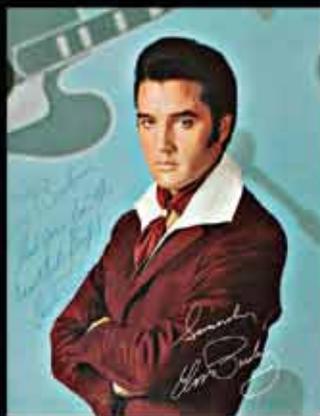


THE MEMORABILIA COLLECTION OF A LIFETIME

# Rare

BY TOM FONTAINE





THE MEMORABILIA COLLECTION OF A LIFETIME

*Rare*

THE TOM FONTAINE COLLECTION



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# Foreword

**C**ollectors tend to share a lot of qualities. That's probably no surprise. The same can be said of those who populate the same professional fields. Collectors, however, are driven. They are driven by a powerful and often all-consuming love for a particular subject. Virtually all the ones I've encountered can narrow the birth of their particular interest to one incident in their lives. From that moment on, it becomes their passion.

Tom Fontaine, of Indianapolis, Indiana, (a fact of which he is particularly proud) is a truly passionate collector. His love of cinema, television and, above all, rock and roll, has propelled him to assemble one of the most impressive personal collections I've ever encountered. One thing that sets Tom apart from many other great collectors is his ability to locate items. Many of the pieces he's collected came through building relationships with the participants of historic cultural events. That's no easy feat. It takes clear honesty and a lack of guile to eliminate the sort of suspicion that many collectors face.

As you survey this book and take in the all the pieces that Tom has lovingly collected over the years, I hope you'll enjoy this collection as much I did the when I saw it in person.

Howard Kramer

Writer, historian and former Curatorial Director of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum

# INTRODUCTION

## From The Beginning

I became a collector in 1963. My collecting started on a small scale and very innocently since I was only five years old, but I always had a gift and the passion for knowing what was collectible. I continued collecting throughout my school years, into my teens, and beyond. Then, in the '80s, I seriously started branching out into autographs, contracts, personally owned items, stage clothing, and lyrics. I concentrated primarily in the music world, but also collected movie memorabilia.

My collection has become quite extensive, and includes items from a broad spectrum of entertainers, as you will see as you read this book. I have been fortunate and honored to be a collector during the past 50 years.

I have always been an extremely careful collector. In addition to a lifetime of research, education, sound judgment, and common sense, I relied on the provenance and stories that came along with the items I purchased. I made it a priority to obtain, in writing, the history or circumstances surrounding the acquisition, event dates, autograph analysis, etc., and to establish the authenticity of each item.

I have also provided instructional information, including a published study of The Beatles' autographs, to others who collect. I have received many



**TOMMY FONTAINE**  
"A Collector is Born"

emails from collectors thanking me for this extremely valuable tool, which provides a guide to make their collecting successful.

During the last several years, I decided to share part of my collection by exhibiting at venues in several cities in the Midwest United States. I really enjoy sharing the history and stories of my collection with others. I came to realize that with all of those memories, experiences, and the accolades I have received as a collector, not to mention the enormous number of items I have been fortunate to own previously and currently, it made sense for me to document the history.

This revelation led me to write this book. It truly represents my life's work, and is comprised of personal stories, pictures, and events that took place during the last 50 years — from my childhood to adulthood. I hope you will enjoy reading it.

The content of this book is organized in chapters, some beginning with a personal story pertaining to the subject or artists covered in that chapter. The *Collection* sections contain the list of the items I currently own along with a brief description of each. Some entries also include a small image. A bullet symbol designates each listing. Also note that the units for measurement of photos, documents and posters are in inches unless otherwise specified.

Concluding each category are *Feature* items from the collection, which include highlights and a more thorough description of the item and/or artist through text, documentation, and images. I have also included an interview I gave on December 12-13, 2014, an archive chapter featuring items I previously owned, and a special tribute to my family in pictures, since they have supported me from the beginning with my collecting adventures.

There are more than 1800 items in this collection that include, Multiple Items and are listed in some form in this book. I have enjoyed being the caretaker of this one-of-a-kind collection for the last 50 years, but have decided that it's time for another to take the reins and shepherd these historical artifacts on the next leg of their journey.

