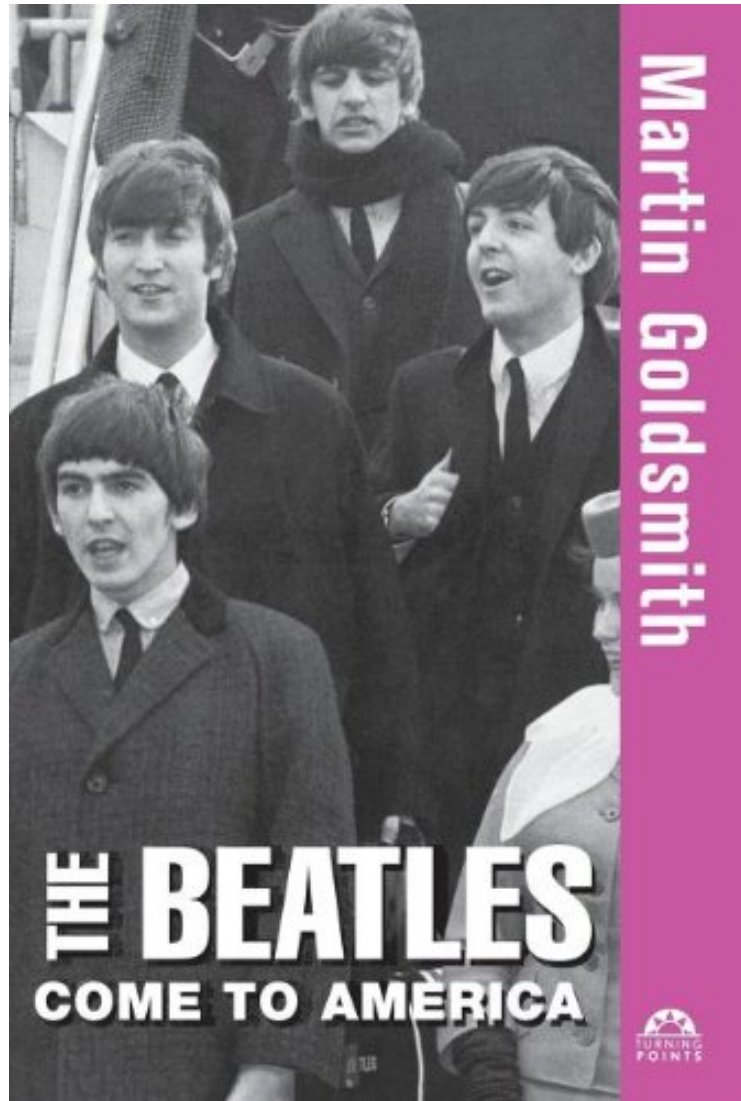


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Martin Goldsmith

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Martin Goldsmith : The Beatles Come to America (Turning Points) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Beatles Come to America (Turning Points):

9 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Can It Really Be 40 Years?By GSH in DCAlthough generally known for his encyclopedic knowledge of classical music (as host of NPR's "Performance Today" and now of XM Radio's Classics channel), Martin Goldsmith seems equally knowledgeable in the world of rock music -- as Washington, D.C. fans of his "Songs for Aging Children" radio program already recognize. Combining this broad, cross-genre musical perspective with a wonderful gift for storytelling (compellingly demonstrated in his first book,

