

The Beatles Mach Schau in Hamburg – Update 2025

Dear readers,

around four years ago, I finished the work on my book *The Beatles Mach Schau in Hamburg*. I am grateful for all the nice comments and the two sold out runs. I am proud that my book is now in the Harrison archive.

Although one might think that after over thirty years of research on the topic everything has been explored, new documents and facts continue to emerge. Additionally, I have noticed some minor errors in retrospect.

I would like to take the opportunity to provide a small update here following the chapters in my book.

Enjoy

Thorsten Knublauch, March 2025

www.bravo-beatles-blitztournee.de

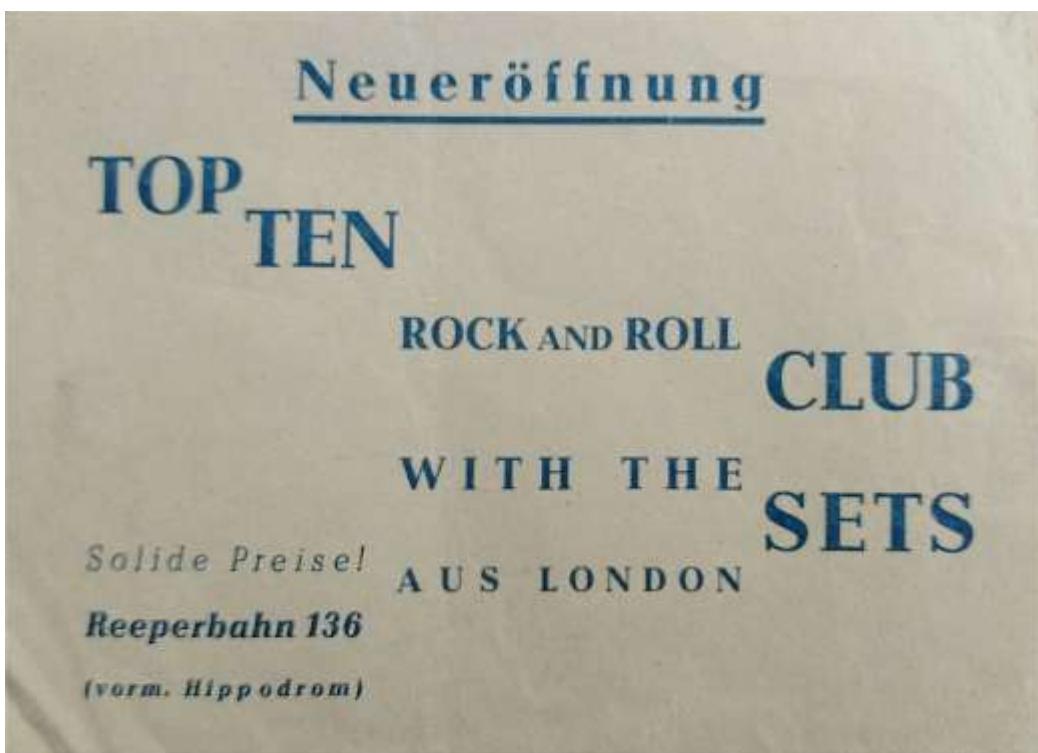
There's A Place – The Clubs

Newly found footage shows that the “Indra“ neon light above the street with the elephant next to the club had flashing coloured lights.



Still showing the complete neon sign in full colour

In the meantime, a flyer for the opening of the club has turned up. Note the spelling error in the band's name “The Sets“ instead of “The Jets“.



Flyer for the opening of the Top Ten Club in July 1960

Also – an 8mm film of a tour through Hamburg -allegedly in 1960- has appeared on Youtube, and at 1:57 we see a small glimpse of the Top Ten Club from the outside. Interesting to see that the neon lights on the marquee seem to have been there right from the first year on. Comparing the awful state of the facade of the building, it seems it got a new paint job somewhere in between the time of this footage and the image from September 1962 shown in my book on page 24.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XYuzNIc5uGo&t=1s>



Still from the 8mm footage from 1960

In addition, I was able to find tickets for the Top Ten from the 1960/1962 era.



Two variations of tickets for the Top Ten. It is not clear when they changed from Herbert to Peter Eckhorn on the print. One could have seen the Beatles or Ringo (with Sheridan) with them. They never had dates on them.

