-year recap, CD-Guide, and more
John Lee Hooker – The World’s Greatest Blues Singer

Vol 3. The Clown Princes of Rock and Roll
 Todd Baptista’s great Essay on The Coasters, completed with Singles
 Discography, Chart Hits, Session Discography, and much more

Vol 4. Those Hoodlum Friends – THE COASTERS
 A Super Size Presentation of the first vocal group to be inducted into the
 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame



Vol 5. THE Blues Giants of the 1950s
 Twelve Great Legends
 T-Bone Walker, Big Joe Turner, **Lowell Fulson**, Roy Brown,
 John Lee Hooker, Muddy Waters, Sonny Boy Williamson, Howlin’ Wolf,
 Elmore James, Little Walter, Jimmy Reed, B. B. King

Vol 6. THE Top Ten Vocal Groups of the Golden '50s
 Rhythm & Blues Harmony *(with links to youtube audio/videos)*
 The Dominoes, Clovers, "5" Royales, Midnighters,
 Flamingos, Moonglows, Drifters, Platters, Cadillacs, Coasters

Vol 7. Ten Sepia Super Stars of Rock 'n' Roll
 Idols Making Music History
 Fats Domino, Little Richard, Chuck Berry, Bo Diddley, **Ruth Brown**,
 LaVern Baker, **Clyde McPhatter**, **Jesse Belvin**, **Bobby Day**, **Lloyd Price**

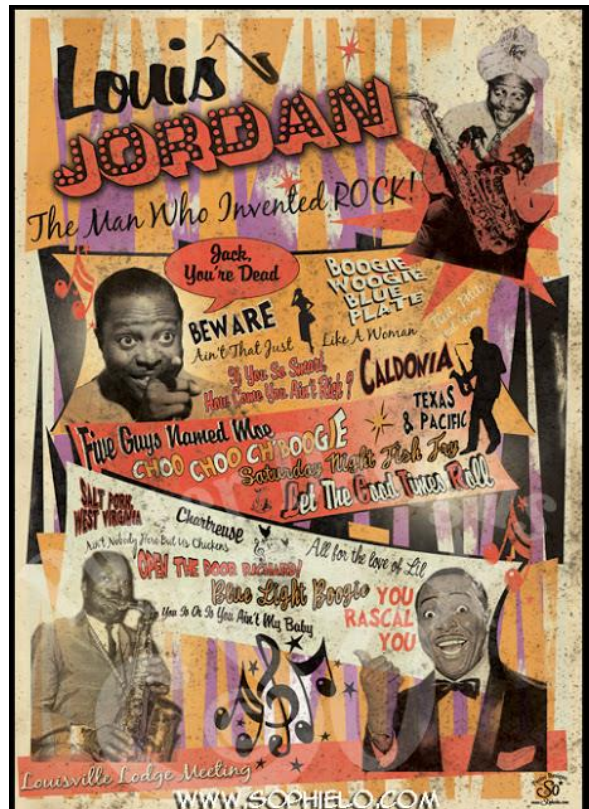
Vol 8. Transitions from Rhythm to Soul
 Twelve Original Soul Icons
 Ray Charles, Sam Cooke, Jackie Wilson, **Little Willie John**,
Brook Benton, Etta James, Rufus Thomas, Junior Parker,
 Bobby Bland, Johnny "Guitar" Watson, King Curtis, James Brown,

Vol 9. The True R&B Pioneers
 Twelve Hit-Makers from the Early Years
 Lionel Hampton, Erskine Hawkins, Louis Jordan, **Buddy & Ella Johnson**,
 Eddie "Cleanhead" Vinson, Wynonie Harris, **Charles Brown**, Johnny Otis,
 Amos Milburn, Ike Turner, Chuck Willis, The Five Keys

Vol 10. Predecessors of the Soul Explosion in the 1960s
 Twelve Famous Favorites
 Joe Tex, Solomon Burke, **Wilson Pickett**,
 Otis Redding, Aretha Franklin, Marvin Gaye,
 The Dells, Isley Brothers, Four Tops, Impressions, Miracles, Temptations

Vol 11. The R&B Pioneers: Top 30 Favorites
 The R&B Pioneers Series
 Special feature covering the editor’s favorite pioneers with CD’s and
 singles.

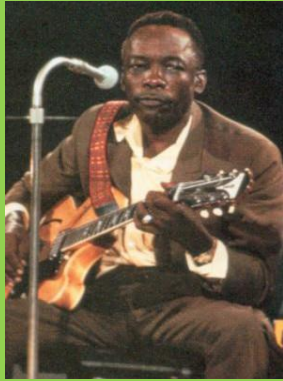
Vol 12. Clyde McPhatter – the Original Soul Star
 Clyde McPhatter presented in detail - an extraordinary Pioneers’ feature.



THE TOP TWELVE

click on / touch image for link to youtube audios/videos
... and link to Wikipedia

I Four Blues Giants



1. John Lee Hooker



6. T-Bone Walker



7. B. B. King



10. Ray Charles

II The Chicago Big Four



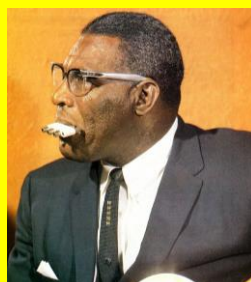
2. Sonny Boy Williamson



4. Little Walter



5. Muddy Waters



9. Howlin' Wolf

III Four Rock & Soul Stars



3. The Coasters



8. James Brown

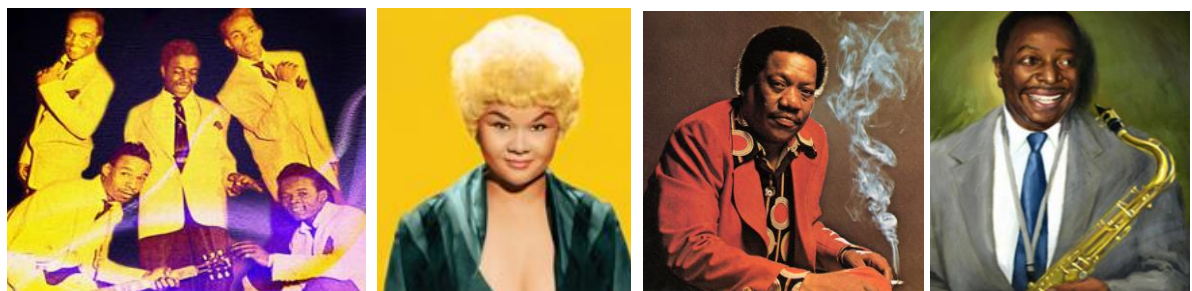


11. Chuck Berry



12. Jackie Wilson

The Great R&B Files aka **The R&B Pioneers Series** (#13-30)



The R&B Pioneers Series: Top 30 Favorites

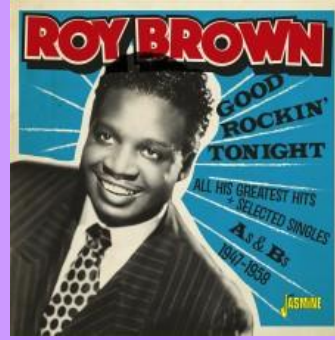
The History of Rhythm & Blues ...

“from Roy Brown to James Brown”

part one:

.... their Ultimate CD compilations

Note: All of the presented CDs are packed with multi-paged biographical essays, and discographical details.

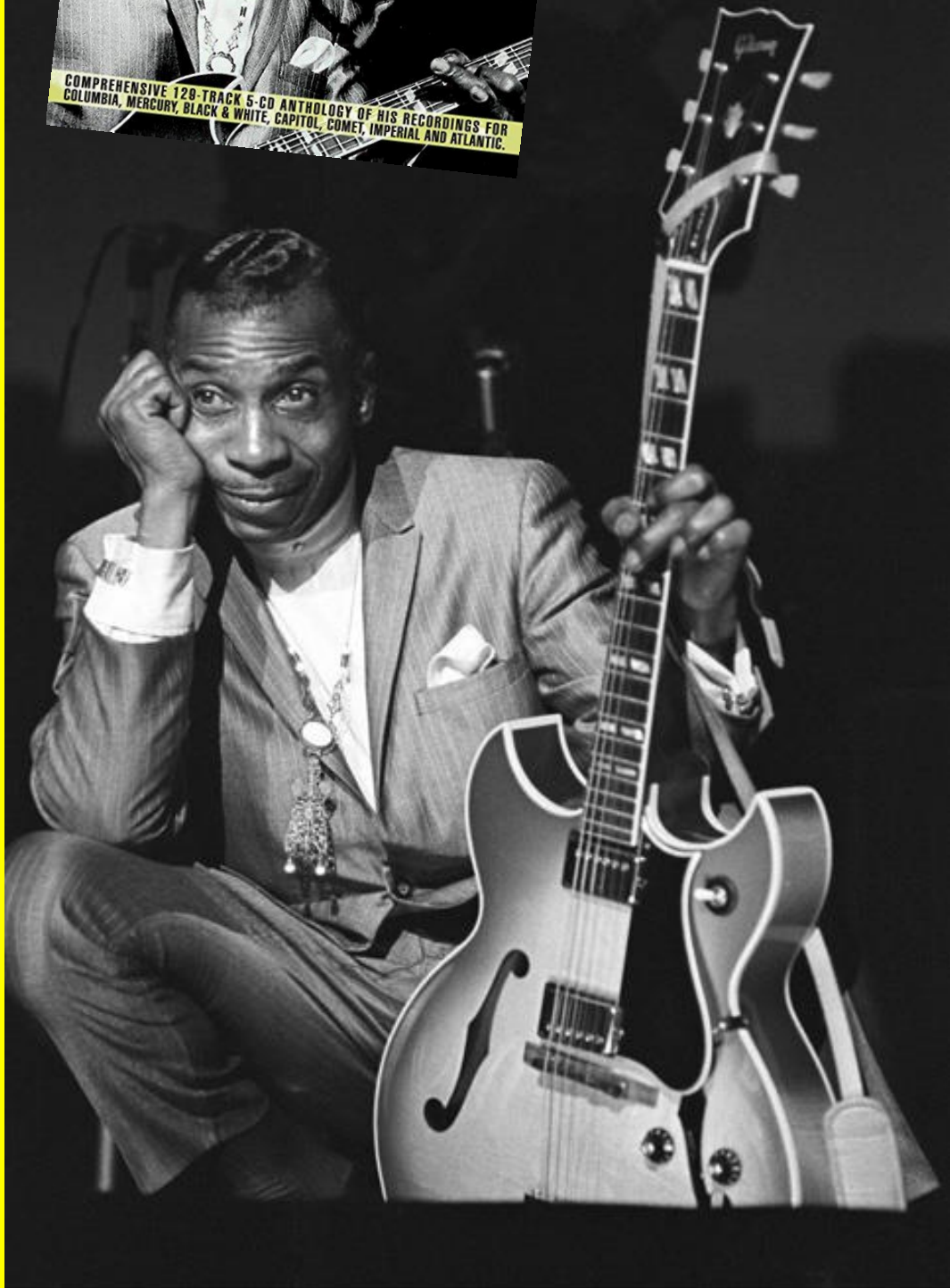
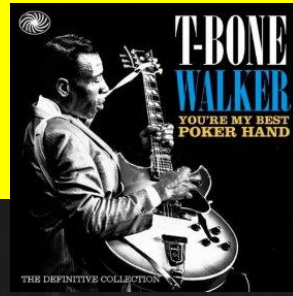
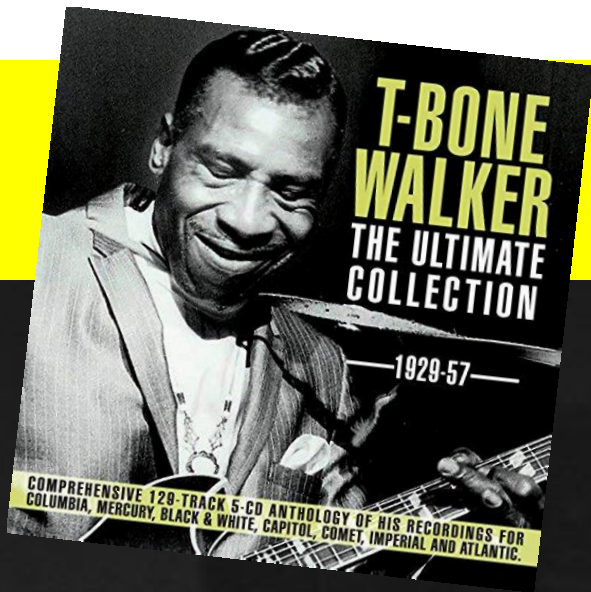


Roy Brown:

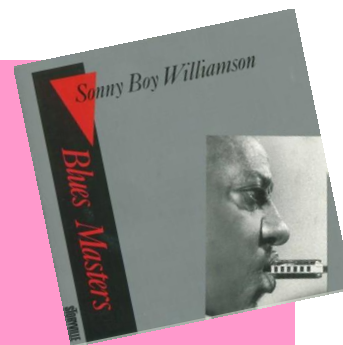
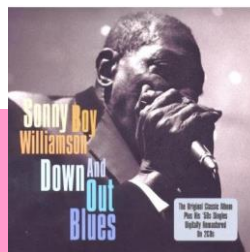
Good Rockin' Man / The Definitive Collection (2CD 1947-1960) Fantastic Voyage FVDD 123 (2011),
Good Rockin' Tonight (2CD 1947-1958; 59 tracks) Jasmine JASMCD 3098 (2018)
and Good Rocking Tonight (1CD 1947-1957) Rhino R2 71545 (1994)



John Lee Hooker: Hooker (4CD box set 1948-1998) ShoutFactory! 826663-10198 (2006), King of the Boogie (5CD book-box 1948-1998) Craft CR00015 (2017), Testament (4CD-set 1955-1964) Charly SNAJ 705CD (2001), and The Boogie Man (4CD-set 1948-1955) Properbox111 (2006), Gotta Boogie, Gotta Sing (2CD-set 1948-1954) Jasmine JASMCD 3084 (2018)



T-Bone Walker: The Ultimate Collection (5CD set 1929-1957) Acrobat ACFC7503 (2014) and You're My Best Poker Hand (3CD 1940-1957) Fantastic Voyage FVTD0099 (2011)



Sonny Boy Williamson: The Chess Years (4CD-set 1955-1964) Charly RED Box 1 (1991), Blues Masters (1CD 1963) Storyville STCD 8012 (1991), Down And Out Blues (2CD 1951-1958) Not Now NOT2CD356 (2010), Don't Start Me Talkin' (1CD 1955-1962) JASMCD3049 (2015) and The Essential (2CD 1955-1963) MCA/Chess CHD2-9343 (1993)



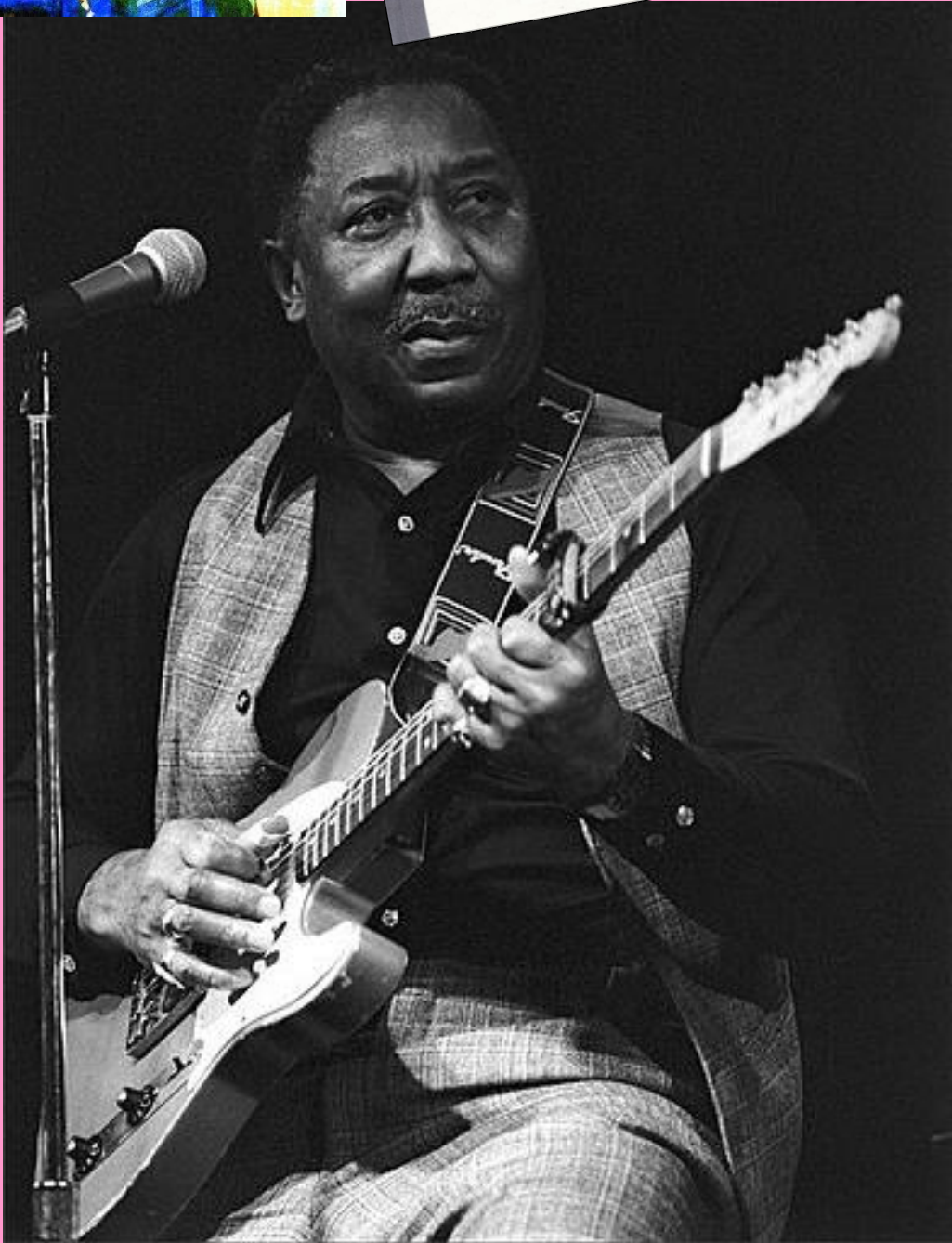
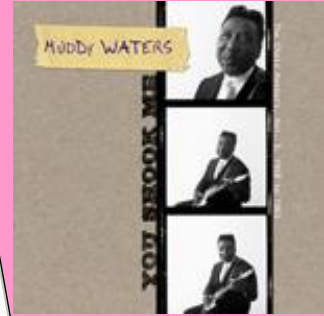
B. B. King: The Vintage Years (4CD box 1950-1965) Ace ABOXCD 8 (2002), King of The Blues (4CD box 1949-1991) MCA D4-10677 (1991), The Complete RPM-Kent Recording Box 1950-1965 (17CD, 1LP, 1Book) P-Vine PCD-LP-3/20 (2015) and The Complete Singles As and Bs (5CD-set 1949-1962) Acrobat ACFC7504 (2015)



Little Walter: The Complete Chess Masters (5CD set 1950-1967) Hip-O-Select 126360-2 (2009),
 The Single As and Bs 1952-1960 (2CD) Jasmine JASMCD 3015-6 (2011)
 and The Blues World of... (1CD 1950) Delmark DD-648 (1993)

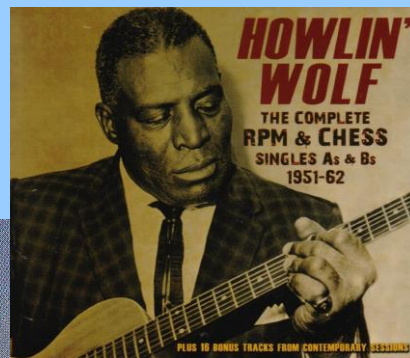


muddy waters
rollin' stone | the golden anniversary collection

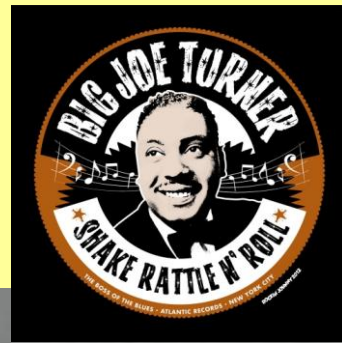


the complete Chess Masters Series:

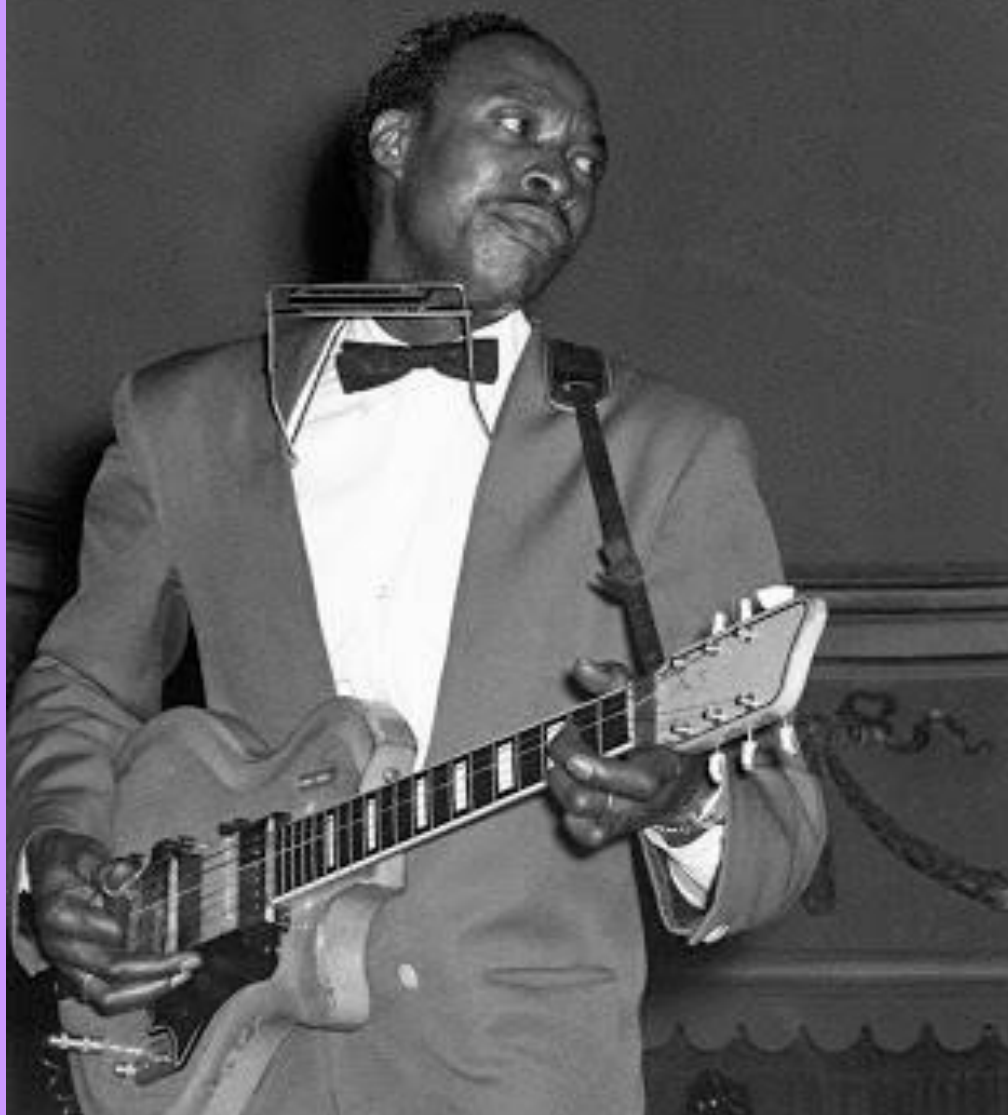
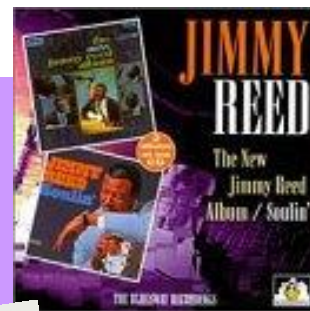
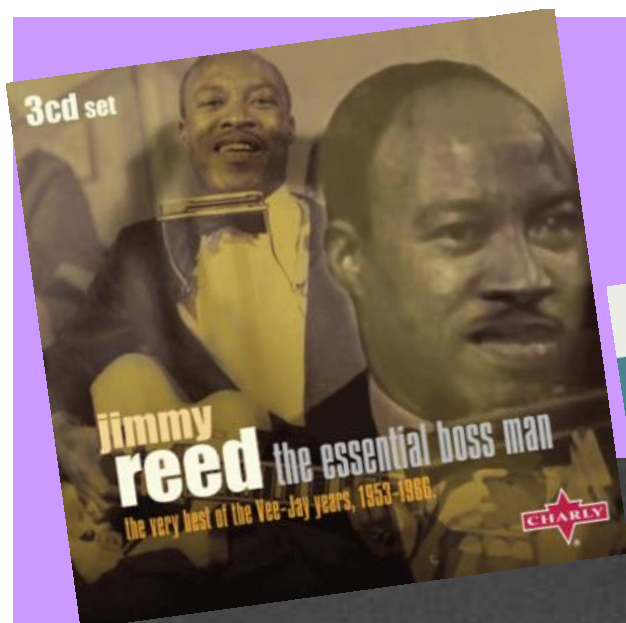
Muddy Waters: Rollin' Stone (2CD 1947-1952) MCA 088112301-2 (2000),
Hoochie Coochie Man (2CD 1952-1958) Hip-O-Select 0002758-02 (2004)
and You Shook Me (2CD 1958-1963) Hip-O-Select 0002758-02 (2013)



