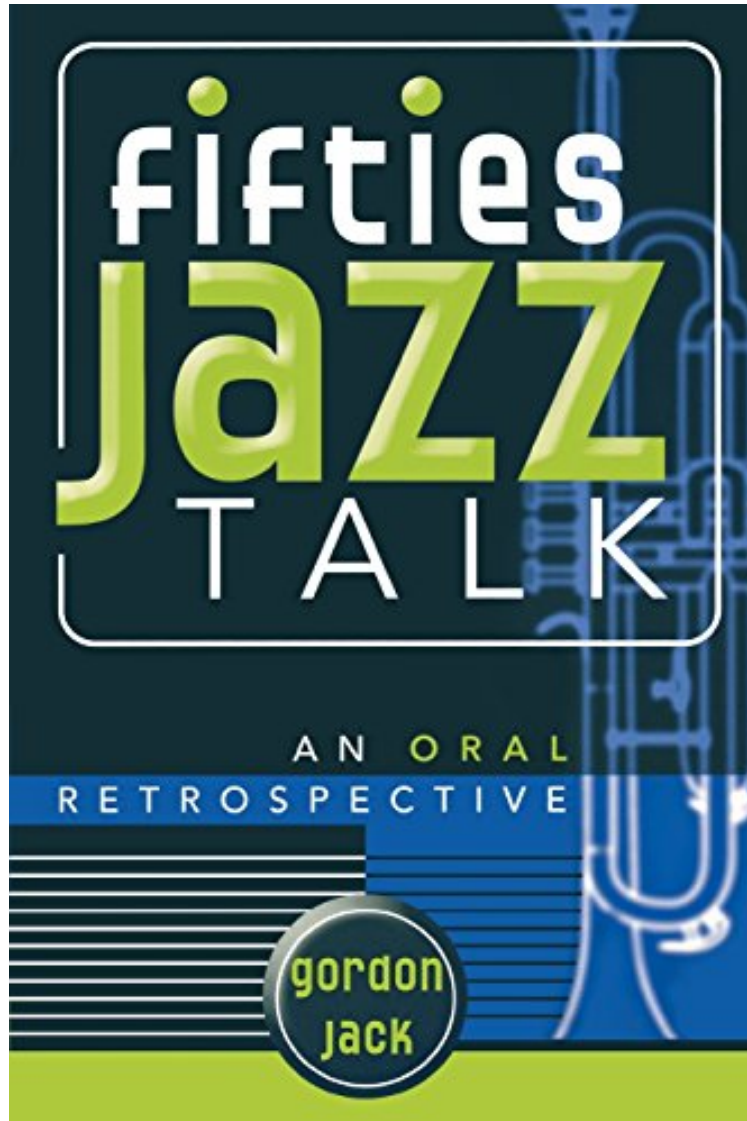


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## Fifties Jazz Talk: An Oral Retrospective (Studies in Jazz)

*Gordon Jack*

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**Gordon Jack : Fifties Jazz Talk: An Oral Retrospective (Studies in Jazz)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Fifties Jazz Talk: An Oral Retrospective (Studies in Jazz):

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. A Blast From The Jazz Past By Michael L. Slavin This is an excellent compilation of interviews with jazz artists from the 1950's. Some famous some fairly obscure. It is part of the Rutgers University Studies in Jazz series of publications. It makes for fascinating reading. Many interesting anecdotes from artists such as Mose Allison, Dave Bailey, Bob Brookmeyer, Bill Crow, Herb Geller, Frank Isola, Lee Konitz, Gerry

Mulligan, Lennie Niehaus, Hod O'Brien, Phil Urso and Phil Woods. They speak of their own careers as well as many of the great musicians like Charlie Parker, Sonny Stitt, Dizzy Gillespie, Bud Powell, Chet Baker, Miles Davis, Stan Getz, Stan Kenton, Joe Maini, Gene Quill, Red Rodney, Zoot Sims, Lennie Tristano etc. Very valuable! 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A REAL BOOK .....By smoky This book is a great example of what a Jazz book should be. It's basically honest and frank interviews with Real professional Jazz musicians who tell you of good and bad times in Jazz (and Studio) Music business during fifties in California. Every interview was filled with many important details both educational and entertaining. Anyone who likes this music will benefit from reading it. Along with Ira Gitler's "From Swing To Bop" and Burt Corall two books on Great Jazz Drummers this book gets my vote for most exciting and inspiring books on jazz there is, It will make you discover many recordings you might have missed and see old ones in a new and exciting light. A book to return to time and again!! Don't miss it!

London-based musician and journalist Gordon Jack's method is to let the musicians tell their own stories with minimum intervention, in the manner of Ira Gitler's classic *Swing to Bop*. Famous or obscure, these more than 30 musicians who came to prominence in the 1950s each has a story to tell, and Jack captures the style and tone of his interviewees in this oral retrospective of what may have been jazz's last golden age. The musicians are: Gene Allen, Mose Allison, Dave Bailey, Chuck Berghofer, Eddie Bert, Bob Brookmeyer, Pete Christlieb, Bill Crow, Joe Dodge, Bob Enevoldsen, Don Ferrara, Herb Geller, Corky Hale, Peter Ind, Frank Isola, Lee Konitz, Stan Levey, Jack Montrose, Gerry Mulligan, the Gerry Mulligan Quartet (with Larry Bunker, Chico Hamilton, Carson Smith, Bob Whitlock), Lennie Niehaus, Jack Nimitz, Hod O'Brien, Bill Perkins, Bud Shank, Phil Urso, and Phil Woods. Jack's introductions and notes unobtrusively sketch out the life and achievements of each musician, and there are photographs of each one, many of them taken by Jack himself.

Gordon Jack is one of the jazz world's most skillful interviewers. He asks all the right questions and then gets out of the way, letting his subjects reveal themselves. What a pleasure to have all this material collected in one book! (Bill Crow, author of *From Birdland to Broadway* (1992, Oxford University Press)) [Gordon Jack's] knowledge of the period and the recordings it produced is unsurpassed... I guarantee that any readers who thought they knew all there was to know about the thirty musicians featured in this book will be in for a surprise. (Alun Morgan, author of *Modern Jazz: A Series of Developments since 1939*)... excellent book... Great humor appears throughout, whether in descriptions of characters like altoist Gene Quill or in quotes from well-known wits like Al Cohn or Zoot Sims. (Jazzreview.com) The book is interesting reading because every musician speaks his own mind. Many fascinating and humorous details surface along the way... This is an important publication because - to my knowledge - no other book treats the history of jazz in the 1950s this way. (Frank Bchmann-Miller *Jazz Special*)... a useful source book. largely authoritative and dependable. (Jazz ) The merit of such a book as this lies in the balance it strikes between the familiar and the unfamiliar. People such as Lee Konitz, Bob Brookmeyer and Bud Shank have been interviewed often whereas Don Ferrara, Gene Allen and Joe Dodge have spoken far less often. If anything, one might have liked more from some of these minor figures. But it's a job well done. (Jazzwise) About the Author Gordon Jack is a freelance writer and has been record reviewer for *Jazz Journal International* for the past ten years.