The Long And Winding Road - How the Beatles came to Hamburg

Page 46: Barry Chang claims in a recent interview that it was his idea to put the name Beatles on the minibus. So, while arriving in Hook van Holland on August 16th, 1960 he bought a newspaper and tore the letters by hand from the pages and glued them with spit to one window to be seen from the outside. For *Furore* 28 from April 2024 author Piet Schreuders tried to find the right paper, and his guess is that it might have been *De Telegraaf* from that day. Unfortunately, no known photo exists showing this – all known photos of the van had been taken in England and not later in the Netherlands.

Magical Mystery Tour - The Beatles at the Tanzpalast Indra

Page 51: The Hamburg documents that I show in my book, starting on page 51, were sold at auction after the publication of my book at Bonhams on May 5th, 2021 as Lot 297 for £137,750 inc. premium.

<https://www.bonhams.com/auction/26708/lot/297/the-beatlesjohn-lennon-an-important-group-of-early-documents-including-john-lennons-permits-relating-to-the-beatles-historic-trips-to-hamburg-1960-1962/>

They were resold in a different auction at Gottahaverocknoll.com for \$ 260.000,00 plus premium on April 16th, 2023.

https://www.gottahaverockandroll.com/John_Lennon_Signed_Historically_Important_Hamburg_-LOT47952.aspx

Page 143/146: One page that had not been in the above-mentioned lots was offered at Gottahaverockanroll auction on December 7th, 2024 but remained unsold. This document was not unknown, since it had been published in black and white before in various books or magazines. I chose to show the similar page from Stuart on page 146 in my book and mentioned John's on page 143.

https://www.gottahaverockandroll.com/John_Lennon_Signed_Historically_Important_Top_Ten-LOT56056.aspx

Antrag

auf Erteilung eines Sichtvermerks zur Einreise nach — zur Durchreise durch — Deutschland

Application for a Visa to enter — to travel through — Germany

Demande de délivrance d'un visa d'entrée en — de transit par — l'Allemagne

An d— Botschaft— Gesandtschaft — Generalkonsulat der Bundesrepublik Deutschland
 To the Embassy— Legation — Consulate-General of the Federal Republic of Germany
 Ambassade— Légation — Consulat Général de la République fédérale d'Allemagne

in/in/à ENGLAND - LIVERPOOL

1. Familien- und Vornamen (bei Frauen auch Geburtsname)	LENNON (Vorname, Rufname unterstreichen) (Nachname) (Nom de famille)	
1. Surname and Christian names (in the case of married women state also maiden name)	JOHN WINSTON (Christian names, underline name by which usually known) (Nachnamen, unterstreichen den Namen, unter dem man ihn kennt)	
1. Nom de famille et prénoms (pour les femmes, nom de jeune fille)		
2. Geburtstag und Geburtsort (Kreis, Land)	geboren am 9th October 1940 Born on 9th October 1940 né le	
2. Date and place of birth (county, country)	in ENGLAND in	
2. Date et lieu de naissance (département, pays)	(Kreis (county (département)	(Land) (country (pays)
3. Wohnsitz oder dauernder Aufenthaltsort, Sitz der gewerblichen Niederlassung, ge- naue Anschrift und Geschäftsaufresse	136 RIEPERBAHN 'TOP TEN CLUB' HAMBURG Altona W. GERMANY	
3. Domicile or permanent residence, and seat of business establishment, exact private and business address		
3. Domicile ou lieu de résidence perma- nente, siège de l'entreprise, adresse exacte privée et commerciale		
4. Familienstand	ledig	SINGLE
4. Marital Status	Single	
4. Situation de famille	verheiratet, verwitwet, geschieden seit Married, widowed, divorced since marié, veuf, divorcé depuis	
5. Staatsangehörigkeit (bei Doppelstaat auch die weitere)	jetzige Present nationality	ENGLISH
5. Nationality (in case of dual nationality state second nationality)	frühere Former nationality	
5. Nationalité (en cas de double nationalité, indiquer aussi la seconde)	zweite Staatsangehörigkeit Second nationality	
6. Beruf		
6. Trade or profession		
6. Profession	MUSICIAN.	

Kons. 11
50.000 9.60 Gebu Medinger, Beuel-Bonn

John Lennon's visa application for playing at the Top Ten Club in April 1961, signed February 28th, 1961.