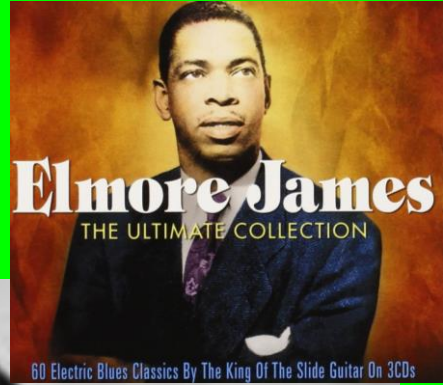
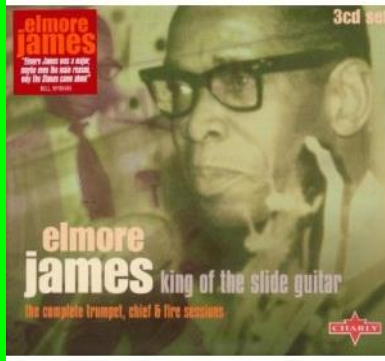
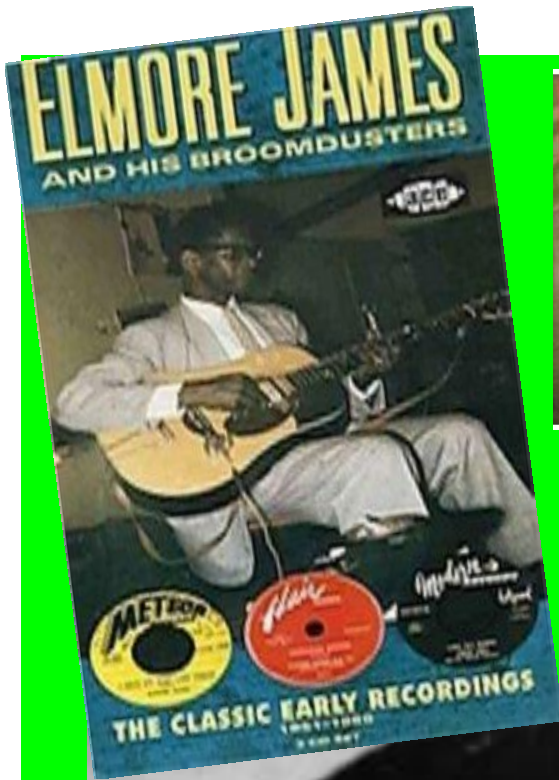
Howlin' Wolf: Smokestack Lightning: The Complete Chess Masters (4CD-set 1951-1960) Hip-O Select 1530902 (2011), Howling Wolf Sings the Blues (1CD 1951-1952) Ace CDCHM 1013 (2004) and The Complete RPM & Chess Singles 1951-62 (3CD) Acrobat (2014)



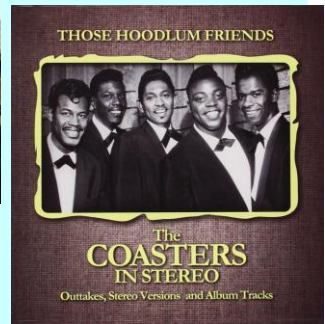
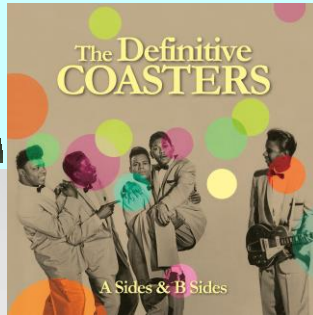
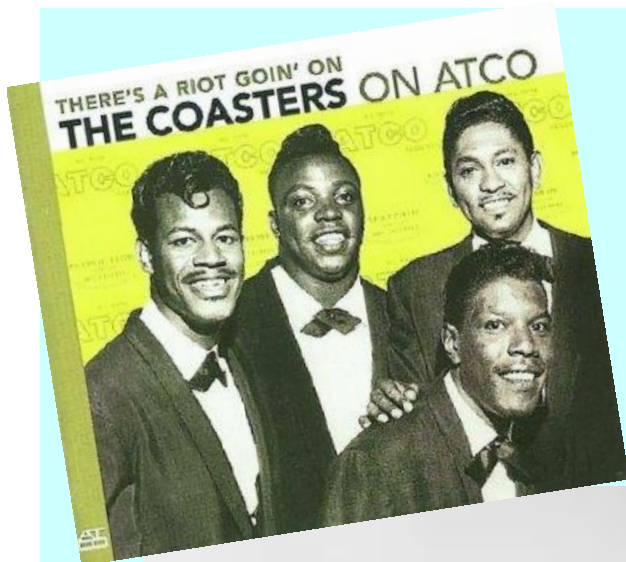
The Big Joe Turner Anthology – Big Bad & Blue (3CD 1938-1983) Rhino R2 71550 (1994)



Jimmy Reed: The Essential Boss Man (3CD 1953-1966) Charly SNAJ728CD (2004), Mr. Luck / The Complete Vee-Jay Singles (3CD 1953-1965) Craft Recordings 00006 (2017) and The New Jimmy Reed Album / Soulin' (1CD 1966-67) See For Miles SEECD 468 (2000)



Elmore James: The Classic Early Recordings (3CD - the Modern years 1951-1956) Ace ABOX 4 (1993), King of the Slide Guitar - Charly (3CD Chief-Fire 1956-1963) SNAJ722CD (2004) and The Ultimate Collection (3CD 1951-1963) Not Now NOT3CD149 (2015)



Will "Dub" Jones, Cornell Gunter, guitarist Adolph Jacobs, Billy Guy, and Carl Gardner (1958).

The Coasters: There's A Riot Goin' On - The Coasters On Atco (4CD set 1954-1966) Rhino RHM2 7740 (2007), Down Home (1CD with 12 Date/King tracks) Varèse Sarabande 66844 (2007) and The Definitive Coasters & Those Hoodlum Friends (two 2CD sets 1954-1962) History of RnB R001, R002 (2013)



Charlie Thomas, Dock Green, Tommy Evans (bottom), and Rudy Lewis (1961-62).

The Drifters Box: *Rockin' and Driftin'* (3CD box 1953-1976) Rhino R2 72417 (1996),
The Complete Releases 1953-62 (3CD-set) Acrobat ACTRCD9055 (2015),
All The Singles 1953-1958 plus bonus tracks (2CD) Jasmine JASCD 526 (2009)
and The Definitive Drifters (2CD 1953-1976) WEA WSMCD137 (2003)



top: Obadiah Carter and Lowman Pauling; bottom: Gene Tanner, Jommy Moore, and Otto Jeffries (ca 1952).

The Complete "5" Royales: Soul & Swagger (5CD set 1951-1967) Rock Beat 3101 (2014) and **The Definitive "5" Royales** (6CDbox) History of Soul (2014) with more tracks than on the above



Harold Lucas, Harpold Winley, guitarist Bill Harris, Buddy Bailey, and Mathew McCauter (ca 1952).

The Clovers: The Feelin' Is Good (2CD 1950-1959) Jasmine JASCD 576 (2011)
and The Best of the Clovers: Love Potion No. 9 (1CD 1959-1960) United Artists CDP7-96336-2 (1991)

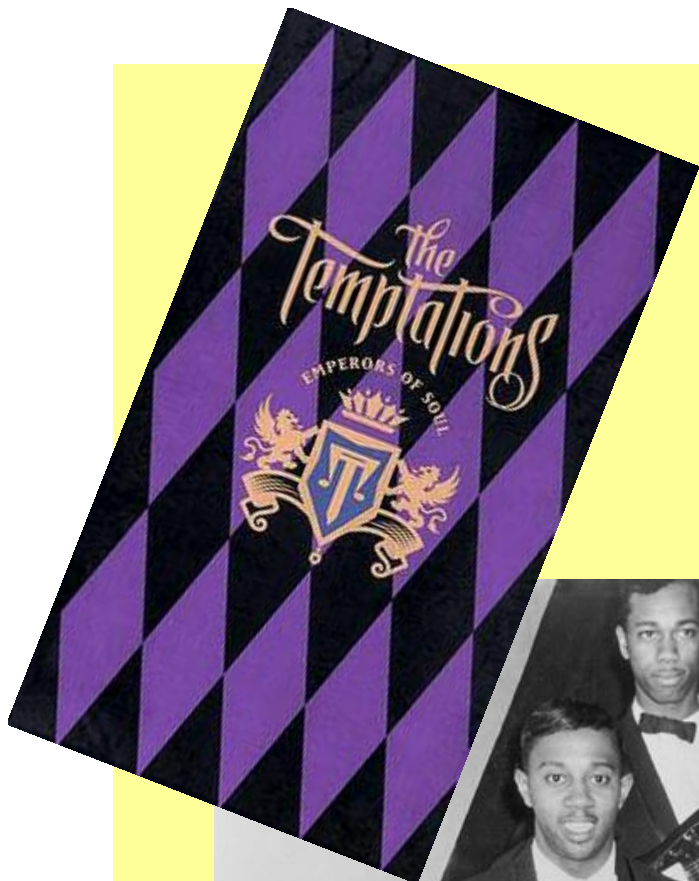


clockwise from left: guitarist Alonzo Tucker, Charles Sutton, Sonny Woods, Lawson Smith (Henry Booth not present), and Hank Ballard (1954).

Hank Ballard and The Midnighters: Nothing But Good (5CD box 1952-1962)

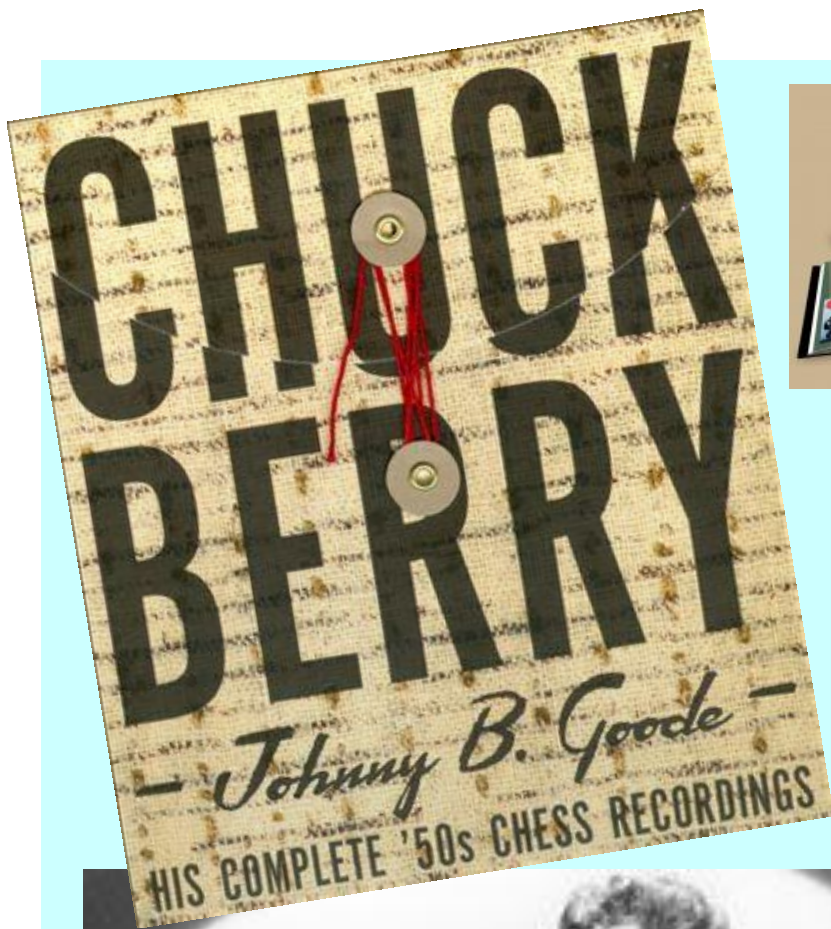
Bear Family BCD 16795 EK (2009)

and Come On And Get It / The Singles Collection 1954-1959 (2CD) Jasmine JASCD 568 (2010)

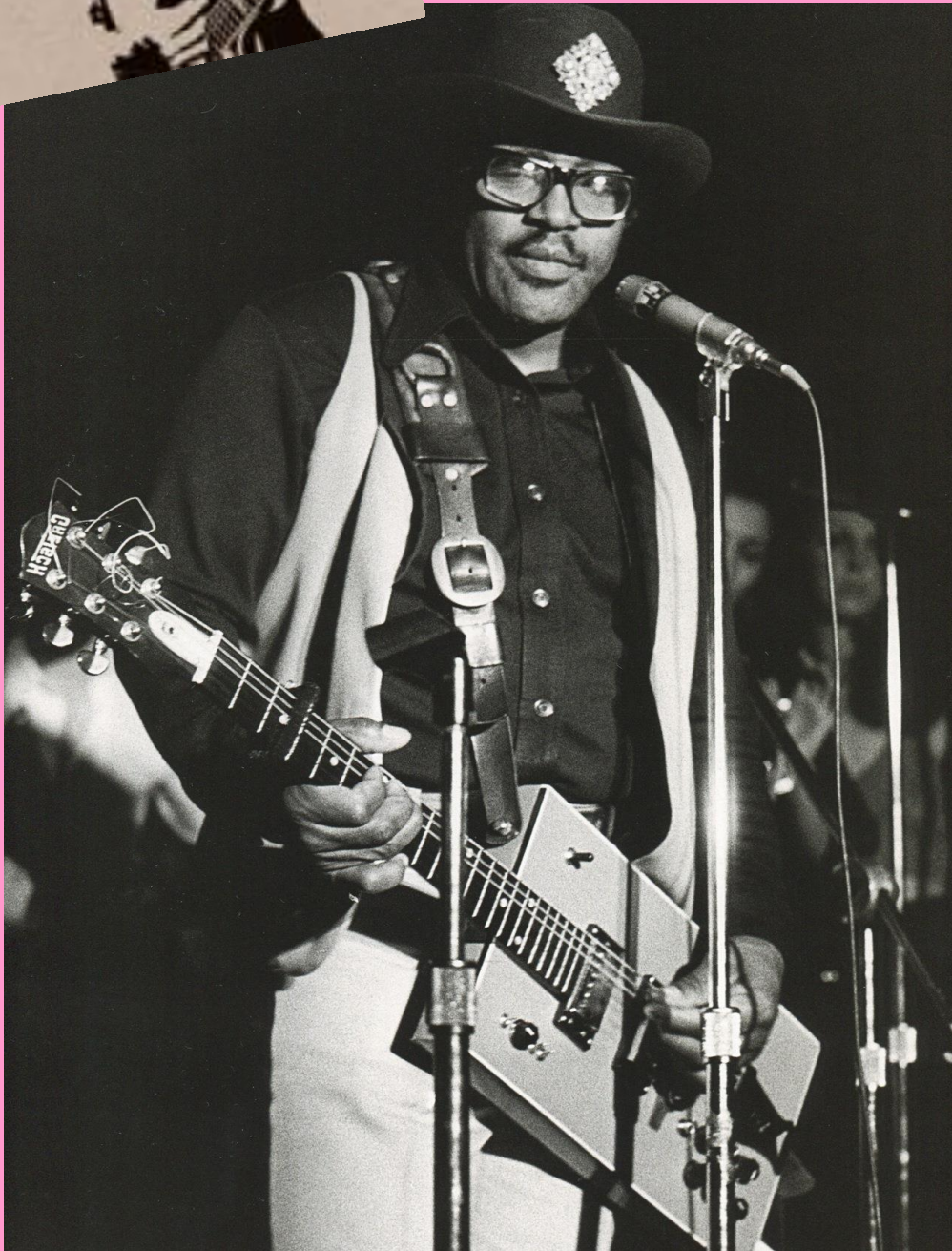


clockwise from left; Paul Williams, Otis Williams, guitarist Cornelius Grant, Eddie Kendricks, and David Ruffin (ca 1966/67)

The Temptations: Emperors of Soul (5CD box 1961-1994) Motown 30338 (1994)
and 50th Anniversary: The Singles Collection (3CD 1961-1971) Motown 2778877 (2011)



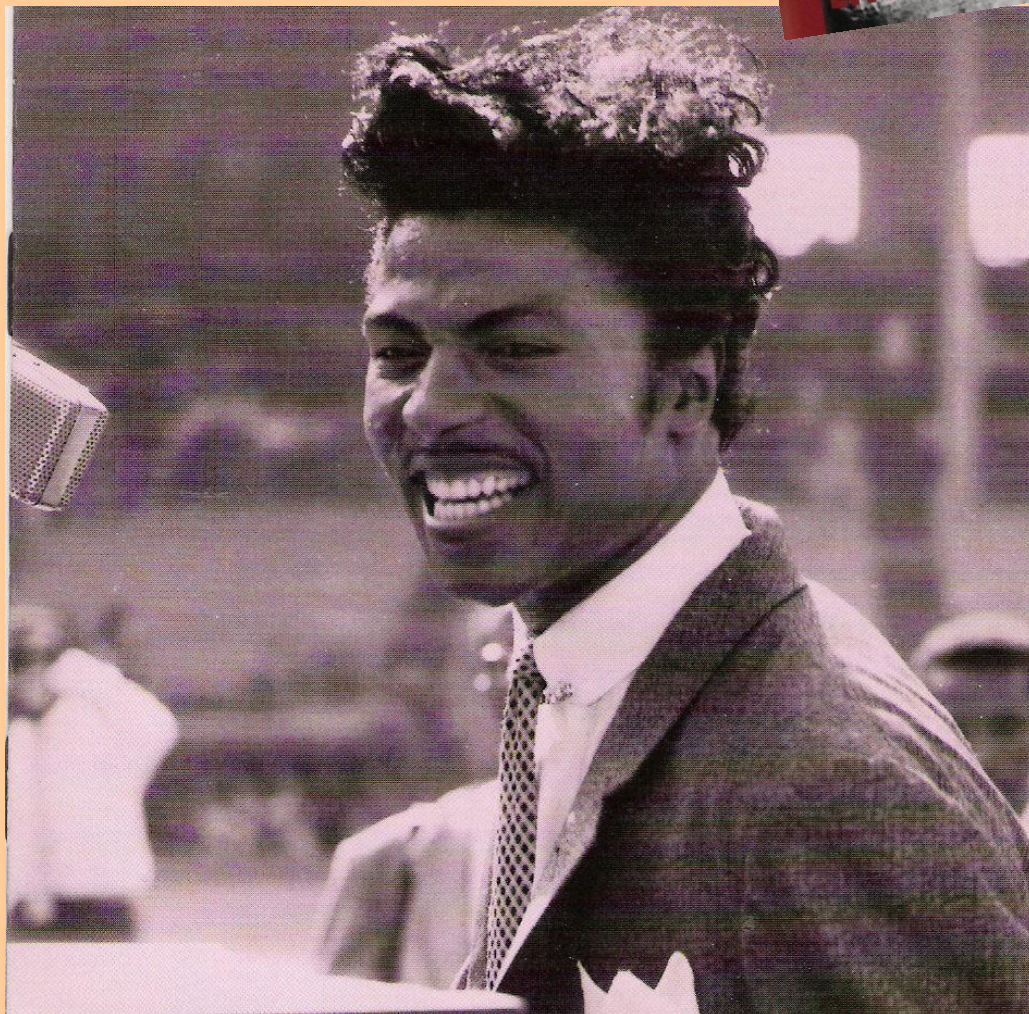
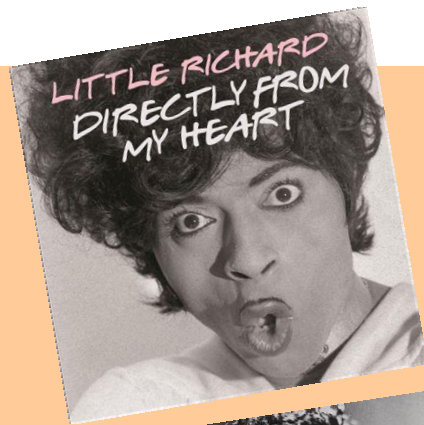
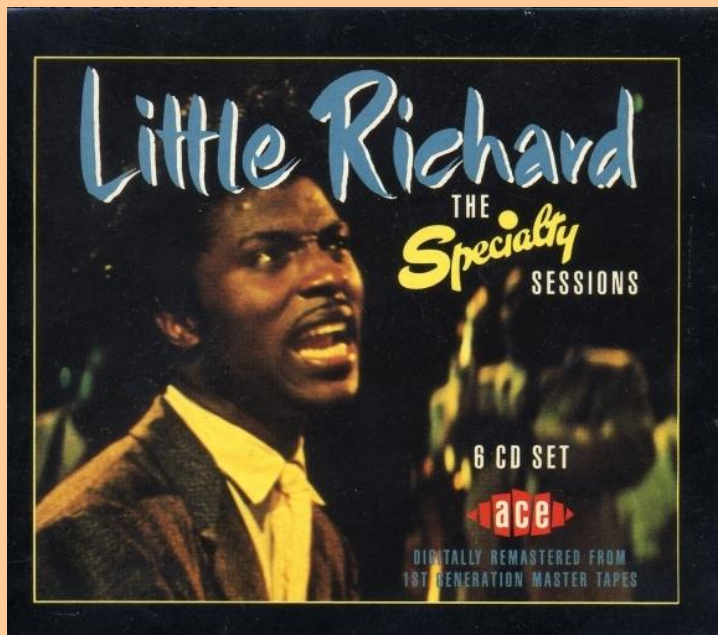
The Complete Chess Recordings:
Chuck Berry: Johnny B. Goode (4CD set 1955-59) Hip-O-Select 02517 40776 (2007),
 You Never Can Tell (4CD 1960-66) Hip-O-Select 1246502 (2009)
 and Rock And Roll Music-Any Old Way You Choose It / The Complete Studio Recordings...Plus
 (16CD box 1954-1974) Bear Family BCD17273 (2014)



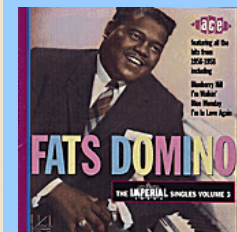
The Chess Masters:
Bo Diddley: *I'm A Man* / 1955-1958 (2CD) Hip-O-Select 923102 (2007),
Road Runner / 1959-1960 (2CD) Hip-O-Select 1107602 (2008)
and Ride On / 1960-1961 (2CD) Hip-O-Select 122946-02 (2009)