"The Inextinguishable Symphony"), Goldsmith's highly readable account of the Beatles' early years and their coming to America is both journalistic in style and insightful cultural commentary. "The Beatles Come to America" is part of the publisher's "Turning Points in History" series -- which includes such other seminal events as Columbus discovering America, the Louisiana Purchase, the Declaration of Independence, D-Day, Jackie Robinson's integrating major league baseball, and the Fall of the Berlin Wall (by William F. Buckley). Reasonable minds may well differ as to whether the Fab Four's arrival in America belongs in the same league as those other events, but Goldsmith does an excellent job relating this event's impact not only on American *cultural* history, but on our history generally. Few would dispute, of course, that President Kennedy's assassination was a watershed event in U.S. history; and Goldsmith observes persuasively how America's multi-faceted reaction to the Beatles -- less than three months after the assassination -- was not only part of our emergence from national mourning, but also the first evidence of a new generational/cultural "Berlin Wall." But don't let the publisher's "turning point" designation turn you off. This isn't some stodgy exegesis on "I Wanna Hold Your Hand." Above all, it's a fun read -- reminding us of those days when we stayed glued to the radio, eagerly awaited each new Beatles single, and got exasperated with our parents and the press for talking only about their haircuts! Still, as much as I enjoyed the book's by-now familiar stories of the Beatles' appearances here in Washington, D.C. and on the Ed Sullivan Show, my favorite parts of "The Beatles Come to America" are in Goldsmith's telling of the Beatles' pre-stardom gigs in Germany where, under miserable conditions, they truly honed their music and performance skills -- and John and Paul really learned how to create wonderful music together. There may not be a great deal that's new here for the rabidly devoted and knowledgeable Beatlemaniac, but for the rest of us mere then-and-now Beatle fans, this is a book that will bring warm smiles of remembrance and recognition. Not to mention shock and awe that it really has been 40 years.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The Beatles Come to America By S Riaz This is one of a series of titles, discussing various historical turning points such as Columbus in the Americas, Abraham Lincoln and the Emancipation Proclamation and The Fall of the Berlin Wall. In this book, author Martin Goldsmith looks at the Beatles first visit to America in February, 1964. There is, of course, now another anniversary of the Beatles first appearance on the Ed Sullivan Show, which was 50 years ago this year and was celebrated by a television Grammy special. This book was published in 2004, so it would have been the 40th anniversary at that time, but this is still a very relevant work. The bulk of the book consists of a potted history of the Beatles, concentrating on the time before and during the bands first visit to the States. As a history of the Beatles, this is fairly brief and contains a few stories that we now know (thanks to Mark Lewisohn's Tune In) to be inaccurate. For example, the oft-repeated story about John being forced to choose between his parents in a horrific tug-of-love, did not happen quite the way it has been misrepresented before. However, Goldsmith is not the first to repeat mistaken stories and his re-telling is generally informative and entertaining. However, there is a reason why I was really interested to read this and it is due to another book by the same author, which I read recently. Alex's Wake, was the moving story of a journey that Martin Goldsmith went on, in order to retrace the steps of his paternal grandfather and uncle, who tragically died in the holocaust. During his travels, Goldsmith visited Hamburg and, in passing, he mentioned that he visited the statue of the Beatles to say a little thank you, to John and Paul. Now, I am a huge Beatles fan and, although I did not feel it was appropriate in my review of that book to acknowledge Goldsmith's small paragraph in such a serious work, I understood the sentiment well. As a Beatles fan, their music, their personality and everything about them is always with you. For Goldsmith not to have briefly mentioned the Beatles was impossible for him and he states how important it was to him during such a poignant and difficult journey to remember them. So, although this is a fairly short introduction, the fact that this is written by a fan makes all the difference. An eminent broadcaster, and musician, Mr Goldsmith is linked more to serious classical works than to popular music, but his obvious admiration for the Beatles shines through every page. He makes a serious point that the American nation, bereft by the assassination of President Kennedy, were uplifted by the music of the Beatles others have made a similar suggestion, although it is difficult to know how true that is. What is certain is that the Beatles success in the States was certainly a surprise. Other notable British acts, such as Cliff Richard, had tried and failed to have success in America. Capitol Records consistently turned down Beatles offering for release and John, George and Ringo even refused to bet money on success in the States, when Quincy Jones offered them a wager (Brian Epstein and Paul McCartney were more optimistic). Of course, as we know, they were so successful they changed the face of music and the record industry forever. The last chapter of this book, where Goldsmith muses on his love for the Beatles outside the Church Hall where Paul met John for the first time even made me a little teary eyed... If you are a fan, you will enjoy this. If you love great writing, then I also urge you to read, Alex's Wake, which is an extremely moving memoir.