All the best,

Tom Fontaine

mono



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THE LARGEST RECORDING  
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BEATLES  
FOR-  
SALE

*George Harrison*

*John Lennon*

*Paul McCartney*

*Ringo Starr*



# FOUR LADS FROM LIVERPOOL

# THE BEATLES

## Day of Discovery

In the summer of 1964, while enjoying my vacation from school, a gust of wind changed my life. Summer rains are to be expected in Indianapolis, but on this particular day, the storm came in unusually fast and strong. I ran inside to seek shelter, leaving the back door ajar so I could watch the storm from a distance.

Peeking out from the kitchen, I saw my neighbor, Karen Ryza, and her friend running home to avoid the storm. Before the two girls reached the house, the wind blew every card out of Karen's hands. In her haste, Karen kept running and left behind the confetti of cards she had clung to moments before. A downpour immediately squashed my instinct to run out and see what had been dropped. The rain may have delayed the treasure hunt, but the curious card collector in me kept the quest alive.

It took a few trips to gather the lot because the cards would have stuck together if I'd stacked them. I couldn't risk ruining the gems I had so patiently waited to pick up — that would have defeated the purpose. Upon inspection, I found that each card had a black and white photo on the front and some text on the back. Examining the four-member band in the photograph, I honed in on the drumhead detailed on the cards. It read "The Beatles." This was my first personal Beatles discovery.

I carefully dried the cards, laying them on the air duct register in my house. Once they dried, I showed them to my mom, who was an early supporter of my collecting tendencies. She suggested that I go with her to my Uncle Johnny's grocery store on Saturday to see if he could identify the cards and see if he stocked them in his store. I was excited to see if he carried them, and my anticipation for Saturday grew throughout the week.

When the day finally arrived, I asked in a young, innocent voice, "Uncle Johnny, do you know what these are?"

In a deep, guttural tone he responded, "Yes. They are those darned Beatles cards."

"Do you carry them?" I asked.

"I have to. The girls come in for them all the time."

And then, without hesitation, my Uncle grabbed five packs of cards and put them in our grocery bag. I excitedly took them home, preserving each wrapper as methodically as the cards inside. After all, the wrappers had images on them too, and were therefore an extension of the pack as far as I



Me and my Uncle Johnny



was concerned. The highlight of that summer became trips to the grocery with my mother, because each time we visited, Uncle Johnny casually tossed a few packs into our bag.

Eventually, there was a different wrapper and the cards inside were in color. Despite the change in card design, the thrill of collecting remained the same ceremonious unveilings of John, Paul, George and Ringo. McCord's Drugstore in my neighborhood can also be credited with fueling my ever-growing card collection with both baseball and Beatles packs. Thanks to these sources, I amassed quite the collection by the end of that summer.

Although I was too young to attend the two Beatles' concerts in Indianapolis on September 3, 1964, I did not miss the *Our Fair Beatles*

special on WISH TV Channel 8. The concert was scheduled during our Indiana State Fair, and they performed at both the Coliseum and the Grandstand. Indy was one of the first cities to make a local film documentary of The Beatles' stay and performance. There are many stories I could tell about how I collected The Beatles over the last 50 years, but you only need to see this collection to conclude that I never stopped. That stormy gust of scattered Beatles cards led me to collect signed items, handwritten lyrics and eventually personally owned items. It has been quite a journey. Thank-you John, Paul, George, and Ringo for being a major part of my life and for your momentous role in my days of discovery.



## THE BEATLES COLLECTION

- The British television program *Thank Your Lucky Stars* original hand-painted camera card, used for the opening of the show. The card is autographed by all four Beatles. This is the only item to surface from this particular appearance in 1963, as the film was lost and to this day has never surfaced (below).



- Autograph book containing signatures from The Beatles New Zealand tour in 1964. The book has been autographed by John Lennon, Paul McCartney (signed twice), George Harrison, Ringo Starr, The Beatles' Manager, Brian Epstein; Road Manager, Mal Evans; Cynthia Lennon, Pattie Boyd (George's then-girlfriend, signed twice), Jane Asher (Paul's girlfriend, signed twice), Jimmie Nichol, replacement drummer for Ringo while he had his tonsils removed (rare), and British singing duo, Peter and Gordon.
- A script for *The Morecomb and Wise Show* from December 1963, which has been autographed on the front page by all four Beatles. In addition to performing their hits, they also performed in jest, *On Moonlight Bay*, with the hosts of the show.
- A schoolbook notepad that has been made into an autograph book, autographed on

a page by all four early Beatles in March of 1962. John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Pete Best have all signed. All have added love and kisses symbols. Other artists, including Cliff Richard, have also signed the book.

