

# RECORD COLLECTOR

JAN 1998

No. 221

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CDs, RECORDS & POP MEMORABILIA

## QUEEN THE CROWN JEWELS

THE BEST  
ALBUMS OF '97

ELTON JOHN

BEATLES  
AUTOGRAPHS

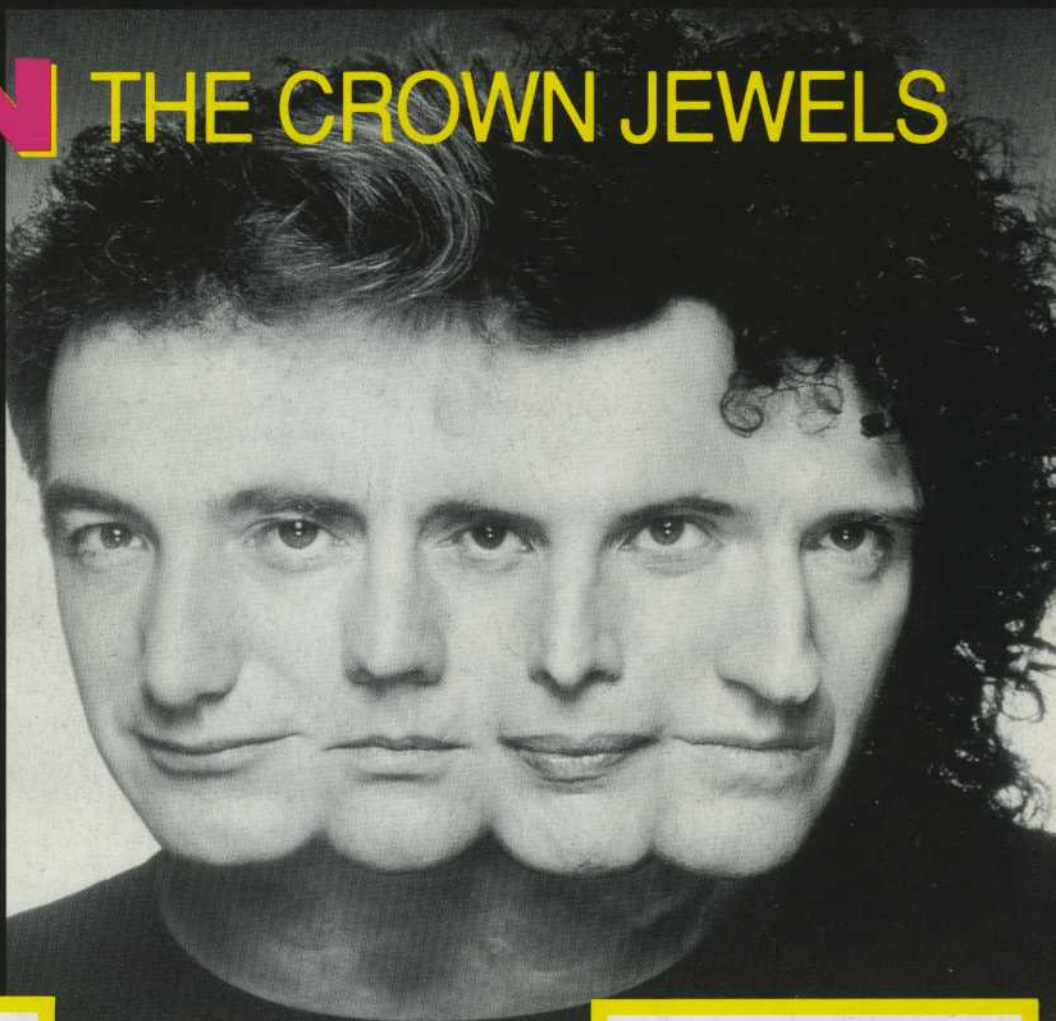
TEN YEARS  
AFTER

THE BYRDS

JOY DIVISION

**EMBRACE**

THE CLASS OF  
'97 - AND '98

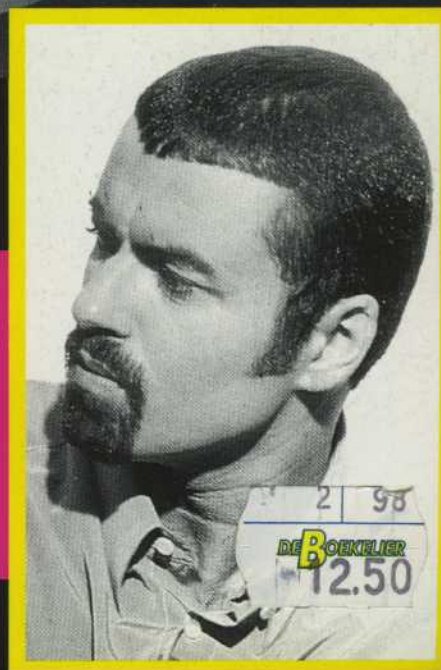
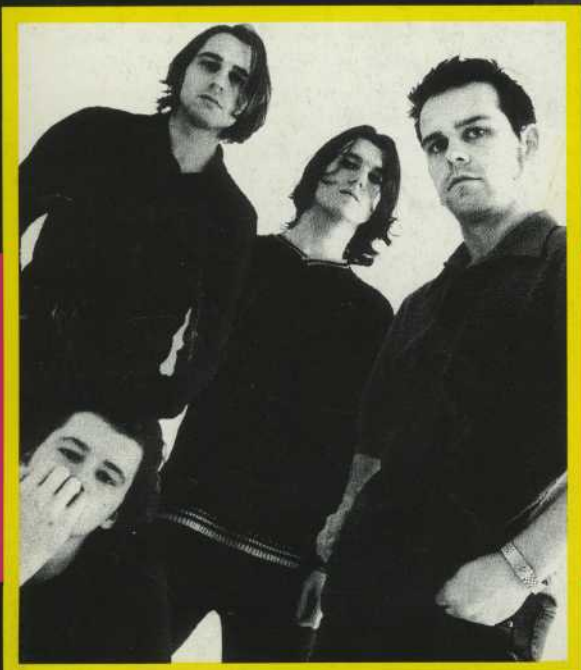


## GEORGE MICHAEL

50s ALBUMS

JOHN PAUL JONES  
EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

YES • SQUEEZE



2 98  
DE BOEKELIER  
12.50



# QUEEN'S CROWN JEWELS

JON JEMMETT, PAUL BIRD & JOHN STUART COMPILE THE DEFINITIVE LIST  
OF THE BAND'S TOP 100 WORLDWIDE RARITIES



**S**even years after the death of Freddie Mercury, Queen's position as one of rock's greatest-ever acts remains secure. The recent "Queen Rocks" compilation saw the band back at No. 1 in the charts, although plans to release their first post-Mercury track, "No One But You (Only The Good Die Young)", were apparently scotched due to the song's poor reception from hardcore fans.

New Freddie-free offerings may be destined to suffer the same critical fate as the reformed Beatles singles, "Free As A Bird" and "Real Love", but Queen's classic old stuff still sparkles with enough magic to ensure that the band's music will live on well into the 21st century.

Once you've been lured into the labyrinthine world of Queen collecting, the finest

details of packaging become fascinating. Succumb to the charms of an alternative "Bohemian Rhapsody" picture sleeve and, before you know it, there goes your Christmas bonus! The demand for such items can be measured by the sums of money they fetch. There are over two dozen Queen overseas picture sleeves which regularly sell for anything from £100 to £800 — not even the Beatles can match that!

## DEMAND

That said, demand for late 80s and early 90s mass-produced 'special editions' is steadily diminishing, and Queen's multi-formatted releases rarely command more than a few times their original asking price. The big money is reserved for *bona fide* limited releases like the 1978 blue vinyl "Bohemian Rhapsody" — a rarity as classic as the song

itself — as well as promos, and obscure overseas issues. As a general rule, there are three main points to consider when buying the overseas stuff: the age of the item (usually, the older the better), its visual appeal (particularly in the case of alternative picture sleeves, coloured vinyl and picture discs), and its condition (a tatty cover will still sell if it's genuinely rare, but for the real vinyl junkie, it has to be Mint).

