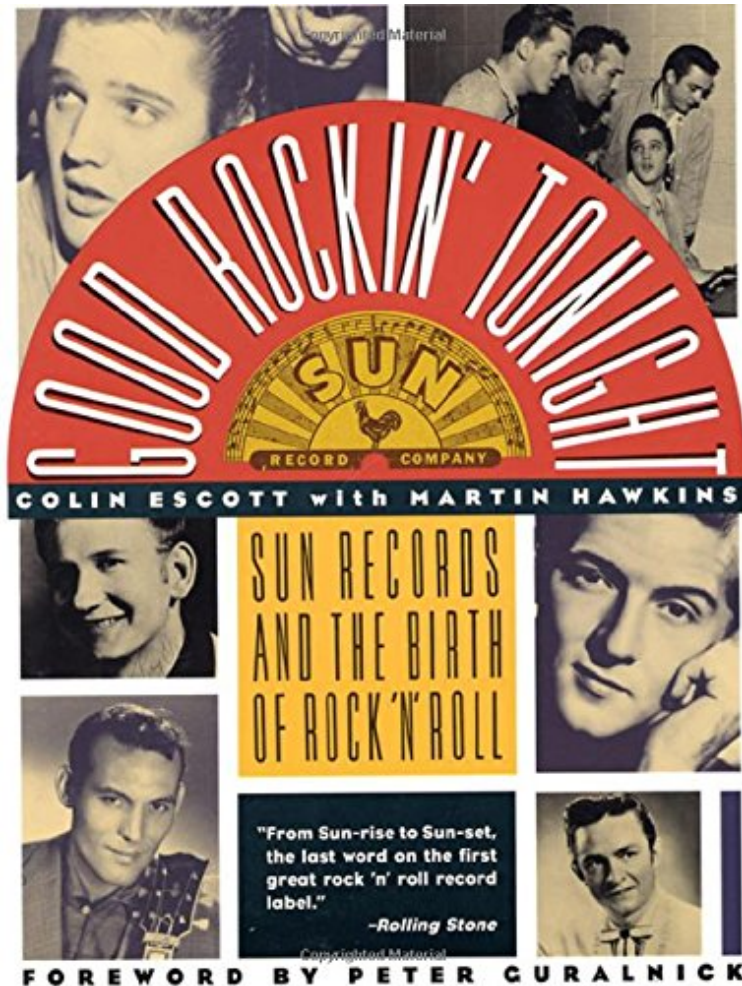


# Good Rockin' Tonight: Sun Records and the Birth of Rock 'N' Roll

Colin Escott, Martin Hawkins

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**Colin Escott, Martin Hawkins : Good Rockin' Tonight: Sun Records and the Birth of Rock 'N' Roll** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Good Rockin' Tonight: Sun Records and the Birth of Rock 'N' Roll:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The author does a good job of providing insight in to the person of ...By Randy M LloydThe book is mostly well written. The author does a good job of providing insight in to the person of Sam Phillips; his passion for relatively unappreciated grass roots talent, as well as his drive to discover the illusive new sound that would be the next big hit. He had a much more personal approach to running his tiny record company, creating a virtual incubator for innovation. This enabled him to capture the sounds that made Sun a legend in a field dominated by the contrivances of mainstream corporations with deep pockets, but narrow perspectives. At times the timeline gets confusing as the author structured the book in a way that compartmentalizes the story into chapters about