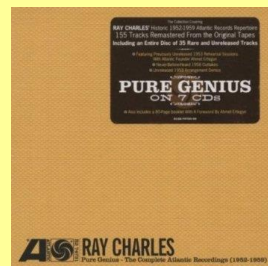
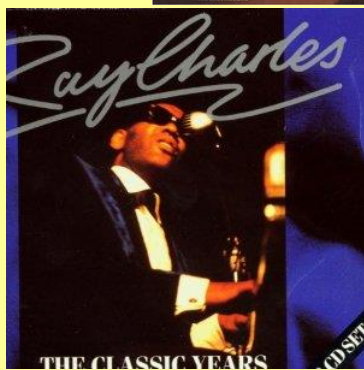
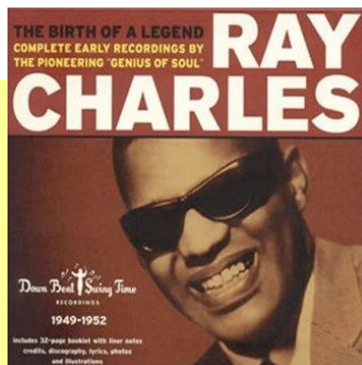
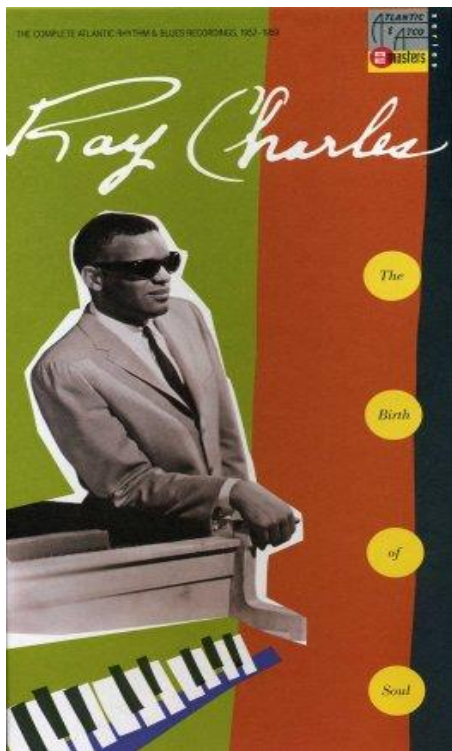
LaVern Baker: la vern (her very first LP on CD, 1953-56) Sequel RSA CD 909 (1997) and The Complete Singles A's & B's 1949-62 (3CD) Acrobat ACTRCD9048 (2015)



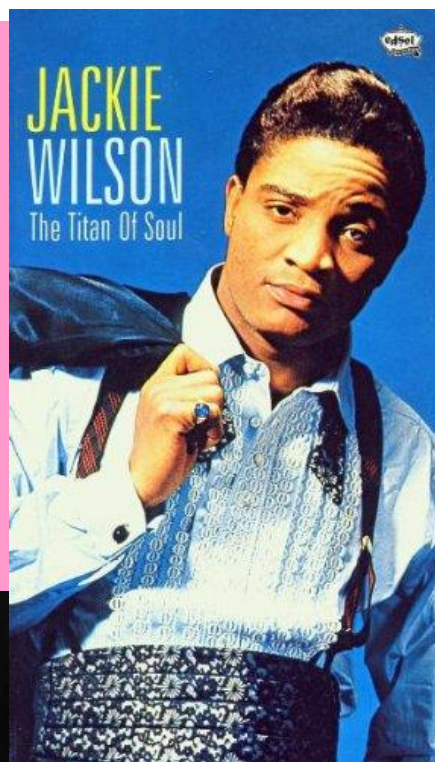
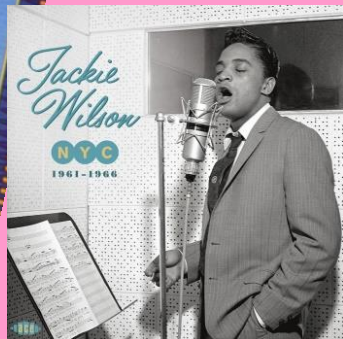
Little Richard: The Specialty Sessions (6CD box 1955-1964) Ace ABOX CD1 (1989), Directly From My Heart / The Best of the Specialty & Vee-Jay Years (3CD 1955-1965) - Specialty SPC 36988 (2015) and The Formative Years 1951-53 (1CD, RCA-Victor and Peacock recordings) Bear Family BCD 15448 AH (1989)



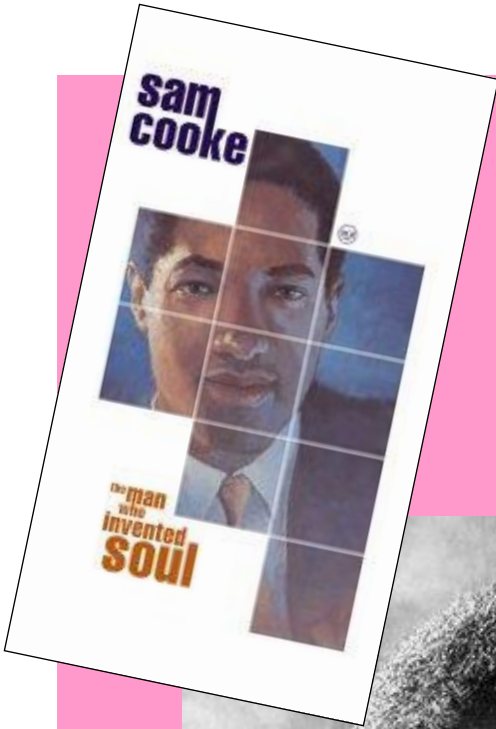
Fats Domino: Out of New Orleans (8CD box 1949-1962) Bear Family BCD 15541 (1993) and They Call Me The Fat Man (4CD box 1950-1962) EMI CDP7-06785-2 (1991)
 - reissued as Walking To New Orleans on Capitol 37374 (2002) and The Imperial Singles (5 CDs 1950-1964) Ace CDCHD 597, 649, 689, 306, 1323 - with bonus (2003-2012)



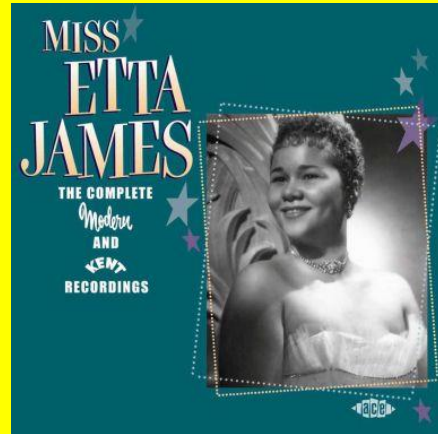
Ray Charles: The Birth of Soul / The Complete Atlantic R&B Recordings (3CD box 1952-1959) Atlantic 782310-2 (1991), The Classic Years (3CD set ABC-Paramount 1960-1971) Castle Communications ESBCD 144 (1991), The Birth of a Legend (2CD Down Beat / Swing Time 1949-1952) Ebony 8001 (1992/2007) and Pure Genius / The Complete Atlantic Recordings (1952-1959) 7CD-box Rhino 74731 (2005)



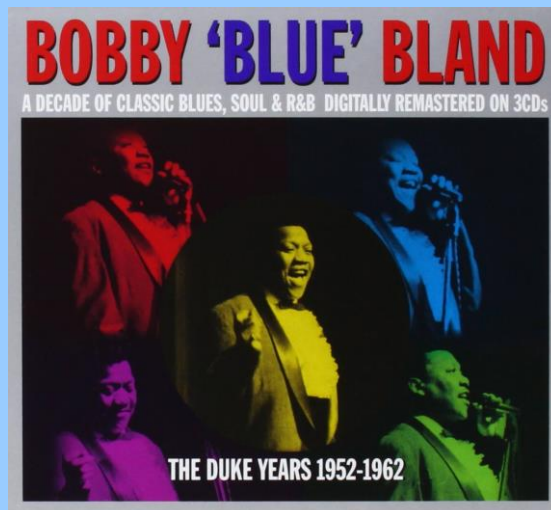
Jackie Wilson: Mr. Excitement! (3CD box 1957-1975) Rhino R2 70775 (1992), NYC 1961 – 1966 (2CD-set) Ace TOP2 1428 (2015) and The Titan of Soul (3CD set 1957-1975) Edsel FBook 18 (1998)



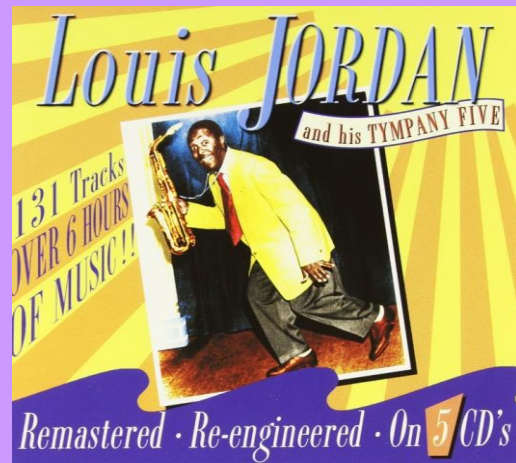
Sam Cooke: The Man Who Invented Soul (4CD box 1957-1963) RCA 67911-2 (2000),
The RCA Albums Collection (8CD box 1960-1963) RCA 88697898702 (2011)
and Portrait of a Legend 1951-1964 (1CD) ABKCO 9872418 (2003)



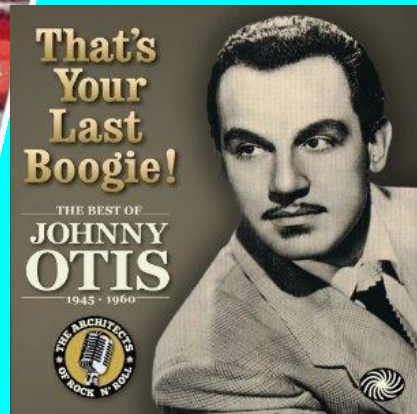
Etta James: Heart & Soul / A Retrospective (4CD set 1955-2008) Hip O Select 76813 (2011) and Miss Etta James / The Complete Modern and Kent Recordings (2CD 1955-1961) Ace CDCM 2 1085 (2005)



Bobby "Blue" Bland: *The Anthology* (2CD 1952-1982) MCA 112596 (2001) and *The Duke Years 1952-1962* (3CD set) Not Now NOT3CD155 (2014)

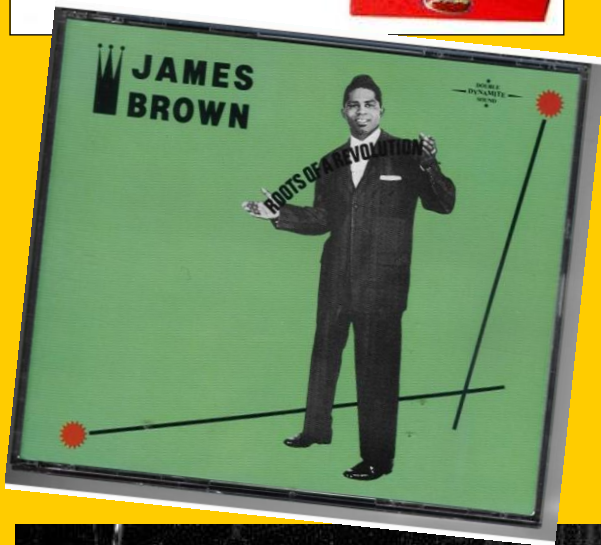
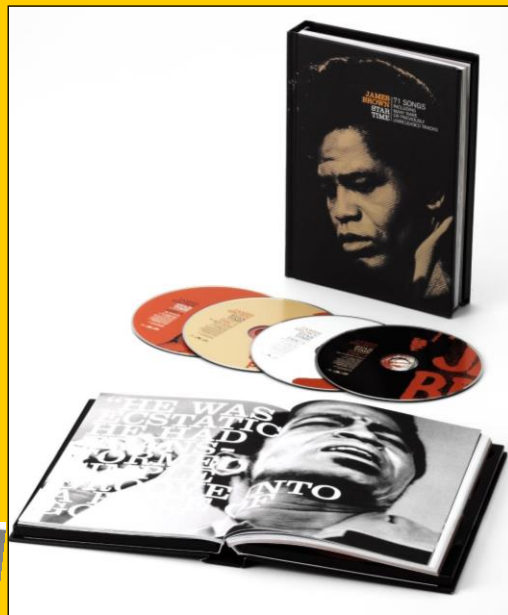
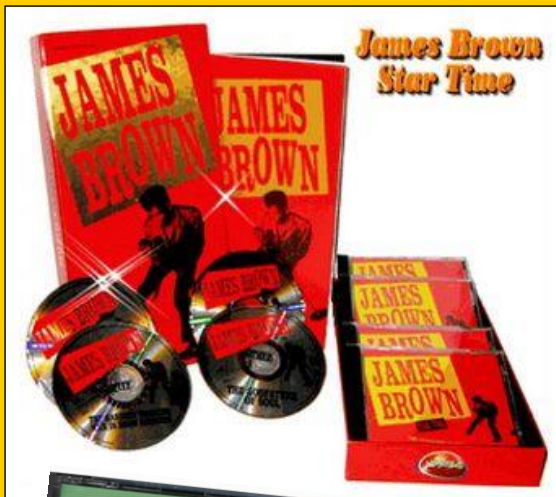


Louis Jordan: Jivin' with Jordan (4CD set 1938-1951) Properbox 47 (2002)
and Louis Jordan and his Tympany Five (5CD set 1938-1950) JSp CD 905 (2001)



Mario De la Garde, Pete Lewis, Leard Bell, Johnny Otis, poss Preston Love, prob James Von Streeter or Lorenzo Holden, prob Don Johnson, and Devonia Williams at the piano (ca 1951-52).

Johnny Otis Orchestra: The Johnny Otis Rhythm & Blues Caravan (3CD set 1949-1951)
 Savoy/Atlantic 92859-2 (1999) and
 That's Your Last Boogie / The Best of Johnny Otis 1945-1960 (3CD set) Fantastic Voyage FVTD120 (2012)

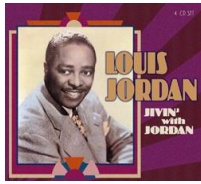


James Brown: Star Time (4CD box 1956-1984) Polydor 849108-2 (1991)
 - reissued 2004 and with different cover 2007 (Polydor 0600753022498),
 Roots of A Revolution (2CD 1956-1964) Polydor 817304-2 (1989)
 and Foundations Of Funk – A Brand New Bag (2CD 1964-1969) Polydor 531165-2 (1996/2007)

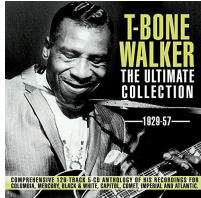
The Editors' Top 30: Credits on the Best CD Compilations

- presented in approximate order of the performers' recording debuts -

Please note that the discographical information is not always correct on the super-great compilations presented here.



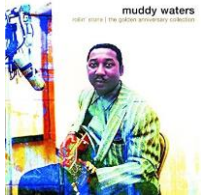
Louis Jordan: *Jivin' with Jordan* (4CD set 1938-1951) Properbox 47 (2002) 102 tracks with all of his greatest recordings for Decca. Produced and compiled by Joop Visser, who also is responsible for the liner notes and the discography. 40-page booklet.



T-Bone Walker: *The Ultimate Collection* (5CD set 1929-1957) Acrobat ACFC7503 (2014) 129 tracks for Columbia, Mercury, Capitol, Black & White, Comet, Imperial and the 14 Atlantic tracks. All hits included. 14-page booklet with liner notes by Paul Watts. This compilation has 54 more tracks than the Fantastic Voyage 3-set CD "You're My Best Poker Hand - The Definitive Collection" with liner notes by Neil Slaven.



The Big Joe Turner Anthology - *Big Bad & Blue* (3CD 1938-1983) Rhino R2 71550 (1994) 61 tracks featuring hits and other classics for Vocalion, Vanguard, Decca, National, Aladdin, Down Beat, Freedom, lots of Atlantic (of course), Pablo, MNI, and Muse. Produced by James Austin. Liner notes by Peter M. Grendysa. 52-page booklet.



Muddy Waters: *Rollin' Stone - the golden anniversary collection* (2CD 1947-1952) MCA 088112301-2 (2000) and *Hoochie Coochie Man - The Complete Chess Masters, Volume 2* (2CD 1952-1958) Hip-O-Select 0002758-02 (2004) 50 plus 51 tracks on the first and second (of three volumes) featuring the complete Chess Masters (including all R&B hits). Both are produced by Andy McKaie with liner notes by Mary Katherine Aldin. 16-page plus 42-page booklets.



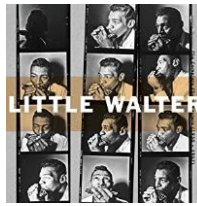
The Johnny Otis Rhythm & Blues Caravan - *The Complete Savoy Recordings* (3CD set 1949-1951) SavoyJazz/Atlantic 92859-2 (1999) 77 tracks (including five originally recorded for Excelsior in 1945, featuring "Harlem Nocturne" and "Midnight In The Barrelhouse" 1947). Produced by Orrin Keepnews. Programmed and annotated by Billy Vera, who also wrote the liner notes. 48-page booklet. Among the "guests": Jimmy Rushing, The Robins, Little Esther, Pete "Guitar" Lewis, Devonia Williams, Mel Walker, Marilyn Scott, and Linda Hopkins.



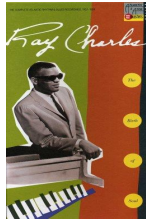
Roy Brown: *Good Rockin' Man - The Definitive Collection* (2CD 1947-1960) Fantastic Voyage (2011) 50 essential tracks selected by Neil Slaven featuring recordings for Gold Star, Deluxe, King, Imperial, and Home of the Blues - including all of his 16 R&B Hits ("Good Rocking Tonight" made it twice - so it is actually 17). 12-page booklet by Neil Slaven.



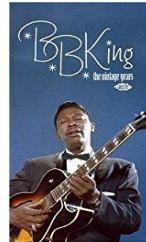
John Lee Hooker: *Hooker* (4CD box set 1948-1998) ShoutFactory! 826663-10198 (2006) 84 carefully selected tracks, produced by Shawn Amos and Patrick Milligan (with help from Zakiya Hooker and Eugene Skuratowics of the John Lee Hooker Estate). The box includes famous and not-so-famous (but classic) songs originally recorded for among other labels: Modern, King, Sensation, Regal, Staff, Chess, Fortune, DeLuxe, Specialty, Vee-Jay, Riverside, Guest Star, Atco, Savoy, Verve, Wand, Impulse, Polydor, Fontana, Bluesway, Liberty, ABC, Pausa, Chameleon, Pointblank, and Eagle. Includes all his R&B Hits. 60-page book with head notes by Ted Drozdowski. Reissued on Blue SPV 95940 (2011). "King of the Boogie", 5CD-set on Craft CR00015 (2017), is almost as interesting (100 tracks).



Little Walter: *The Complete Chess Masters* (5CD set 1950-1967) Hip-O-Select 126360-2 (2009) 126 tracks featuring all his recordings for Checker. A perfect record compiled and produced by Andy McKaie and Scott Dirks. 36-page booklet with liner notes by Tony Glover, Scott Dirks, and Ward Gaines.



Ray Charles: *The Birth of Soul - The Complete Atlantic Rhythm & Blues Recordings 1952-1959* (3CD box) Atlantic 782310-2 (1991) 53 tracks. Produced by Yves Beauvais, Kim Cooke, and Bob Porter. Liner notes by Robert Palmer. 32-page book. "The Classic Years", (3CD set ABC-Paramount 1960-1971) on Castle Communications ESBCD 144 (1991), covers the ABC hits.



B. B. King: *The Vintage Years* (4CD box 1950-1965) Ace ABOXCD 8 (2002) 96 tracks featuring R&B hits, favorite classics and several unfamiliar RPM, Crown, and Kent recordings. Carefully compiled and produced by John Broven (with extra contributions by Colin Escott, Peter Gibbon, and Roger Armstrong). 76-page book.



Antoine "Fats" Domino - *They Call Me The Fat Man - The Legendary Imperial Recordings* (4CD box 1949-1962) EMI/Capitol CDP7-06785-2 (1991) 100 of Fats' Imperial tracks, including most of the hits. Produced by Roy Furmanek. Compiled by Steve Kolanjan. Liner notes by Jeff Hannusch and Adam Block. Annotations by Jeff Seckler. Discography by Steve Kolanjan. 90-page book. Reissued as *Walking To New Orleans* on Capitol 37374 (2002). There is a great alternate, featuring 222 tracks: "Out of New Orleans" (8CD box 1949-1962) on Bear Family BCD 15541 (1993).



LaVern Baker: *The Complete Singles A's & B's 1949-62* (3CD) Acrobat ACTRCD9048 (2015) 71 tracks with recordings for RCA Victor, National, Columbia, Okeh, King, and of course mainly Atlantic. Liner notes and discography by Paul Watts. 24-page booklet.



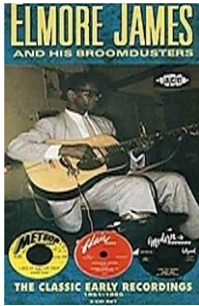
The Clovers: *The Feelin' Is Good* (2CD 1950-1959) Jasmine JASCD 576 (2011) 60 tracks featuring Atlantic, Poplar, and United Artists recordings (including the whole "The Clovers in Clover" Poplar LP). Producer and liner notes: Bob Fisher. 12-page inlay.



Sonny Boy Williamson: *The Chess Years* (4CD 1955-1964) Charly RED Box 1 (1991) 89 tracks on this now deleted perfect CD-set with (almost) all of his Checker recordings, compiled by Neil Slaven and Leslie Fancourt. 16-page booklet.



Howlin' Wolf: *Smokestack Lightning - The Complete Chess Masters 1951-1960* (4CD set) Hip-O Select 1530902 (2011) 97 chronological tracks (in the first of a 3-set series) produced by Andy McKaie with liner notes by Peter Guralnik and Dick Shurman. 46-page booklet.



Elmore James and his Broomdusters: *The Classic Early Recordings* (3CD set, the Modern years 1951-1956) *Ace ABOX 4* (1993) 71 tracks for Trumpet, Meteor, Flair, Modern, and Kent. Compiled and produced by Ray Topping. 32-page book. "King of the Slide Guitar", Charly (3CD Chief-Fire 1956-1963) SNAJ722CD (2004) has most of the later classics.

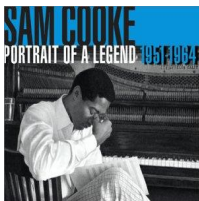


The Complete "5" Royales 1951-1967 - Soul & Swagger (5CD box) *Rock Beat 3101* (2014) 141 tracks with all their recordings - Apollo (including Royal Sons Quintet), King, and Home of the Blues (including Vee-Jay and ABC-Paramount). Produced by James Austin and Bill Dahl, who also both wrote the liner notes (with Steve Cropper and Tom McCollough - the latter also providing the discographical information). 124-page book.

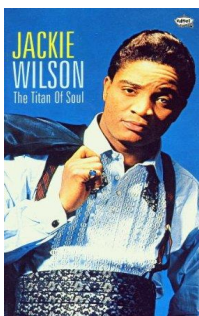
Nick Duckett's History of Soul Records three double-CDs (6CD box) with a total of 174 tracks (featuring several alternates) is actually as interesting as this one.



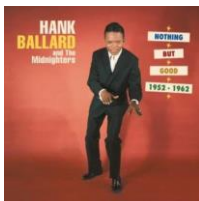
Little Richard: *The Specialty Sessions* (6CD box 1955-64) *Ace ABOX CD1* (1989) 139 tracks. The complete Specialty recordings including great alternates. Compilation and concept by Ray Topping. Liner notes by Ray Topping, Rob Finnis and Rick Coleman. Discographical consultant: Rick Coleman. Large 32-page book, with extra information on the discs. The CD-set is hard to find these days.



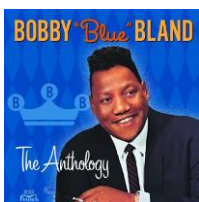
Sam Cooke: *Portrait of a Legend 1951-1964* (1CD) *ABKCO 9872418* (2003) A great "little" compilation of 30 tracks, including Specialty, Keen, and (mostly) RCA recordings - including his great hits. Concept: Lenne Allio. Produced by Jody H. Klein and Teri Landi. Liner notes by Peter Guralnik. 24-page booklet. This is probably the most interesting Cooke compilation. There are alternates with RCA recordings: "The Man Who Invented Soul" (4CD box 1957-1963) RCA 67911-2 (2000), and "The RCA Albums Collection" (8CD box 1960-1963) RCA 88697898702 (2011)



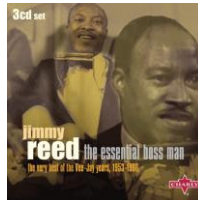
Jackie Wilson: *The Titan of Soul* (3CD set 1957-1975) *Edsel FBook 18* (1998) 66 great Brunswick tracks (including all his R&B and Pop Hits). Liner notes by John Lomax III (who probably also compiled and produced). 16-page book. Another interesting 3CD-set is "Mr. Excitement" on Rhino R2 70775 (1992), with similar chronic presentation.



Hank Ballard and The Midnighters: *Nothing But Good - The Federal/King Recordings 1952-1962* (5CD box) *Bear Family BCD 16795 EK* (2009) 150 recordings (including several by The Royals) with all Hank Ballard-led ones recorded up to and including 1962. Also includes the original "The Twist" for Vee-Jay. Produced by Richard Weise and a terrific discography by Bill Dahl and Weise. Liner notes by Bill Dahl. Large hard-bound 92-page book.