This list has been compiled from records issued in every corner of the globe, from the U.K. to Uruguay, from Turkey to Thailand. Some records issued in, say, Hungary or Czechoslovakia, may be of dubious legality, but their vintage and obscurity assures them a place in our hallowed hundred. Broadly speaking, each entry in the Top 100 can be slotted into one or another of the following categories.





"Bohemian Rhapsody" — the £3,500 Queen's Award For Industry issue from 1978, including an invitation, silk scarf, and a pair of EMI goblets.

## BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY

More than any other song, "Bo Rhap" epitomises the very essence of Queen. All the ingredients are there: the exotic title, the pop sensibility, the operatic mid-section, the hard-rocking coda, sales in the millions. The single is one of the most reissued in the band's history, with eight U.K. formats alone. The most famous of these is the blue-vinyl Queen's Award For Industry issue, which was pressed in a limited edition of just 200 to celebrate EMI winning the coveted badge of honour (for more info, see RC 143). These days, a cool £2,000 is the starting place for a copy in its picture sleeve. Add an extra £500 if its outer card carrying envelope is intact, and a further grand if it comes with all the trimmings, as presented to the lucky few at a reception at Selfridges in London on 26th July 1978.

The complete "Bo Rhap" Queen's Award inventory should include the numbered record in its picture sleeve, the outer envelope, an invitation, a blue silk scarf and a set of two EMI goblets housed in card box, itself lined in blue silk. Sets occasionally appear with a commemorative biro, but its absence isn't likely to effect the price much.

Despite official denials, it now appears as if unnumbered copies of the blue vinyl single do exist after all. These seem likely to be test- or after-hours pressings, and while they come with finished labels, they aren't numbered and don't have picture sleeves.

Dealers report that these copies can sell for around the £500-£600 mark, but are hard to shift.

Other, less pricey, top "Bo Rhap" collectables include the famous "little girl" picture sleeve from France (printed on thin paper and very hard to find in Mint condition!) and a four-track various-artists EP from Thailand which, although of dubious provenance, does at least come with a Queen-related cover (unlike many Far Eastern issues). There's also a recently discovered Turkish issue (backed with "Sweet Lady" from "A Night At The Opera") on the Max label — the band's only confirmed picture sleeve from this country. Making up the numbers is a French promo edit from 1979's "Live Killers" campaign, which omits the song's operatic mid-section, and the Official Queen Fan Club's 10th anniversary reissue from 1995, which sells for £175 or more. Beware of £50-rated, un-numbered "back door" copies of this latter single, incidentally, which although pressed at EMI, were done so unofficially, and don't form part of the initial run of 2,000. And it's worth noting here that 1995 copies on blue, black or marbled purple vinyl are clever counterfeits, despite their £25 price tags.

## FOREIGN SLEEVES

Overseas sleeves are the mainstay of collecting Queen, with examples from Portugal being a firm favourite — they are hard to find and easy to sell. Queen broke through internationally in 1974 with "Killer Queen", which

was a hit all around the world. Nevertheless, overseas picture sleeves for the single were scarce even then, and in some countries it seems as if fewer than 1,000 copies were printed (but at least they made the effort: Queen's first U.K. sleeve wasn't until 1975's "Bohemian Rhapsody"). Picture sleeves for their debut, "Seven Seas Of Rhye", are even harder to come by — there are only five examples, from Portugal, Holland, Japan, France and Yugoslavia — while "Keep Yourself Alive" was only issued in a picture sleeve in the first three of these countries. Elsewhere, exotic A-sides, like "Mustapha" from Bolivia, and "Long Away" from Thailand, command hefty sums simply because they are so unusual.

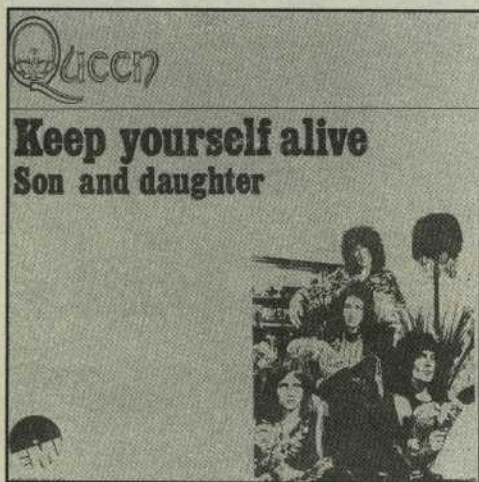
Alternative LP sleeves are less common, as most countries opted, or were obliged, to merely reproduce EMI's U.K. originals. Notable exceptions include the Turkish edition of "Flash", which added a "Live Killers"-style photo to the familiar yellow sleeve, and a copy of "Jazz" from the same country which re-titled the LP after its lead single, "Bicycle Race". Even more appealing is the Portuguese record club issue of "Sheer Heart Attack", which looks like the design for a packet of wine gums, and a couple of oddities from far-flung Venezuela: a "A Night At The Opera", which swapped Freddie's colourful regal crest for a gloomy live shot reminiscent of "Queen I"; and a version of "Queen II", for which the colour scheme was white instead of black, and which depicted the band members looking suitably ghoulish with purple faces and mad-dog yellow eyes.



# QUEEN



The £150-rated Yugoslavian "Seven Seas Of Rhye" (left), and the £500 Portuguese edition (right).



Queen's rarest pic sleeves: the Dutch "Keep Yourself Alive" (left) and the Portuguese issue (right).

## JAPANESE SINGLES

Japanese singles will forever hold sway over Western collectors thanks to the exotic nature of their packaging. Beautifully put together with fold-over colour inserts, unique photographs and space-age graphics, Japanese singles look as though they come from another world, let alone another country. The home market has always been relatively small compared to the U.K. or the U.S., and pressing runs were kept appropriately economical. Add to this the extremely limited nature of, say, a promotional-only 7", and even more exclusive promo CDs, and you've got a virtual license to print money. This is particularly so with the top Japanese Queen collectable — the red vinyl promo-only "Sheer Heart Attack" LP. While anti-static, "Everclear" red vinyl discs were once reasonably common in Japan by artists like the Beatles, no commercial albums by Queen were issued in this form. Few collectors have even seen this record, although we are assured that it exists, and that the vinyl is a deep "blood-red" colour. In fact, the one known copy reportedly came from no less a source than Roger Taylor. (A French

red vinyl copy of the same album, incidentally, is a counterfeit.)

Until recently, the Japanese "I Want It All" promo-only single was valued at £900 or more. Then it was cleverly counterfeited, which effectively knocked £200 off the asking price of the original — many collectors, it seems, were happy enough with the £30 fake. Should you be in the market for the genuine article, check the run-off groove. The matrix number should be intact, if it has been scratched out, you're being offered a dud.

## COLOURED VINYL & PICTURE DISCS

Coloured vinyl is traditional collectors' fare. There have always been records pressed in plastic other than black, but the trend really took hold in the 1970s. Unusually, though, leaving aside the special issue "Bohemian Rhapsody", Queen were somewhat overlooked in this respect at the time, as labels like A&M whipped up a whole palette's worth of hues for the likes of Squeeze and the Police. It was left to EMI's overseas affiliates to ensure that Queen were included in on the act. France

knocked out colour co-ordinated copies of "A Night At The Opera" and "News Of The World", and later "A Kind Of Magic", while this last album was given an extra lease of life in New Zealand, where it appeared on orangey-pink vinyl, and as a one-off burgundy-coloured "factory custom pressing".

