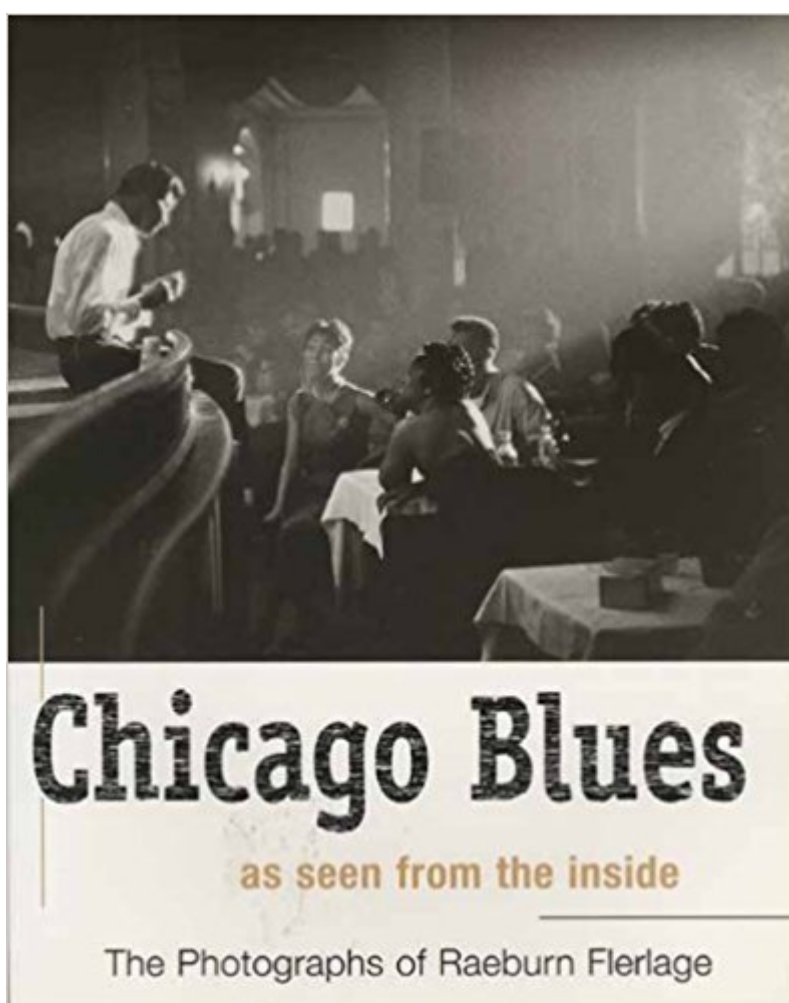


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Chicago Blues As Seen From The Inside - The Photographs Of Raeburn Flerlage



Synopsis

Chicago's greatest blues artists are captured in Flerlage's photos, from Howlin' Wolf performing at legendary Pepper's Lounge to Otis Spann and James Cotton playing in Muddy Waters' basement. 150 photos.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Reviewed with Murray Garret's Hollywood Candid: A Photographer Remembers. Professional performers are supposed to look good, but none of them scorns a good photographer's help. Flerlage helped blues musicians and Garret, movie stars. In new books, they share some favorite recollections and favorite images. Flerlage's pictures are more famous among blues fans than Garret's are among movie buffs. Why? Simple: they graced the covers of LPs from the foremost blues labels--Chess, Prestige, Testament, Delmark--and appeared in the foremost blues, folk, and jazz magazines. The fans know and love them, which is only right. Flerlage took up photography to shoot the blues, and no one did it better or more comprehensively. He snapped folk bluesmen like Son House and Fred MacDowell, Chicago bluesmen like Little Walter and Howlin' Wolf, big band bluesmen like B. B. King and Bobby Bland, and even soul pioneers like Jackie Wilson and Martha Reeves. He also took pictures of the performers' contexts, onstage and off. He had a terrific eye and terrific luck, such as when he was shooting an interview with John Lee Hooker, who called Muddy Waters to come over, which he did. Flerlage also had the foresight to shoot his interviewing partner, Mike Bloomfield, playing the stars' guitars not long before he became the first white Chicago blues

