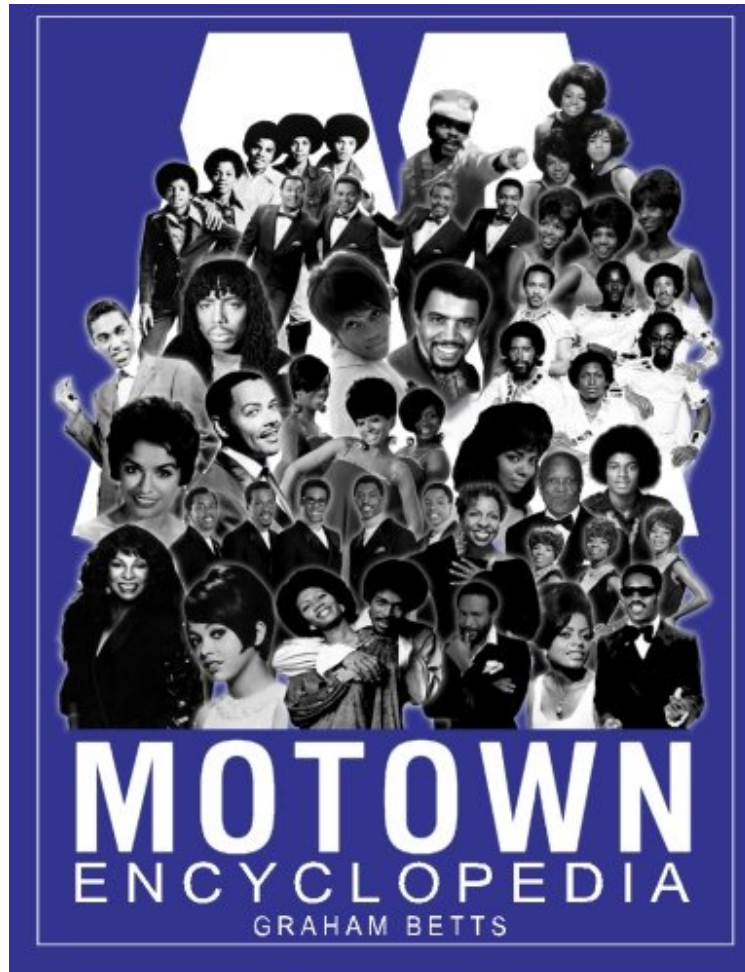


Motown Encyclopedia

Graham Betts

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Graham Betts : Motown Encyclopedia before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Motown Encyclopedia:

15 of 15 people found the following review helpful. A Magnificent AchievementBy Peter BenjaminsonAs the author of three books about Motown, I've been waiting for years for a book like this. David Bianco wrote a similar book, "Heat Wave," in 1988, but Graham's is much more comprehensive and up-to-date. Graham writes very well about Motown, and approaches the subject from many different angles. His thoroughness and accuracy as a writer are particularly impressive. Most of all, I'm impressed that he could write so much about Motown in one lifetime. Every Motown fan should buy a copy of this book. Peter Benjaminson, author of "The Story of Motown," "The Lost Supreme: The Life of Dreamgirl Florence Ballard," "Mary Wells: The Tumultuous Life of Motown's First Superstar," and the upcoming "Rick James."2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. This is About Motown and MoreBy rayalenIt took me quite some time to complete reading because with many of the entries my mind would take a

journey down memory lane. Where was I? What was I doing? What was happening in the world? Who was I with? The entries are detailed with in depth background information. This is a must have for Motown fanatics and any Baby Boomer who grew up dancing to the beat of Motown. Behind the scenes explanations about the origins of song ideas, decisions as to who would sing and produce the songs, competition among songwriters and producers, disputes between artists, management and the corporate head are also contained in this comprehensive volume. Mr. Betts not only gives the reader an inside look into the successes of Motown, but also the failures including professional and personal relationships. I was particularly fascinated with the entries about big name artists and labels I had no idea were ever connected to Motown and those little known artists that went unnoticed. Now my appetite is stirred to read several of the other books written about Motown available through .8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Mo Motown than ever! By Richard Niles Graham Betts has a deserved reputation as a master of research with a knack for getting to the good stuff! Any Motown lover or student should look no further than this comprehensive encyclopedia offering more Motown for your buck than the many other books on the market. Every entry has fascinating facts and stories - so interesting that any Motown lover will be inspired to write another 500,000 words of their own! This is the first encyclopedia I've ever read that can accurately be described as a real PAGETURNER!