- A set of shirts owned and worn by all four Beatles. The shirts were obtained in Seattle from their stay at the Edgewater Hotel in August 1964. Detailed letters of the history of the shirts and how they were obtained are included, along with original newspaper clippings from Seattle about The Beatles appearance there. The shirts are accompanied by John Lennon's *In His Own Write* book with handwriting by a fan that attended the concert. On the inside cover of the book she has written the songs they performed and attached the ticket stub next to the list.
- A set of original 11 x 14 concert photos taken directly from the negatives picturing The Beatles performing at the Hollywood Bowl in August 1964 (below).



- Two 16 x 20 photo proof boards from *Peter Kay Photography* of The Beatles' first photo session with Ringo Starr after he replaced Pete Best in August 1962. The Peter Kay (PK) stamp is on the back of the boards. Photos also include Beatles manager Brian Epstein.

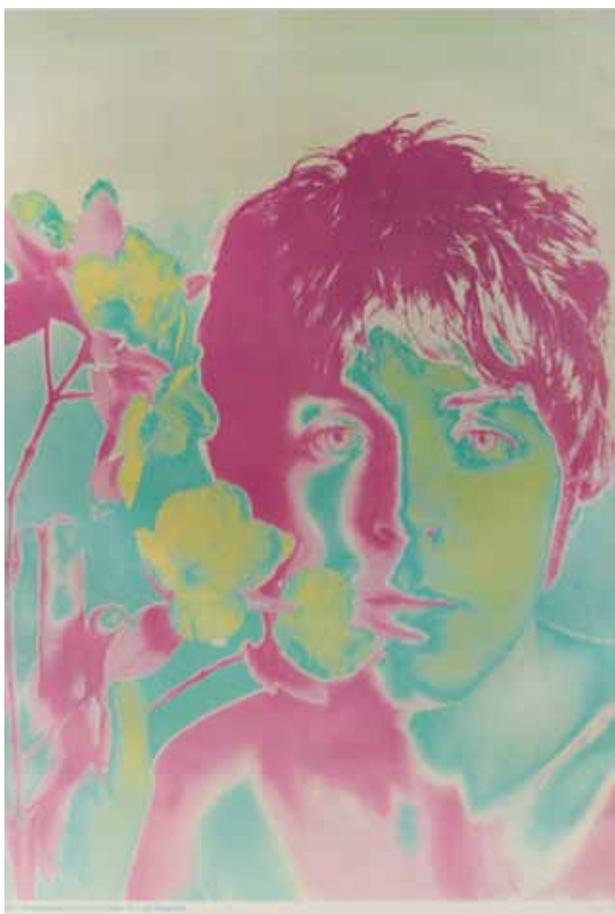
- A set of original 11 x 14 photos of The Beatles, which were taken from the negatives. Made while filming their promotional films, *Strawberry Fields* and *Penny Lane* in 1967.
- The Beatles autographed 1966 U.S. tour program obtained by journalist Marilyn Doerfler, who worked for *Datebook* magazine and accompanied the Beatles on all three of their United States tours. The Beatles have dedicated the book to Marilyn. Additional artwork by John and George is included on their respective signed pages.
- Signatures of John Lennon and Paul McCartney obtained on album pages in 1969 during the time they were recording *Abbey Road*. The signatures of any of The Beatles were difficult to obtain during this time, as they were not touring and were working only in the studio. A nice letter from the recipient accompanies.
- Sid Bernstein Associates original advertisement proof sheet promoting The Beatles concert at Shea Stadium in 1965. Bernstein promoted the concert.
- Original 16 x 20 photo of The Beatles from early 1962, signed on front by John Lennon, Paul McCartney and George Harrison and twice on the reverse side by Pete Best. To date this is the only known signed 16 x 20 original photo signed by The Beatles with Pete Best. Pete left the group in August of 1962.
- A set of The Beatles autographs on two album covers. First, *The Beatles For Sale* LP is signed by Paul McCartney and George Harrison with a dedication on front cover signed in the 1990s. Second, *A Hard Day's Night* LP is signed on the front by John Lennon and Ringo Starr in 1965.

- The Beatles set of autographs obtained in February 1964, in New York at the Plaza Hotel during their first weekend in America, accompanied by the original invitation for The Beatles' first press conference held in the Baroque Room at the Plaza, where they received their gold record for "I Want To Hold Your Hand."
- Original Beatles memorabilia tray manufactured in 1965, autographed by all four members on separate occasions. John Lennon's autograph was obtained in 1975, Paul McCartney's after his appearance on *The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson* in 1984, and George Harrison's and Ringo Starr's were obtained later in the '80s. The tray comes with full documentation of dates and how the signatures were obtained (below).