specific artists. I also found what appeared to be some minor typeset and grammatical errors. The reason for my 4 stars was because this book was a blast read; mainly because I had such a good time using YouTube and Wikipedia to track down some of the original recordings and artists that were featured in the book. Using modern online resources provided the perfect background to the Sun story. I even discovered a new appreciation for some vintage artists that I hadn't even heard of before such as Joe Hill Louis. I also discovered some more modern recordings that are available on CD such as the 1986 recording of Blue Suede Shoes: A Rockabilly Session with Carl Perkins backed up by Eric Clapton, George Harrison, and Ringo Starr. Thus, the real value of this book is in the fun you can have in rediscovering the wonderful texture of a bygone era, and the start of a musical revolution. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Sun Records Redux By Ken A detailed and informative account of Sam Phillips and the Rise and Fall of Sun Records. The focus is limited to their time at Sun Records, with some discussion of their Sun Records career, and so those seeking a full history of Elvis, Johnny Cash, Roy Orbison and others will have to look elsewhere. Many of the artists discussed are unfamiliar to me, but there's enough about them to warrant further exploration. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Nicely done, well documented By Jerry Briggs Nicely done, well documented, a real nice record of the story of Sun. Little interesting stories are scattered throughout, and when you read this you will be amazed at the sheer volume and diversity of the music Sam Phillips put out to create a niche in popular music. I recommend.

Memphis, Tennessee. The early 1950s. The Mississippi rolls by, and there's a train in the night. Down on Beale Street there's hard-edged blues, on the outskirts of town they're pickin' hillbilly boogie. At Sam Phillips' Sun Records studio on Union Avenue, there's something different going on. "Shake it, baby, shake it!" "Go, cat, go!" "We're gonna rock..." This is where rock 'n' roll was born—the record company that launched Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis, Johnny Cash, Roy Orbison, and Carl Perkins. The label that brought the world, "Blue Suede Shoes," "Whole Lotta Shakin' Goin' On," "Breathless," "I Walk the Line," "Mystery Train," "Baby, Let's Play House," "Good Rockin' Tonight." Good Rockin' Tonight is the history, in words and over 240 photographs, of Sam Phillips' legendary storefront studio, from the early days with primal blues artists like Howlin' Wolf and B.B. King to the long nights in the studio with Elvis and Jerry Lee. As colorful and energetic as the music itself, it's a one-of-a-kind book for anyone who wants to know where it all started.

From Publishers Weekly The authors, freelance writers, build a credible case for their assertion that the Sun studio was the birthplace of rock 'n' roll. Sun's founder, Sam Phillips, was the first to record artists who blended country music with rhythm and blues (R B), creating the "rockabilly" sound that set the direction rock 'n' roll has taken to the present day. Sun, a Memphis, Tenn.-based label formed in 1952, never attained the level of success of the major record companies. But Phillips, a former disc jockey who broke into the record industry by recording R B artists such as Howlin' Wolf and Joe Louis Hill, remains a seminal, almost legendary figure in modern music history, having discovered Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis, Johnny Cash, Roy Orbison and a host of lesser-known performers who have influenced recording artists of the past 40 years. Well-written and well-researched, the book is a worthy addition to the growing literature of rock 'n' roll. Photos. Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal This culmination of a work in progress since 1971 follows the authors' earlier Catalyst: The Sun Records Story (1975) and Sun Records: The Brief History of the Legendary Record Label (LJ 2/15/81) as their most detailed and critically astute evaluation of the seminal Sun Records and its founder and creative genius Sam Phillips. The developments of Sun and the nascent rock 'n' roll phenomenon in the early 1950s are inextricably entwined through Phillips's recordings of Howlin' Wolf, Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Carl Perkins, Roy Orbison, and Jerry Lee Lewis, all of whom began their careers at Sun. In explicating the "Sun sound," Escott and Hawkins also document Phillips's mistakes, flaws, and failures. The stories individually are wonderful, and collectively they form a lush composition of a significant slice of rock 'n' roll history. Numerous pictures, newspaper clippings, and other scrapbook paraphernalia complement the text, along with a Sun Records discography. For all libraries with even a passing interest in the history of popular music. Previewed in Prepub Alert, LJ 12/90.- Barry Miller, Austin P.L., Tex. Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. A resounding success...A cogent, highly entertaining and eminently readable history. Variety Myriad dazzling vintage photos...and a load of fresh insight into some of the hottest sounds ever committed to tape...The authoritative work in one of the most important musical legacies—and the visionary who built it from scratch. Goldmine Tricked out with photos of Sun's stars and staff—which is to say, with faces that just plain take your eyes into custody—this book's as glorious a bit of Americana as blue suede shoes. Booklist