<p>7. Was für einen Paß besitzen Sie? (Art des Passes, Nummer, ausstellende Behörde und Ausstellungsort, Datum, Gültigkeitsdauer)</p> <p>7. What type of passport do you possess? (type of passport, number, by whom issued, where issued, date issued, period of validity)</p> <p>7. Quel passeport possédez-vous? (genre de passeport, numéro, autorité qui l'a délivré et lieu de délivrance, date, durée de validité)</p>	<p>BRITISH. Paß-Nr. LO 268310 ausgestellt durch BRANCH OFFICE L'POOL ENGL issued by délivré par in in à am on le gültig bis zum 15 MARCH 1960 Valid until 15 MARCH 1965 valable, jusqu'au</p>
<p>8. Reiseweg, Reiseziel, Reisezweck 8. Itinerary, destination, purpose of travel 8. Itinéraire, destination, but du voyage</p>	<p>HAMBURG GERMANY MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT</p>
<p>9. Voraussichtlicher Zeitpunkt der Einreise und Dauer des Aufenthalts in Deutschland 9. Prospective date of entry and duration of stay in Germany 9. Date probable d'entrée en Allemagne et durée du séjour</p>	<p>Einreise etwa am MARCH 16th 1961 Entry on about Entrée environ le</p> <p>Aufenthaltsdauer Duration of stay Durée du séjour 3 months</p>
<p>10. Begleitende Kinder (Name, Geschlecht, Tag und Ort der Geburt) 10. Accompanying children (name, sex, date and place of birth) 10. Accompagné d'enfants (nom, sexe, date et lieu de naissance)</p>	<p>a) _____ b) _____ c) _____</p>
<p>11. Art des beantragten Sichtvermerks (Binreise-, Durchreisesichtvermerk, einmalig, mehrmals) 11. Type of visa applied for (entry, transit, for single journey or repeated journeys) 11. Nature du visa demandé (visa d'entrées, de transit, pour un — plusieurs voyages)</p>	<p>ENTRY VISA.</p>
<p>12. Bemerkungen 12. Notes 12. Remarques</p>	

Die vorstehenden Angaben entsprechen der Wahrheit. Mir ist bekannt, daß ich mich durch wissenlich falsche Angaben strafbar mache.

The above statements are true. I know that I am liable to a penalty if I knowingly make a false statement.

Les déclarations ci-dessus sont conformes à la vérité. Je sais que je me rends possible d'une peine en faisant des déclarations sciemment fausses.

verpool England 28th Feb¹.

(Ort und Datum)
(Place and date)
(Lieu et date)

1961

J. W. fennan.

(Eigenhändige Unterschrift)
(Signature)
(Signature autographe)

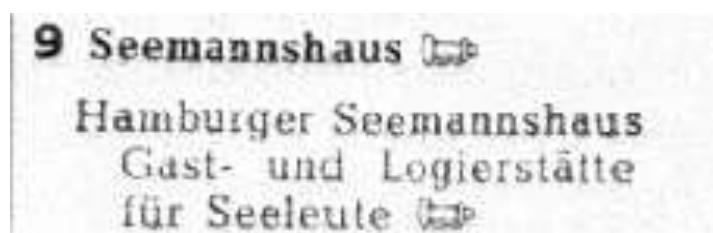
John Lennon's visa application for playing at the Top Ten Club in April 1961, signed February 28th, 1961.