guitar star. Garret, a Hollywood pro from 1946 to 1973, specialized in getting "candid" glimpses of the stars. Culling an archive much bigger than part-timer Flerlage's, Garret fields an album bursting with freshness. Here are Marilyn Monroe, looking ravishingly inadvertent at Grauman's Chinese Theater; Jack Benny in Roman drag, wryly clutching a cigar; Eddie Cantor showing a dance step to 16-year-old Joel Grey; Gary Cooper playing hairdresser for wrestler Gorgeous George; and lots of a Garret favorite, Bob Hope. Like Flerlage, Garret tells a little about the circumstances of certain shoots and what it was like to work with particular stars. Lengthier than Flerlage's comments, Garret's are more pat, too. Since the movies are more popular than the blues, though, Garret's deliberately appealing pictures may catch more eyes than Flerlage's ultimately more valuable volume.

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A stunning collection of photographs from Chicago's foremost blues photographer When Raeburn Flerlage was asked to take a picture of Memphis Slim in 1959, he began a career that would produce some of the most fascinating and important photos ever taken of blues musicians. By shooting concert performances, studio sessions, interviews, and club shows, he became a fixture of the Chicago blues scene during the 1960s and early 70s, and captured some of America's greatest blues artists at the pinnacle of their careers: Muddy Waters, Little Walter, Howlin' Wolf, Otis Spann, James Cotton, John Lee Hooker, Son House, and many more. Here, for the first time, are Raeburn's greatest photos, reproduced in a beautiful format. From Howlin' Wolf performing at legendary Pepper's lounge to Otis Spann and James Cotton playing in Muddy Waters' basement, these pictures bring to life one of the most incredible periods in American musical history, and will make you feel like you're right there in that smoky bar, listening.

This is a must have for any true lover of Chicago Style Blues, the life and times and the often behind the scenes images taken by an accomplished photographer and well known friend of the bluesman. The great shots of young James Brown and Jackie Wilson in concert complement the intimate and beautiful shots of Muddy and Ray's good friend Little Brother Montgomery along with the performance photos of Little Walter, Wolf, Jr. Wells and Buddy, Magic Sam and just about the whole range of bluesmen in Chicago at that vintage time. He captured their images at the right time, in their prime. They welcomed Ray into their homes and he was a friend. Ray's own story is of interest as well. His record business years were dedicated to the music too. That great love comes through in the photos and the comments Ray left give an additional insight to the life and times and the great loves in his life.

Before you even look at the photos, read how this book came into being. Raeburn Flerlage was doing everything in the Blues industry from being a record promoter, to disc jockey just to keep afloat. The pictures were usually done in conjunction with magazine articles, or promotions, or album covers. Most of the pictures were almost sidebars to what was really going on for Flerlage. Decades after they were taken, the pictures survived and came into this book. Some really great images, and they cover the entire gamut: from Lightnin' Hopkins' studio secessions, to Howlin' Wolf playing in a small bar, to Muddy Waters and John Lee Hooker sitting around in a living room, to performances at the Trianon Ballroom. Some of his photos are so great that they have the air and spirit that Herman Leonard's photos had for Jazz. His best photos are of Jackie Wilson in the Trianon Ballroom. He is one of the most underrated photographers and his work with the Blues music industry has gone mostly unnoticed. Great book for any Blues fan.

Artful and sensitive.

Great photography of a time period that had some great players. Nice book to have, not a deep reader, just old photos from a great musical past.

Fabulous photographs.

Real history treasured by Blues lovers!!!!

Amazing photographs!

GREAT BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOS OF SOME EXCELLENT CHICAGO BLUES MUSICIANS BY MR. FLERLAGE MAKE THIS 1 INTERESTING AND FUN TO LOOK OVER BOOK.

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