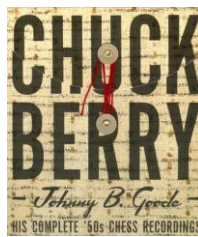
Bobby "Blue" Bland: *The Anthology* (2CD 1952-1982) *MCA 112596* (2001) 50 great tracks from Bobby's many Duke (mostly), ABC and MCA recordings, including his hits and other classics. Produced by Andy McKaie. Research by Geary Chansley. Liner notes by Bill Dahl. 16-page booklet.



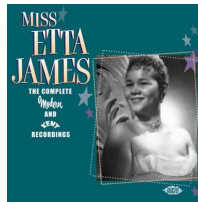
Jimmy Reed: *The Essential Boss Man* (3CD 1953-1966) *Charly SNAJ728CD* (2004) 75 tracks featuring Vee-Jay R&B hits and other classics, plus an Exodus recording. Compiled by Les Fancourt (who also wrote the liner notes). 24-page booklet.



The Drifters Box - Rockin' and Driftin' (3CD box 1953-1976) *Rhino R2 72417* (1996) 79 Atlantic tracks including the hits and classics (also featuring solo tracks by Clyde McPhatter - including Lover Please on Mercury - and Ben E. King on Atco), plus Bell/Arista recordings from the later Drifters. Produced by Billy Vera and James Austin. Liner notes by Billy Vera, Jerry Wexler and David Ritz, and by Randy Poe, Peter Grendysa, and Chris Beachley. 46-page book.



Chuck Berry: *Johnny B. Goode* - *His Complete '50s Chess Recordings* (4CD set 1955-1959) *Hip-O-Select 02517 40776* (2007) 103 tracks. Produced by Andy McKaie. Compiled by McKaie and Fred Rothwell. Liner notes by Rothwell. 24-page booklet. The first CD of a 3-set series.



Miss Etta James - The Complete Modern and Kent Recordings (2CD 1955-1961) *Ace CDCM2 1085* (2005) All 42 of Etta's masters and alternates for Modern and Kent. Compilation and liner notes by Tony Rounce. 16-page booklet.



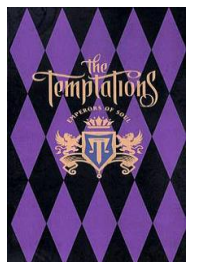
Bo Diddley: *I'm A Man* - *The Chess Masters 1955-1958* (2CD) *Hip-O-Select 923102* (2007) 48 Checker tracks. Produced by Andy McKaie. Detailed discography. The first CD of a 3-set series. Liner notes by Chris Morris. 16-page booklet.



The Coasters on Atco - *There's A Riot Goin' On* (4CD set 1954-1966) *Rhino RHM2 7740* (2007) 113 tracks. The complete recordings for Spark (The Robins) and Atco. Produced by James Ritz, with annotation and discography by James Ritz and Claus Röhnisch. 36-page booklet.



James Brown: *Star Time - The Definitive James Brown Collection* (4CD box 1956-1984) *Polydor 849108-2* (1991) 71 tracks. Hits and classics for Federal, King, Polydor, and People (with the great "Doing It To Death"). Produced by Harry Weinger, Cliff White, Oscar A. Young, and Bill Levenson. Associate producer: Alan M. Leeds. Liner notes by White, Weinger, Nelson George and Leeds. Discography by Cliff White. 68-page book. Reissued in 2004 and with different cover in 2007 (Polydor 0600753022498).



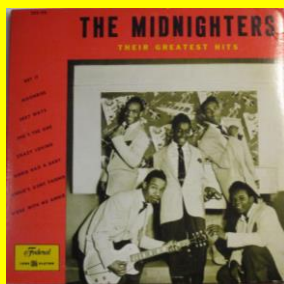
The Temptations: *Emperors of Soul* (5CD box 1961-1994) *Motown 30338* (1994) 110 tracks including The Distant of 1959 plus all their classics on Miracle, Gordy, and Motown. Produced by Harry Weinger. Liner notes by Nelson George and Weinger. 80-page book.

The R&B Pioneers' Very First Albums

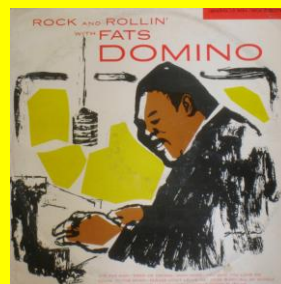
Presented in appr. chronological order of original album issue (Part 1). Chuck Berry had four hits issued on v.a. LP 1425 (before the 1426 album).
Midnighters' album titled "Sing their hits" on label.



Capitol H-370 (1953) 10inch



Federal 295-90 (1954) 10inch
reissued on Federal 541 in 1955 - more tracks



Imperial LP 9004 (March 1956)



Apollo LP 488 (1956)



Atlantic 1234 (July 1956)



Atlantic 1248 (1956)



Atlantic 8002 (Dec 1956)



Atlantic 8003 (1956)



Mercury MG-20242 (1957)



Specialty SR-100 (March 1957)



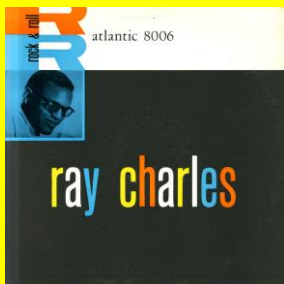
Crown CLP 5020 (June 1957)



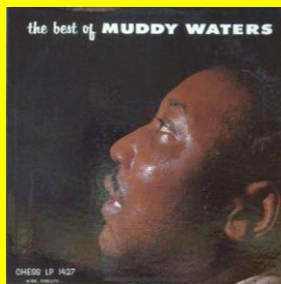
Chess LP 1426 (Oct 1957)



King 607 (1957)
(there was also vol 2, King 627)



Atlantic 8006 (1957)



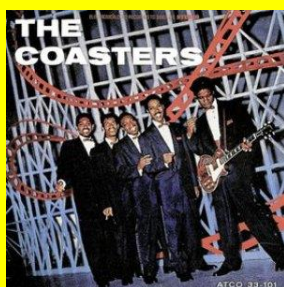
Chess LP 1427 (late 1957)

The R&B Pioneers' Very First Albums

Presented in appr. chronological order of original album issue (Part 2)



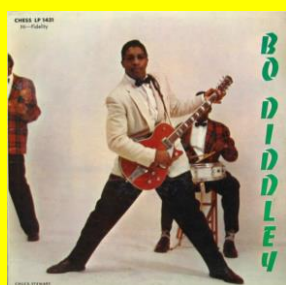
Chess LP 1428 (Oct 1957)



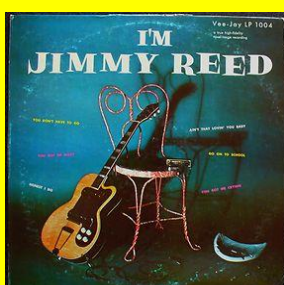
Atco 33-101 (Nov 1957)



Dig LP-104 (1957)



Chess LP 1431 (early 1958)



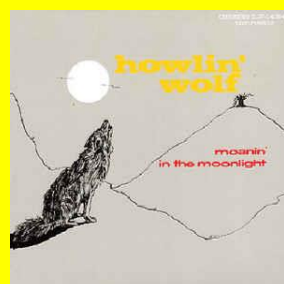
Vee-Jay LP 1004 (1958)



Keen A 2001 (Febr 1958)



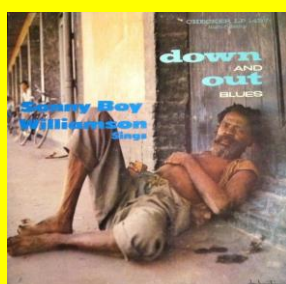
Brunswick BL 54042 (March 1958)



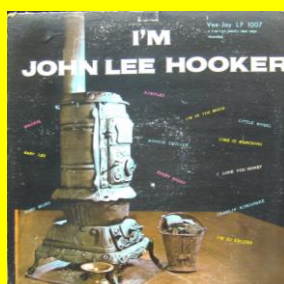
Chess LP 1434 (1958)



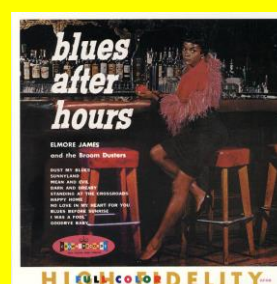
King 610 (Jan 1959)



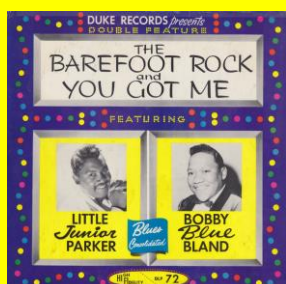
Checker LP 1437 (early 1959)



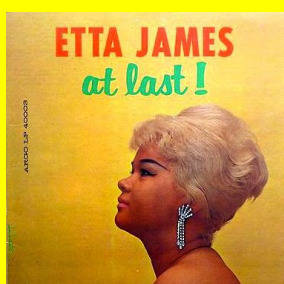
Vee-Jay LP 1007 (Aug 1959)



Crown CLP 5168 (1960)



Duke DLP 72 (1961)



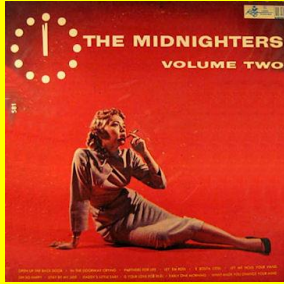
Argo LP 40003 (1961)



Gordy G 911 (1964)

The Second Albums of the R&B Pioneers

Presented in appr. chronological order of original album issue (Part 1).



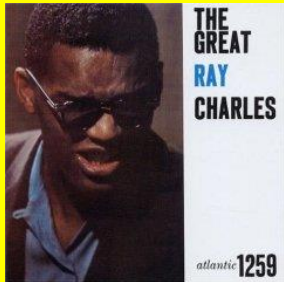
Federal 581 (1956)



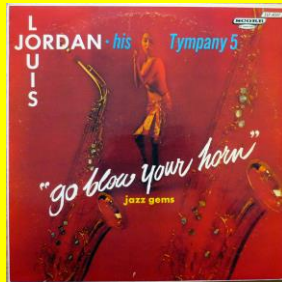
Imperial LP 9009 (Aug 1956)



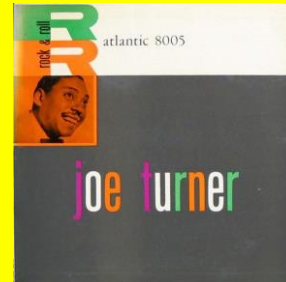
Atlantic 8007 (1957)



Atlantic 1259 (August 1957)



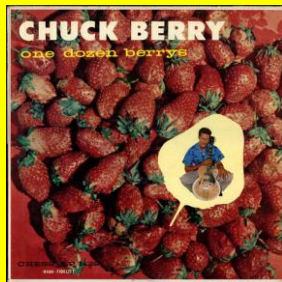
Score SLP-4007 (1957)



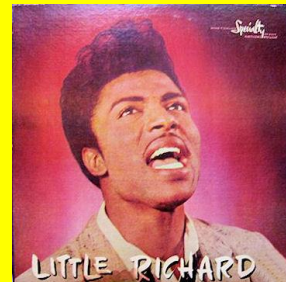
Atlantic 8005 (1957)



King 580 (1957)



Chess LP 1432 (April 1958)



Specialty SP 2103 (April 1958)



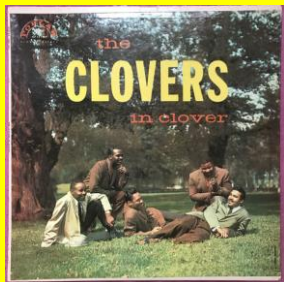
Atlantic 8022 (1958)



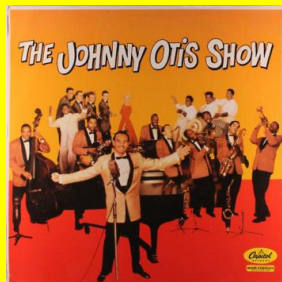
Crown CLP 5063 (June 1958)



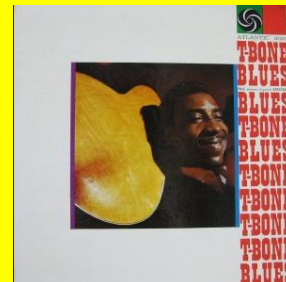
Keen A 2003 (Nov 1958)



Poplar PLP 1001 (1958)



Capitol T 940 (1958)



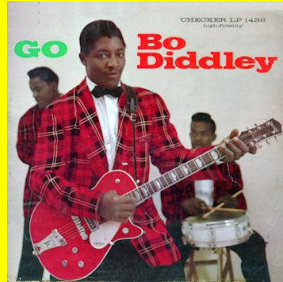
Atlantic 8020 (1959)

The Second Albums of the R&B Pioneers

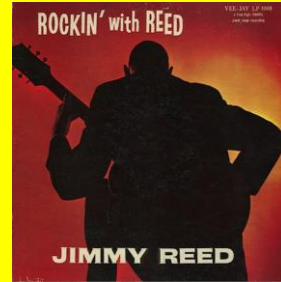
Presented in appr. chronological order of original album issue (Part 2)



Brunswick BL 54045 (Febr 1959)



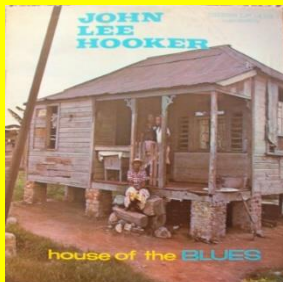
Checker LP 1436 (July 1959)



Vee-Jay LP 1008 (Sept 1959)



Atco 33-111 (Oct 1959)



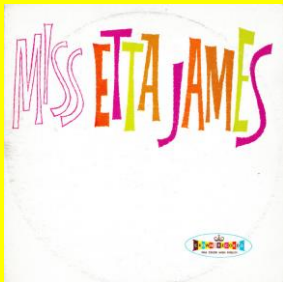
Chess LP 1438 (Oct 1959)



King 635 (late 1959)



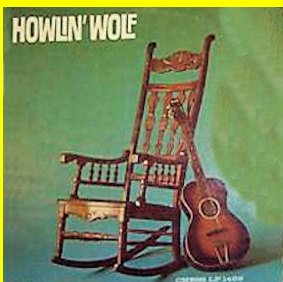
Chess LP 1444 (early 1960)



Crown CLP 5209 (1961)



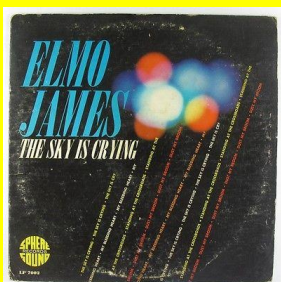
Duke DLP 74 (1961)



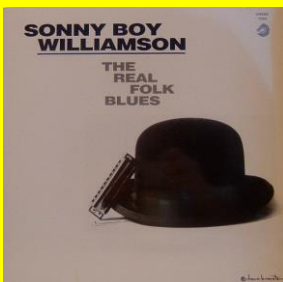
Chess LP 1469 (1962)



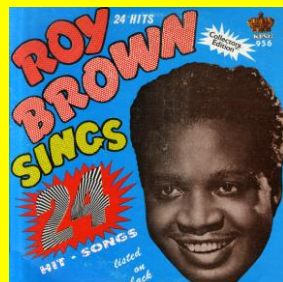
Gordy G 912 (March 1965)



SphereSound LP 7002 (1965)



Chess LP 1503 (1965)



King 956 (1966)



Chess LP 1535 (1969)

Top 30 Favorite Artists' Most Classic Ones: Presented Chronological

1945 - 1951



Louis Jordan And His Tympany Five: Caldonia (F. Moore, who was Jordan's wife) – Decca 8670 A (NYC January 19, 1945) R&B#1 (7w) May 1945
Jordan, vcl/alto sax; Leonard Graham, tp; Freddie Simon, ts; William Austin, p; Al Morgan, b; Alex Mitchell, d. Producer: Milt Gabler (BAP 66)

T-Bone Walker and His Guitar: Call It Stormy Monday But Tuesday Is Just As Bad (Walker) – Black & White 122 B (LA September 13, 1947) R&B#5 January 1948
Walker, vcl/guitar; Teddy Buckner, tp; Bumps Myers, ts; Lloyd Glenn, p; Arthur Edwards, b; Oscar Lee Bradley, d. Producer: Ralph Bass

Johnny Otis Quintette, Vocals By The Robins and Little Esther: Double Crossing Blues (Johnny Otis; later also Jessie Mae Robinson)
– Savoy 731-A (LA December 1, 1949) R&B#1 (9w) February 1950

Otis, vibes; Devonia Williams, p; Pete Lewis, g; Mario Delagarde, b; Leard Bell, d;
The Robins, vcls (Bobby Nunn, bass vcl; Terrell Leonard, Billy Richard, Roy Richard); Little Esther (Jones), lead vcl. Producer: Ralph Bass (BAP 83)

Roy Brown And His Mighty-Mighty Men: Hard Luck Blues (Roy Brown) – DeLuxe 3303-AA (Cincinnati, Ohio April 19, 1950) R&B#1 (3w) June 1950 (BAP 182)
Brown, vcl; Wilbur Harden, tp; Jimmy Griffin, tb; Johnny Fontenette, ts; Harry Porter, bs; Edward Griffin, p; Willie Gaddie, g; Ike Isaacs, b; Calvin Shields, d. Prod: poss Henry Glover

The Clovers with Rhythm Accompaniment: One Mint Julep (Toombs) – Atlantic 963 (NYC October 26, 1951) R&B#2 (2w) April 1952

The Clovers, vcls (John "Buddy" Bailey, lead; Matthew McQuater, Harold Lucas, Harold Winley, Bill Harris, g); Willis Jackson, ts; Harry Van Walls, p; unknown, b; Connie Kaye, d.
Producers: Herb Abramson & Ahmet Ertegun (BAP 156)

1952 - 1954



Little Walter and his Night Cats: Juke (Little Walter) – Checker 758 (Chicago May 12, 1952) R&B#1 (8w) September 1952
Walter, harmonica; Muddy Waters and Jimmy Rogers, gtrs; Elga Edmonds, d. Producer: Leonard Chess and poss Willie Dixon (BAP 188)

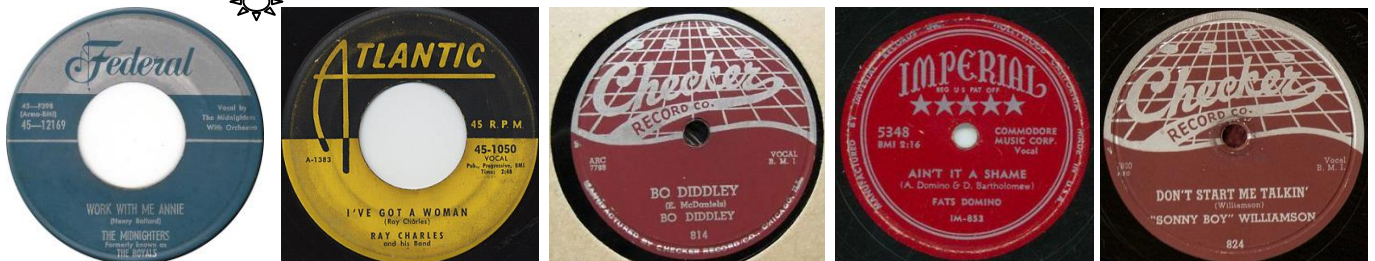
The "5" Royales with Charlie Ferguson, His Tenor and Orchestra: Baby Don't Do It (Lowman Pauling) – Apollo 443 (NYC October 30, 1952)
R&B#1 (3w) January 1953 The "5" Royales, vcls (Johnny Tanner, lead; Jimmy Moore, Otto Jeffries, Obadiah Carter, Lowman Pauling, g);
Charlie Ferguson, ts; poss George Rhodes, p; Peck Morrison, b; Herb Lovelle, d. Producers: Carl LeBow and prob Bess Besman (BAP 203)

Joe Turner and his Band: Honey Hush (Brown; later Lou Wille Turner) – Atlantic 1001 (NO May 12, 1953) R&B#1 (8w) September 1953
Joe Turner, vcl; Frank Mitchell and Tommy Sheldon, tps; Pluma Davis, tb; Auguste Dupont, as; Warren Hebrand, ts; Kathy Thomas (or poss James Tolliver), p;
Edgar Blanchard, g; John Fernandez, b; Alonzo Stewart, d. Producer: Joe Turner (BAP 138)

Clyde McPhatter and The Drifters: Money Honey (J. Stone) – Atlantic 1006 (NYC August 9, 1953) R&B#1 (11w) October 1953
The Drifters, vcls (Clyde McPhatter, lead; Gerhart Thrasher, Andrew Thrasher, Bill Pinkney, Willie Ferbie, Walter Adams, g);
Sam Taylor, ts; prob Jesse Stone or poss Harry Van Walls, p; Mickey Baker, g; unknown b and d. Producers: Ahmet Ertegun & Jerry Wexler; arranger: Jesse Stone (BAP 85)

Muddy Waters and his Guitar: I'm Your Hoochie Cooche Man (M. Waters; later Willie Dixon) – Chess 1560 (Chicago January 7, 1954) R&B#3 (1w) March 1954
Muddy Waters, vcl/gtr; Little Walter, hca; Otis Spann, p; Jimmy Rogers, g; Willie Dixon, poss b; Elga Edmonds or poss Fred Below, d. Producers: Leonard Chess & Willie Dixon

1954 - 1955



The Midnights, Formerly known as The Royals: Work With Me Annie (Henry Ballard) – Federal 12169 (Cincinnati, Ohio January 14, 1954) R&B#1 (7w) April 1954
The Midnights, vcls (Hank Ballard, lead; Charles Sutton, Henry Booth, Sonny Woods, prob Alonzo Tucker, g or b);
Robert Darby, ts; Sonny Thompson, p; Arthur Porter, g or b; Robert Boswell, d. Producers: Ralph Bass and poss Henry Glover (BAP 71)

Ray Charles and his Band - I've Got A Woman (Ray Charles; later also Renald Richard) – Atlantic 1050 (Atlanta, Georgia November 18, 1954) R&B#1 (1w) January 1955
Charles, vcl/piano; Joe Bridgewater and Charles Whitley, tps; Don Wilkerson, ts; David "Fathead" Newman, bs; Wesley Jackson, g; Jimmy Bell, b; Glenn Brooks, d.
Producers: Ahmet Ertegun and Jerry Wexler with prob Ray Charles & Renald Richard (BAP 81)

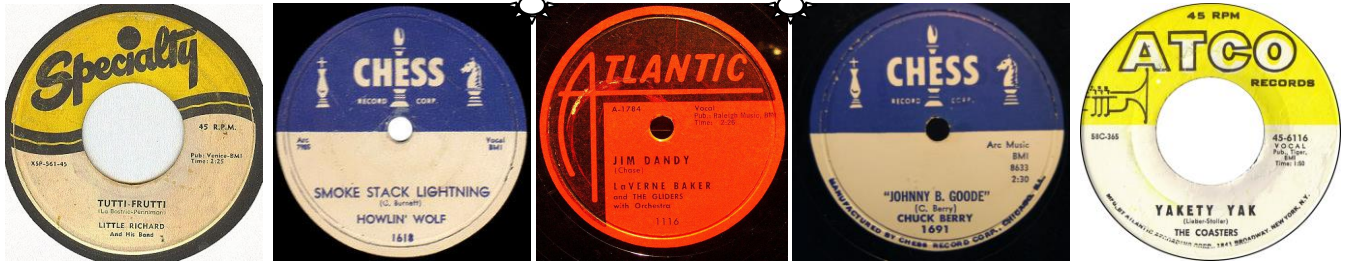
Bo Diddley: Bo Diddley (E. McDaniels) – Checker 814 (Chicago March 2/3, 1955) R&B#1 (2w) May 1955
Bo Diddley, vcl/guitar; Clifton James, d; Jerome Green, mrcs. Producer: Prob Leonard Chess and poss Willie Dixon (BAP 154)

Fats Domino: Ain't It A Shame (A. Domino & D. Bartholomew) – Imperial 5348 (note: Los Angeles March 15, 1955) R&B#1 (11w) May 1955 (BAP 5)
Domino, vcl/piano; Buddy Hagan, Samuel Lee and Herb Hardesty, tss; Walter Nelson, g; Frank Fields, b; Cornelius Coleman, d. Producers: Lew Chudd & Dave Bartholomew

"Sonny Boy" Williamson: Don't Start Me Talkin' (Williamson) – Checker 824 (Chicago August 12, 1955) R&B#3 (1w) October 1955
Sonny Boy, vcl/harmonica; Otis Spann, p; Muddy Waters and Jody Williams (or poss Jimmy Rogers), gs; Willie Dixon, b; Fred Below, d.
Producers: Leonard Chess and prob Willie Dixon

