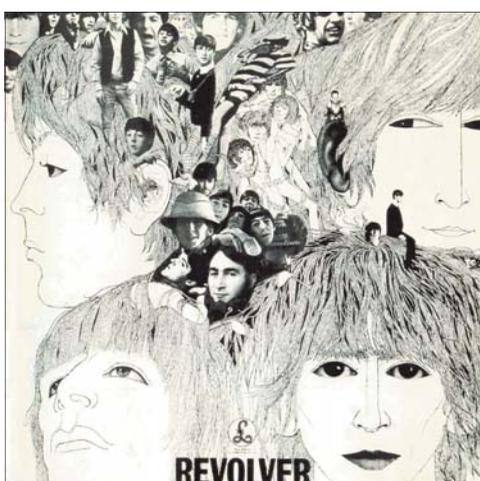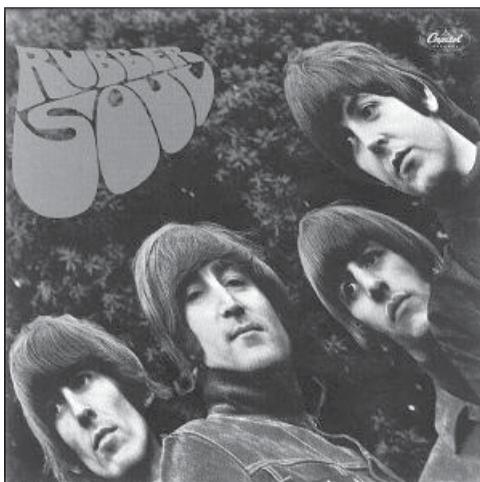# THE BEATLES

by Dennis Barker

Most of us never quite give up our teenage years. Those years which lay the very foundation of what we will eventually become. We carry vibrant, indelible, full color memories of the great events of our youth, noting exactly where we were or what we were doing during each milestone. The minds of my generation were imprinted with pride as we watched John Glenn orbit the Earth, gripped with fear as the Cuban missile crisis unfolded, darkness & despair following the tragic assassination of John Kennedy, and, on Sunday February 9, 1964, at 8 p.m., wonder and awe as the Beatles made their first American debut on The Ed Sullivan Show.

We were transfixed. Having been granted special dispensation to miss church, my older sister, brother and I sat before the black & white TV in our living room, and participated in what would become one of the most iconoclastic cultural events of our times. For 73 million American's, the earth stood still. My sister gasp as the television station superimposed the words, "Sorry Girls, He's Married," over John Lennon. The Beatles would sing 5 songs, and we would never be the same.

The Beatles Feb. 9th appearance would be just the beginning. In all, from 1964 through 1966, the Beatles would appear 8 more times on the Ed Sullivan Show, along with over 50 stadium/coliseum concerts. And, they would release (between the U.S. & Britain) 29 albums encompassing 213 original songs. From *Meet the Beatles* with it's roots steeped in American rock & roll and English mercy beat, and the love themed songs of their early albums, to the more introspective offerings of *Rubber Soul and Revolver* to the psychedelic masterpieces *Mystery Tour & Sgt. Peppers,* the Beatles would take us on a musical and cultural journey which would integrate their music into our souls for the rest of our lives.

Although the Beatles would disband in 1969, they would leave behind millions of records, both 45 rpm and albums. These would become some of the most sought after and treasured possessions of many record collectors. It's not possible here to look at all the Beatles records, so we'll take a look at the complexities of just one, *Meet The Beatles,* the bands second album released in America (Introducing the Beatles, a repackage version of the English *Please Please Me* album was released in the U.S. Jan. 10th 1964, 10 days before *Meet The Beatles*).

MEET the BEATLES • Capitol Records
released January 20, 1964

Very rare: T-2047 (mono) or S-2047 (stereo)
First pressing: No BMI or ASCAP designations. Black Label w/ colorband, printed by keystone, accompanying cover will have factory #3 Scranton designation, royal blue inner sleeve. Small pressing, very few known to exist.

Rare: T-2047 (mono) or S-2047 (stereo)
1964: The second labels for the album lists ASCAP as the performing rights organization for all songs on the second side and all songs on side one except I *Want To Hold Your Hand*, which is credited to BMI. Black Label w/ colorband, royal blue inner sleeve.

Scarce: T-2047 (mono) or S-2047 (stereo)
1964: Various ASCAP credits, Produced by George Martin added to back cover, Black Label w/ colorband royal blue inner sleeve.

Hard to find: T-2047 (mono) or S-2047 (stereo)
1965: Beatles on cover in Green print, produced by George Martin on back cover, BMI designations for all songs except *Don't Bother Me & Until there Was You,* Black Label w/ colorband.

Common: S-2047 (stereo)
1968: Black label with colorband, label adds A subsidiary of Capital Industries Inc.
1969: Lime Green Label
1976: Orange Label
1978: Purple Label
1983: Black label print in colorband.

All *Meet The Beatles* albums produced by Apple from 1968 through 1975 are common.

*I haven't given values for these records because I believe the most important reason to collect **B**eatles records, is for the enjoyment of the music. While I have bought & sold many scarce or rare beatles records, my personal collection consists of records that I listen to.*