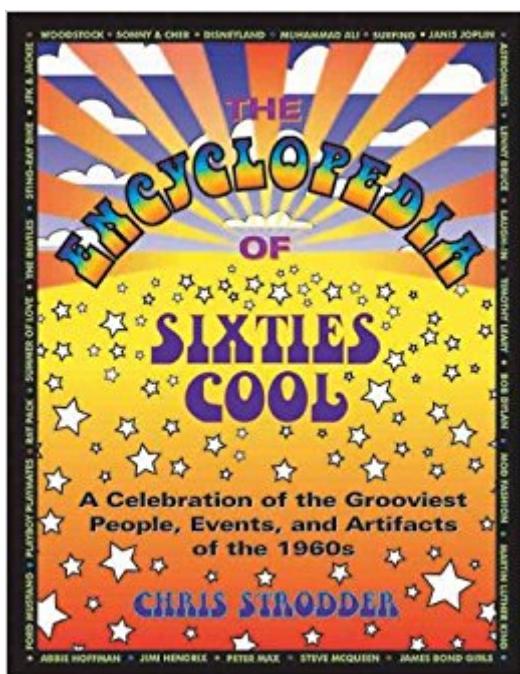


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# The Encyclopedia Of Sixties Cool: A Celebration Of The Grooviest People, Events, And Artifacts Of The 1960s



## Synopsis

The Encyclopedia of Sixties Cool profiles over 250 of the most intriguing personalities of the 1960s. The men and women covered in the book include a wide range of celebrities; from well-known superstars (the Beatles, Dustin Hoffman, Muhammad Ali) to lesser-known icons (Nico, Terry Southern, Bo Belinsky); who had a significant impact on popular culture. The figures include musicians, actors, directors, artists, athletes, politicians, writers, astronauts . . . anyone and everyone who made the sixties the most influential decade of the twentieth century! Over 200 vintage photographs and more than fifty sidebars are featured throughout the text. The sidebars include lists of Best Picture winners, great quarterbacks, Playmates of the Year, memorable TV theme songs, favorite toys, Disneyland rides, Wimbledon champions, groovy screen cars, surf stars, Indy 500 winners, cool cartoons, sci-fi classics, Bond girls, &#147;bubblegumâ • hits, beach-movie cameos, and legendary concerts. A &#147;what happened on this dayâ • calendar highlighting landmark events in the lives of those profiled appears on every page. Entertaining and enlightening, The Encyclopedia of Sixties Cool is truly a celebration of the grooviest people, events, and artifacts of the 1960s!

## Book Information

Paperback: 336 pages

Publisher: Santa Monica Press; Edition Unstated edition (March 1, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1595800174

ISBN-13: 978-1595800176

Product Dimensions: 8.6 x 0.7 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 14 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,097,619 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #72 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Pop Culture > Reference #589 in Books > Arts & Photography > Performing Arts > Reference #1671 in Books > Reference > Encyclopedias & Subject Guides > Art

## Customer Reviews

Aimed at baby boomers as well as their kids, author and Web designer Strodder (Stories Light and Dark) has provided more than 250 profiles of actors, musicians, writers, politicians, athletes and others who defined a decade. Using a light, humorous approach, complimented by hundreds of vintage photographs and trivia sidebars-including lists of Wimbledon champions, memorable TV

theme songs and "Record-Setting '60s Playmates"-each profile is divided up into subheads concerning career, love life and miscellany. Though he doesn't attempt analysis of people's lives or legacies (the darker moments of icons like Marilyn Monroe and Elvis get a sentence or two at best), and tracking down some names can be tricky (Kurt Vonnegut doesn't have an entry in the V's, but rather shares his with Joseph Heller), Strodder does an admirable job sharing professional and personal tales from just about everyone relevant to the storied decade. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

"An essential catalog of 1960's culture. . . . The text has the quirky, tongue-in-cheek tone of *An Incomplete Education*."*Library Journal*"A kind of old-fashioned MySpace of our generation."*AARP The Magazine*"A groovy blast from the past. Get the low-down on more than 250 personalities who made a significant contribution to '60s pop culture."*Inside Entertainment*"Want a fun, eminently groovy read this weekend? Check out *The Encyclopedia of Sixties Cool*."*quickstopentertainment.com*"Just when you think you've read every cool book on the 60s, here comes the coolest yet!"*The Beat magazine*"An affectionate salute to those long-gone days we thought would never die."*Hartford Courant*