- The Beatles set of autographs on a copy of *The Beatles Monthly* magazine. John and George have signed on front and Paul and Ringo on their respective picture pages. Only a handful of these magazines were signed, especially by all four. *The Beatles Monthly* magazine was published from 1963-1970 by The Beatles Official Fan Club.

- The Beatles "I Want To Hold Your Hand" (rejected) Capitol Records acetate. When Capitol pressed the first Beatles song on their label, they missed several seconds of the song in the middle and had to remove the label and reject it. They turned the acetate over for the next single in line for manufacturing. In my research, I have never seen an "I Want To Hold Your Hand" acetate like this, which leads me to believe that it is the only one.
- A Beatles fan's autograph book signed nicely by all four Beatles. The signatures were obtained in early 1963.
- A complete set of posters from 1968, illustrated by artist/photographer Richard Avedon, featuring all four Beatles pictured individually, and one group poster. These could only be purchased through *Look* magazine in 1968. As the years have gone by, these sets have become quite collectible (below).



- Original 1963 Cavern Club membership book autographed inside by all four Beatles, and additionally by the group The Hollies, including Graham Nash.
- A black and white 8 x 10 photo of all four Beatles pictured in the Bahamas during the filming of *Help!*. The photo has been signed by each Beatle. Accompanying the photo are signatures of director Richard Lester and the main cast members from the film.
- Very rare set of four post-Beatle promotional Apple 8 x 10 photographs autographed by each of The Beatles and dedicated to a Capitol Records employee in 1971. They were signed less than a year after The Beatles' break up in 1970. This is the only known set of signed pictures of this kind to have surfaced.
- Original Pan American Airlines photo picturing all four Beatles at the airport arrival press conference. The photo has been autographed by John Lennon, Paul McCartney, and Ringo Starr, signed on February 8, 1964, during their photo session in Central Park. George was taken ill after their arrival and did not make the session, as he was in their hotel being seen by a doctor. A Pan American Airlines luggage ticket, autographed by George Harrison in Los Angeles later in 1964, is included in this set (below).



- A post production script from July 1965 for the Beatles second film titled *Help!*.
- A collection of original Dezo Hoffman photos from The Beatles' first U.S. visit in February 1964. Dezo's photography stamp is placed on the reverse side of each photo.
- The Beatles articles and clippings from *Mersey Beat* magazine and English newspapers from 1962-1963. They have been placed in a scrapbook. Inside the book, on their respective bio pages, are the signatures of all four Beatles. Paul McCartney additionally signed again on the inside front page of the scrapbook.
- The Beatles United Kingdom pressing of the album titled *The Beatles For Sale* signed by all four Beatles on their front cover picture. Signatures are from 1965.
- A page autographed by all four Beatles during their final United States tour in August 1966. The signatures were obtained at Capitol Records in Los Angeles and were signed for an EMI record company employee at a gathering held for The Beatles.
- Paul McCartney and Ringo Starr autographed Wembley Stadium concert program from 1975, featuring Elton John as the headliner and including The Eagles, Joe Walsh, and The Beach Boys. Paul and Ringo attended. Paul additionally wrote, "and the Boogaloos" (relating to Ringo's hit song, "Back Off Boogaloo"), and Ringo has written, "and his Wings" which was Paul's group

at the time. It is quite rare getting any of the Beatles together after their break up in 1970.

- The Beatles first United Kingdom pressing of the album titled *Please Please Me*, autographed by all four Beatles on the reverse side. Signatures are from late 1963 (below).



- Original photo proofs of John Lennon and Paul McCartney at the airport in New York to launch Apple Records in May 1968.
- Original photo proof slides of The Beatles performing their very first U.S. concert in February 1964 at Washington Coliseum in DC.
- Original photo slide sheet of The Beatles on the *Shindig* TV show in 1964.
- Private Screening invitation to Dell Books for the movie *Help!* on August 18, 1965.

- Original United Artist documents relating to in-house correspondence, premiere pass, and publicity news, etc. for the movie *Help!*
- Original United Artist documents with notations relating to in-house correspondence and publicity news, etc. for the movie *A Hard Day's Night*.
- Beatles photos from 1967, signed by photographer Philip Townsend.
- Albert Marion original 11 x 14 photo of The Beatles on backer board. In their first photo session in 1961, John, Paul, George and drummer, Pete Best, wore leather jackets.
- Leon Russell's self-titled debut album, signed by George Harrison, Ringo Starr, Eric Clapton, The Rolling Stones' Bill Wyman and Charlie Watts, Leon Russell himself, and all of the people to whom Leon dedicated his album. It took many years to collect all of these signatures on this album. All signatures were obtained by the late Larry Lent, who in the 1960s and 1970s compiled a massive collection of in-person signatures in the field of rock & roll and pop. Some signatures are inscribed to Larry.