All Together Now - The Beatles at the Kaiserkeller

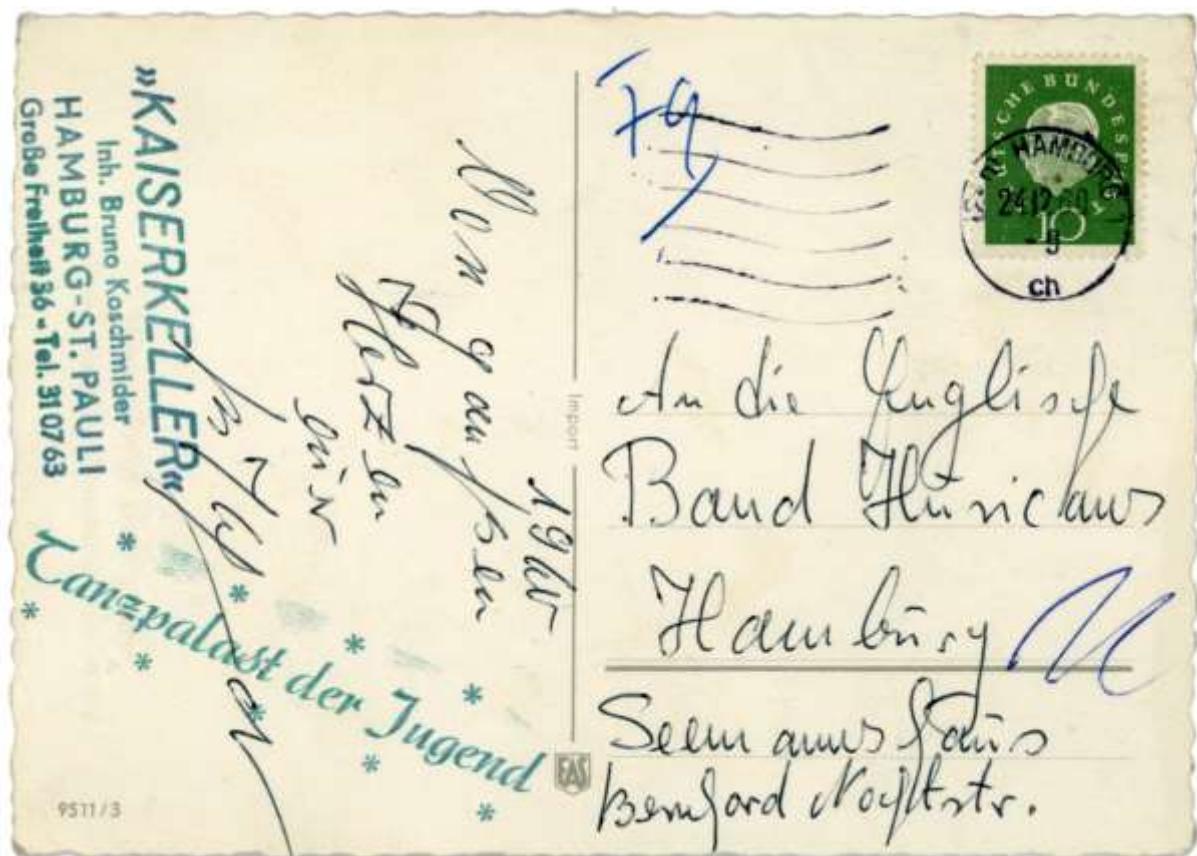
Page 87 (and 492): I had been researching for decades to find out where the Hurricanes stayed during their first Hamburg season with Ringo in 1960. I knew very early on that the pub at Johannisbollwerk, mentioned in most of the books, was wrong. Ringo always spoke about the “German Seaman’s mission“. There were not many German Seaman’s missions left which could have been “the“ one. Wally explained to me on request through fellow author Ant Hogan that it had been a building near the St. Michaels “Michel“ church – and this is where the new building of the German Seaman’s mission is, at Krayenkamp, opposite the church, which found an entry into my book. Ringo once mentioned that the mission was “near the docks”, but when he played Hamburg on his birthday on July 7th, 2011 and had a “peace and love gathering“ at the Hard Rock Cafe near the harbour, he had no idea anymore where it could have been and asked the audience, “Does anybody know where the German Seaman’s mission is?“ As it turned out recently by pure luck, he would just have had to look in front of him. Because of this event I didn’t rely on his statement and just thought he might have referred to somewhere in the harbour direction, which also roughly fit the address Krayenkamp.

At www.tracksauction.com a postcard written by Kaiserkeller owner Bruno Koschmider was auctioned in October 2024 as lot 373. This Christmas card he sent to the Hurricanes, postmarked December 24th, 1960, was addressed to “An die Englische Band Huricans Hamburg Seemannshaus Bernhard Nochtstr.“ (To the English band Huricans (sic) Hamburg Seaman’s house Bernhard Nocht street). At this address there was no Seaman’s mission, but at the extension of Bernhard-Nocht Straße there was Seewartenstraße, where, at No 9, there was the “Seemannshaus“ (“Seaman’s house“). This building had been built in 1858 and had been used for any kind of sailors’ accommodation before WWII, and again from 1948 until the mid-1970s, when the building was closed and converted over the years into one of the biggest hotels in Hamburg.

Today, the street address of the Hotel Hafen Hamburg is still Seewartenstraße 9. So this building never was a Seaman’s mission – a Christian organisation – but a cheap hostel, mainly for seamen. It seems Ringo and the fellow musicians never knew the difference and therefore historians like myself were misled and only looked out for “real“ Seaman’s missions. A pity the first-hand information from Wally was misleading.



Address book entry for the Seemannshaus building in 1960



Postcard written by Bruno Koschmider to the Hurricanes to their accommodation



The former Seemannshaus building in the 1970s

There is no photo available of the building in 1960, but a photo from the late 1970s when it was re-opened as the Hotel Hafen Hamburg and was still a no-frills hotel and likely looked like this in 1960. So, unfortunately, the Seaman's mission at Krayenkamp never was the accommodation for the Hurricanes. Nevertheless, when looking at the photo, it still remains a mystery how Rory Storm could have climbed up from the outside onto the fourth floor...