Top 30 Favorite Artists' Most Classic Ones (pt 2): Presented Chronological

1955 - 1958



Little Richard And His Band: Tutti-Frutti (*LaBostrie - Penniman; later also Joe Rubin*) - Specialty XSP-561 (NO September 14, 1955) R&B#2 (6w) November 1955
Little Richard, vcl/piano; Lee Allen,ts; Alvin "Red" Tyler,bs; Justin Adams,g; Frank Fields,b; Earl Palmer,d. Producer: Bumps Blackwell (BAP 46)

Howlin' Wolf: Smoke Stack Lightning (*C. Burnett*) - Chess 1618 (Chicago January 1956) R&B#8 March 1956

Wolf, vcl/harmonica; Hosea Lee Kennard,p; Willie Johnson and Hubert Sumlin,gs; Willie Dixon,b; Earl Phillips,d. Producers: Leonard Chess and prob Willie Dixon

LaVerne Baker and The Gliders with Orchestra: Jim Dandy (*Chase*) - Atlantic 1116 (NYC December 21, 1955) R&B#1 (1w) December 1956 (a year after recording)
LaVerne Baker, vcl; Sam Taylor,ts; Dave McRae,poss bs; poss Ernie Hayes,p; poss Mickey Baker,g, Lloyd Trotman,b; unknown d;

The Gliders,vcls (Edward Barnes, Abel de la Costa, Oliver Jones, Robie "Winfield Scott" Kirk, Jimmie Breedlove). Producers: Jerry Wexler and Ahmet Ertegun (BAP 77)

Chuck Berry: Johnny B. Goode (*C. Berry*) - Chess 1691 (Chicago poss December 30, 1957 or prob January 6, 1958) R&B#2 (3w) May 1958

Berry, vcl/guitar plus extra overdubbed gtr; Lafayette Leake, (or poss Johnnie Johnson),p; Willie Dixon,b; Fred Below,d. Producer: Leonard Chess (BAP 115)

The Coasters: Yakety Yak (*Leiber - Stoller*) - Atco 6116 (NYC March 17, 1958) R&B#1 (7w) June 1958

The Coasters, vcls (Carl Gardner and Billy Guy, dual leads; Cornell Gunter, Will "Dub" Jones, Adolph Jacobs,g); King Curtis,ts; Mike Stoller,p; Clifton "Skeeter" Best,bjo; Alan Hanlon,g; Lloyd Trotman or Wendell Marshall,b; Joe Marshall,d; Francisco Pozo,cga. Producers: Jerry Leiber & Mike Stoller (BAP 9)

1958 - 1960



Jackie Wilson with chorus and orchestra conducted by Dick Jacobs: Lonely Teardrops (*Berry Gordy Jr - Tyron Carlo; later also Gwendolyn Gordy*) - Brunswick 9-56105 (NYC October 5, 1958) R&B#1 (7w) November 1958 Wilson, vcl; with unknown orchestration including Dave Hamilton,g. Producers: Nat Tarnopol and Dick Jacobs (BAP 10)

B. B. King and His Orchestra: Sweet Sixteen Pt. 1 & Pt. 2 (*King - Josea; later Ertegun*) - Kent 330 (LA October 26, 1959) R&B#2 (1w) January 1960
King, vcl/guitar; with either Maxwell Davis and his studio orchestra or King's road band, which included Kenneth Sands and Henry Boozier,tps; Pluma Davis,tb; Lawrence Burdine,as; Johnny Board, ts; Barney Hubert,bs; Millard Lee,p; Marshall York,b; Sonny Freeman,d. Producer: prob Joe Bihari and poss Maxwell Davis

Elmo James And His Broomdusters: The Sky Is Crying (*E. James*) - Fire 1016 (Chicago poss November 3/4, 1959) R&B#15 May 1960

Elmore James, vcl/guitar; J.T. Brown and poss Boyd Atkins,ts; Johnny Jones,p; Homesick James,b; Odie Payne or Sam Myers,d. Producer: Bobby Robinson

Etta James: I Just Want to Make Love to You (*W. Dixon*) - Argo 5380 (Chicago May 1960) -flip of the "At Last" hit R&B#2 (1w) January 1961

Etta James, vcl; Riley Hampton's orchestra featuring ts, bs, p, g, b, d, strings. Producer: Ralph Bass (and poss Willie Dixon)

Bobby Bland: I Pity the Fool (*D. Malone, that's Don Robey*) - Duke 332 (Houston, Texas 1960) R&B#1 (1w) February 1961

Bland, vcl; Joe Scott and Melvin Lastie,tps; Pluma Davis,tb; Jimmy Beck,as/ts; Rayfield Devers,bs; Teddy Reynolds,p; Wayne Bennett,g; Hamp Simmons,b; Jabo Starks,d
Producers: Don Robey and Joe Scott

1961 - 1965



Jimmy Reed: Big Boss Man (*Al Smith - Luther Dixon*) - Vee&Jay 380 (Chicago March 29, 1960) R&B#13 May 1961 (a year after recording)

Reed, vcl/guitar/harmonica; Mary Lee "Mama" Reed,vcl support; Lee Baker and Lefty Bates,gs; Lonnie Brooks (or poss Willie Dixon),b; Earl Phillips,d. Producer: Al Smith

John Lee Hooker: Boom Boom (*J. Hooker*) - Vee&Jay 438 (Chicago November 1961) R&B#16 (1w) June 1962

Hooker, vcl/guitar; Hank Cosby,ts; Andrew "Mike" Terry,bs; Joe (Edward) Hunter,p; Larry Veeder,g; James Jamerson,b; Benny Benjamin,d. Producer: prob Calvin Carter

Sam Cooke, Orchestra conducted by Rene Hall: Bring It On Home to Me (*Sam Cooke*) - RCA Victor 8036 (LA April 26, 1962) R&B#2 (4w) June 1962

Cooke, vcl; Lou Rawls, second vcl; William E. Green,sax; Ernie Freeman,p; Clifton "Clif" White and Tom Tedesco,gs; Ray Pohlman,b; Frank Capp and Julius Wechler,d; violins, viola, and cellos. Producers: Hugo & Luigi (based on "I Want To Go Home" written and recorded by Charles Brown and Amos Milburn in 1959)

The Temptations: My Girl (*Robinson & White*) - Gordy 7038 (Detroit November 17, 1964) R&B#1 (8w) January 1965.

The Temptations, vcls (David Ruffin,lead; Otis Williams, Eddie Kendricks, Paul Williams, Melvin Franklin) with unknown accompaniment (poss including Cornelius Grant,g); arranged by David Riser. Producers: Smokey Robinson & Ron White

James Brown And The Famous Flames: Papa's Got A Brand New Bag Part I and Part II (*James Brown*) - King 5999 (Charlotte, North Carolina February 1965)

R&B#1 (8w) July 1965 Brown, vcl; Ron Tootley, Joe Dupars and Levi Rasbury,tps; poss unidentified,tb; Nat Jones,as; St. Clair Pinkney, Eldee Williams and Al "Brisco" Clark,tss; Maceo Parker,ts/bs; Jimmy Nolen,g; Sam Thomas,b; Melvin Parker,d (The Flames not present, and no piano). Producer: James Brown

General note: Month and year given after R&B Hit Ranking indicates the month the record first entered the national R&B Charts. Composer credits as on the original single. Producers not always confirmed.

The R&B Pioneers' Very First Singles (Part 1)

Presented in order of recording date – debuts under their own "tags". Several of the artists debuted much earlier with bands, vocal groups or under other names, marked +, in lesser degree (+). rc = recording debut.



+ N.Y. Dec 20, 1938
rc w The Jungle Band for Brunswick in 1929



N.Y. Dec 30, 1938
rc at Carnegie Hall Dec 23, 1938 "It's All Right Baby"



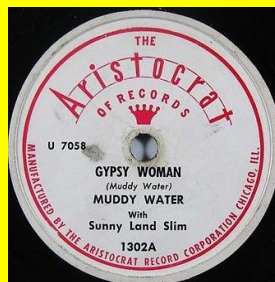
+ L.A. July 20, 1942
rc Dallas Dec 5, 1929 as Oak Cliff T-Bone



(+) L.A. Sept 13, 1945
rc L.A. July 1945 with Wynonie Harris



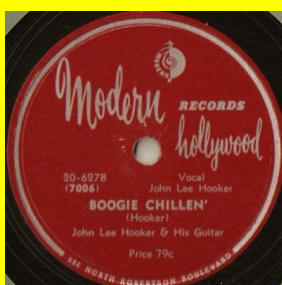
Houston early 1947



+ Chicago late 1947
rc Stovall, Ms Aug 1941 "Country Blues"



Chicago late 1947



Detroit Sept 3, 1948
rc Detroit June 12, 1948



Memphis late 1949



N.O. Dec 10, 1949



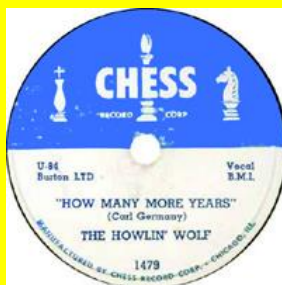
+ L.A. early 1950
rc Seattle Nov 1948 for DownBeat w The Maxin Trio



N.Y. 1950 (45 reissue here)



Jackson, Ms Jan 4 (March 12) 1951



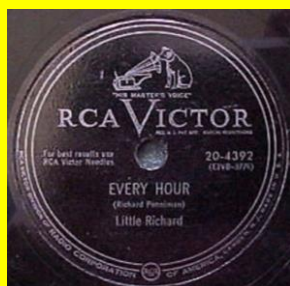
Memphis July 1951
rc May 14, 1951 "Baby Ride With Me"



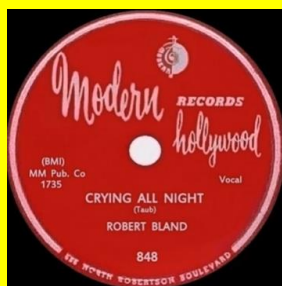
Jackson, Ms Aug 1951

The R&B Pioneers' Very First Singles (Part 2)

Presented in order of recording date – debuts under their own "tags". Several of the artists debuted much earlier with bands, vocal groups or under other names marked +, in lesser degree (+). rc = recording debut.



Atlanta, Ga Oct 16, 1951



Memphis ca Nov 1951
rc Memphis October 16, 1951



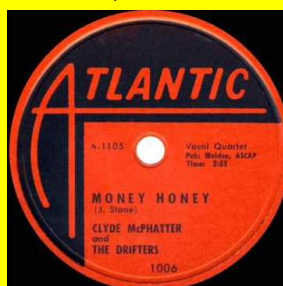
+ N.Y. Aug 5, 1952
rc Winston-Salem, NC August 1951
as The Royal Sons Quintet



Chicago June 6, 1953
rc w John Brim and Eddie Taylor for Parrot 1953



+ N.Y. June 19, 1953
rc as Little Miss Sharecropper w Eddie Penigar
Chicago Febr 25, 1949 "Easy Baby" for RCA



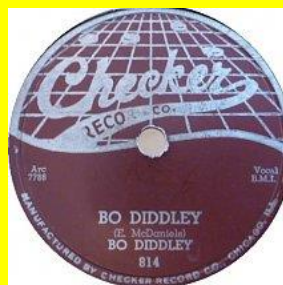
(+) N.Y. Aug 9, 1953
Clyde McPhatter rc w The Dominoes, N.Y.,
Nov 14, 1950 for Federal "Do Something For Me"



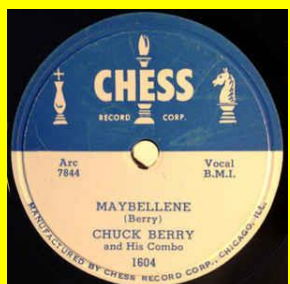
+ Cincinnati Jan 14, 1954
Hank Ballard rc w The Royals May 10, 1952



L.A. Nov 25, 1954



Chicago March 2, 1955



(+) Chicago May 21, 1955
rc St. Louis Aug 13, 1954 w The Cubans for Balla



(+) L.A. Jan 11, 1956
Carl Gardner rc with The Robins for Spark
in L.A. early 1954 "If Teardrops Were Kisses"



Cincinnati Febr 4, 1956



+ L.A. June 1, 1957
rc L.A. March 1, 1951 w The Soul Stirrers
"Jesus Gave Me Water"; first secular N.O., Dec 12,
1956 "Lovable" as Dale Cook, both for Specialty



+ N.Y. July 12, 1957
rc Detroit 1952 as Sonny Wilson for DeeDee
"Danny Boy" c/w "Rainy Day Blues"



Detroit July 1961
Otis Williams rc w The Distant 1959
"Come On" for Northern


The R&B Pioneers Series

The presentations herein (and in the whole series) are continuously updated by Claus Röhnisch.

The CDs here are "handpicked" from regular U.S. and Europe releases (some may be hard to get today); and from European "public domain" releases (up to and including 1962 recordings).

Bio and disco data is checked both once and twice, and the single records imaged are selected from the most popular and classic ones. Several of the singles images are later repressings (although mostly keeping true to original label credits).

Five "extra special" top favorite classic singles (see pages 42-43 for 30 favorites)

- the chronological placings of the alternates are marked  on those pages.
The BAP rankings of the 1940's/1950's indicate the rankings in Big Al Pavlows' "The R&B Book".



Joe Turner and his Blues Kings: Shake, Rattle And Roll (*Calhoun, that's Jesse Stone*) – Atlantic 1026 (NYC February 15, 1954) R&B #1 (3w) May 1954
Turner, vcl; unknown tp; Wilbur DeParis,tb; Sam Taylor,ts; Haywood Henry,bs; Harry "Van" Walls,p; Mickey Baker,g; Lloyd Trotman,b; Connie Kay,d; Jesse Stone, Ahmet Ertegun and Jerry Wexler,backing vcIs. Producers: Ertegun, Wexler, Stone (BAP 146)

Fats Domino: Blueberry Hill (*Lewis, Stock & Rose*) – Imperial 5407 (note: Los Angeles June 21, 1956) R&B #1 (11w) October 1956
Domino, vcl/piano; Wendell Duconge,as; Buddy Hagans and Eddie Silvers,tss; Walter Nelson,g; Lawrence Guyton,b; Cornelius Coleman,d. Producers: Lew Chudd and prob Dave Bartholomew (BAP 4)

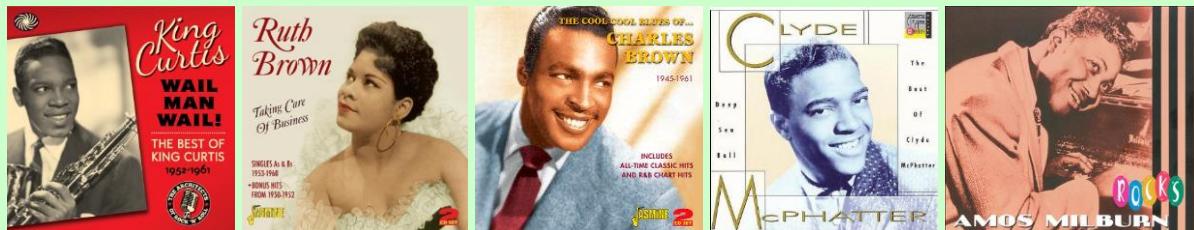
The Coasters: Searchin' (*Leiber-Stoller*) – Atco 6087 (Los Angeles February 15, 1957) R&B #1 (12w, plus 1w for flip "Young Blood") May 1957
The Coasters, vcIs (Billy Guy,lead; Carl Gardner, Bobby Nunn; and Young Jessie – subbing for Leon Hughes; plus Adolph Jacobs,gtr); Mike Stoller,pno; Barney Kessel,gtr; Ralph Hamilton,b; Jessie Salles,d; Joe Oliveria,perc; and poss Chico Guerrero,cga. Producers: Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller (BAP 1)

The Drifters: There Goes My Baby (*Nelson-Patterson-Treadwell, later also Leiber-Stoller*) – Atlantic 2025 (NYC March 6, 1959) R&B #1 (1w) July 1959
The Drifters, vcIs (Ben E. King-Nelson, lead; Charlie Thomas, Dock Green, Elsbeary Hobbs, Reggie Kimber,g); with strings prob arranged and conducted by Stan Applebaum and unknown rhythm accomp. Producers: Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller (BAP 35)

Ray Charles And His Orchestra: What'd I Say Part I and Part II (*Ray Charles*) – Atlantic 2031 (NYC February 18, 1959) R&B #1 (1w) July 1959
Charles, vcl/elpiano; Marcus Belgrave and poss John Hunt,tps; David "Fathead" Newman, as/ts; Hank Crawford,bs; Edgar Willis,b; Milton Turner,d; The Raylettes (later known as The Raelettes),vcIs (Margie Hendrix, Priscilla "Pat" Moseley Lyles and Ethel "Dariene" McCrea and poss Gwendolyn Berry, Mae Mosely-Lyles or Ruby Roberson). Producers: Jerry Wexler and Ahmet Ertegun (BAP 18)

?

Do you want to insert your own favorite
or choose from these:



Wail Man Wail! / The Best of King Curtis 1952-1961 (featuring one CD of his recordings of his own, plus two great ones as a "side-man")
- Fantastic Voyage (3CD) FVTD1088 (September 2012). Liner notes by Dave Penny.

Ruth Brown: Taking Care Of Business / Singles As and Bs 1953-1960 plus bonus hits from 1950-1952 – Jasmine (2CD) JASMCD 3022-3 (October 2011).

The Cool Cool Sounds of **Charles Brown** / All-Time Classic Hits and R&B Chart Hits 1945-1961 – Jasmine (2CD) JASM CD3030-1 (June 2012).

Deep See Ball / The Best of **Clyde McPhatter** (featuring Clyde's solo hits 1955-1959) - Atlantic (1CD) 92314-2 (1991). Produced by Yves Beauvais.

Amos Milburn Rocks – Bear Family (1CD) BCD 16926 AR (2009). Produced by Bill Millar. Liner notes by Bill Dahl.

Discography by Michael Cuscona, Steve Lavere, and Michel Ruppli.

The R&B Pioneers Series: Top 30 Favorites

The History of Rhythm & Blues ...

“from Roy Brown to James Brown”

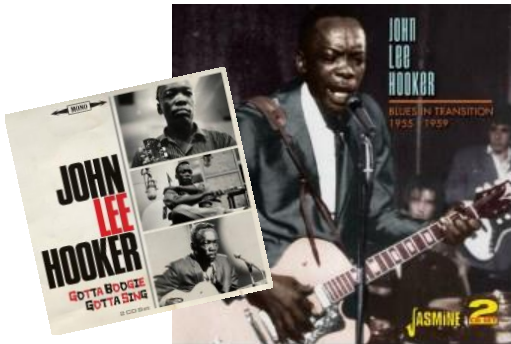
part two:

.... with basic bios and classic singles.

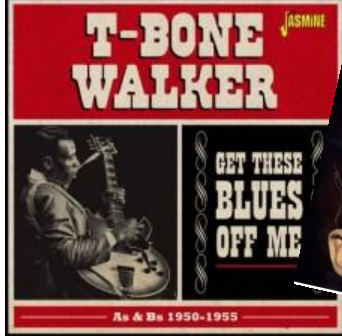
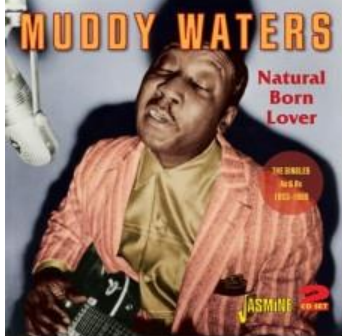
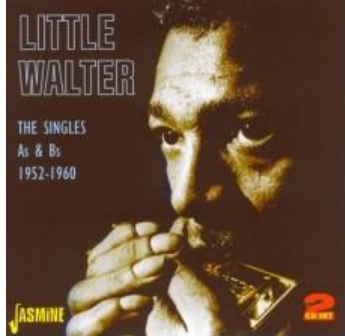
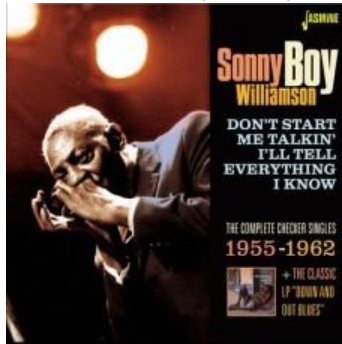
Note: Most birth and death data ctsy Bob Eagle and Eric LeBlanc



The Best of Jasmine Records [http:// www.jasmine-records.co.uk/store/](http://www.jasmine-records.co.uk/store/)



2CD JASMCD 3084 (48-54), 2CD JASCD 562 (55-59), 1CD JASMCD 3049 (55-62), 1CD JASCD 521 (55-59), 1CD JASCD 791 (57-62)

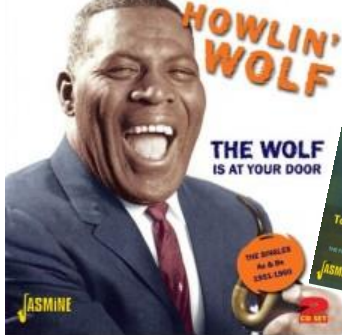


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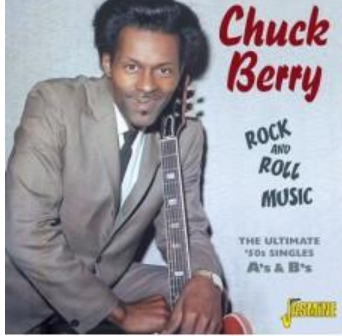
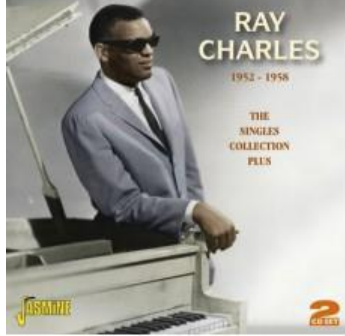


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2CD JASCD 506 (52-58), 1CD JASCD 519 (55-59), 1CD JASCD 509 (53-58), 1CD JASCD 924 (60-62)

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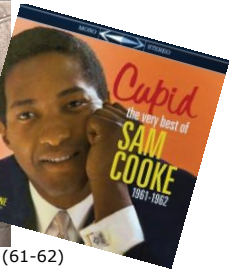
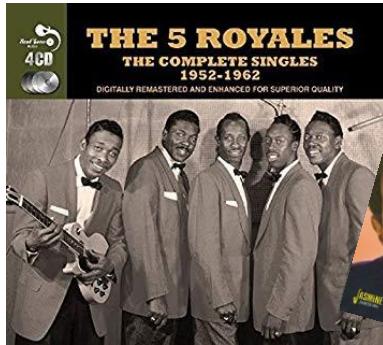
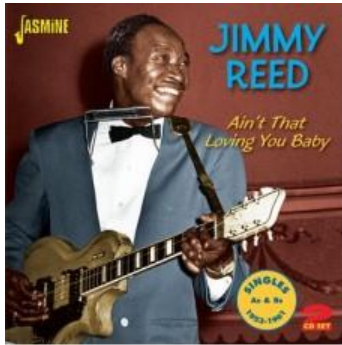


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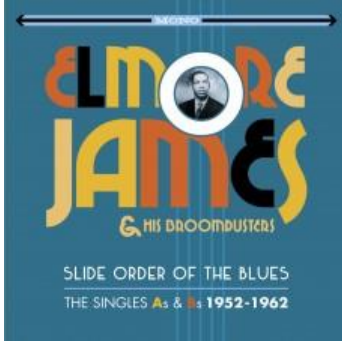
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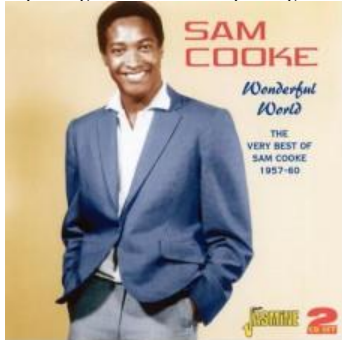
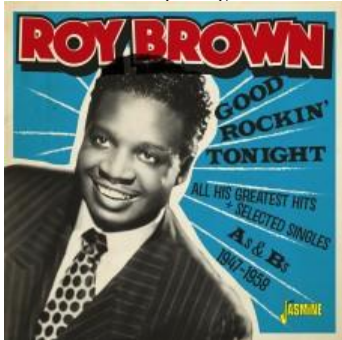
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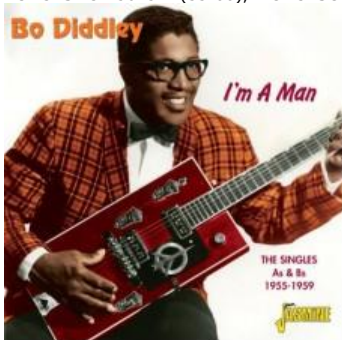
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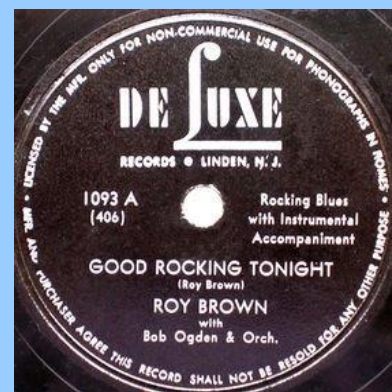
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Compiler: Bob Fisher