Motown means different things to different people. The mere mention of perhaps the most iconic record label in history is often enough to invoke memories and mental images of Marvin Gaye, Diana Ross, Stevie Wonder, The Temptations, The Jackson 5, The Supremes and numerous others. With each group recalled, there is an accompanying piece of music of the mind, from Baby Love, My Girl, Signed Sealed Delivered, I Heard It Through The Grapevine, ABC and Tears Of A Clown and countless more. Quite often, you can ask people what kind of music they like and they will simply answer Motown, and both they, and you, know exactly what is meant. Or rather, what is implied. The Motown they are invariably thinking of is the label that dominated the charts in the mid 1960s with a succession of radio friendly, dance orientated hits, most of which were written and produced by the trio of Brian Holland, Lamont Dozier and Eddie Holland. This period is referred to, naturally enough, as the Golden Era, when Motown was not only the dominant force in its home city of Detroit but carried The Sound of Young America all around the world. The kind of music that had them Dancing In the Street from Los Angeles to London, Miami to Munich and San Francisco to Sydney. It was the kind of music that attracted scores of imitators; some good, some not so good. The kind of music that appealed to the public and presidents alike, and still does. It was that Motown that this book was intended to be about. However, when you start digging deeper into the Motown story, you realise that throughout its life (which, for the purposes of this book, is its formation in 1959 through to its sale in 1988) it was constantly trying other musical genres, looking to grab hits out of jazz, country, pop, rock, middle of the road and whatever else might be happening at the time. Of course it wasn't particularly successful at some of the other genres, although those who claim Motown never did much in the rock market conveniently overlook the healthy sales figures achieved by Rare Earth, the group, and focus instead on the total sales achieved on Rare Earth, the label. This book, therefore, contains biographies of all 684 artists who had releases on Motown and their various imprints, as well as biographies of 16 musicians, 23 producers, 19 writers and 13 executives. There are also details of the 50 or so labels that Motown owned, licensed to or licensed from. All nine films and the 17 soundtracks are also featured. Every Motown single and album and EP that made the Top Ten of the pop charts in either the US or UK also have their own entries, with 222 singles, 84 albums and five EPs being featured. Finally, there are 36 other entries, covering such topics as the Hollywood Walk of Fame, the Motortown Revues, Grammy Awards and the most played Motown songs on radio. The 1,178 entries cover every aspect of Motown and more of the link between Granny in The Beverly Hillbillies and Wonder Woman, of the artists from Abbey Tavern Singers to Zulema, and the hits from ABC to You Really Got A Hold On Me. The Motown Encyclopedia is the story of Motown Records; Yesterday, Today, Forever.

About the Author Born in London in 1957 Graham began his working career training to be an architect before switching to the music industry in 1978 as a Press Officer with Pye Records. He subsequently went on to work for CBS Records (where he was Head of Press) and a number of budget labels, including Tring, before becoming Artist Repertoire Manager for the Hallmark label. He is currently AR Manager for the Pickwick Group. He has written for numerous magazines and publications over the last twenty five years, including Blues Soul, Record Buyer and The History Of Rock. A contributor to numerous books on music and football, Graham has also had more than twenty published under his own name, including Michael Jackson - A Celebration, Read Without Prejudice (a biography of George Michael) and England Player By Player (a history of the England national side) as well as the annual publications Complete UK Hit Singles and Complete UK Hit Albums (published by Harper Collins). His most recent book, the Motown Encyclopedia, was published as an e-book in June 2014. Winner of the 1978 Melody Maker essay contest, he currently lives in Aston Clinton with his wife and two children.