When I Get Home - How the Beatles were sacked from the Kaiserkeller

Page 121: In the meantime, I was able to actually see scans of pages of Paul's passport. Unfortunately, the date of December 5th, 1960 when he was deported hasn't been stamped in. The reason could be that the deportation took place using different doors at the airport where there was no formal passport control, as Paul and Pete were brought in by the authorities.

Page 122: In the meantime, I was able to actually see a scan of the page of George's passport bearing the Oldenzaal stamp mentioned in my book.

Page 132: Chas Newby passed away on May 22nd, 2023

Page 133: On July 8th, 2023, as lot 14, a hand-painted poster for the Beatles' gig at the Casbah Club on December 31st, 1960 was sold for \$ 12.000,00 plus premium at gottahaverocknroll.com. The text was painted on the back of a 23 x 33-inch poster showing a painted scene of a Hamburg area. They were named again "The Beatles Rock Combo". A mystery how this poster got from Hamburg to Liverpool.

https://gottahaverocknroll.com/The_Beatles_Incredibly_Rare_December_1960_Casbah_C-LOT49057.aspx

DIRECT FROM HAMBURG

THE
" "
FABULOUS -

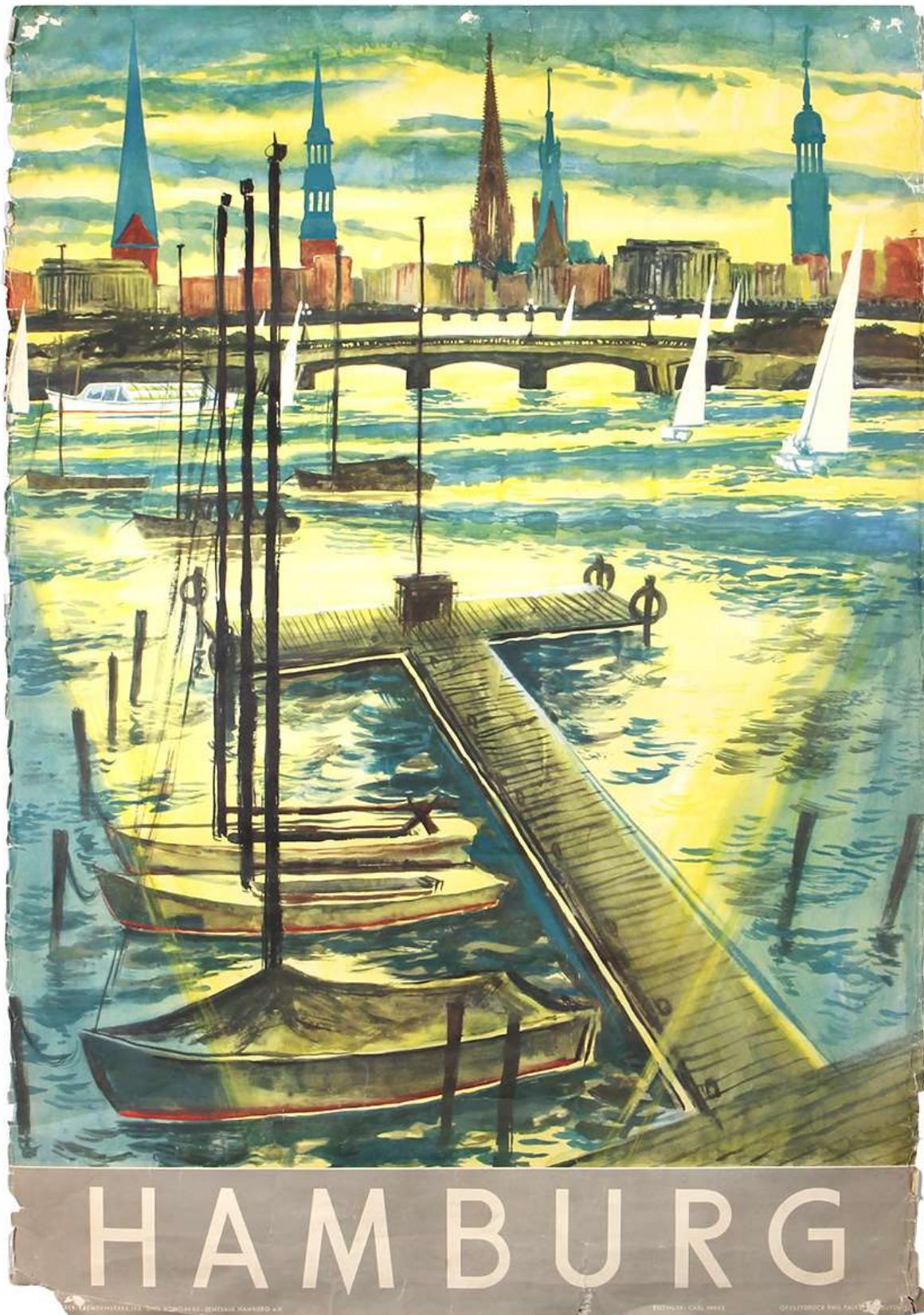
BEATLES

Rock COMBO -

THIS SATURDAY

1/- ADMISSION -

Poster for the Beatles' concert on December 31st, 1960 at the Casbah



Back of the poster for the Beatles' concert on December 31st, 1960 at the Casbah

Get Back - How the Beatles returned to Hamburg

Page 154: As guessed by the author, Tony Sheridan only occasionally was backed by the Beatles. This was confirmed for the first time by Pete Best during an interview with Roger Stormo during the Norwegian Beatles Festival that took place from October 13rd to 15th, 2023; Roger kindly forwarded the author's question to Pete.

<https://webgrafikk.com/blog/news/cry-for-a-shadow/>

Beatle Bop - The Beatles at the Top Ten Club

Page 167: George remembered that the Top Ten Club had a Binson Echo for the mike system. A closer look at photos from bands on stage around the Beatles days suggests that the equipment actually was a Dynacord Echocord Super S61 echo unit and a Dynacord Eminent EMT mixer – which was brand new at the time.

Middleword

Rüdiger Neber passed away on November 2nd, 2022

In My Life – Stuart Sutcliffe's last year