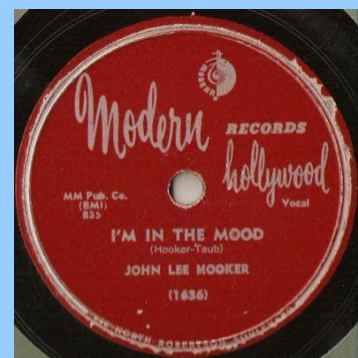
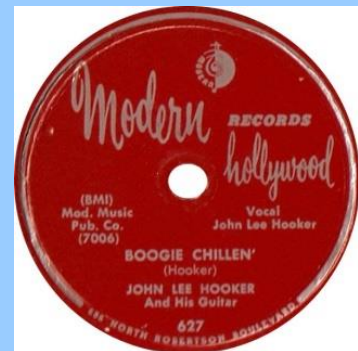
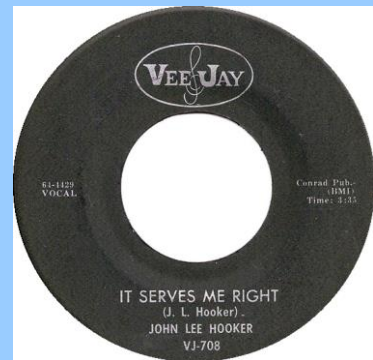
Roy Brown



*Kinder (near New Orleans), Louisiana 1920 (moved to Houston, Texas – aged 14)

±Los Angeles, California 1981

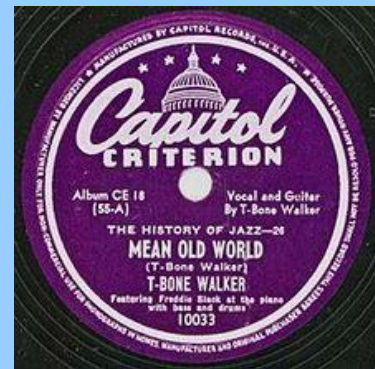
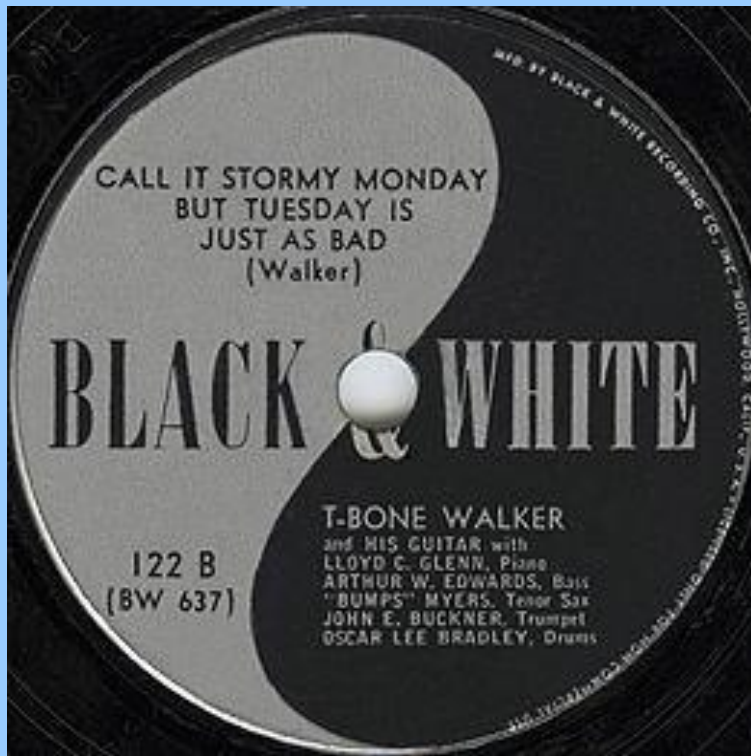
John Lee Hooker



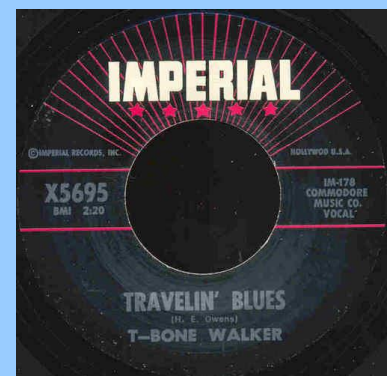
*Tutwiler, near Clarksdale, Mississippi 1912 (or poss 1917)

±Los Altos, California 2001

T-Bone Walker

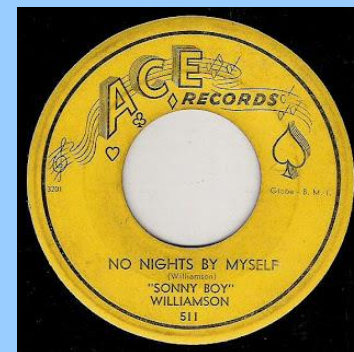
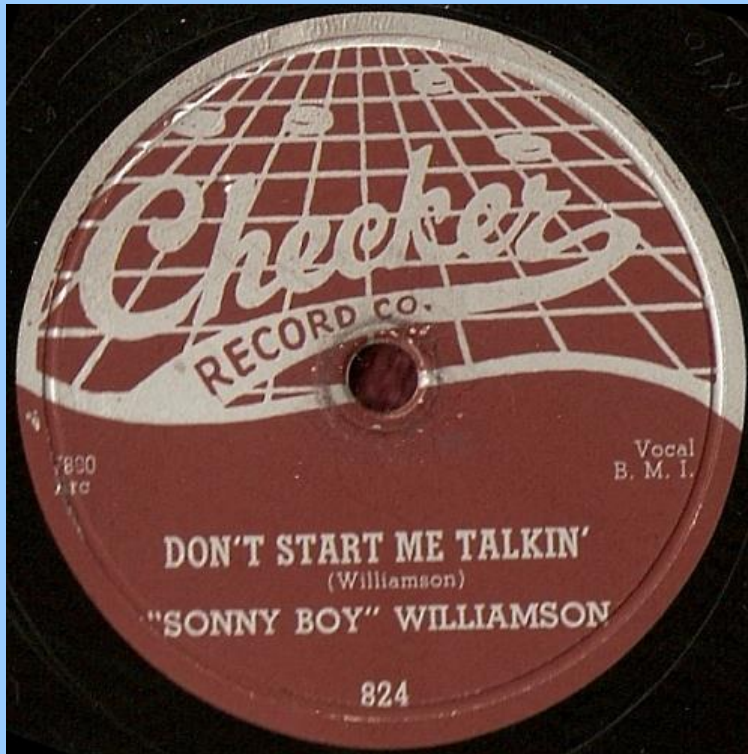


*Linden, Texas 1910



±Los Angeles, California 1975

"Sonny Boy" Williamson



*Money, between Glendora and Greenwood Mississippi 1912

±Helena, Arkansas 1965

B.B. King



* Bear Creek, Berclair, near Itta Bena, Mississippi 1925 (raised in Indianola, Miss)

±Las Vegas, Nevada 2015

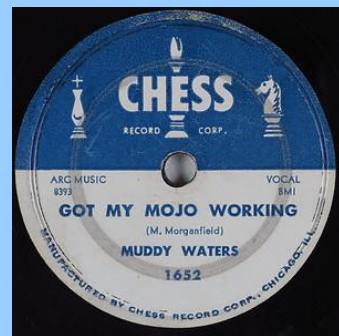
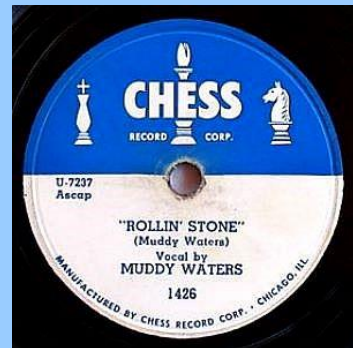
Little Walter



*Marksville, Louisiana 1930 (raised in Alexandria, Louisiana)

±Chicago, Illinois 1968

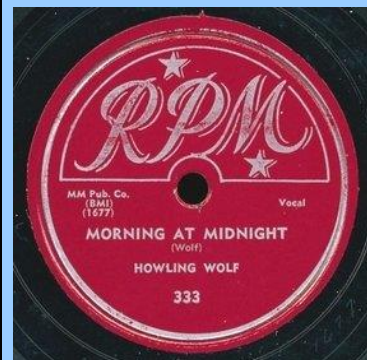
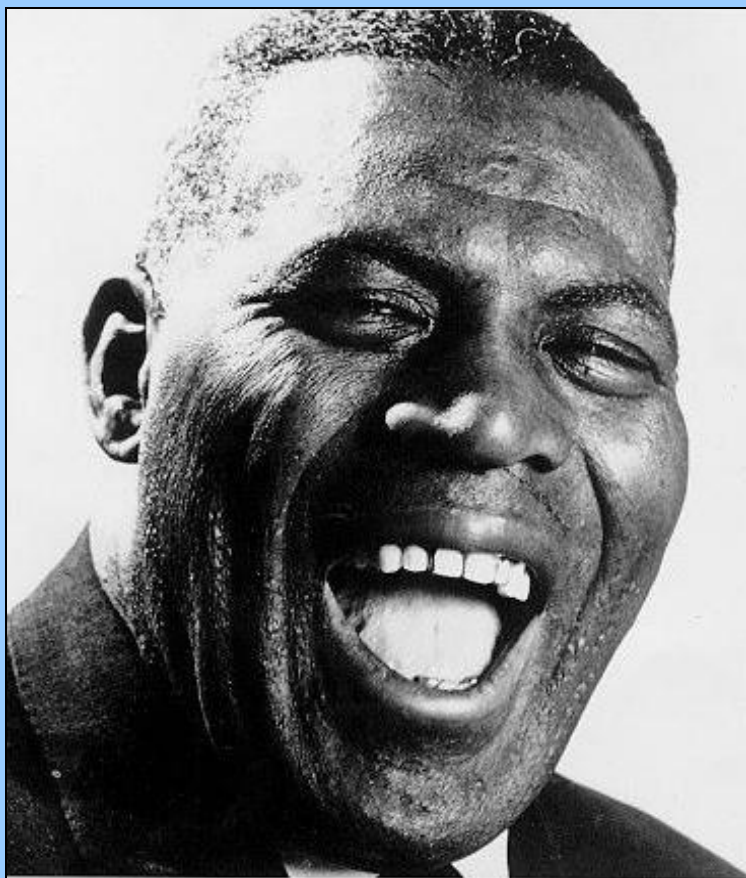
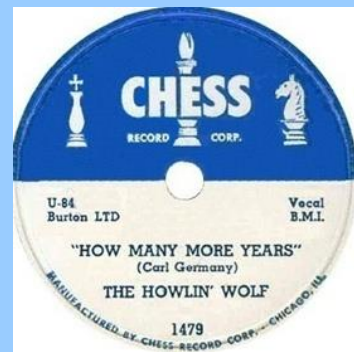
Muddy Waters



*Issaquena County, near Rolling Fork, Mississippi 1913, raised at Stovall Plantation

±Chicago, Illinois 1983

Howlin' Wolf



*White Station near West Point, Mississippi 1910

±Chicago, Illinois 1976

Big Joe Turner

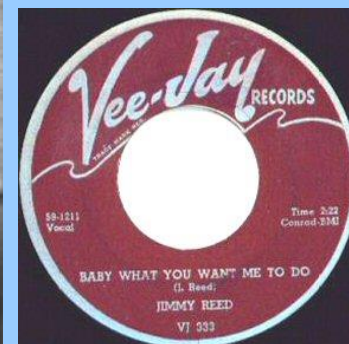


*Kansas City, Kansas 1911



±Inglewood, California 1985

Jimmy Reed



*Dunleith (near Leland), Mississippi 1925

±Oakland, California 1976

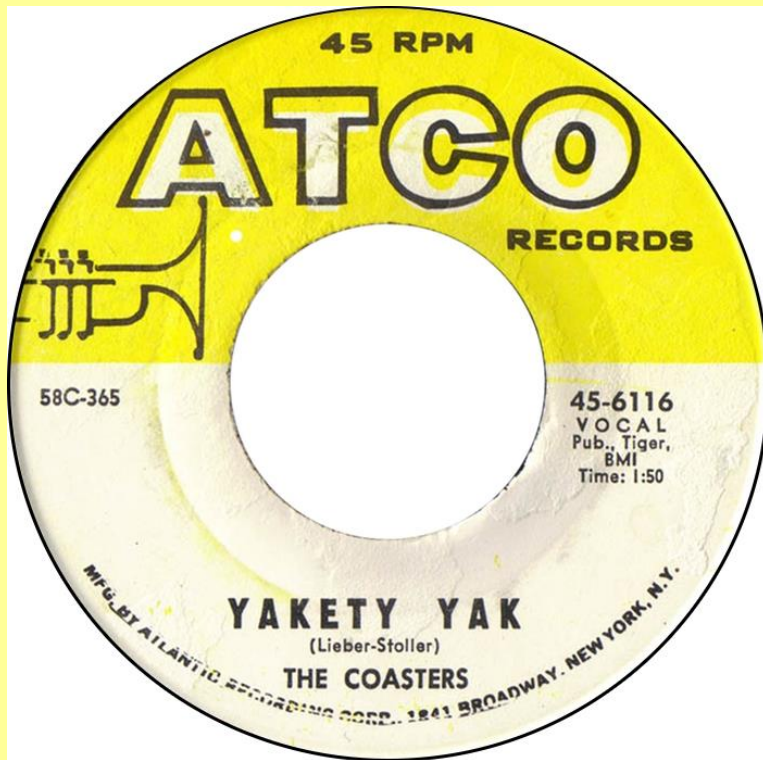
Elmore James



*Richland (near Canton), Mississippi 1918

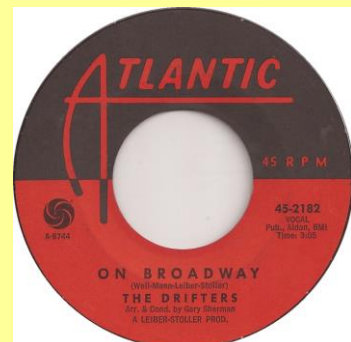
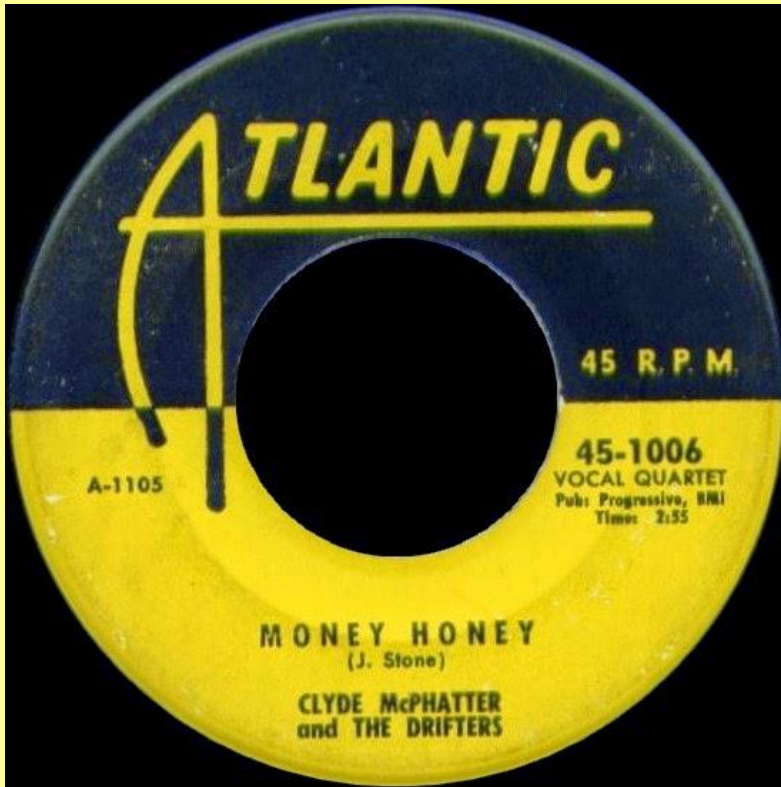
±Chicago, Illinois 1963

The Coasters



Group formed in Los Angeles, California 1955; relocated to New York City 1958
 Carl Gardner: *Texas 1928 ±Florida 2011
 Billy Guy: *Texas 1936 ±Nevada 2002

The Drifters



Group formed in New York City 1953, re-organised 1958

Clyde McPhatter:	*North Carolina 1932	±New York City 1972
Johnny Moore:	*Alabama 1934	±London, England 1998
Charlie Thomas:	*Virginia 1937	
Ben E. King:	*North Carolina 1938	±New Jersey 2015
Rudy Lewis:	*Pennsylvania 1936	±New York City 1964

The "5" Royales



Group formed as *The Royal Sons Quintet* in Winston Salem, North Carolina 1950
 Lowman Pauling: *North Carolina 1926 ±New York City 1973
 Johnny Tanner: *North Carolina 1926 ±North Carolina 2005
 Gene Tanner: *1936 ±1994

The Clovers



Group formed in Washington, D.C. 1950

John "Buddy" Bailey: *Washington, D.C. 1931
Charlie White: *poss Baltimore, Maryland ca 1930
Billy Mitchell: *Washington, D.C. 1931

±New York City 1994
±prob New York 1960s/1970s
±2002

Hank Ballard & The Midnighters



Group formed as *The Royals* in Detroit, Michigan 1952

Hank Ballard: *Detroit, Michigan 1927 (moved to Alabama – back in Detroit 1941-42)
±Los Angeles, California 2003

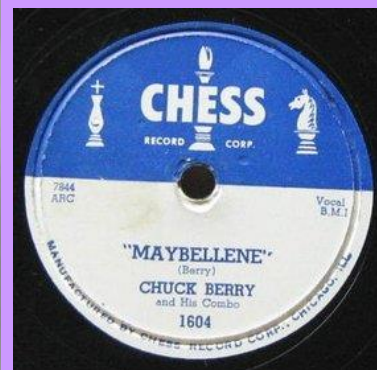
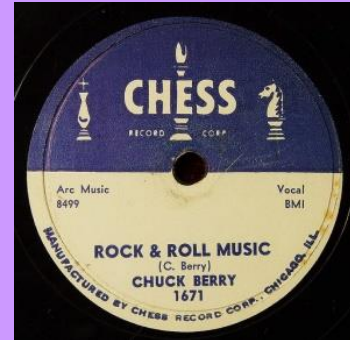
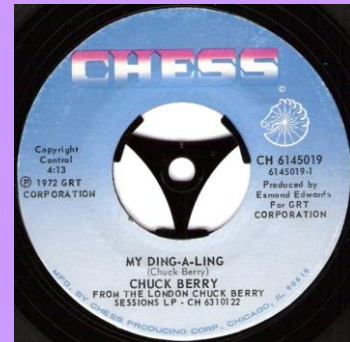
The Temptations



Group formed in Detroit, Michigan 1961

Otis Williams:	*Texas 1941	
Eddie Kendricks:	*Alabama 1939	±Alabama 1992
Paul Williams:	*Alabama 1939	±Detroit, Mich 1973
David Ruffin:	*Mississippi 1941	±Pennsylvania 1991
Dennis Edwards:	*Alabama 1943	±Chicago, Ill 2018

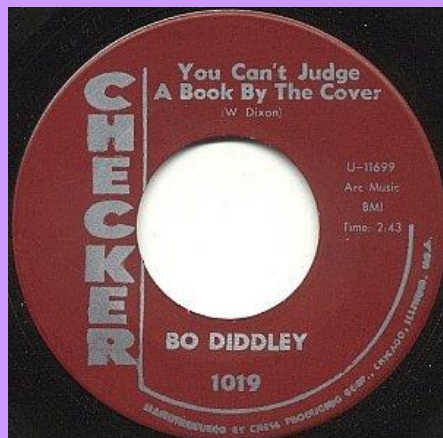
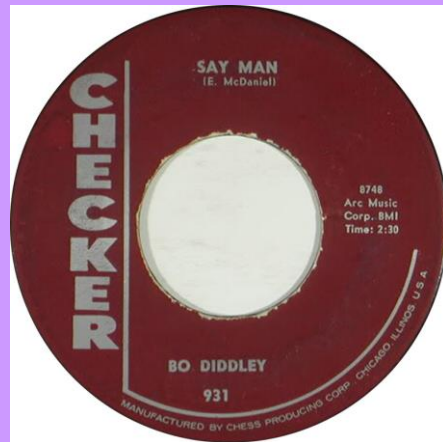
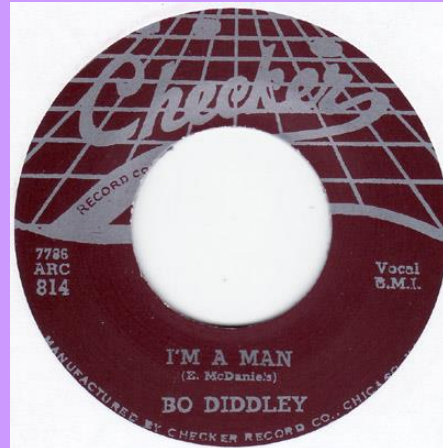
Chuck Berry



*St. Louis, Missouri 1926

±St. Charles County, Missouri 2017

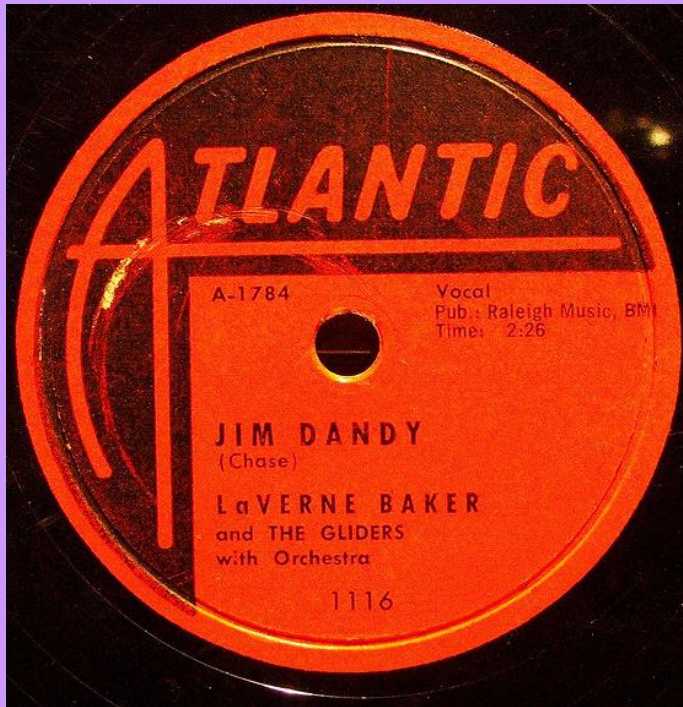
Bo Diddley



*McComb, Mississippi 1928 (raised in Chicago)