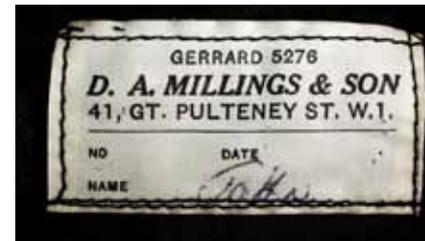
## THE BEATLES FEATURE ITEMS

### A COMPLETE SET OF THE BEATLES OWNED AND WORN CLOTHING

**P**aul McCartney's 1963 dark blue, collar-less performance jacket accompanied by an autograph page from McCartney to the chauffeur's daughter, Estelle. Paul left the jacket in the car with the chauffeur on arrival in Bournemouth. The letter of the jacket's history is featured below.



**J**ohn Lennon's personally owned two-piece tweed suit from 1965. This suit was made by Douglas Millings with their nametag attached and on the inside pocket the white company tag is hand-printed "Beatle John". The suit was donated by John to Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum in London in the 1960s.



I the undersigned believe this item to be absolutely genuine.  
 I started a second hand shop called "Guzunders" in 1977 in the center of my home town, Bournemouth. After a very short time it developed into a vintage clothing shop. I had to move to larger premises and called the new shop "Bizarre Bazaar". I found myself catering for clothing dealers from all over the world and film and tv companys. In the early 1980s a local gentleman turned up at the shop and sold me a large quantity of mens clothing. He explained that these items had been left with him for various reasons. Mostly the items came from Dean Martin who had lived here in the UK for approx two years. Most of these items had Mr Martins name embroidered on the insides. I sold most of them from my shop and the better items I sold through "Christies" south Kensington, London.  
 The gentleman explained that he had also driven Mr Paul McCartney whilst he was appearing at a theatre here in Bournemouth with the Beatles and that the jacket had also been left with him. He had held on to these items for approx. 20 years and had decided to sell them as he was moving to a smaller house and no longer had the room to hold on to them. With the jacket also came the autograph which he said had been signed for a then teenaged member of his family. I have kept the jacket for approx. 20 years. I have no reason to disbelieve the gentleman as there seemed no reason why he was not telling the truth. I paid cash for all the items which he bought to my shop in his car. Unfortunatley I did not take his name.  
 Thankyou.  
*Charles*  
 James Hardy.

To Estelle,  
 love from  
 Paul McCartney

**A COMPLETE SET OF THE BEATLES OWNED AND WORN CLOTHING (CONTINUED)**

**G**eorge Harrison's owned and worn two piece pin striped suit. The manufacture label inside the jacket reads: Lord John of Carnaby Street, Made in Italy. This suit was donated by George to London's Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum and used for the fifth version of The Beatles wax figure display in 1968.



George Harrison's suit on his wax figure at London's Madame Tussaud's Museum in 1968