The 1995 multicoloured-vinyl Czechoslovakian reissues of "Queen" were apparently test-pressings for record-company executives pitching for a licence to reissue the band's first album in that country. The licence was granted, and the Czechs went on to press copies of "Queen" on pink vinyl (value: £80) and green (£30). But the sought-after issue is the multicoloured vinyl one, not least because just 30 copies were pressed!

Most obscure of all, though, is a series of coloured vinyls from Colombia. Significant among these are the 12" singles, "Crazy Little Thing Called Love", "Another One Bites The Dust" and "Under Pressure", all of which appeared in a variety of colours in generic "EMI Disco" sleeves. "Crazy Little Thing" is backed by an unusual mix of "Bicycle Race", in which the track stops two-thirds of the way through only to return to the intro to play the song once more in its entirety. Most Colombian pressings were cheaply-produced, with sound quality far from a primary concern (even if the 12"s were probably only issued to club DJs). They also appear to have been put into some particularly demanding service and more often than not turn up in dreadful condition.

Colombia also issued a "A Kind Of Magic" album on blue (rumours of "Greatest Hits" in a similar colour are unfounded) and a two-tone "Live Killers" — one disc black, the other blue. This latter issue sells for a whopping £700, ten times more than the red-and-green Japanese issue! Elsewhere in South America, EMI's Venezuelan contingent issued the highly-prized (and highly-priced) "Hot Space" on delightful slate-grey vinyl.

Only two picture discs make it into our Top 100, both of which have acquired near legendary status among collectors. "Jazz" appeared in France with a either a black or white perimeter border printed with a series of white or black bicycle motifs (completists need both, of course). Look out for poor-quality fakes, on which the picture-disc image is fuzzy. Sold as a "reproduction", this will fetch £25 while, amazingly, there's even demand for the white-vinyl test-pressing of this forgery, which can command as much as £100.

"Greatest Hits" was manufactured in East Germany for sale in, of all places, Bulgaria. This used a picture of the band live in Montreux instead of the more formal Snowdon photograph which adorned the standard LP sleeve elsewhere. Valued at more than £600, it's easy to why this disc, too, has been counterfeited. But it's easy to tell the difference between the fake and the original. Even if you're unsure about just how fuzzy (the fake) or sharp (the original) the Montreux image should be, check out the top amplifier in the picture. If you can see the word "Marshall", you're on safe ground, if not, your disc is decidedly dodgy.





Rare European picture sleeves for the group's breakthrough, "Killer Queen": from Portugal (left), Sweden (centre), and Yugoslavia (right).

## PROMOS

Most of the CDs listed in our sought-after centenary are promos. Understandably, "The Greatest 3" triple-disc Japanese set is hugely in demand, as it contains a separate CD by Queen, the Rolling Stones, and the Beatles — not a bad triumvirate when it comes to collecting. Some sets come with a special 'dealer pack' which includes Japanese-language newspaper, outlining a brief history of each group. Put together to celebrate both Queen and the Stones joining the EMI stable (Queen had previously been on Elektra in Japan), "The Greatest 3" was such a big deal when it was released in 1991 that it was itself promoted via a sampler CD containing six of the best from each act. This disc alone sells for £400.

Other in-demand Japanese promo-only compilations include the 15-track "Made In Heaven"-era "Ultimate Collection", which also includes solo Freddie material, and "Their Greatest History", numbered copies of which are worth more than their unnumbered counterparts. Both of these are streets ahead of similar U.S. compilations — such as the lavishly-packaged "Their Best", and the 4-CD set, "Rocks Box" — in terms of value and scarcity. "Rocks Box" is a unique 20th anniversary compilation (four volumes of "Queen Rocks"), in which each disc is housed in a tray which slides into a mini card chest of drawers.

"Their Best" includes two CDs: "Greatest Hits", which is a U.S.-only compilation featuring a different sleeve and tracks to the regular album with the same title, and a three-track disc featuring "We Are The Champions", and the regular and remixed versions of "We Will Rock You". Both of these fit into foam recesses inside a hard plastic carrying case, measuring 13"x10". This also contains a silver-embossed folder, inside which is a 1974 Mick Rock photograph (as per the Japanese "Seven Seas Of Rhye" picture sleeve), a two-page biography dated August 1992, and a numbered Hollywood Records paper slip.

One of the most sought-after U.K. Queen

promos bears the unwieldy title of "Promotional Sampler From The U.K. Pop Group Conference '73". This white-label disc is actually the group's debut LP, and comes housed in a generic die-cut sleeve, which is printed with mug shots of EMI's top executives of the day, among whom are Colin Miles, now head of the See For Miles reissue label, and Paul Watts, who was interviewed in RC 143 about the blue vinyl "Bo Rhaps", and pictured in RC 162 in our report on the Thames TV record library sell-off. Super-rare copies of this "Conference" LP come with another purple envelope embossed in gold with Queen's crest, which also contains a press release (printed on purple paper) and a set of 10" x 8" glossy photographs.

## UNRELEASED & WITHDRAWN ITEMS

If you want to spice up your collecting life with something few other buggers have got, then you need a record that's unreleased or has been withdrawn. Copies of the 1984 single, "Hammer To Fall", with a long-distance live shot of Queen on the picture sleeve, are stalwarts of the collecting scene, and both the U.K. 7" and 12" editions have been known to fetch £180 apiece. The single was shipped to branches of Woolworth's before, as the story goes, Brian May decided he didn't like the image as it gave the false impression that the single was a live recording. The sleeve quickly pulled in favour of a last-minute replacement featuring little more than the record's title. Less familiar is the U.S. 7" version, which features the same photograph as its U.K. counterpart, but appeared in far fewer numbers, hence its £500 price tag.

"Radio Ga Ga" was originally planned with a sleeve featuring a still from the famous *Metropolis*-style video shoot, but was eventually abandoned in favour of a group portrait. The dummy sleeve only survives as a printer's proof (i.e. the front and back appear on the same card sheet), and also carries a value of some £500. Mystery surrounds

the cancelled double A-side single, "The Show Must Go On"/"Bohemian Rhapsody", but it looks as if this was intended to be released in late 1991. "The Show" did indeed become the final single from "Innuendo", but not with this flipside. Freddie's death scotched the idea as, inevitably, EMI quickly prepared a reissue of "Bohemian Rhapsody" in its own right.

## MISCELLANEOUS

"Queen Mania" was a 15-CD collection housed in a metal flight case and limited to 1,000 copies. Only available in Germany in 1986, the set also came with a T-shirt, a badge and a booklet. Also issued in Germany was a collection of 1988's 3" CD singles reissues, which were housed in a unique gold-stamped leather wallet and limited to just 555 copies.

In a similar vein, but much more lavish in its presentation, is "The Ultimate Collection". Released worldwide in 1995, with a price tag of around £300-£350 (depending on the dealer), this is a wall-mounted wooden cabinet featuring picture CDs of the band's 20 albums to date — the only opportunity to own them in this format. The set was completed by a Freddie hologram on the front of the display case, and an embossed 12-page booklet.

"The Ultimate Collection" was a more spectacular update of the "The Complete Works", issued 10 years earlier, in which the band's 14 albums up to that point were housed together in a box set featuring two booklets, a map, and a compilation of non-LP tracks called "Complete Vision". Standard copies of this set are worth around £100, while the first 600 — sold via HMV stores — came with a copy of the bonus disc autographed by all four members of the band. Current going rate: £500.

The last item on our list is the "Message From Queen" red vinyl flexi, which came free with the Japanese magazine, *Music Life*. The disc features spoken words from all four members of the band, including Brian May, who according to the accompanying article, was in a "seriouise" mood at the time of the recording.



