

Joachim Gaertner

# THEY COULD HAVE BEEN BIGGER THAN EMI

A discography of now defunct independent  
record labels that released vinyl

2nd edition

to my pals from the "Long-Thursday-Round-Table"

Cornelius Horstmann, Al Schulha, Martin Brauner, Günter Henn

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## **“They Could Have Been Bigger Than EMI”.**

Obviously this title is not to be taken seriously. No independent record label would ever want to be brought up in connection with a major record label. First of all, I have chosen this title as an homage to that independently released record which I listen to the most, "They Could Have Been Bigger Than The Beatles" by the Television Personalities, and secondly, because EMI probably is the major label that was sung about the most, at least by the independent scene.

### **Why this book?**

Countless books on the music business have been written and published in the past 50 years. Some of them were biographies, some stories, fact and fiction, some have put more emphasis on the encyclopedic aspects. Tribute records were released bringing one single artist to the listener's attention. Fan-sites were put on the internet and earlier on, people initiated fanclubs or published a fanzine. All of this was and still is important and substantial. But it was and often is a small independently run label that puts all the efforts and limited financial funds at risk by releasing an experiment; a band that no one knows or a style of music that would still need years to be broadly recognized. A lot of independent labels developed their own distinctive style or taste in music and brought bands together that gave their vision a face. Some of those labels are featured in fan-sites on the internet but most of the independent record labels from the 70s, 80s or even early 90s are relatively undocumented up to now. This book is dedicated to these labels and the people behind them.

Following rather labels not bands made it much easier for me to discover something new or to expand my personal taste. This search for labels and their releases was the ignition to write this book. I am inviting anyone to experience how difficult it is to gather this data even in the age of the internet. Most labels you will not find by "googling" their names and if you find something, it surely will be without a catalogue-number. Nobody states catalogue-numbers in a mail-order-list. Most of the labels on the following pages closed down long before the internet revolution and usually nothing has been written about them. Almost everything is gone, put away in somebody's record-collection and will never be exposed to daylight again.

My hope is that this book will answer questions and maybe even solve a few mysteries. Naturally this book cannot be complete. I never had this ambition in the first place. Also my own personal taste never played a role.

This is the second edition of TCHBBTE. It features about twice as much information as the prior one and this time I have included some label-logos and a few pages with record-covers. These pages should be taken as decoration, not as a recommendation, they are just records loved by people I know.

Just like in its first print, this whole book is only as good as its parts and I am still hoping for contributions and am looking forward to every contact.

In a future printing I hope to have gathered enough information to include more short histories on labels and wish to include even more label-logos. Again, help is greatly appreciated.

**Want-list:**

- information on the missing data in this book
- labels that are not featured in this book
- more background-information on labels (maybe YOU had a label or you know somebody who had one and want to write a few lines)
- more label-logos

**Important!**

Usually I can work with most type of data but I never open attachments that I do not expect. Therefore please copy the information into an e-mail or contact me in advance, so I know that you will be sending me something. I also love everything on paper that will give me information, like photocopies of flyers, inserts etc.

**Addresses:**

e-mail:  
[vinyljunkie@buisnet.com](mailto:vinyljunkie@buisnet.com)

web:  
[myspace.com/ppfnp](http://myspace.com/ppfnp)  
[get-happy-records.com/Labels-Discography.htm](http://get-happy-records.com/Labels-Discography.htm)

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Yours

Joachim, April 2007