12 of 15 people found the following review helpful. Sheer Poetry! By Robert First of all, it must be stated emphatically that carioca04 (see below) is both vicious and wrong. Goldsmith never states that the Beatles wore Edwardian suits on Ed Sullivan, never states that Sullivan didn't witness the Beatles at Heathrow on October 31, 1963, and never states that the Beatles' concerts in America were bigger than earlier concerts in London. As to Sid Bernstein, respected Beatle historians from Hunter Davies to Alan Cozzinn point to Bernstein's importance in the story. Carioca04 obviously has an axe to grind or an agenda to advance (quite possibly in support of other Beatle books that haven't achieved Goldsmith's popularity) and it's pretty sad to witness. That said, Martin Goldsmith offers a superb short history of the band and his

writing is marvelous. He evokes or quotes from such poets as Wordsworth, Shelley, Eliot, Housman, and Frost, and quotes the soaring rhetoric of President Kennedy, all to great effect. And his own prose frequently approaches the poetic. This is a book that will stay with you long after you close it ... it's well worth its modest price tag.

When the Beatles touched down in New York on February 7, 1964 for their first visit to America, they brought with them a sound that hadn't been heard before. By the time they returned to England two weeks later, major changes in music, fashion, the record industry, and the image of an entire generation had been set into motion. Coming less than three months after the assassination of President Kennedy, the Beatles' visit helped rouse the country out of mourning. A breathless and condescending media concentrated on the band's hairstyles and their adoring fans, but their enduring importance lay in their music, their wit, and style, a disconnect that signaled the beginning of the generation gap. In this intriguing cultural history, Martin Goldsmith examines how and why the Beatles struck such a lasting chord. Martin Goldsmith (Kensington, MD), the author of *The Inextinguishable Symphony* (0-471-35097-4), is a program director for XM Satellite Radio in Washington, D.C. From 1989 to 1999, he hosted *Performance Today*, NPR's daily classical music program.