# QUEEN



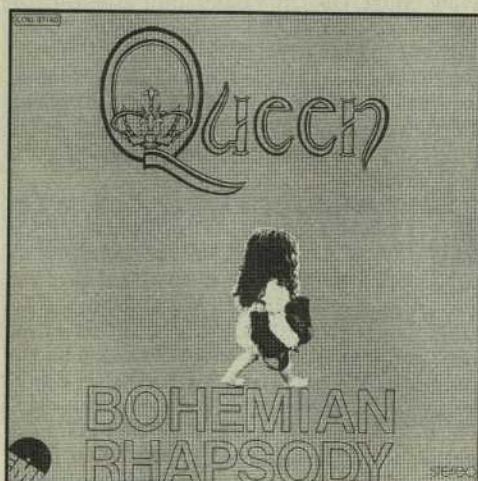
Until the late 1990s, few Western collectors knew that "Bohemian Rhapsody" had been issued in Turkey. But here's the £500 evidence!



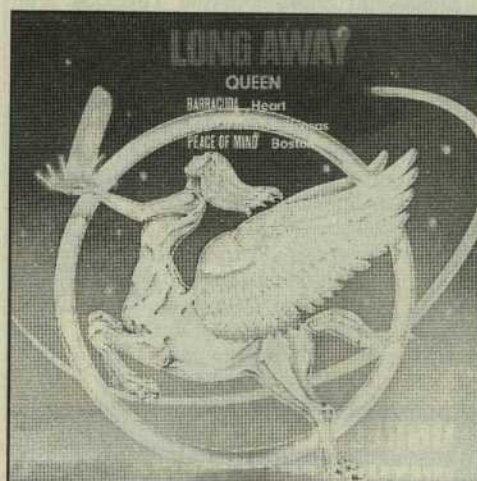
Queen's Portuguese picture sleeves are among their most sought-after. This one for "Bohemian Rhapsody" comes in at a cool £200.



In Thailand, "Bohemian Rhapsody" shared a semi-official EP with Justin Hayward and John Lodge of the Moody Blues, and Foghat!



The French "little girl" picture sleeve for "Bohemian Rhapsody" is one of Queen's most famous, and regularly fetches £150.



"Long Away", from "A Day At The Races", made a rare A-side appearance on this Thai EP alongside Boston, Kansas and Heart.



One of the rarest Queen picture sleeves from Spain is "Love Of My Life", issued in 1979. Mint copies can fetch as much as £175.



This 1975 French issue of "Now I'm Here" may not sport Queen's best-looking sleeve, but it will still set you back more than £200.



There aren't that many Queen picture sleeves from Hungary. In fact, the £150-rated "Now I'm Here" is the only one in our Hot 100.



Worth four times as much at an impressive £600 is the Portuguese issue, which comes with "Sheer Heart Attack" on the B-side.

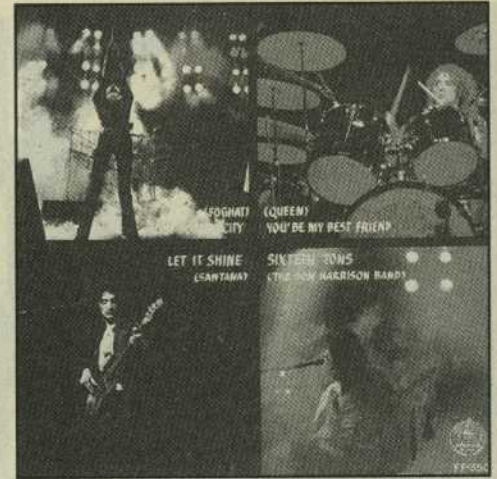




"You're My Best Friend" was a huge hit in 1976, but typically there was no picture sleeve at home. This Spanish issue fetches £150.



"You're My Best Friend" also appeared in Yugoslavia, where the spectacle of Freddie Mercury in his running shorts was unveiled.



This "You're My Best Friend" four-track EP from Thailand also included songs by Foghat (again!), Santana and the Don Harrison Band.



This unique picture sleeve for "Body Language", from "Hot Space", was issued in South Africa in 1982 and now fetches £175.



"Pain Is So Close To Pleasure" was promoted in Germany via this press pack featuring an outer card wallet, a bio and photographs.



It houses a regular U.K. issue of "Bicycle Race", but it's this bland-looking sleeve printed for export to Belgium which gets collectors excited.



While the U.K. withdrawn "Hammer To Fall" picture sleeves are collecting stalwarts, few fans are aware that there was also a U.S. issue.



The French "Tie Your Mother Down" picture sleeve from 1977, featuring this great live shot, is a mid-range Queen collectable at £225.



This one-off printer's proof for "Radio Ga Ga" is all that's left of an abandoned picture sleeve for that single from 1984.



# QUEEN



This 'Short Version' of "Radio Ga Ga" was issued as a very limited-run Japanese promo single, complete with a photocopied sleeve.



The Republic of Ireland was the only country to issue "Man On The Prowl" as an A-side in 1984. Hence the £200 price tag.



The famous operatic mid-section was edited out of "Bohemian Rhapsody" for this French radio-play single. Copies now fetch £300.

TOSHIBA EMI

# NEWS SCRAP

THE BEATLES  
QUEEN  
The Greatest 3  
THE ROLLING STONES

フレディの歌声復活  
生前録音した肉声使い  
11月に新編 世界発売

ビートルズゲット・バック  
未発表曲も  
11月CD化  
効果バツグン12月に

ポールDJ5夜連続放送

リハール秘蔵テープ公開  
ビートルズ世代は大喜び

来春来日 決定  
5年前上回る最大規模に

5年ぶりワールドツアー-NYで発表  
ストーンズ

THE GREATEST 3

# THE BEATLES QUEEN

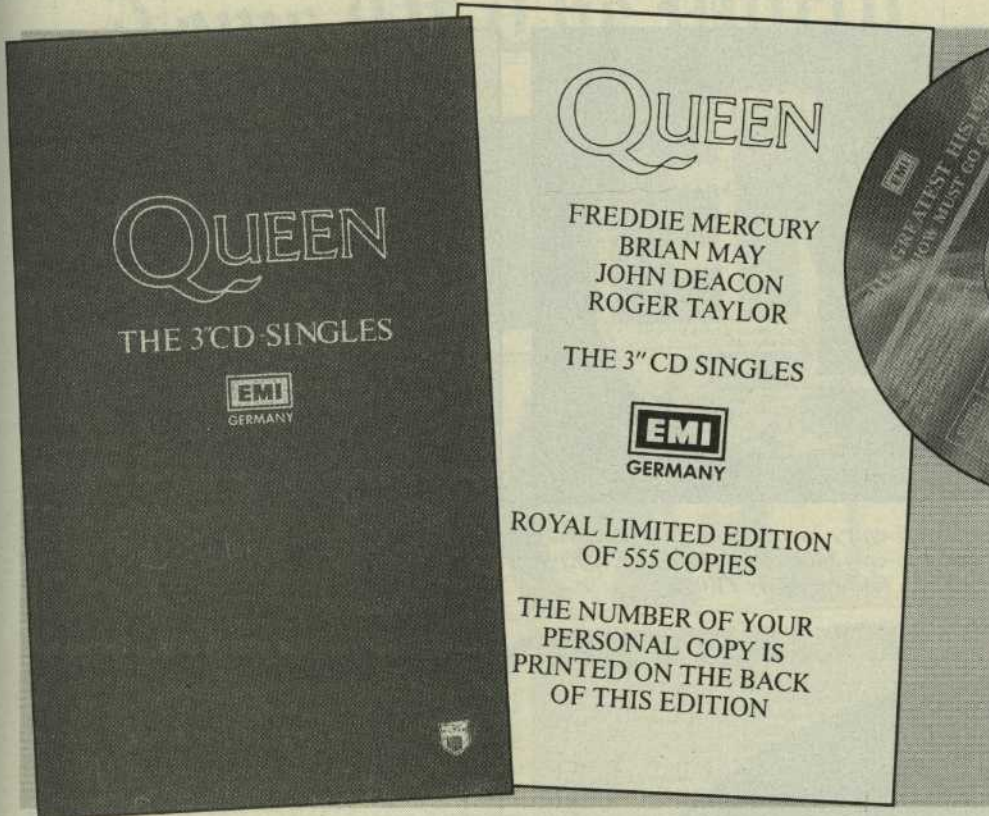
The Rolling Stones

THE BEATLES  
QUEEN  
The Greatest 3  
THE ROLLING STONES

FOR PROMOTIONAL USE ONLY NOT FOR SALE

One of the most collectable Japanese promo CDs ever is the Queen / Beatles / Rolling Stones three-disc set, "The Greatest 3", which was even promoted with its own sampler. Some copies also came with this promo newspaper.