±Archer, Florida 2008

LaVern Baker



*Chicago, Illinois 1929, moved to Detroit in 1947

±New York City 1997

Little Richard



*Macon, Georgia 1932



Fats Domino

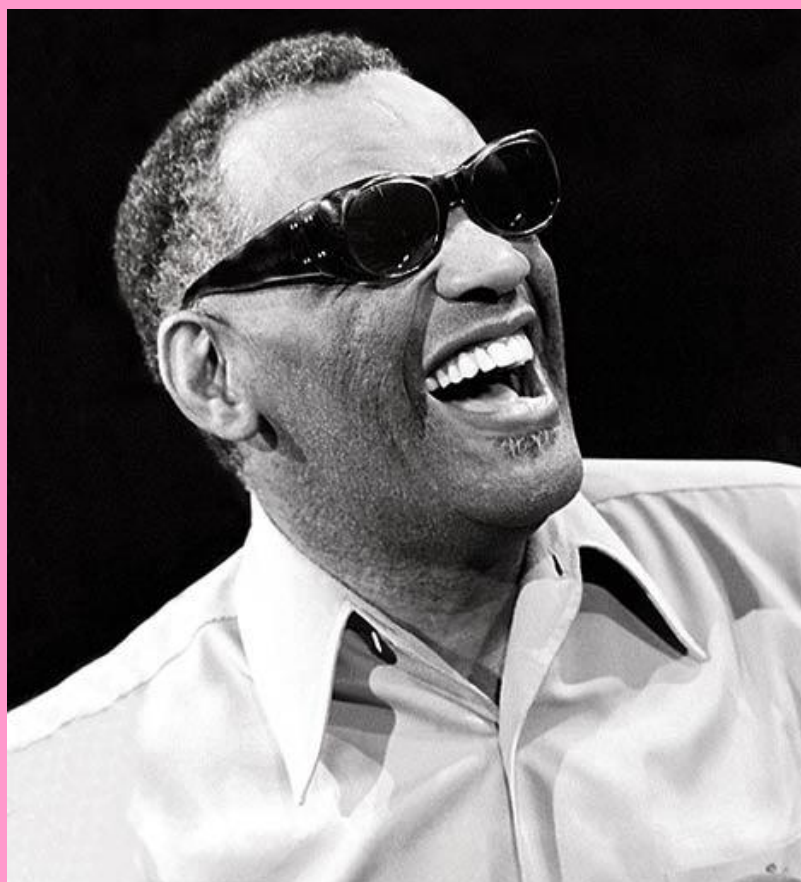
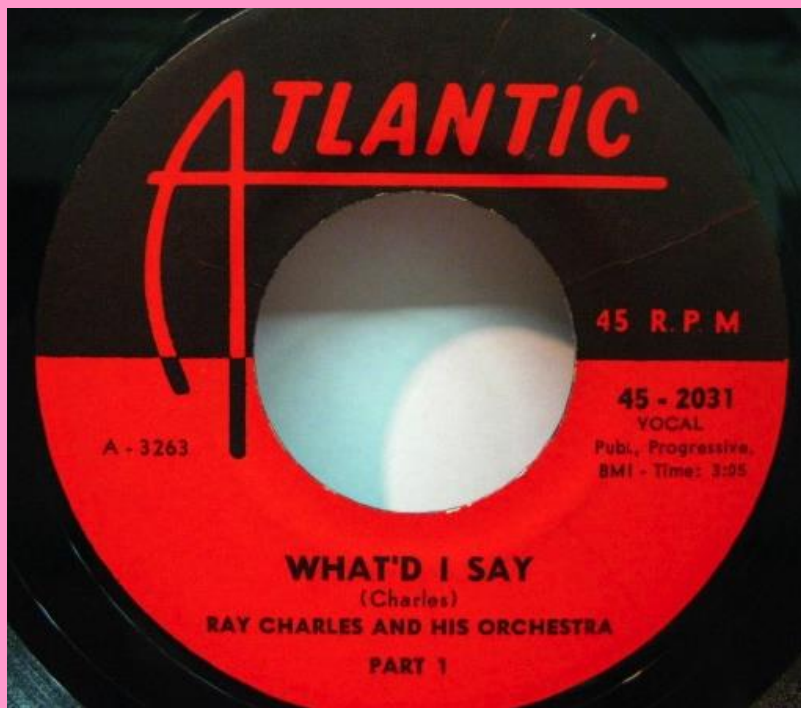


*New Orleans, Louisiana 1928



±Harvey, Louisiana 2017

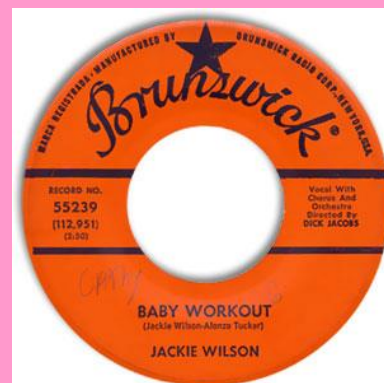
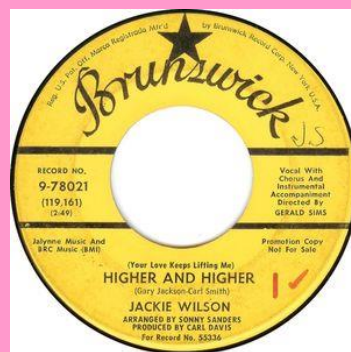
Ray Charles



*Albany, Georgia 1930 (raised in Florida)

±Beverly Hills, California 2004

Jackie Wilson



*Detroit, Michigan 1934

±Burlington, New Jersey 1984 (after nine years hospitality)

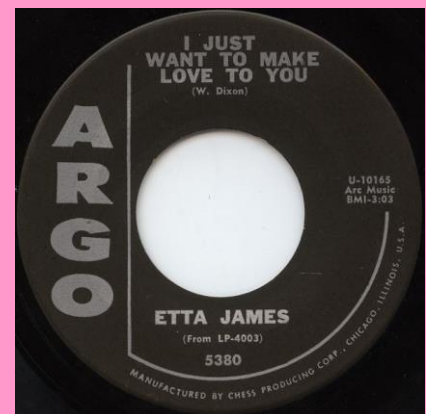
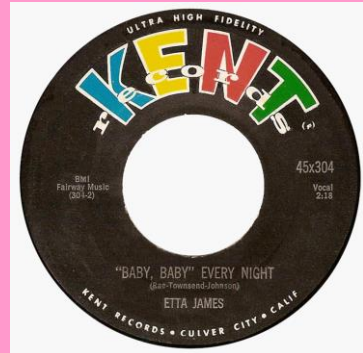
Sam Cooke



*near Clarksdale, Mississippi 1931 (raised in Chicago)

±Los Angeles, California 1964

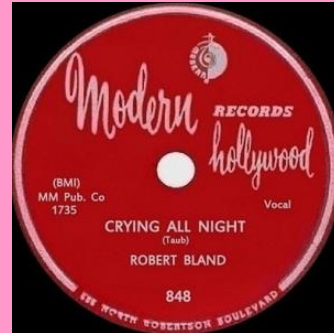
Etta James



*Los Angeles, California 1938

±Riverside, California 2012

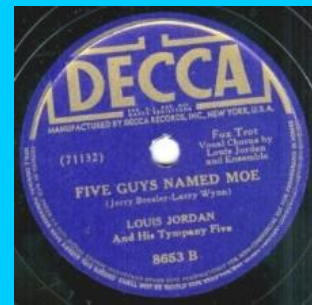
Bobby "Blue" Bland



*Rosemark, Tennessee 1930

±Memphis, Tennessee 2013

Louis Jordan and his Tympany Five



Louis Jordan:
*Brinkley, Arkansas 1907 (or poss 1908)

±Los Angeles, California 1975

Johnny Otis Orchestra



1952 DAVID H. BOOKER Presents

JOHNNY OTIS ★ LITTLE ESTHER
MEL WALKER ★ WILLIE MAE THORNTON

JOHNNY OTIS with His Orch. and BARREL HOUSE REVUE
SUNDAY, OCT. 19
 HOURS 9 P.M. to 1 A.M.
 Advance Admission 1.50 - Door 1.75

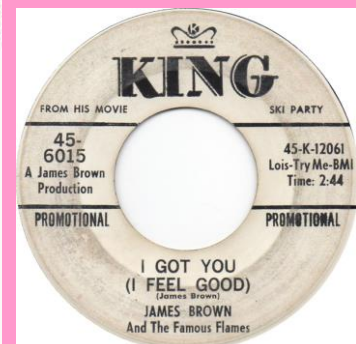
LITTLE ESTHER, Singing
 "Aged and Mellow", "Baby, Baby Blues" and Many Others
MUNICIPAL AUD.
 (MAIN ARENA)
 Tickets on Sale at Accredited Places



Johnny Otis:
 *Valejo, California 1921

±Altadena (L.A. area) California 2013

James Brown and the Famous Flames



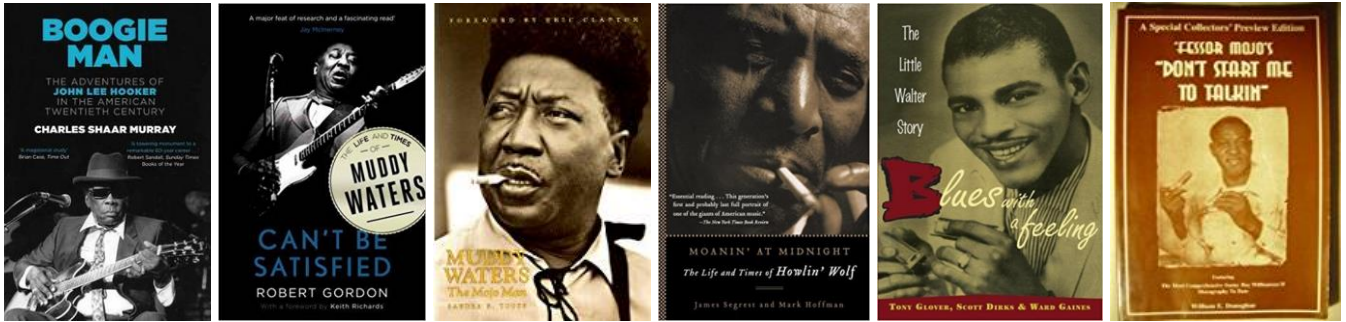
James Brown:
*Barnwell, South Carolina 1933 (raised in Augusta, Georgia)

±Atlanta, Georgia 2006

The Great Biographies I (Blues & Soul)

Several in new editions
- newest editions imaged

(inserted right 2005, 2005 and right the "Authorized" 1984)



2011

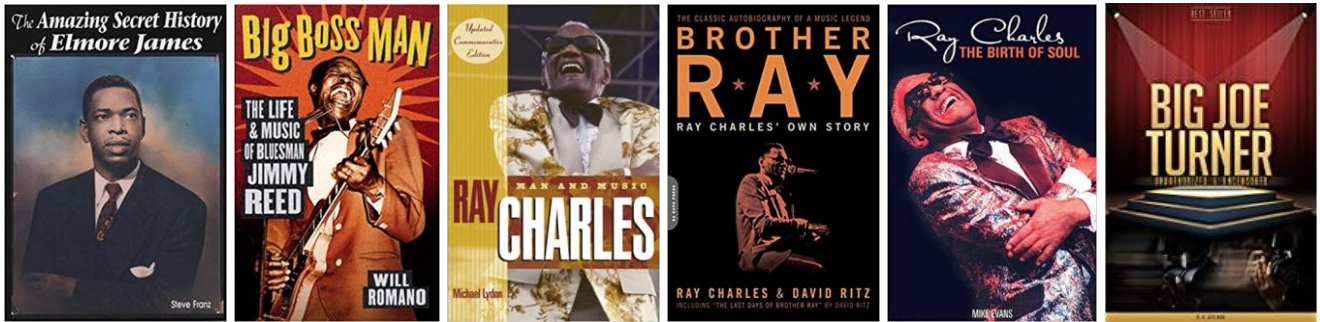
2013

1997

2004

2002

1997



2003

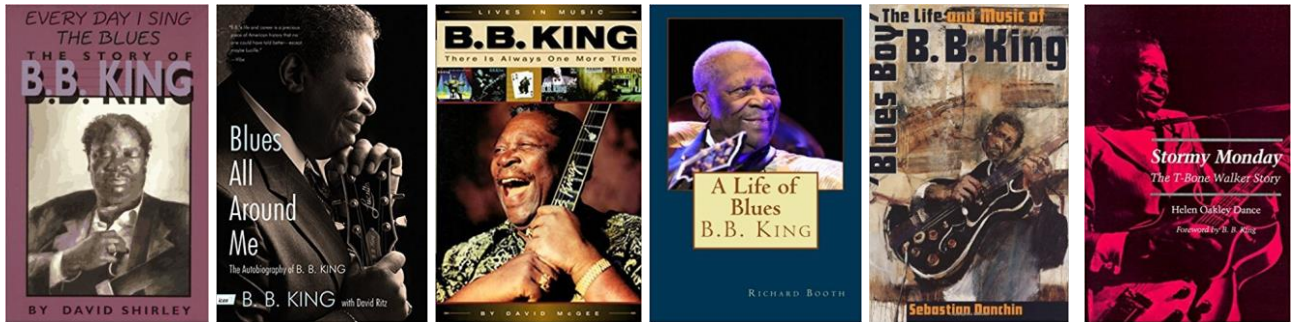
2006

2004

2004

2005

2014 (kindle)



1995

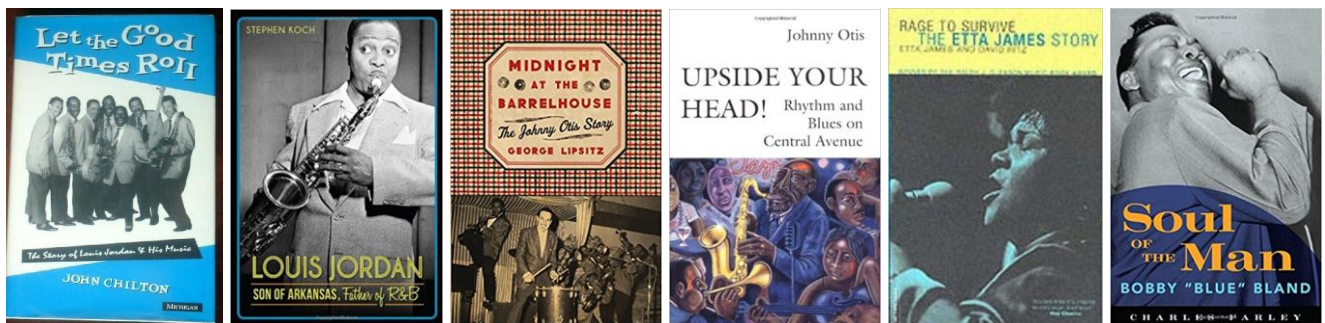
2011

2005

2015

1998

1987



1997

2014

2013

1993

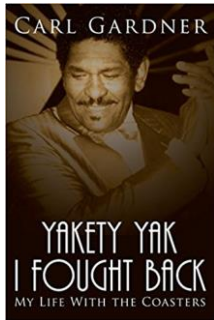
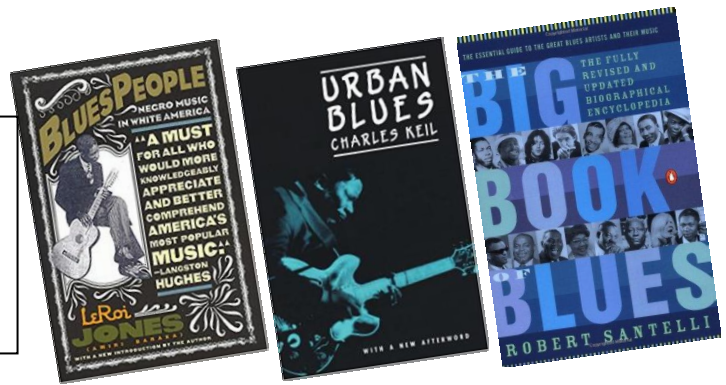
2003

2011

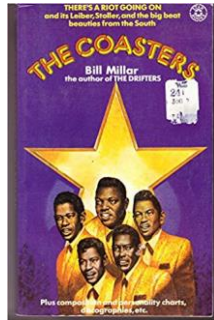
The Great Biographies II (Rock & Soul)

Several in new editions
- newest editions imaged

(inserted: the first "social" and first "contemporary"
- 1999 and 1992 editions, plus a great encyclopedia 2001)



2007



1975



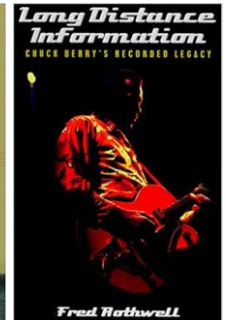
2001



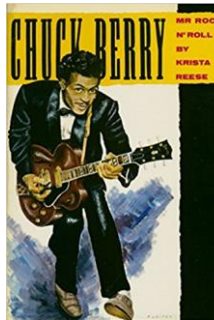
2004



2006



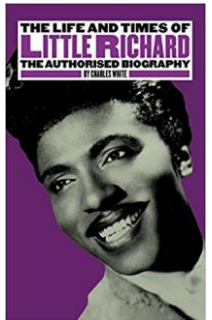
2001



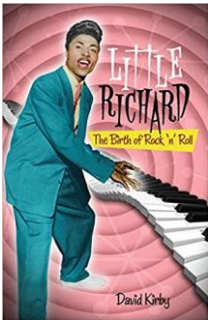
1982



2007



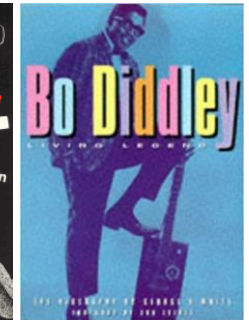
2003



2010



1984



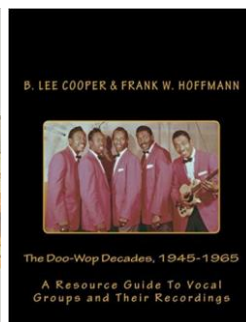
1995



1984



2009



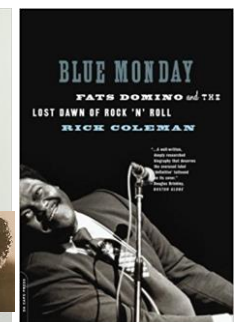
2017



1998 (f the Clovers)



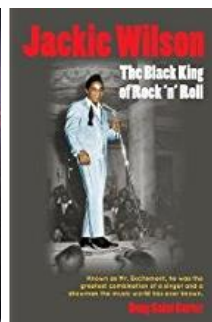
2014 (f the Midnighters & Roy Brown)



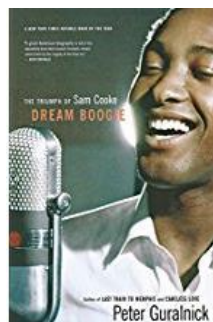
2007



2006



2017



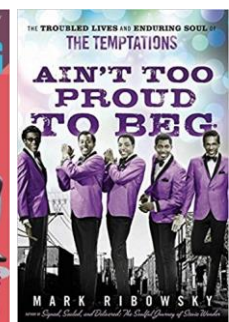
2005



2011



2002



2010

Note: Check for James Brown at page 93.

The Chicago Big Four: "DREAMY EYES" TOP 20



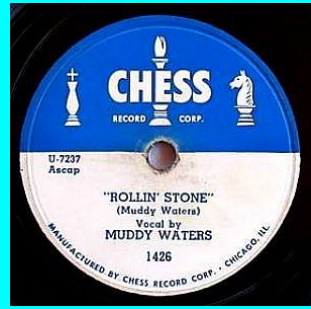
1947



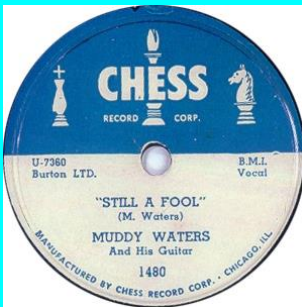
1948



1949



1950



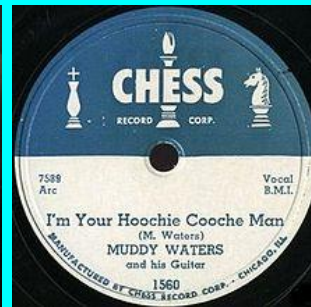
1951



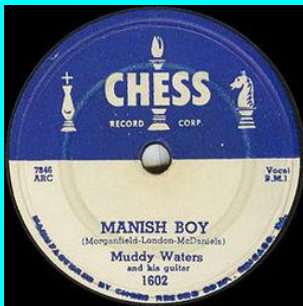
1952



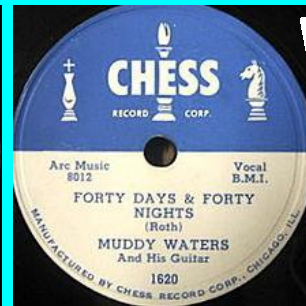
1953



1954



1955



1956



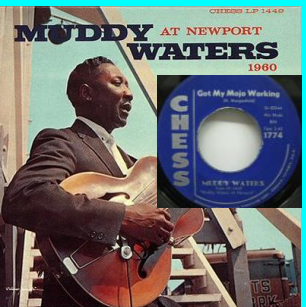
1957



1958



1959



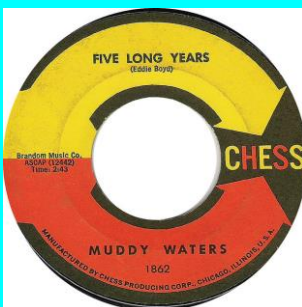
1960



1961 (act 1954)



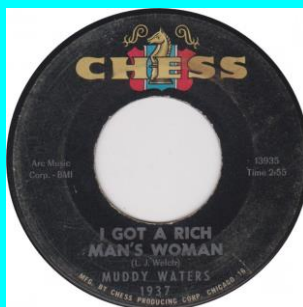
1962



1963



1964

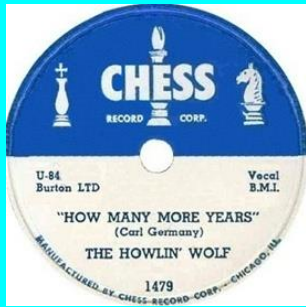


1965



1966

The Chicago Big Four: "BIG FOOT" TOP 20



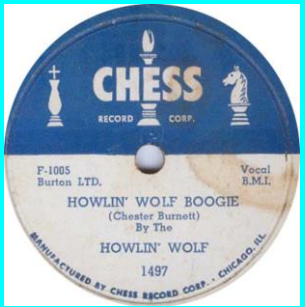
1951



1951



1951



1952



1953



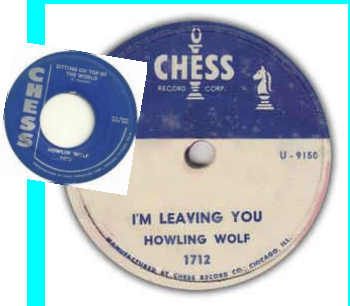
1954



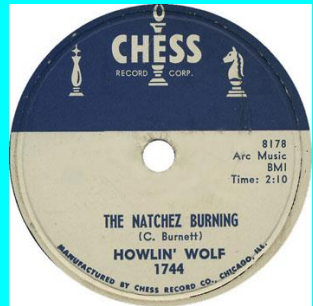
1955



1956



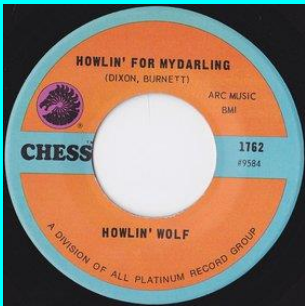
1957



1957



1958



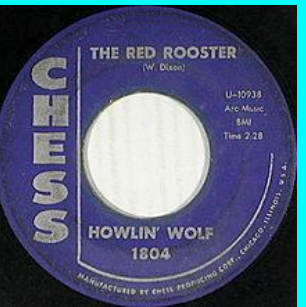
1959



1960



1960



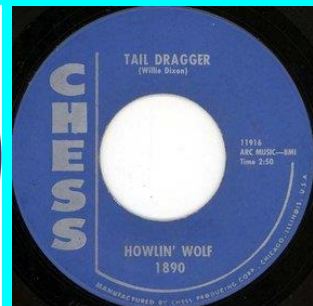
1961



1962



1963



1963



1964



1965

The Chicago Big Four: "NIGHT CAT" TOP 20



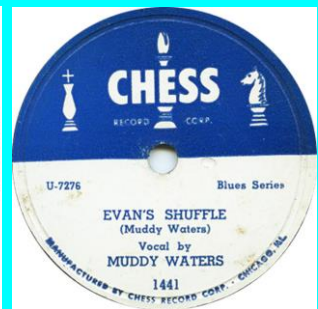
1947



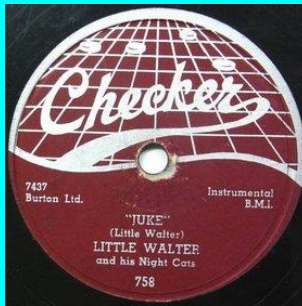
1949



1950



(instr: Walter hca solo) 1951



1952



1952



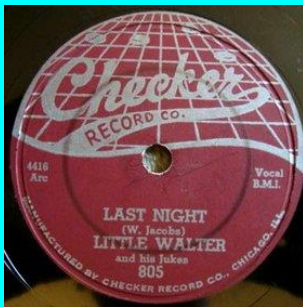
1953



1953



1954



1954



1955



1955



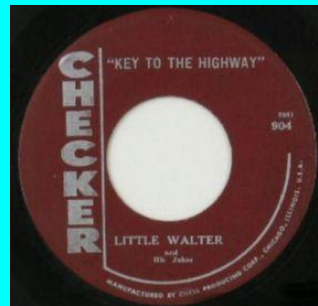
1956



1956



1957



1958



1959 (plus "You 're Sweet" from CD 9357)



1960



1961



1963

The Chicago Big Four: "THE GOAT" TOP 20



1951



1952



1953



1954



1955



1955



1956



1956



1957



1957



1958



1958



1959



1960



1960



1961



1962



1963



1964



1965



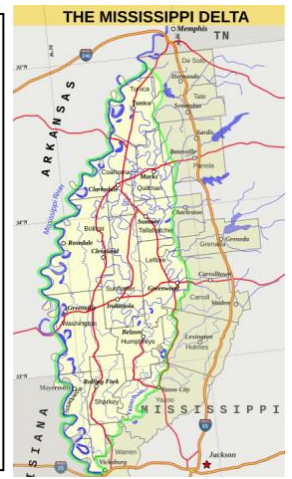
THE HARMONICA WIZARD (SBW II) and some of his fellow Mississippi Delta borns

"Birthplace of the Blues" – the Mississippi River Embayment in the State of Mississippi (the Clarksdale / Greenville area). Note: Only performers listed in "BLUES – A Regional Experience" by Eagle and LeBlanc at the "regional section" of the Mississippi Embayment, Mississippi are illustrated below (and there were more born there). Others like Gus Cannon, Charley Patton, Mississippi John Hurt, Tommy Johnson, Skip James, Tommy McClennan, Johnnie Temple, Walter Davis, Robert Johnson, Willie Dixon, Al Hibbler, Johnny Young, Rufus Thomas, Hound Dog Taylor, Elmore James, Willie Johnson, Little Johnny Jones, Dave Myers, Louis Myers, Bo Diddley, Mojo Buford, Magic Sam, and Magic Slim are all listed at the Mississippi Valley Loess Plains ("Hill County" – the Jackson area). Howlin' Wolf, Big Joe Williams, Bukka White, Arthur "Big Boy" Crudup, J.T. Brown, Tony Hollins, Pops Staples, Lafayette Leake, Leroy "Baby Face" Foster, J.B. Lenoir, Elvis Presley, Otis Rush, and Carey Bell are listed at the Eastern Piney Woods (Southeastern Plains) ("Black Belt" – Tupelo area, south-east of Memphis).