First off, I agree with the majority opinion that **THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF SIXTIES COOL** is great fun - since it came in I keep carrying it around to read one gripping entry after another. The emphasis is on people of the Sixties, and of quite a variety - singers, actors, athletes, artists, writers, politicians, astronauts - though entertainers are by far the majority. Also, the sidebars of data are very interesting and clever too. Strodder writes in a breezy, polished style that is very enjoyable, and he's either done a lot of research or just knows a heck of a lot about the era. Still, I have a few reservations about the book. First off, one could debate the meaning of "cool" with the author. The vast majority of the book is devoted to famous entertainers - singers, actors, athletes. There are relatively few non-entertainers here, as, I was glad to see that Neil Armstrong of Moon fame gets his own entry, and some political figures like the Kennedys get theirs too. The ichthyologist Eugenie Clark made the list, but there aren't many scientists discussed in here. A few writers such as Kurt Vonnegut make it in. And some of the entertainers discussed are not even very significant, but are more cult figures. One could reasonably argue that it's just as "cool" to be making contributions to society in science, teaching, environmental protection, and the like as it is to be a famous entertainer. Strodder admits in the introduction that there was a lot he hated to leave out of his book, but with 334 pages to work with he had to draw a line somewhere. However, I'm probably trying to

be too scholarly about it, since this book is clearly supposed to be fun, and relates mainly to popular culture that those who lived through the Sixties would most remember as being cool about the decade. Secondly, the book very much needs an index, or at least better cross-referencing. Most subjects have their own headings, arranged alphabetically. Yet there are a lot of people or things that are discussed under headings that you might not be able to guess. For instance, the comic strip Peanuts is discussed in the entry for the composer Vince Guaraldi, who wrote music for the animated Peanuts shows in the 1960s and '70s, yet there's no separate entry in the book for Peanuts or its creator Charles Schulz. Likewise, John Glenn and most of the other Mercury astronauts don't have separate entries, since they're discussed under "Alan Shepard." There are quite a few such examples, though there is some cross-referencing on the contents page. Shifting back to what I like best about this EncyCOOLpedia, another aspect that I very much like is that Strodder tries to be positive, and focus more on what is good than what is bad about someone or something. And it's great that he always remembers to update us on "whatever happened to?" these people. All in all, THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF SIXTIES COOL is very enjoyable, and it's a fun way to learn about that fascinating decade.

I was in search of a book that reviewed the 60's, which is my favorite period of time. This book is an enjoyable walk down memory lane listing people and events and what they became noted for. The book was in decent condition for the price

My husband loved this book. Even our teenagers were fascinated by both the pictures and all the information.

The Encyclopedia of Sixties Cool includes some factual information, somewhat tainted by the author's biases and personal pretensions of coolness.

No other decade in modern history was as influential, eclectic and packed with passion as the 1960s. From politics to pop culture, the 60s offered an incredible array of sights, sounds and swingin' sensations. It was the decade of Batman, Bond, the Beatles, bongs, Barbarella, beatniks, beach bunnies and Bob Dylan. From the Rat Pack at the dawn of the decade to the Rolling Stones at its zenith, from Motown to monster movie magazines, from drive-ins to dope, the 60s offered something for jet setters, hippies, suburban kids, surfers, radicals and fun lovin' freaks alike. There were also the tragedies, like JFK, Bobby, MLK and Viet Nam, that still resonate and affect our world

today. And let's not forget the sexual revolution underlying this tumultuous explosion of art and war. Chris Strodder has already given us an essential chronicle of this era's sexual icons with his colorful tome "Swingin Chicks of the 60s." Now he broadens his lens to give us a widescreen view of the entire decade, spotlighting all the major figures who had such a powerful impact on all of us born before, during and since, from Hugh Hefner to Abby Hoffman to Andy Warhol and everyone in between and beyond, encompassing an amazing array of styles and attitudes, all of which are still very much evident in today's kaleidoscope, retro-obsessed but identity-challenged culture. Get Smart and Ride this Wild Surf, kids. It's groooooovy.

The Encyclopedia of Sixties Cool covers a wide mix of people from the obviously cool like Steve McQueen and Sean Connery to the unknown-but-cool while accounting for all the varied tastes and ages of 60s' fans (serious authors, the Rat Pack, rock bands, foreign movie directors, political revolutionaries, star athletes, and kids' cartoon characters all get profiles). Nearly every entry in the book is illustrated by a vintage photo from the era. Also running on every page of this 330-page book is a day-by-day chronology of events that happened on every day of the 60s - what happened January 1, then January 2, etc. in that decade, which is pretty interesting and entertaining. The whole ouvre should bring back lots of memories. The style is respectful, kind of breezy, humorous at times, and always interesting. Also covered are scandals and deaths and many other aspects of that period. There are lots of surprises, even for fans who think they already know about famous people from the 1960s. Giving a wonderful stroll down memory lane, that book is an highly recommended must for every Baby Boomer and fan of this stylish period!

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