A 'Royal Limited Edition' of just 555 copies of the German set, "The 3" CD Singles", were pressed. The set comprised the 12 U.K. CD singles housed in this embossed leather wallet.

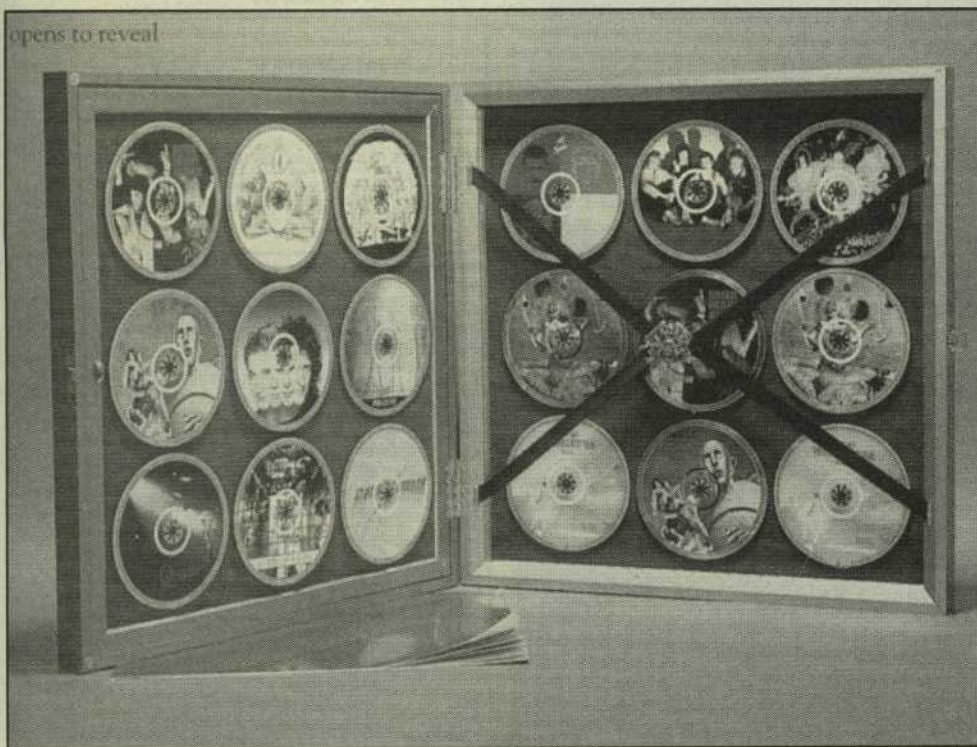


"The Greatest History" was a Japanese promotional compilation issued to coincide with the release of "Made In Heaven" in 1995.

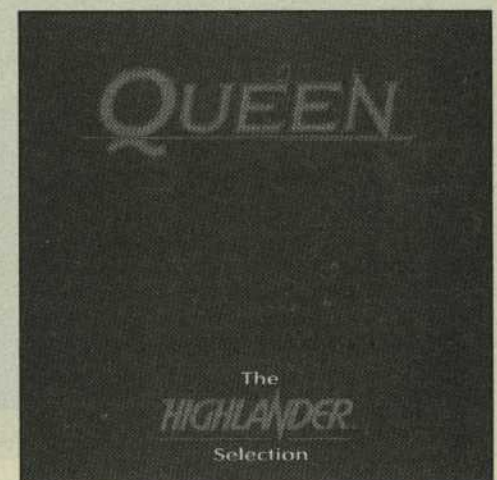


One of the earliest Japanese promotional devices was this flexi, "Message From Queen", given away with 'Music Life' magazine in 1977.

opens to reveal



All of Queen's albums up to and including "Made In Heaven" were pressed as picture CDs for this most luxurious of reissues: a wall-mounted wooden cabinet with a price tag of around £320.



According to legend, just 50 copies of "The Highlander Selection" CDVideo were pressed.



# QUEEN



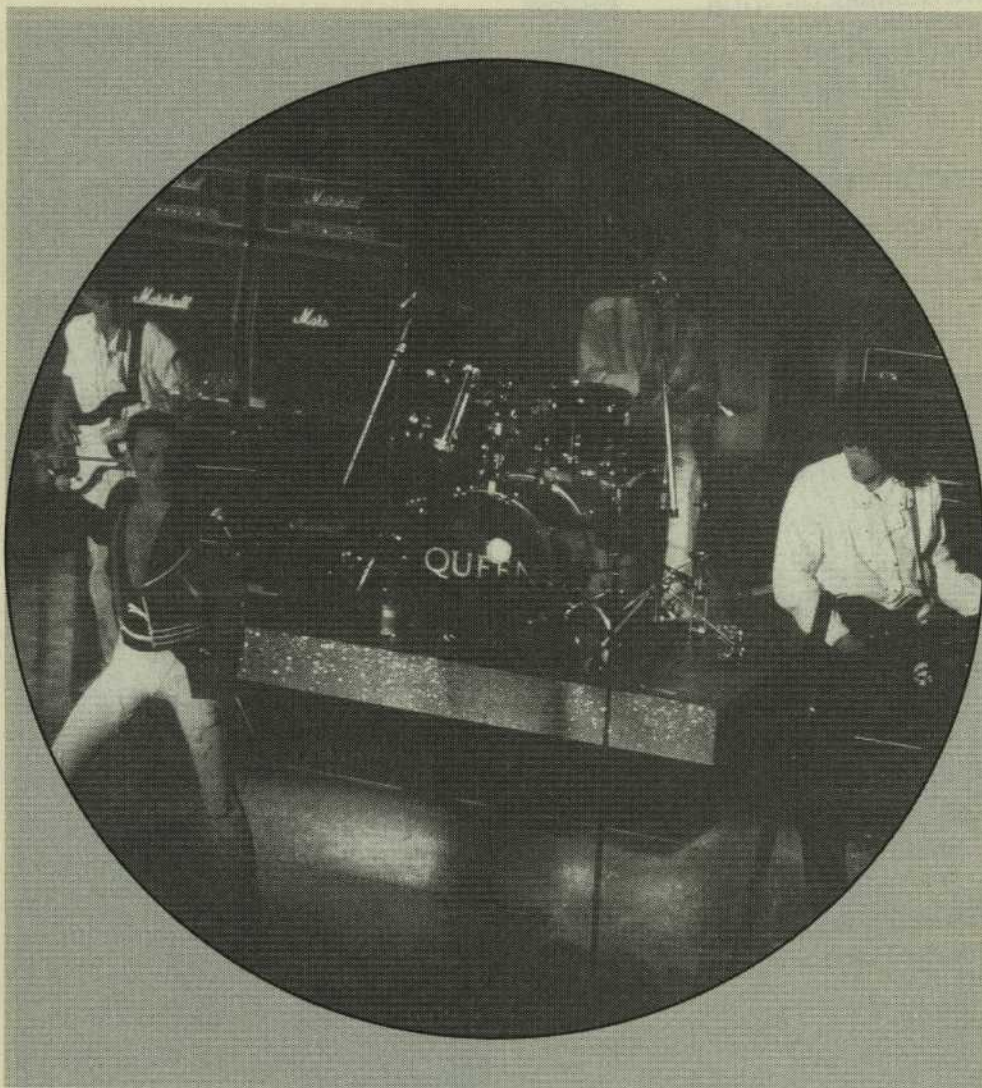
"Carrera De Bicicletas", or "Bicycle Race" to you and me, was one of the titles issued on 12" coloured vinyl in Colombia in the late 1970s.



