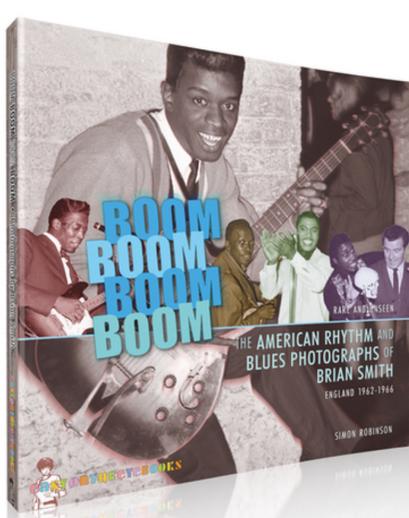




Boom Boom Boom Boom
American Rhythm & Blues In England 1962 - 1966
The Photographs of Brian Smith

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<https://easyontheeyebooks.co.uk/forthcoming/boom-boom-boom-boom/>

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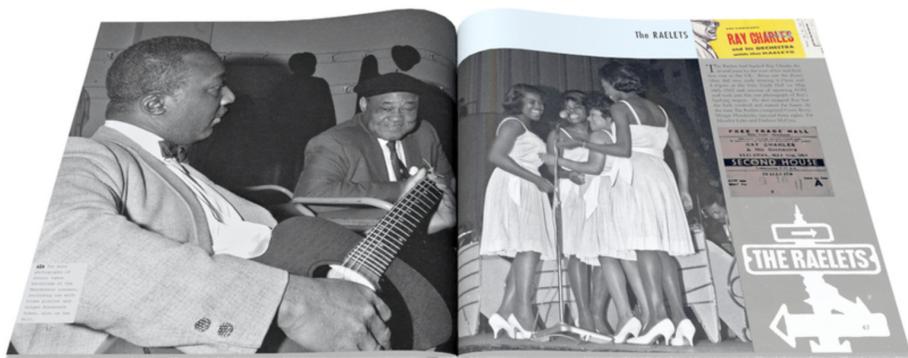
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Just bringing everyone a shortish update on the Boom Boom book's progress. As you know from the previous newsletter, the artwork for the book was handed over to the printer in December. It was not a *great* time to start a new job as they had a number of customers ahead of us all wanting everything before Christmas, but while checking the job over they spotted a couple of page numbering errors (our fault!). So I had to generate new artwork for these which took a day or so over the Christmas week, but it was good to know they were keeping a close eye on things. With the rejigged files sent over, after the Christmas break the printers got on sorting out the page imposition, quite a technical task where the pages are arranged to appear six to a sheet in the correct order for printing (you can see the layout in the image below). They then generated a full colour proof on a digital press. I was all set to go and check these but we suddenly got snowed in - again - this time for three days.



I was finally able to get across there towards the end of last week (with a shovel and bucket of grit in the boot just in case. It still took us half an hour to get the car up the drive!). We all went through each proof sheet carefully, and found two pages in the wrong place (their software fault not ours!), so the extra time spent proofing was well worth doing, plus it was really good to see the book laid out in full for the first time. The shot above shows some of the proofs and Martin from the printers who is in charge of this end of production.

As I am a bit of a print nerd I also took the opportunity to watch as they out-putted the first set of printing plates, so I could see the latest Agfa digital plate making machine in action (I used to do all this by hand when I worked in the industry...).



As always a couple more spreads exclusively with this newsletter, though do remember that these are not always in the order in which they appear in the final book: [25 above] This page spread shows a great shot of JB Lenoir and Roosevelt Sykes backstage and also a nice live shot of The Raelets in action on the Ray Charles tour, both taken at the Free Trade Hall in Manchester. Looks like Brian was at the front of the stage for this one!

The picture below shows Simon checking pages through (it was very cold outside hence the Welsh wool all weather jumper!). The printers have two 5 colour litho presses and plan to use both for the book to speed up production, we will be allowed in to see some of the pages coming off the press over the next few days. So despite the Christmas interruption it is good to report the book is cracking on.



Keep a look out for features in Record Collector magazine next month and also a nice article in Blues & Rhythm, and Blues In Britain are also preparing coverage. We will promote these on the publisher's website when we have more information.

[26 below] The second new spread below shows a collection of images of Chuck Berry in action at Sheffield City Hall in 1964. Brian and his friends had travelled over for the show and obtained permission from the hall manager in writing ahead of the show to use a camera and meet Chuck backstage too. I do like these shots, especially as the City Hall was my local concert venue for many years (although I didn't go to my first rock concert there until 1970) and it is good to be reminded of the venue's history. If you have never been to a concert there it is worth making the effort, as it is a gem. The other page is from a section devoted to The Twisted Wheel, which is where Brian spent an awful lot of his evenings in the early 1960s. He is on the right in the rather serious group photo of him and some of his mates! I assume he'd come straight from the office...



We are now making sure we get the news about the book out to the world, having decided to wait until the Xmas break was properly over to make sure everyone was focused on their in-trays! If you can help spread the word via social media etc. please do. PDF copies are available for bona fide writers and journalists who are able to review the book, contact Easy Books via the website with details. Older newsletters by the way are available to read on the publisher's website.

In the meantime many thanks to everyone who has placed a pre-order, there is still time to do so if you want to get the book before it reaches any other stockists. We also apologise for a glitch at the online shop which caused issues for a couple of people outside the UK. Our techie help-guy Nick reset the postal zones and this sorted it out (when did half the world come to be called Oceana? I must have missed the memo!). If you have any further questions feel free to get in touch. The book is planned to ship in late January 2025, pre-orders will be sent out in the order we receive them. In addition to getting it first, we are offering a Pre-Order discount price if you buy through our on-line shop. Stock will also go down to our warehouse in late January for general distribution so local bookshops should be able to order it any time if you have a good indie shop you like to support.

Promotional video (if you haven't yet seen it!).

<https://youtu.be/vlv3EK23PgM>

Lastly, nothing to do with Brian's book, but we ought to mention that Simon is appearing at the 2025 Leicester Comedy Festival on Feb 22nd. He will be giving an illustrated talk on some of the worst album sleeves of all time (the subject of an earlier Easy Books title) - trust us, it is very funny (and free!).

all the best



SIMON and ANN. [Easy On The Eye Books](#)

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