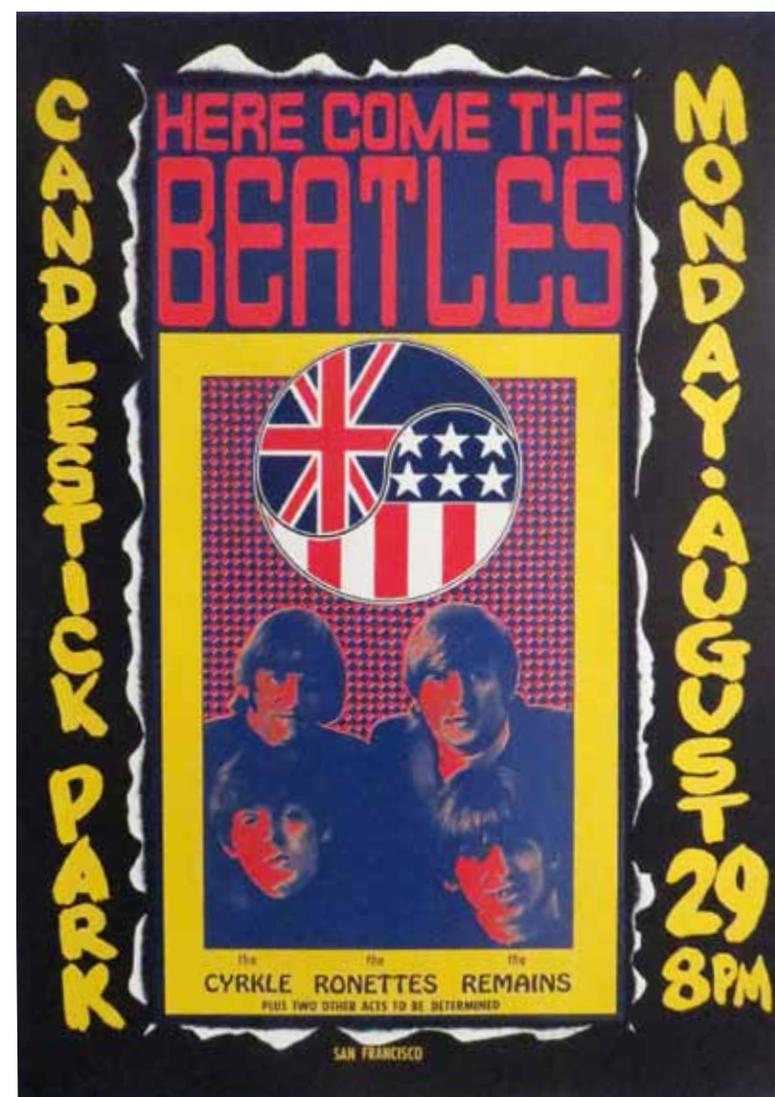
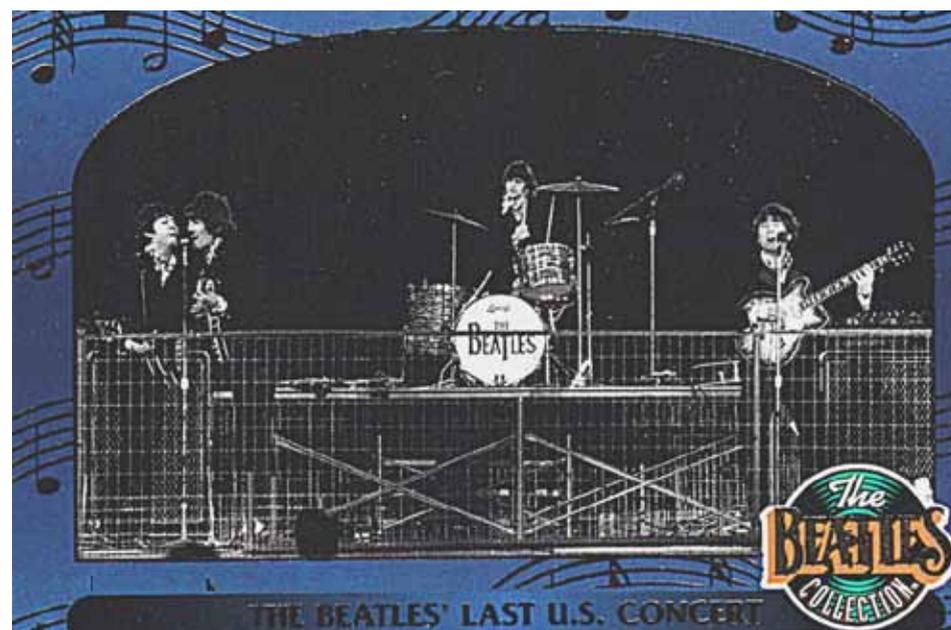
**R**ingo Starr's owned and worn blue velour jacket. The manufacture label inside the jacket reads: Lord John of Carnaby Street, Made in England. This jacket was donated by Ringo to London's Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum and used for the fifth version of The Beatles wax figure display in 1968. Some of the buttons are now missing.

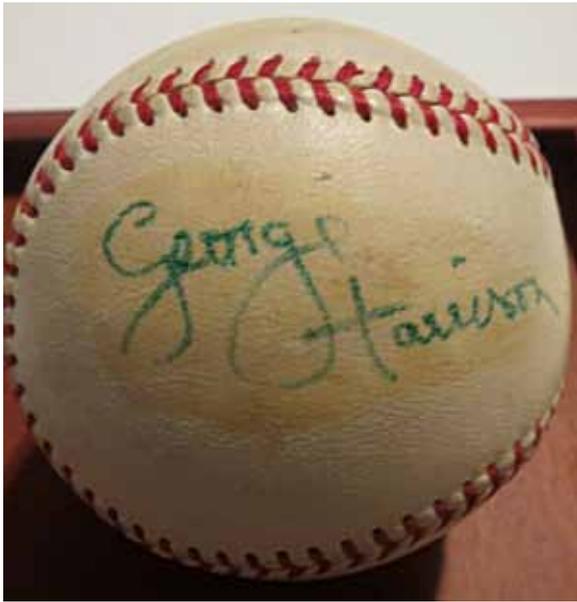


Ringo Starr's jacket on his wax figure at London's Madame Tussaud's Museum in 1968

