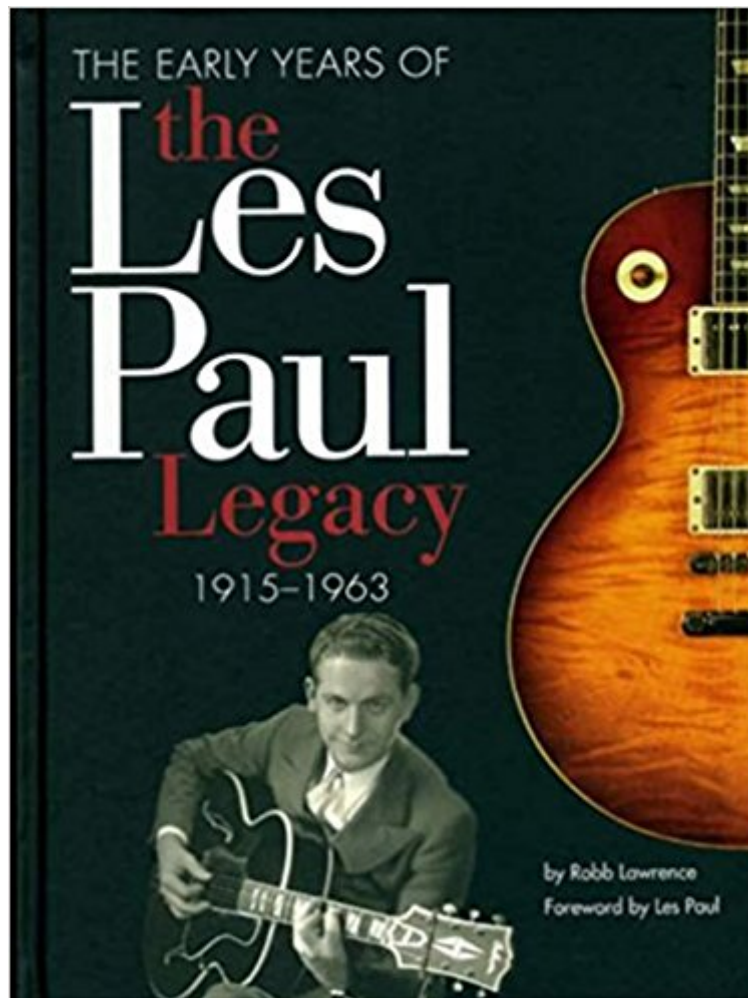




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The Early Years Of The Les Paul Legacy 1915-1963



Synopsis

AD COPY: Journey through the career of musical giant, milestone guitarist, and recording innovator Les Paul, and marvel at the world of cutting-edge guitar design! This book, along with its companion book *The Modern Era of the Les Paul Legacy 1968-2007* (Fall 2008) emerged out of author Robb Lawrence's years of research, interviews, extensive vintage archives (including original Les Paul/Mary Ford articles, press photos, music and recordings), and gorgeous original photography. It's all here: the factory pictures, the designers, the electronics; the first experimental "Log" and "Clunker" guitars, stories of the various Goldtops, the humbucking pickup evolution, and over 80 pages dedicated to the heralded '50s "Sunburst" Standard. Exclusive interviews with Les Paul, as well as Michael Bloomfield and Jeff Beck. A beautiful and insightful book on a legendary inventor, musician and his partnership with Gibson to make the world's most-cherished electric guitar.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Prominent guitar expert, player and photojournalist Robb Lawrence wrote the original byline for *Guitar Magazine's* popular 'Rarebird' column on vintage guitars. He began his association with Les Paul in 1972 and has been his West Coast concert tech for many memorable shows. Their association has included work on *The Wizard of Waukesha*, a 1978 film about Les Paul and the recent 2001 Grammys tribute film.