The No. 5 entry in our poll, the super-rare Colombian-only blue vinyl edition of "A Kind Of Magic", fetches nearly £1,000.



Translucent lime-green in colour, this Colombian 12" of "Under Pressure" by Queen & David Bowie is another £500-rated item.



One of the most sought-after of all Queen collectables is the Bulgarian picture disc of "Greatest Hits". Pressed in East Germany for sale in the Balkan states, the album swapped the group's familiar Lord Snowdon portrait for a picture of the band onstage at the Montreux Pop Festival.



Although not as well-known as the withdrawn U.K. "Hammer To Fall" live sleeves, this Spanish 12" is worth almost twice as much!



"Headlong" from "Innuendo" was issued in France as a promo-only 7" and 12", currently valued at £100 and £250, respectively.



## News Of The World

Elektra Records Special Press Edition

# QUEEN



## LIFE STORY REVEALED

Freddie Mercury met up with Brian May and Roger Taylor in 1970 in London. Freddie had been in a band called Wreckage, and Brian and Roger's group, Smile, had just disbanded. Together they charted a musical course and formed Queen.

Working diligently at crafting their sound, Queen added bassist John Deacon in 1971. Though they were then complete, there was no record, there were no shows. Instead, Queen planned their next moves. With the painstaking professionalism that would come to be their hallmark, they crafted the Queen sound in private rehearsals and developed a formal, professional stage show. Only when they had perfected their material and their presentation did they approach record companies. By then they could virtually choose the label they wanted.

In 1973 Elektra Records released QUEEN and the group's highly polished, yet raw in power sound was an immediate worldwide hit. "Keep Yourself Alive" and "Liar" were single hits, particularly in England, and the Queen movement was launched. They toured England to enthusiastic reviews and well-received shows. In early 1974 they made QUEEN II and the momentum continued.

1974 was the year of their first American tour, and a reversal that worked to their benefit. Appearing as opening act for Moti The Hoople, they had made great strides in American concert acceptance when Brian was struck ill mid-tour. They cancelled the remainder of their dates

and returned to England. What emerged from their enforced hiatus was a fresh group effort, SHEER HEART ATTACK, and the single hit "Killer Queen."

In mid-1975 Queen went to work on what was to become one of their "signature" records. Late in the year A NIGHT AT THE OPERA was released and the single "Bohemian Rhapsody" became their biggest worldwide hit thus far. That song had sharp operatic interludes and hit thus far. That song had sharp operatic interludes and hit thus far. That song had sharp operatic interludes and hit thus far. That song had sharp operatic interludes and hit thus far.

A NIGHT AT THE OPERA was Queen's first platinum album (sales in excess of one million units). All their others had gone gold (sales in excess of one million dollars). That album's "companion piece," A DAY AT THE RACES, came late in 1976. It contained the hit singles "Somebody To Love" and "Tie Your Mother Down." Then Queen did another North American tour early in 1977. NEWS OF THE WORLD, Queen's sixth album, was released in November, 1977, as they embarked on a six-week American tour. Its boldness is stated clearly on the first single release, "We Are The Champions," and the hypnotic "We Will Rock You."



The little-known U.S. promo box set for 1977's "News Of The World" album included a copy of the LP, a press release in the form of a newspaper, biographies, stickers and photographs.

Expect to pay £200 for this "Conference" issue of the group's first LP; twice as much if it comes with its Queen-crested outer envelope.



Queen's second and third singles were issued on 12" on the Harvest label in Venezuela to tie in with the band's '81 South American tour.



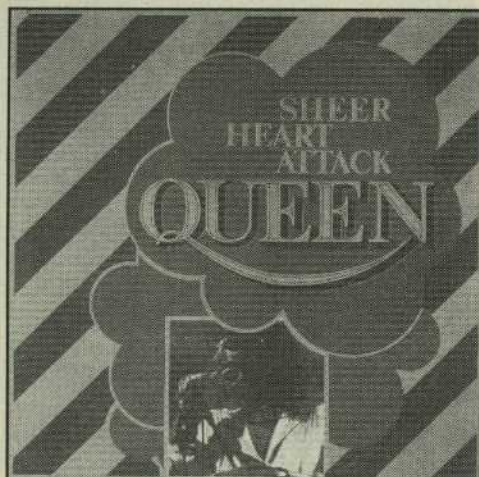
The "One Year Of Love" 12" from France was a promo-only release issued to help promote the 'Highlander' soundtrack on the continent.



This 1977 promo 12" featured live and studio versions of "We Are The Champions" and "We Will Rock You". Just 50 copies were pressed.



# QUEEN



This Orlador-label, record-club issue of "Sheer Heart Attack" from Portugal, saw the band's third LP dressed up like a pack of wine gums.



Expect to pay £500 for "Queen's Greatest Hits" from Korea, which featured this wonderful montage of live shots as its front cover.



The six-track, DJ-only mini-LP, "Disco Hits" was issued in Japan in 1982 to promote the dance-flavoured "Hot Space" album.