## THE BEATLES LAST CONCERT ON AUGUST 29, 1966 AT CANDLESTICK PARK IN SAN FRANCISCO

On August 29, 1966, The Beatles played their final concert in San Francisco's Candlestick Park. On this day, The Beatles autographed an official National League baseball for an employee who worked at the park. This employee later gave the signed baseball to his sister as a consolation gift because he was unable to get her a ticket to the concert. At the time, she did not know the value of what was presented to her, and did not know she possessed what is now known as one of the rarest Beatles artifacts in the history of their very last concert performance. This collection of items includes the ticket stub and a program from the concert, original newspaper pages, and *The Beatles at Candlestick Park 1966* limited edition signed lithograph by the artist Wes Wilson, with a great letter from the recipient sharing his story. On August 14, 2014, Candlestick Park had its final event. Fittingly, it was a Paul McCartney concert. The stadium has since been torn down, which makes the baseball and the extra items a historical reminder of the park's history.





The origin and history of this 1966 Beatles autographed baseball.

This was the Beatles' last concert tour appearance ever, a 33-minute performance at San Francisco's Candlestick Park on Monday, August 29, 1966. The Park's capacity was 42,500 but the Beatles only filled 25,000 seats, leaving entire sections of unsold seats.

Mike Murphy is currently the San Francisco Giants Clubhouse Manager and has been for the last 40 years. When Anna (Mike's sister) heard the Beatles were playing at Candlestick Park, she begged her brother to get her tickets for the concert. Mike had just started working for the S.F. Giants back then and didn't want to jeopardize his new position by asking for free tickets – Anna missed the concert.