Page 220: The analysis of letters by Stuart and the stories written by Pauline suggested that the last journey of Stuart to Liverpool happened in mid February 1962. Unfortunately that is not quite correct. The publication of Mike McCartney's book *Early Liverpool* by Genesis Publications in January 2021 and the printed documents shows that this visit actually had been around 2 weeks later as thought. Stuart wrote a letter to Mike around the same time as other letters, postmarked February 16th, 1962, and he announced his next visit to Liverpool without mentioning a proper date. The most important document is also shown in Mike's book. It is a draft or a notice he wrote after Stuart passed away remembering his last visit, likely for the articles or interviews for the Liverpool Echo from mid April. First of all he mentioned that he spoke with Stuart in the changing room of the Cavern. It seems Stuart saw the Beatles in early March 1962 at the Cavern who played there nearly daily a fact that was believed over the years to have happened.

The best fact mentions Mike when he wrote „Whilst he was here Stuart greatly enjoyed going to Manchester with the Beatles where they were performing in a Radio Show“. This means that Stuart was present at the very first Radio Show the Beatles ever played. What is very moving that he saw the first big step in their career. The show was called *Teenager's Turn – Here We Go*, recorded March 7th, 1962 and

broadcasted March 8th, 1962. They played *Dream Baby (How Long Must I Dream?)*, *Memphis, Tennessee*, and *Please Mister Postman*.

Stuart a fervent admirer of his old group 'The BEATLES' was talking to me alone in the changing room of the Cavern. He seemed quite different and after telling him so he said that many people had said the same thing. After speaking for a while he would rise as if to leave, but would call and then return to his seat. He showed me of a photo of himself and Astrid, and explained that it was taken after he had been in hospital. When I asked why he had been in he said that he would rather not say. It did not matter. In conclusion he said that he wanted to return to Hamburg, his wife, and his fiancee, but would have to wait, because the customs had his camera. In Germany he studied under PAOLOZZI, the world famous sculptor. Whilst he was there Stuart greatly enjoyed going to Manchester with the Beatles where they were performing in a Radio Show. Stuart was a very advanced, young man, whose mind was constantly on the go. In a letter he wrote to me, ~~he was~~ ^{he was} writing about on ~~poetry~~ ^{poetry} murals, the contents were extremely ~~advanced~~ ^{interesting} and somewhat reminiscent of ~~poetry~~ ^{poetry} of Henry Miller and Surrealism. I would very much like to see an exhibition of Stuart's work in his home, as I know this would have pleased him greatly.