From Publishers Weekly For this latest installment in Wiley's Turning Points series of personal perspectives on defining American issues, music writer Goldsmith (*The Inextinguishable Symphony*) looks at the 1964 arrival of the Beatles in America to show how the "unleashed, unbridled joy and unparalleled excitement" of Beatlemania "was an earthquake, and we continue to feel its aftershocks forty years later." Goldsmith clearly expresses his love of the Fab Four and is especially good at detailing their famous appearances on *The Ed Sullivan Show*. However, while Goldsmith unassailably argues that the group that appeared on TV in 1964 was an act that had been honed during four previous years of hard work, he devotes the first half of the book to proving that point by giving a short history of their entire early career, including childhoods as well as the tough tours of Hamburg and England, where they forged their style. For someone who has never heard of the Beatles (if such a person exists), this may be necessary, but this material has been covered more thoroughly and with more detail in many other works. The book does offer many fascinating details related to their arrival (such as negative reviews of the band from mainstream newspapers including the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post*). Goldsmith never explores in-depth some of the "lasting changes" that he says the Beatles' arrival made in "music, broadcasting, journalism and fashion." A little less Beatles history and more material on their actual arrival would have made this a more effective narrative. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Despite his book's title, Goldsmith devotes more than half of it to the Beatles' early years. Once he reaches the pivotal year of 1964, he explains how, arriving in New York 11 weeks after President Kennedy's assassination, the Beatles filled, perhaps surprisingly, a cultural need of a mourning nation. He notes that, as the young fans grew older, they realized their elders had been wrong on the two most important calls of the 1960s, the Beatles and Vietnam. There is little new here. The Beatles' story has been recounted countless, and Goldsmith, former host of NPR's classical-music program, *Performance Today*, offers surprisingly little musicological insight. His concise, useful account of the Beatles' career and impact should, however, find ready homes in libraries that somehow avoided acquiring many of the multitude of Beatles books published during the last few decades. Gordon Flagg Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved. fascinating quotations from those fusty Americans... -- *New Statesman*, 12th April 2004 "...a breezily intelligent biography...perhaps the first serious Beatles history to have a truly happy ending." -- *Entertainment Weekly*, February 6, 2004 "...magic blows through the book, past delightfully obscure anecdotes and insightful reflection..." -- *Bookpage*, February 2004 "...the book does offer many fascinating details." -- *Publishers Weekly*, January 19, 2004 written in an easy and pleasant style a useful addition to the collection of the avid Beatles fan. (*Beatles- Unlimited magazine*, May/June 2004) fascinating quotations from those fusty Americans... (*New Statesman*, 12th April 2004) "...a breezily intelligent biography...perhaps the first serious Beatles history to have a truly happy ending." (*Entertainment Weekly*, February 6, 2004) Whether you're old enough to have lived through Beatlemania or young enough to know only that one of these guys went on to play in Wings, Martin Goldsmith offers new twists on a fascinating subject in *The Beatles Come to America*. In this reflective account of the Beatles' explosive arrival on the U.S. music scene in 1964, Goldsmith digs into the tale with such attention to detail that its freshness seems never to have faded. Discovering what went into designing the stage set for the Beatles' first appearance on *The Ed Sullivan Show*, for instance, makes clear how portentous that broadcast turned out to be. The story is put into a personal context as the author inserts himself into the narrative, both as a teenager bearing witness and an adult now looking back with some perspective. The opening pages, for example, take us along on his pilgrimage to Liverpool on a recent summer day. Where the Britney generation might see an unremarkable urban panorama, Goldsmith finds evidence of miracles—a street called Penny Lane, a dank reliquary in the shadows of the Cavern Club—and, briefly but gloriously, bonds with a couple of Russians drawn on their own hadj to the center of Strawberry Fields. This magic blows through the book, past delightfully obscure anecdotes and insightful reflections that present the Beatles as both a tonic for the malaise that followed the Kennedy assassination and a harbinger of the feminist revolution. When the Fab Four, a little

bewildered at what they had just unleashed, wave goodbye to America and fly back home, Ringo wonders, "How in the world are we ever going to top this?" Even the four "mop-topped lads" themselves had no idea how lasting their appeal would be. In the last chapter, Goldsmith takes us back to where it all began, to an epiphany so unexpected and yet so appropriate that we are left wondering how it could have been any other way than it was—a world changed, forever and for better, by song. Robert L. Doerschuk of Nashville is the former editor of *Musician* magazine. (Bookpage, February, 2004) For this latest installment in Wiley's Turning Points series of personal perspectives on defining American issues, music writer Goldsmith (*The Inextinguishable Symphony*) looks at the 1964 arrival of the Beatles in America to show how the "unleashed, unbridled joy and unparalleled excitement" of Beatlemania "was an earthquake, and we continue to feel its aftershocks forty years later." Goldsmith clearly expresses his love of the Fab Four and is especially good at detailing their famous appearances on *The Ed Sullivan Show*. However, while Goldsmith unassailably argues that the group that appeared on TV in 1964 was an act that had been honed during four previous years of hard work, he devotes the first half of the book to proving that point by giving a short history of their entire early career, including childhoods as well as the tough tours of Hamburg and England, where they forged their style. For someone who has never heard of the Beatles (if such a person exists), this may be necessary, but this material has been covered more thoroughly and with more detail in many other works. The book does offer many fascinating details related to their arrival (such as negative reviews of the band from mainstream newspapers including the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post*). Goldsmith never explores in-depth some of the "lasting changes" that he says the Beatles' arrival made in "music, broadcasting, journalism and fashion." A little less Beatles history and more material on their actual arrival would have made this a more effective narrative. (Feb.) (Publishers Weekly, January 19, 2004)