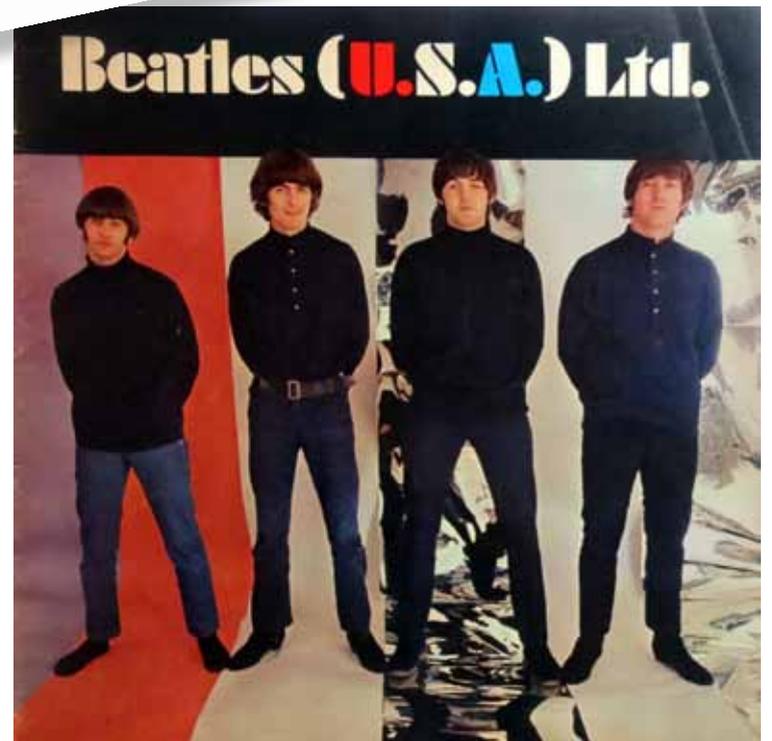
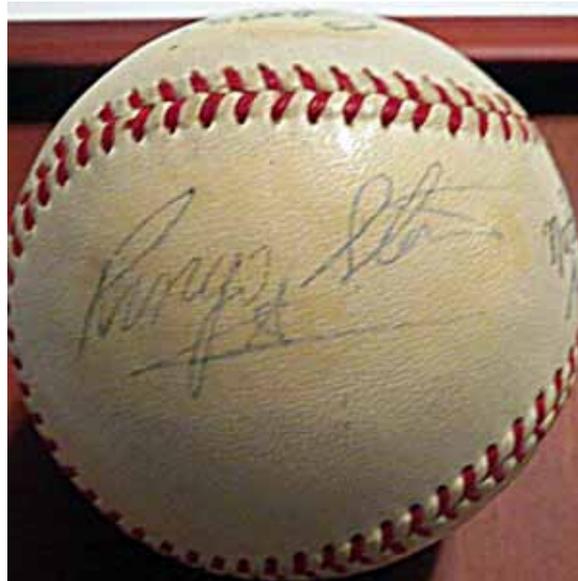
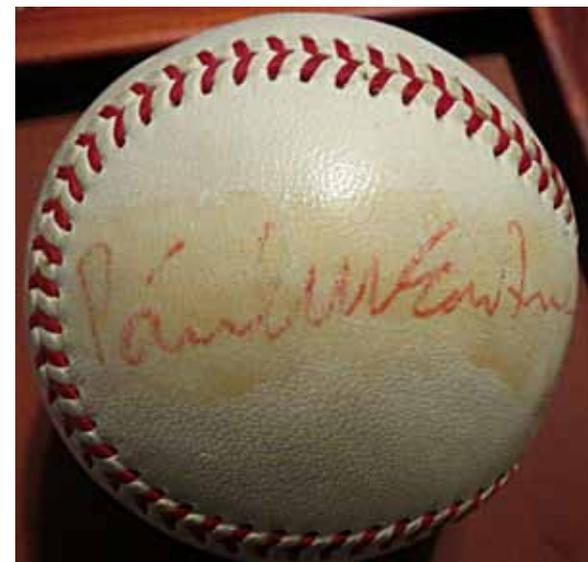
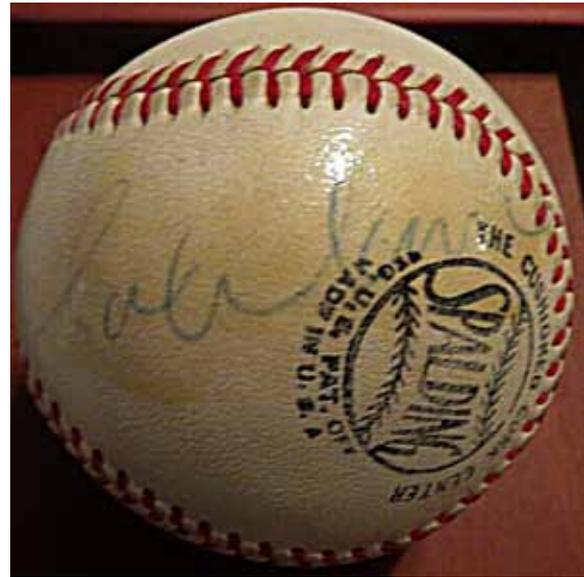
On the day of the Beatles concert (August 29, 1966), Mike noticed the concert was barely half full and he could have easily gotten Anna tickets. Needless to say, he felt bad. So, what did Mike do? He got the Beatles to autograph a baseball for Anna, since she missed the concert.

When Mike arrived home he gave the baseball to Anna, but she really didn't care! She wanted to go to the concert, not get a baseball. She put the baseball in her closet and it sat there for over 35 years.

I met Anna in 2001. She was the aunt of my roommate John Lopez. She visited her nephew John often so we became good friends. She told me about the baseball and I was blown away. I asked her if she would ever consider selling the baseball, I would love to buy it. Later that year I purchased the baseball.

The baseball has been in my possession from 2001 until now. On this 8<sup>th</sup> day of August 2005, Mr. Tom Fontaine of Indianapolis, Indiana has become the new proprietor of this piece of Beatles history.

Terry L. Flores





Yesterday



Today

## About the Author

Tom Fontaine's story as a collector begins in 1963 at the age of 5. Over 50 years later, he has amassed one of the largest individual collections of memorabilia in the world. Featured on CNN, PBS, BBC, credited in film, and published in various magazines and newspapers, his book shares a unique and entertaining insight of the collection, personal stories, and highlighted by the incredible photography of museum quality artifacts featuring The Beatles, Elvis and Sun Records, Buddy Holly, Hendrix, Morrison, Elton, Marilyn, James Dean, and many more. This vast collection represents amazing pieces from music icons, movies, television, animation, politics, and sports. Celebrate 20th century history as seen through the eyes of one collector.