## QUEEN: TOP 100 WORLDWIDE RARITIES

- 1) BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY/I'M IN LOVE WITH MY CAR (EMI EMI 2375, 7", blue vinyl, p/s, in outer 'EMI International' card sleeve, with pen, invites, commemorative scarf & EMI goblets in card box, 200 numbered, promo copies only, 1978) ..... £3,500
- 2) BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY/I'M IN LOVE WITH MY CAR (EMI EMI 2375, 7", blue vinyl, p/s, with or without outer 'EMI International' card sleeve, 200 numbered, promo copies only, 1978) ..... £2,500/£2,000
- 3) SHEER HEART ATTACK (Elektra P 10137E Japanese LP, white label, red vinyl, promo only, 1977) £2,500
- 4) THE GREATEST 3 (EMI Toshiba SPCD 1524/5/6, Japanese box set, including 3 separate CDs, in slipcase, some with *News Scrap* newspaper & dealer pack, promo only; other discs by the Beatles & the Rolling Stones, 1995) ..... £1,000
- 5) A KIND OF MAGIC (EMI 111051, Columbian LP, blue vinyl, single sleeve, 1986) ..... £900
- 6) KEEP YOURSELF ALIVE/FLICK OF THE WRIST (EMI 8E 006 94681, Portugese 7", p/s, 1973) ..... £800
- 7) HOT SPACE (EMI 11907, Columbian LP, grey vinyl, 1982) ..... £800
- 8) KEEP YOURSELF ALIVE/FLICK OF THE WRIST (EMI 5C 006 94681, Dutch 7", p/s, 1973) ..... £750
- 9) LIVE KILLERS (EMI E 2510, Columbian 2-LP, one disc black vinyl, the other blue vinyl, gatefold sleeve, 1979) ..... £700
- 10) I WANT IT ALL/HANG ON IN THERE (EMI Toshiba PRP 1397, Japanese promo-only 7", 1989) ..... £700
- 11) THE ULTIMATE COLLECTION (EMI Toshiba TOCP 8700, Japanese CD, promo only, 1995) ..... £700
- 12) KILLER QUEEN/FLICK OF THE WRIST (EMI 8E 006 96060, Portugese 7", p/s, 1974) ..... £700
- 13) RADIO GA GA (Short Edit)/RADIO GA GA (Single Version) (EMI Toshiba PRP 1125, Japanese 7", promo only, photocopied p/s, 1984) ..... £600
- 14) GREATEST HITS (Balkanton PDBTA 11253/54, Bulgarian LP, picture disc, 1981) ..... £600
- 15) QUEEN MANIA (EMI/Electrola no cat no., German 15-CD set in metal flight case, with booklet, t-shirt & badge, 1,000 only, numbered, 1986) ..... £600
- 16) NOW I'M HERE/LILY OF THE VALLEY (EMI 8E 006 96255, Portugese 7", p/s, 1975) ..... £600
- 17) HAMMER TO FALL/TEAR IT UP (Elektra B 5424, U.S. 7", p/s, withdrawn, 1984) ..... £500
- 18) CRAZY LITTLE THING CALLED LOVE/BICYCLE RACE (Long Version) (EMI 446 1032, Columbian 12", pink vinyl, no p/s, 1979) ..... £500
- 19) SEVEN SEAS OF RHYE/SEE WHAT A FOOL I'VE BEEN (EMI 8E 006 95241, Portugese 7", p/s, 1974) £500
- 20) GREATEST HITS (EMI/Oasis OLE 7012, Korean LP, different sleeve, 1981) ..... £500
- 21) THE COMPLETE WORKS (EMI QB1, 14-LP box set, with "Complete Vision" compilation LP, 2 booklets & map, 600 copies signed by band, numbered, 1985) ..... £500
- 22) BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY/SWEET LADY (Max 049, Turkish 7", p/s, 1975) ..... £500
- 23) ANOTHER ONE BITES THE DUST/DAGON ATTACK (EMI 446 1061, Columbian blue vinyl 12", no p/s, 1981) ..... £500
- 24) CRAZY LITTLE THING CALLED LOVE/BICYCLE RACE (Long Version) (EMI 446 1032, Columbian 12", blue vinyl, no p/s, 1979) ..... £500
- 25) CRAZY LITTLE THING CALLED LOVE/BICYCLE RACE (Long Version) (EMI 446 1032, Columbian 12", green vinyl, no p/s, 1979) ..... £500
- 26) UNDER PRESSURE/SOUL BROTHER (EMI 446 1097, Columbian 12", green vinyl, no p/s, 1981) ..... £500
- 27) RADIO GA GA/I GO CRAZY (unreleased proof 'video shoot' p/s for 7", EMI QUEEN 1, 1984) ..... £500
- 28) ANOTHER ONE BITES THE DUST/DAGON ATTACK (EMI 446 1061, Columbian 12", green vinyl, no p/s, 1980) ..... £500
- 29) ANOTHER ONE BITES THE DUST/DAGON ATTACK (EMI 446 1061, Columbian 12", orange vinyl, no p/s, 1980) ..... £500
- 30) CRAZY LITTLE THING CALLED LOVE/BICYCLE RACE (Long Version) (EMI 446 1032, Columbian 12", yellow vinyl, no p/s, 1979) ..... £500
- 31) MUSTAPHA/DEAD ON TIME (EMI Odeon BO 1253, Bolivian 7", p/s, 1978) ..... £500
- 32) THE HIGHLANDER SELECTION (Parlophone EMC DV 2, CDV, promo only, 50 only, 1986) ..... £450
- 33) THE GREATEST HISTORY (EMI Toshiba PCD 0670, Japanese CD, numbered/unnumbered copies, 100 copies, 1995) ..... £400/£250
- 34) QUEEN (EMI no cat. no., white label LP, EMI Conference custom issue, die-cut sleeve, with or without outer envelope, 1973) ..... £400/£200
- 35) THE GREATEST 3 SAMPLER (EMI Toshiba, Japanese CD, promo only, 1995) ..... £400
- 36) THE ULTIMATE COLLECTION (EMI, 20 x CD, picture discs, in wooden cabinet, numbered, 3,000 only, 1995) ..... £400
- 37) UNDER PRESSURE/SOUL BROTHER (EMI 446 1097, Columbian 12", yellow vinyl, no p/s, 1981) ... £400
- 38) ANOTHER ONE BITES THE DUST/DAGON ATTACK (EMI 446 1061, Columbian 12", yellow vinyl, no p/s, 1980) ..... £400
- 39) THE SHOW MUST GO ON/BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY (EMI QUEEN 19/20, unreleased double A side 7", no p/s, 1991) ..... £350
- 40) SEVEN SEAS OF RHYE/SEE WHAT A FOOL I'VE BEEN (EMI/Pathé 2C 008 95241, French 7", p/s, 1974) ..... £350
- 41) KILLER QUEEN/KEEP YOURSELF ALIVE (Harvest 1542, Venezuelan 12" p/s, 'tour edition', 1981) .. £350
- 42) CRAZY LITTLE THING CALLED LOVE/WE WILL ROCK YOU (Harvest 12 HAR 715, Venezuelan 12", p/s, 1981) ..... £350
- 43) A KIND OF MAGIC (EMI EMC 3509, New Zealand LP, burgundy vinyl custom pressing, gatefold sleeve, 1986) ..... £300
- 44) NEWS OF THE WORLD (EMI, box set, LP with factory sample sticker, 5 photos, biography, badge & demo copy of "We Are The Champions"/"We Will Rock You", promo only, 50 only, 1977) ..... £300
- 45) BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY (3:30)/I'M IN LOVE WITH MY CAR (EMI/Pathé SP 621, French 7" radio edit, promo only, no p/s, 1978) ..... £300
- 46) HAMMER TO FALL (The Headbangers Mix)/TEAR IT UP (EMI 052 200 3456, Spanish 12", white title sleeve [no: 12QUEEN 4], 1984) ..... £300
- 47) NEWS OF THE WORLD (Elektra 66-112, U.S. box set, with *News Of The World* newspaper, 2 biographies, stickers & 7 photos, promo only, 1977) ..... £300
- 48) BICYCLE RACE (Pacific LP 106, Turkish LP, retitled version of "Jazz", different sleeve, 1978) ..... £300
- 49) A KIND OF MAGIC (EMI/Pathé DC 102, French LP, red vinyl, gatefold sleeve, 1986) ..... £275
- 50) JAZZ (EMI/Pathé PIC 3/PM 900, French LP, picture disc, 1978 black border or 1979 white) .... £250/£225
- 51) INNUENDO (EMI, box set containing EPK in p/s, with inserts, promo only, 25 only, 1991) ..... £250