Draft by Mike McCartney approx. April 1962

Not A Second Time - The Beatles at the Star-Club

Page 308: Recent research has disclosed that the curtain around the Star-Club stage was creme/yellowish and not blue. It was blue only a few years later. Therefore, the colouration of the image appears not to be 100% accurate.

I've Just Seen A Face - Photo sessions

Page 327: When Paul published his book *The Lyrics – 1956 up to the present* – we learned that it was he who bought the Indra photos that were auctioned off at Sotheby's on August 30th, 1984 by Dot (I always assumed this). He showed them in the book. The same goes for a fourth (!) Polaroid snap taken at Harald & Lore. This unseen shot had a speech bubble drawn by Paul coming out of his mouth, into which "Hello Madame" was written. It is likely all five or all but one ordered a Polaroid snap that day.

I also suggest you should read the nice story about the Indra photos on

<https://webgrafikk.com/blog/news/saga-of-the-missing-beatles/>

and

<https://webgrafikk.com/blog/news/paul-shares-missing-indra-club-photo/>



The fourth Polaroid snapshot taken at Harald & Lore, September 28th, 1960

Page 336: A little typo occurred when accidentally it was said that the Paris trip was in October of 1962. As mentioned at various other places in the book, it was October of 1961.

Page 345: An incredible collection of 25 different photos showing the Beatles at their departure on June 2nd, 1962 was sold at Bonhams on May 5th, 2021 as lot 296 for £ 12.750,00 incl. premium.

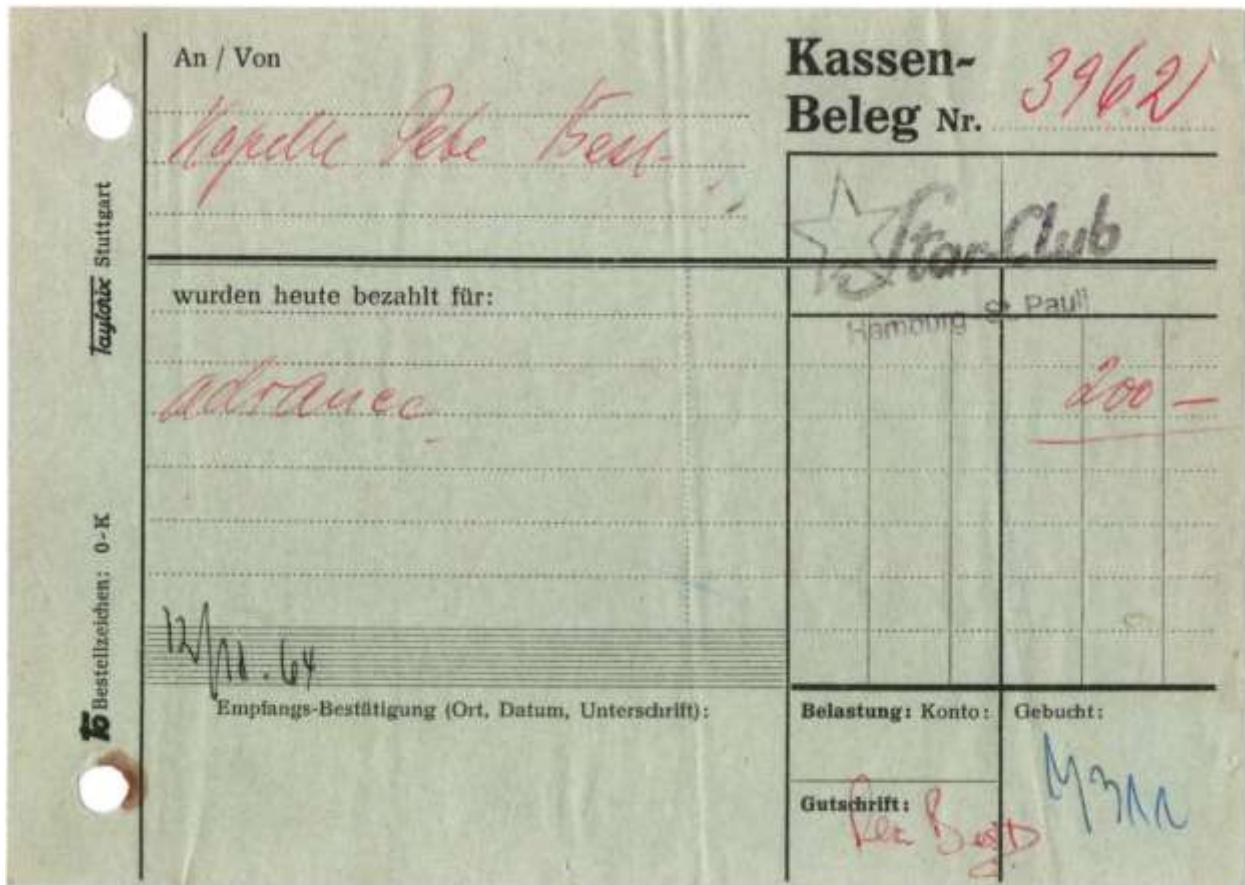
<https://www.bonhams.com/auction/26708/lot/296/the-beatles-a-group-of-rare-photographs-of-the-beatles-at-hamburg-airport-2nd-june-1962-qty/>