The Mississippi River Embayment in the State of Arkansas (from Helena and to the south) "produced" Big Bill Broonzy, Louis Jordan, Robert Nighthawk, Sister Rosetta Tharpe, Robert Jr Lockwood, Floyd Jones, George "Harmonica" Smith, Shakey Jake, Jimmy McCracklin, Pat Hare, Johnnie Taylor, Junior Wells, James "Pee Wee" Madison, Sammy Lawhorn, Willie "Big Eyes" Smith, Little Johnny Taylor, and many more.

Lonnie Johnson, Champion Jack Dupree, Archibald, Baby Boy Warren, Paul Gayten, Dave Bartholomew, Slim Harpo, Earl Palmer, Linda Hopkins, Clifton Chenier, Lee Dorsey, Fats Domino, Lonesome Sundown, Little Walter, Plas Johnson, Lloyd Price, Richard Berry, Larry Williams, Leonard Lee, Bobby Mitchell, Ernie K-Doe, Shirley Goodman, Buddy Guy, Snooks Eaglin, Allen Toussaint, and many more, all came from the Louisiana part (New Orleans area) of the Mississippi Embayment. From the Eastern Piney Woods (Southeastern Plains) in Louisiana came among others Little Brother Montgomery and Professor Longhair.

Try to identify the ones illustrated below! If you get 'em all – you are a true blues fan!



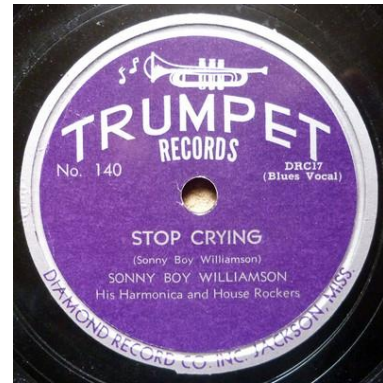
SONNY BOY's Trumpet Singles (w. recording dates in Jackson, Ms)



1951: c/w Crazy About My Baby
March 12



c/w Come on Back Home
August 5



c/w Do It If You Wanna
August 5



c/w I Cross My Heart
August 5



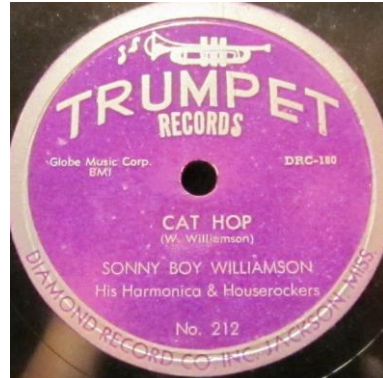
c/w Pontiac Blues
August 5



1952: c/w Nine Below Zero
Dec 4, 1951



c/w Stop Now Baby
Dec 4, 1951



1953: c/w Too Close Together
March 23, 1953 and Dec 4, 1951



1954: c/w She Brought Life Back To The Dead
Oct 24, 1953 and Dec 4, 1951



c/w Going In Your Direction
Oct 24, 1953



Febr 1955: c/w Empty Bedroom
Nov 12, 1954 and Nov 2, 1954



Sept 1955: c/w Boppin with Sonny
(aka Clowning With The World) Nov 2, 1954

Note: Sonny Boy also recorded several originally unissued songs for Trumpet - with debut on January 4, 1951, with re-recordings in March and August - and a whole session in Houston on April 14, 1953 (a total of ten sessions for Trumpet). [One hour and a half of great SBW video!](#)

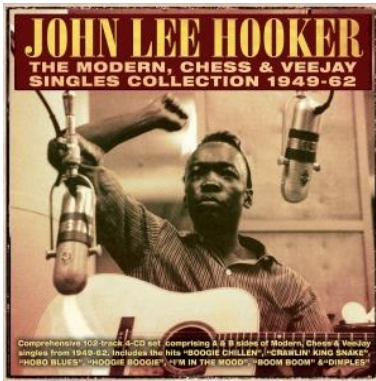
THE WORLD'S GREATEST BLUES SINGER



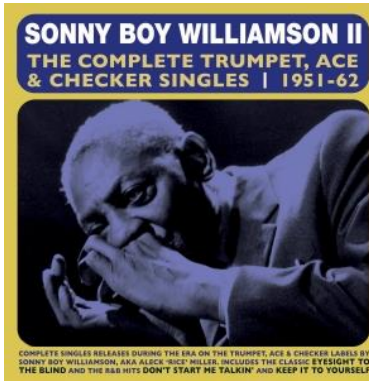
JOHN LEE HOOKER

Exclusive VEE JAY
Recording Artist
1449 South Michigan Ave.
Chicago 5, Illinois

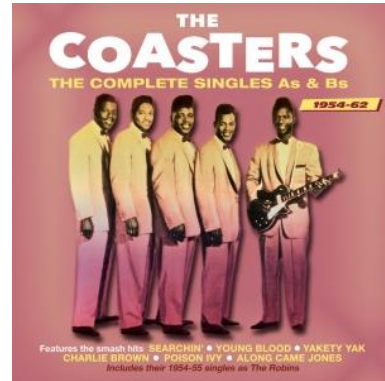
The Best of the Acrobat public domain CDs



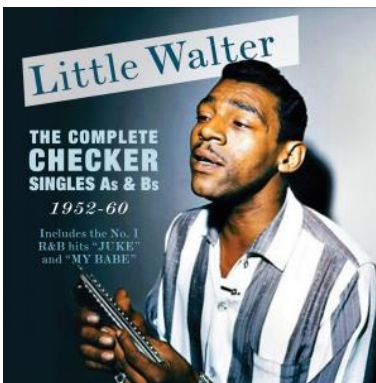
4CD ACQCD7103 (48-62)



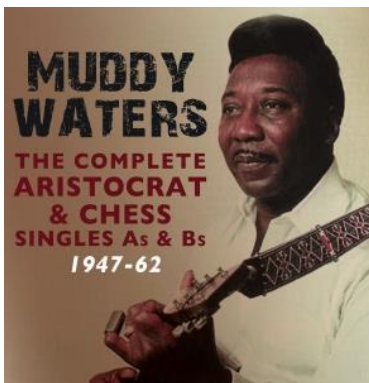
2CD ADDCD3235 (51-62)



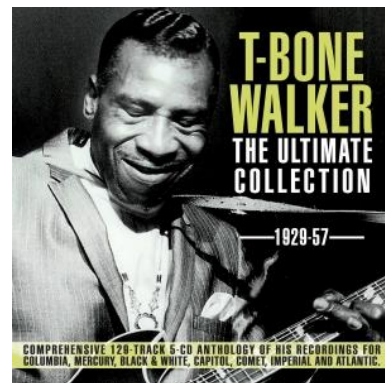
2CD ADDCD3180 (54-62)



2CD ADDCD3165 (52-60)



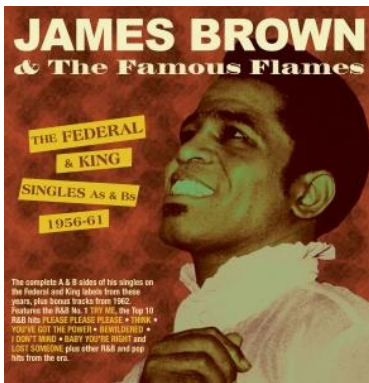
4CD ACQCD7072 (47-62)



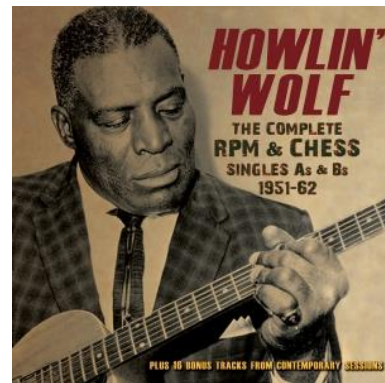
5CD ACFC7503 (29-57)



5CD ACFC7504 (49-62)



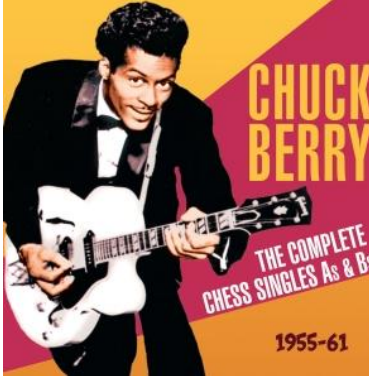
2CD ADDCD3242 (56-61)



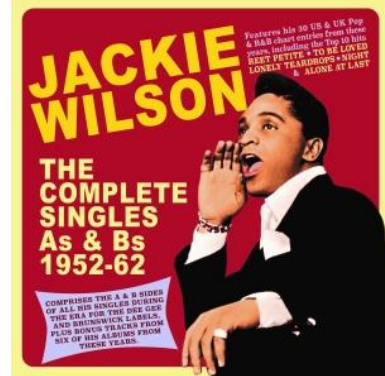
3CD ACTRCD9039 (51-62)



1CD ACMCD4326 (49-57)



1CD FADCD2002 (49-52)



2CD ADDCD3122 (55-61)

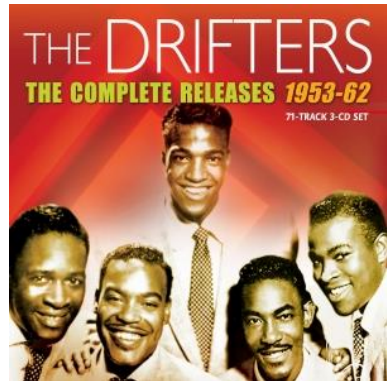
2CD ADDCD3227 (52-62)



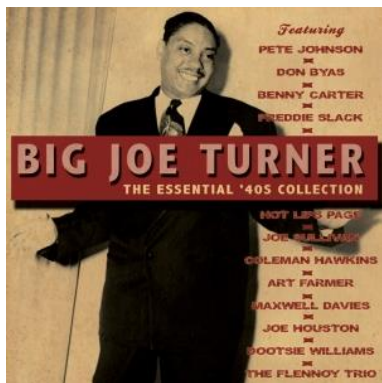
3CD ACTRCD9048 (49-62)



2CD ADDCD3141 (51-62)



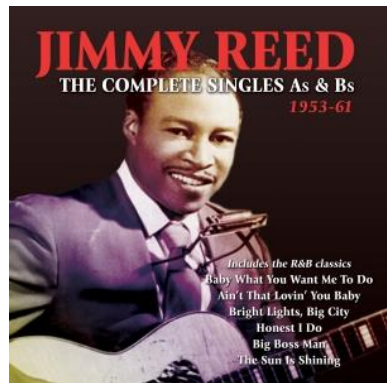
3CD ACTRCD9055 (53-62)



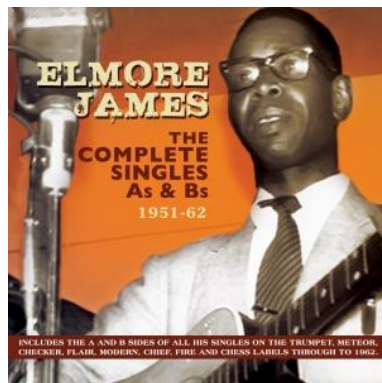
2CD ADDCD3069 (38-49)



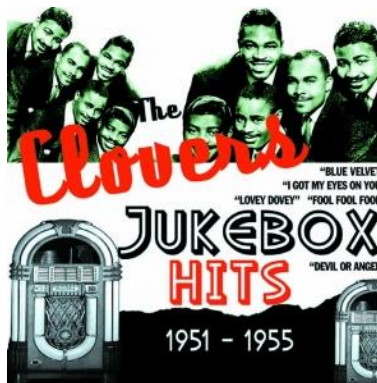
2CD ADDCD3275 (50-60)



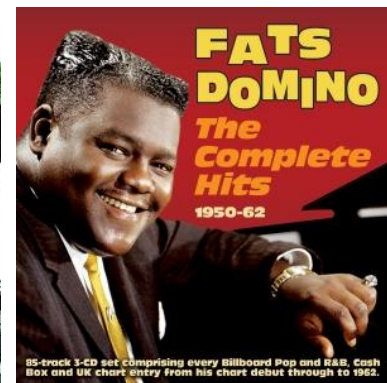
2CD ADDCD3135 (53-62)



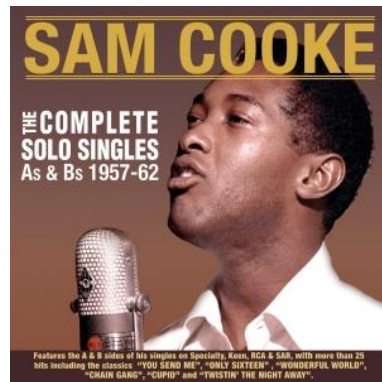
3CD ADDCD3143 (51-62)



1CD AMCD4224 (51-55)



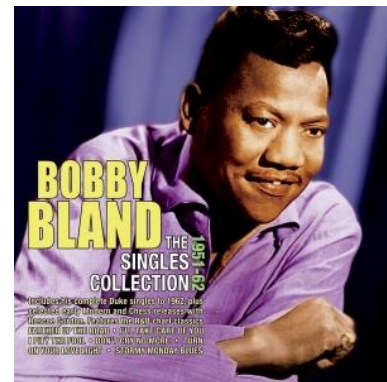
3CD ACTRCD9053 (50-62)



2CD ADDCD3168 (57-62)



2CD ADDCD3204 (55-62)



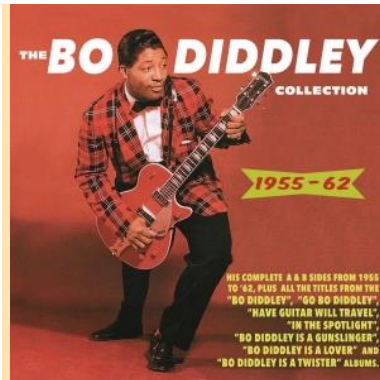
2CD ADDCD3176 (51-62)

- no "5" Royales, Roy Brown, Midnighters, Temptations - <http://acrobatmusic.net/>

<http://acrobatmusic.net/>



1CD ACMCD4082 (42-47)



3CD ACTRCD9057 (55-62)



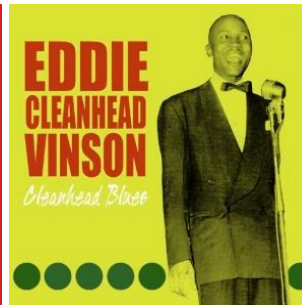
1CD ACMCD4199 (46-54)



6CD ASCSD6003 (50-59)



2CD ADDCD3151 (46-57)



1CD ACRCD128 (45-47)



1CD ACMCD4083 (47-51)



3CD ACTRCD9068 (53-61)



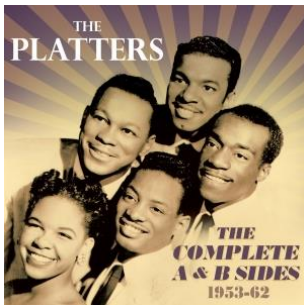
2CD ADDCD3188 (53-62)



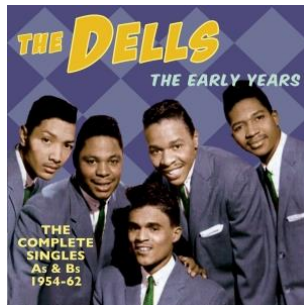
2CD ADDCD3210 (54-62)



3CD ACTRCD9066 (52-62)



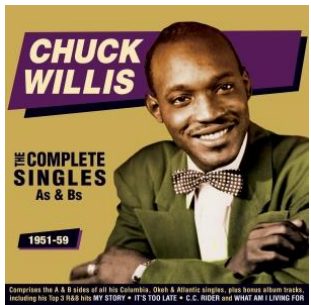
3CD ACTRCD9045 (53-62)



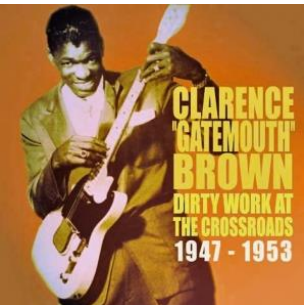
1CD ACMCD4380 (54-62)



2CD ADDCD3269 (55-62)



2CD ADDCD3198 (51-59)



1CD ACRCD216 (47-53)



1CD ACMCD4012 (43-50)



1CD ACMCD4223 (49-55)



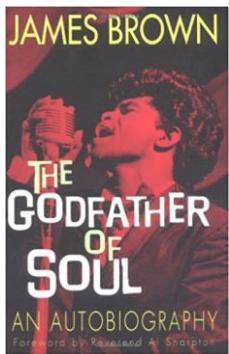
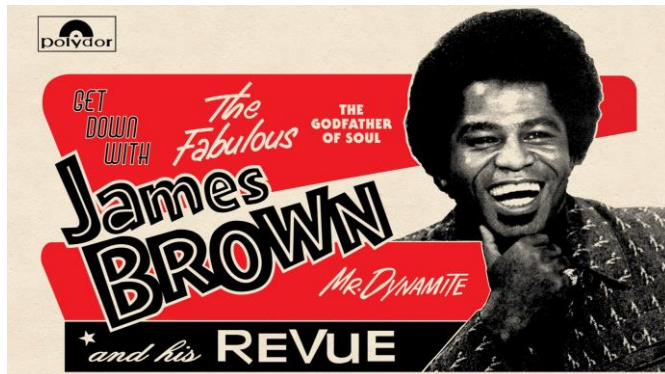
1CD ACMCD4017 (1969)

Classic Label Logos

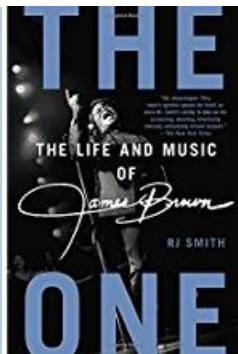




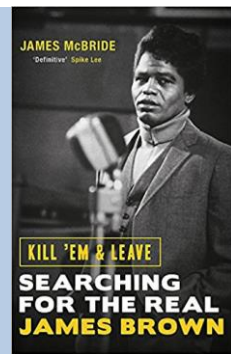
(Above: possibly Johnny Terry with the dog) Left: Bobby Byrd, Bobby Bennett, "Baby" Lloyd Stallworth
 Inserted top: a nice book of 2014.



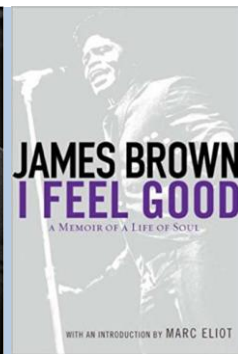
2003



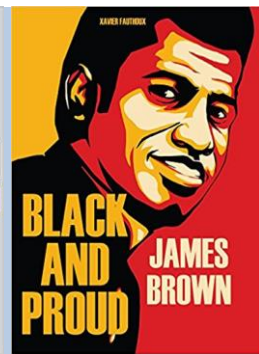
2012



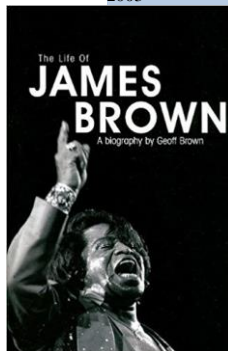
2017



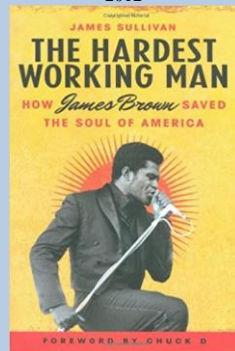
2005



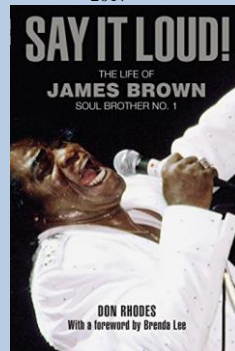
2018



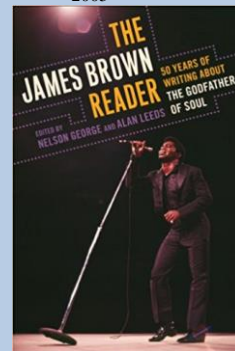
2007



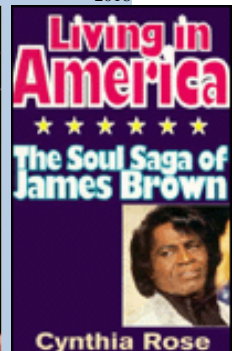
2008



2009



2008



1990

THE COASTERS 1955 - 1997



Carl Gardner
lead 1955-2005; coach to 2011



Bobby Nunn
bass 1955-1957



Billy Guy
baritone 1955-1973



Leon Hughes
tenor 1955-1957



Will "Dub" Jones
bass 1958-1967



Cornell Gunter
tenor 1958-1961



Earl "Speedo" Carroll
tenor 1961-1979

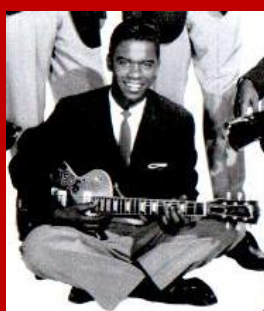


Ronnie Bright
bass 1968-2009

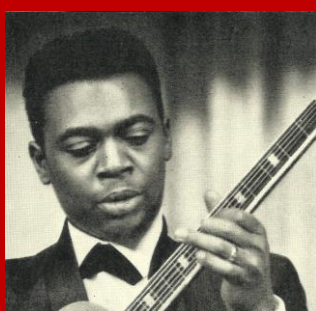


Jimmy Norman
baritone (sub from 1969)
1973-1979 and 1981-1998

... and their guitarists:



Adolph "Al" Jacobs
1956-1959(1961)



Elbert "Sonny" Forriest
1959-1961



Thomas "Curley" Palmer
1962-2011



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José Antonio
"HOLLYWOOD"

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Image bottom left: James Brown poster July 1956

- Top Rhythm and Blues Records
- The Blues Giants
- The Top Ten Vocal Groups
- The Sepia Stars
- Transitions from Rhythm to Soul
- The True R&B Pioneers
- The Soul Explosion
- Clyde McPhatter
- John Lee Hooker Session Discography
- The Clownprinces of Rock and Roll
- Those Hoodlum Friends – The Coasters



The R&B Pioneers Series: Top 30 Favorites
Compiled by Claus Röhnisch