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- 52) HEADLONG/HIT MAN/LOST OPPORTUNITY (EMI/Pathé PM 212 2042866, French 12" 'clown' p/s, promo only, 1989) ..... £250
- 53) QUEEN (Globe International GE 0221, Czechoslovakian LP, multicoloured vinyl, 30 only, 1995) ... £250
- 54) SEVEN SEAS OF RHYE/SEE WHAT A FOOL I'VE BEEN (EMI 5C 006 95241, Dutch 7", p/s, 1974) ... £250
- 55) NOW I'M HERE/LILY OF THE VALLEY (EMI/Pathé 2C 004 96255, French 7", p/s, 1975) ..... £225
- 56) TIE YOUR MOTHER DOWN/YOU AND I (EMI/Pathé 2C 006 98819, French 7", p/s, 1977) ..... £225
- 57) UNDER PRESSURE/("Arthur's Theme" by Christopher Cross) (EMI Toshiba PS 1014/1015, Japanese double-pack 7", promo only, second disc: "Young Turks" by Rod Stewart/"Turn Your Love Around" by George Benson, 1981) ..... £200
- 58) PAIN IS SO CLOSE TO PLEASURE/DON'T LOSE YOUR HEAD (EMI Electrola 006 20 1610/7, German 7", p/s, in outer card wallet, with biography and photographs, promo only, 1982) ..... £200
- 59) SHEER HEART ATTACK (Orlador 2127, Portugese record club LP, different sleeve, 1974) ..... £200
- 60) WE WILL ROCK YOU/WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS/SPREAD YOUR WINGS (EMI SP SLP 241 A1U, 3-track one-sided 12", promo only, no p/s, 1977) ..... £200
- 61) THEIR BEST (Hollywood RDC 10192-2, U.S. 2-CD set including "Greatest Hits" & "We Will Rock You"/"We Are The Champions"/"We Will Rock You [Remix]"), housed in 13"x10" plastic case with handle, with silver-embossed folder with photos, biography, paper slip, 100 promo copies only, 1992) ..... £200
- 62) FLASH (Max MAXLP 8103, Turkish LP, 1980) ..... £200
- 63) KILLER QUEEN/FLICK OF THE WRIST (EMI EMI 2229, Swedish 7" p/s, 1974) ..... £200
- 64) MAN ON THE PROWL/KEEP PASSING THE OPEN WINDOWS (EMI QUEEN 5, Irish only 7", generic green co. sleeve, 1984) ..... £200
- 65) WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS (Studio Version) (3:00)/WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS (Live Version) (4:09)/WE WILL ROCK YOU (Studio Version) (2:00)/WE WILL ROCK YOU (Live Version) (2:24) (EMI/Pathé SP 1615, French 12", different p/s, 50 only, promo only 1977) ..... £200
- 66) BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY/I'M IN LOVE WITH MY CAR (EMI 8E 006 97140, Portugese 7", p/s, 1975) ... £200
- 67) TIE YOUR MOTHER DOWN/YOU AND I (EMI 10C 006 98919, Spanish 7", p/s, 1977) ..... £200
- 68) YOU'RE MY BEST FRIEND/SOMEBODY TO LOVE (Jackpot POT 69, Hong Kong flexidisc, turquoise vinyl, p/s, with free poster and stickers, 1986) ..... £175
- 69) SINGLES SET (EMI/Electrola QUE 1-12, German 12 x 3" CD singles set in gold-stamped leather wallet, 555 only, 1988) ..... £175
- 70) BODY LANGUAGE/LIFE IS REAL (Song For Lennon) (EMI EMIJ 4391, South African 7", unique p/s, 1982) ..... £175
- 71) ONE YEAR OF LOVE/GIMME THE PRIZE (Kurgan's Theme) (EMI/Pathé SP 1297, French 12", 'negative' p/s, promo only, 1986) ..... £175
- 72) ROCKS BOX (Hollywood PRCD 8623/8296/8297/8298, U.S. 4-CD box set, in mini card chest of drawers, promo only, 1993) ..... £175
- 73) SEVEN SEAS OF RHYE/SEE WHAT A FOOL I'VE BEEN (Elektra P-1314E, Japanese 7", p/s, 1974) .. £175
- 74) BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY/I'M IN LOVE WITH MY CAR (EMI QUEENDJ 95, purple vinyl, 10th anniversary fan club reissue, p/s, 2,000 only, numbered, 1995) ..... £175
- 75) BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY (4-Track Stereo FT 301, Thai various artists EP, with "Bo Rap" p/s; other tracks: "Slow Ride" by Foghat/"Blue Guitar" by Justin Hayward & John Lodge; , 1975) ..... £175
- 76) A KIND OF MAGIC (EMI EMC 3509, New Zealand LP, orange/pink vinyl, gatefold sleeve, 1986) ..... each £175
- 77) LOVE OF MY LIFE/NOW I'M HERE (EMI 10C 006 062877, Spanish 7", p/s, 1979) ..... £175
- 78) BICYCLE RACE/FAT BOTTOMED GIRLS (EMI EMI 2870, 7", different U.K. p/s for export to Belgium, 1978) ..... £150
- 79) A NIGHT AT THE OPERA (EMI SLPE 500585, Urugayan LP, promo issue in different sleeve, shrinkwrapped, 1975) ..... £150
- 80) DISCO HITS (EMI/Toshiba PS 210, Japanese 6-track mini-LP, promo only, 1982) ..... £150
- 81) QUEEN II (Harvest SHLP 9525, Venezuelan LP, different sleeve, 1974) ..... £150
- 82) YOU'RE MY BEST FRIEND (4-Track Stereo FJ 350, Thai various artists EP, p/s, other tracks: "16 Tons" by Don Harrison Band/"Let It Shine" by Santana/"Fool For The City" by John Fogerty, 1976) ..... £150
- 83) HAMMER TO FALL (Edit)/TEAR IT UP (EMI QUEEN 4, withdrawn 7" with 'live' p/s, only available via Woolworths, 1984) ..... £150
- 84) HAMMER TO FALL (The Headbangers Mix)/TEAR IT UP (EMI 12QUEEN 4, withdrawn 12" with 'live' p/s, only available via Woolworths, 1984) ..... £150
- 85) LONG AWAY (4 Track Stereo ST 428, Thai various artists EP, other tracks: "Barracuda" by Heart/"What's On My Mind" by Kansas/"Piece Of Mind" by Boston, p/s) ..... £150
- 86) NOW I'M HERE/LILY OF THE VALLEY (Pepita SPSK 70209, Hungarian 7", p/s, 1977) ..... £150
- 87) BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY/I'M IN LOVE WITH MY CAR (EMI/Pathé 2C 010 97140, French 7", "little girl" p/s, 1975) ..... £150
- 88) A QUEEN SAMPLER (Dyna/EMI SAMP 1, Filipino LP, stickered die-cut sleeve, 1992) ..... £150
- 89) SEVEN SEAS OF RHYE/SEE WHAT A FOOL I'VE BEEN (EMI/Yugoton SEMI 88753, Yugoslavian 7", p/s, 1974) ..... £150
- 90) KEEP YOURSELF ALIVE/SON AND DAUGHTER (Elektra P-1209E, Japanese 7", p/s, 1973) ..... £150
- 91) YOU'RE MY BEST FRIEND/39 (EMI 1J 006 97944, Spanish 7", p/s, 1976) ..... £150
- 92) KILLER QUEEN/FLICK OF THE WRIST (EMI/Yugoton SEMI 88792, Yugoslavian 7", p/s, 1974) ..... £150
- 93) BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY/I'M IN LOVE WITH MY CAR (EMI 6C 006 97140, Danish 7" in Dutch p/s [5C 006 97140], 1975) ..... £150
- 94) A NIGHT AT THE OPERA (Harvest 25049, Venezuelan LP, different sleeve, 1974) ..... £125
- 95) NEWS OF THE WORLD (EMI/Pathé DC 3, French LP, green vinyl in promo display die-cut sleeve, 1977) ..... £125
- 96) A NIGHT AT THE OPERA (EMI/Pathé DC 10, French LP, white vinyl, promo display die-cut sleeve, 1975) ..... £125
- 97) HEADLONG/HIT MAN (EMI/Pathé PM 212 2042866, French 7" 'clown' p/s, promo only, 1989) ..... £100
- 98) IT'S A HARD LIFE (Extended Mix)/IT'S A HARD LIFE/IS THIS THE WORLD WE CREATED ... ? (EMI/Electrola ICK 062 2003426, German 12", p/s, withdrawn, 1986) ..... £100
- 99) A NIGHT AT THE OPERA (EMI SLPE 500585, Urugayan LP, different gatefold or single thin paper sleeve, 1975) ..... £100
- 100) MESSAGE FROM QUEEN (Japan, red vinyl flexi, with *Music Life* magazine, 1977) ..... £100

Thanks to Rinus & Marijan Walstijn, Spellbound, Greg Vandike, Nick Courtney at Sweet Memories, Portsmouth.



When the Pacific label issued "Jazz" in Turkey under the title "Bicycle Race", they used the cheeky giveaway poster as its front cover.



"Queen II" appeared in Venezuela with this alternative front cover, on which the band were depicted as a bunch of yellow-eyed ghouls.



This Queen Sampler, on the EMI/Dyna label, was issued in the Philippines in 1992 as a tribute to the late, great Freddie Mercury.