Samples of the photo set from the auction's website

Some Other Guy – Pete Best

Page 377: The receipt mentioned is likely this one – or as the date is different – an unknown one:



Advance payment for the Pete Best Four

While My Guitar Gently Weeps - The instruments

Page 381: A closer look at the bill shown in my book -with the help from a music gear shop owner (thanks Markus)- sheds new light into the subject.

At the shop Fritz Horst int Paul-Roosen-Straße, Pete bought a Trixon hi-hat machine and 2 hi hat cymbals from Zildjian. He did not buy a ride or crash cymbal at the time, as erroneously mentioned in my book. I was able to get a better image of that carbon copy from the collector, and it is shown here.

The hi-hat cymbals were auctioned off by Pete at Sotheby's on September 14th-15th, 1994 as lot 740.

A year later again, at Sotheby's, on September 13th-14th, 1995, he sold a cymbal. The cymbal came with a receipt for an installment payment of 70 DM dated October 17th, 1960, which suggested that the cymbal had been bought in Hamburg, too. There is no information where Pete bought the additional cymbal that can be seen on photos from 1961, but the aforementioned receipt belonged to the previously made hi-hat purchase. The receipt was issued at the Fritz Horst shop situated at Steindamm 15 in the centre of Hamburg. According to the address book of Hamburg,

it is likely that, in October 1960, the shop moved from Paul-Roosen-Straße to the new address, where Pete had to honour his payment duties.

This receipt was signed by a certain employee called Paul Rathmann, who six years later was interviewed for an article by *Hamburg Abendecho* the day before The Beatles' Hamburg concerts on June 26th, 1966 when he showed the original bill (which had remained in the shop) for the order on September 28th, 1960 and "remembered the purchase and the musical knowledge of the Beatles". Nevertheless, it is likely that the other cymbal was bought at this other shop in Hamburg, too, but no receipts exist anymore confirming this.



Abendecho, June 25th, 1966

The bill dated October, 17th, 1960 – the faded stamp on top reads “Musik Horst – Hamburg 1 – Steindamm 15“ (Mark Peterson collection)

Unknown at the time of writing, Pete bought two pairs of drumsticks at Steinway on November 7th, 1960, as this bill – also auctioned off by Pete in the aforementioned auction lot on September 14th, 1995 - proves. Around three weeks earlier, John bought his Rickenbacker at this very shop. Likely two days before this purchase of the sticks the photo session with Astrid at the “Dom“ took place. Historic days.



STEINWAY & SONS

HAMBURG 36

Fernruf 341866 · Colonnaden 29

Konsenkeller

Name

7. 11. 60

Anzahl	Datum	Preis	DM	Pf
2 P. Stücke		4,90	9	80
		0,70		80
			1	
			9	
			1	
Kl. I		0184-29		

Umtausch nur innerhalb 8 Tagen gegen Vorlage des Kassenschecks

The bill dated November, 7th, 1960 (Mark Peterson collection)

Hey Bulldog – The Beatles in German leather

Page 392: Johnny Guitars cowboy boots, bought at the same time as the ones by the Beatles, were sold at www.tracksauction.com in October 2024 as lot 363 for £ 1.000 plus premium.

My Bonnie - The Polydor sessions

Page 421: The first release of a stereo version of *My Bonnie* without any intro appeared on the sampler album *Let's Do The Twist, Hully Gully, Slop, Surf, Locomotion, Monkey* (Polydor 237622 SLPHM) in February 1964 and not on *The Beatles' First* LP two months later, as mentioned in the book. Same goes for *Cry For A Shadow*.

Rock And Roll Music - The Star-Club Tape

Kingsize Taylor passed away on January 2nd, 2023