Man, oh man, this book is a complete guitar geek's (who loves Les Paul guitars) seven course

epicurean delight. The book is beautifully done, inside and out. I love how they imprint the hard covers on many books like this these days with what would have otherwise been printed onto a separate dust jacket. Don't get me wrong, I'm a book lover and love a good, pristine dust jacket, but I'm still loving the cover of this book - especially since I know I'll be reading this book over and over in the coming years. Contains Lester's life story and then the Les Paul guitars (along with what's needed of Gibson's history) story and Les Paul amps story up until the early '60s when Les' contract ran out and the SG guitar continued on where the Les Pauls used to exist. Lots of prose to give us many details, and lots of photos to back everything up. If you don't care that the P90 pickup have fillister head pole piece screws, this book might drive you crazy with detail, and you might not want to read it, but I know I'll read it a second time within the next couple of weeks because I know there's lots of interesting material I didn't "catch" on my first read. Kinda how you might watch an intricate movie a second time soon after seeing it the first time because you know that you couldn't have possibly absorbed every detail on the first viewing. I ordered the other "half" of this book, The Modern Era of the Les Paul Legacy: 1968-2009, when I got through with this one. I wait with great anticipation for that one to arrive. On my first read, I did not see one single misprint, misspelled word, or reference to an incorrect page in this book. Sadly, that is impressive, because even some of my favorite recent non-fiction books have some boo-boos. Kudos to the editors for this.

Well, I've been researching and studying Les Paul guitars and the man, since my first LP guitar in 1971. I read this book cover to cover, including all the fine print in the reproduced Gibson ads of the day. The title "the early years" may confuse some at first - this isn't about ancient history, or ancient music, as the photo of a young Les Paul may infer, but simply about the early years of the guitar's development and production. It does, however, give an great overview of Les Paul as well, which I found crucial in the bigger picture, not only of the guitar, but pop music and Gibson as well. Lawrence's history of Les is really interesting, informative, and inspiring. And, it's still relevant, not only due to Les's contributions to recording, but also to the spirit of a marriage of creativity and technological curiosity. Mr. Lawrence has provided a unique and colorful overview of both subjects. Mr. Lawrence was, as I understand things, Les's west coast gutitar tech. That alone provides credibility and provenance few others have, as well as objectivity apart from Gibson or Les himself. Further, Mr. Lawrence, beyond his luthier background, is a player. Another useful perspective. Simply, the book has great photographs of the 'original' Les Paul line up, as well as historical development information. It is organized and easy to digest, and, most importantly, a good read. It has pictures of Les Paul guitars, some unique in all the world, none of which I've seen

before, anywhere. Not a technical tome, nor a cork sniffers guide, but rather a superlative tale of history of the instrument. And better still, a tale that appears to give the perspective of the times, i.e. as each model rolled out from Gibson, rather than retroactive or revisionist history and the often hard to sift through lore. The book is aesthetically pleasing as well. I only wish it had a larger format as its content may have been even more dazzling. For those wondering if they should purchase this book, I own Beauty of the Burst, The Gibson Les Paul Book by Bacon -now titled Fifty Years of the Les Paul-, Tom Wheelers American Guitars, The Gibson, and The Gibson Burst to name only some of those which are Gibson related on my guitar book shelf. I used to build guitars and I play too. This is a wonderful book. I would buy it again in a heartbeat at full retail price. You'll learn a lot. You'll enjoy looking at it and reading it, and probably more than a few times. A good price too. Well done and thank you, Mr. Lawrence. I look forward to volume 2.

After weathering many delays Robb's book finally sees the light of day and boy, was it worth the wait. Thoughtfully written and impeccably researched, this book is to be included among the best guitar reference tomes of Tom Wheeler, Richard Smith, and Nacho Banos. The biography section is entertaining and informative, but the guitar section is where this book really throws down the goods. Awesomely photographed and interspersed with interviews and info. I have seen and read just about every vintage guitar book and was delighted to view many prototype guitars and details never seen in any book. The wonderful up-close pictures of "Pearly Gates" and "Hot'Lanta" were highlights. Sections on Les Paul amps, Customs, Juniors, Specials, and 45 pages of '58-'60 Les Paul Sunbursts in all of their glory...it's all here. Do not hesitate to get this book, you will not be disappointed! Robb Lawrence has certainly raised the bar with this book and I eagerly await volume II. Bravo Robb!!!!

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