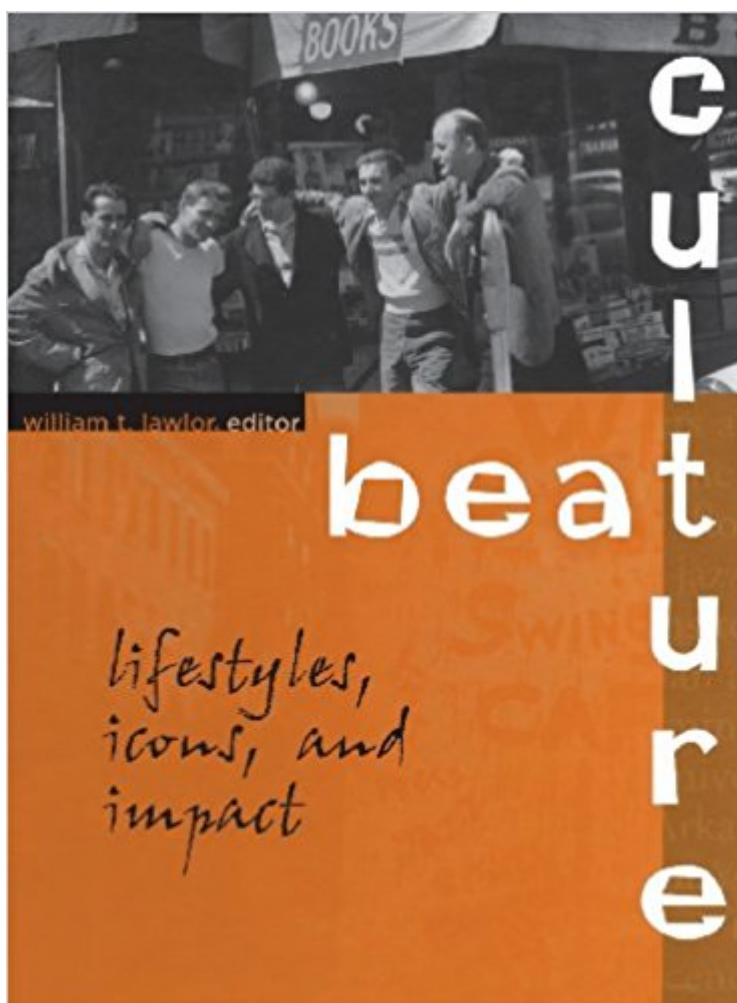


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# Beat Culture: Lifestyles, Icons, And Impact



## Synopsis

The coverage of this book ranges from Jack Kerouac's tales of freedom-seeking Bohemian youth to the frenetic paintings of Jackson Pollock, including 60 years of the Beat Generation and the artists of the Age of Spontaneity. Over 250 entries on the most important people, places, movements, themes, and scholarship, including entries on related cultural movements outside the United States, which set the Beats in an international context. A chronology highlighting artistic and historical events including the legendary poetry reading by Allen Ginsberg, Gary Snyder, and others at the 6 Gallery. Over 40 illustrations of Beat clothing, the Beat "pad," and the styles and tastes of the period. Images of the most photographed literary group in history and maps of their travels, such as Jack Kerouac and his legendary freight train journeys across the United States and Mexico.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Grade 9 Up A piquant celebration of all things Beat, packed with articles on the figures, the literature, the music, the art, the humor, the influences, the drugs, and the despair. The book offers fascinating reading and a window through which this movement, still more famous than understood, can be glimpsed. There is some attempt to link the Beats to their social and political impulses, and to finger them as founding fathers of all countercultural movements to come. The longer essays on the major figures run from three to five pages with a chronology at the end; most of the articles are much shorter. The writing is relatively clear, though some of the related minutiae

does become tedious, and a refrain of victimization and martyrdom is sounded repeatedly. From Wilhelm Reich and Lenny Bruce to William S. Burroughs and Timothy Leary, the Beat movement appears littered with the bodies of fallen geniuses, outrageously ignored or abused by the powers that be. Though a few women are represented (Joyce Johnson, Anne Waldman, Diane di Prima among them), for the most part the Beat movement is considered an all boys club as noted in the article Sexism and Misogyny. There are many illustrations—some of them quite evocative—and plenty of cross-references. Libraries owning Lynn M. Zott's multivolume *The Beat Generation* (Gale, 2003) probably won't need this resource. However, Lawlor's single-volume work is possibly the best overview of the topic for high school students.—Herman Sutter, Saint Agnes Academy, Houston, TX Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

This volume covers the Beat Generation: the musicians, writers, and artists as well as the culture and history. Following introductory material that includes a thematic entry list and a detailed chronology are more than 250 alphabetical entries, most of them biographical. Each entry varies in length from a short paragraph to 20 pages and provides bibliographic references and, in the case of entries for people, a list of principal works and projects. The three most influential Beat figures, William Seward Burroughs, Allen Ginsberg, and Jack Kerouac, are covered in detail. Other entries treat topics such as Censorship, Cold war, Film, New York City, and Sexual attitudes and behavior. Kerouac's travels, as the "chronicler of the Beat Generation," are described, as is the major role that music played in Beat culture. The volume also covers little-known magazines that helped give voice to Beat expression. Black-and-white illustrations can be found throughout the text. *The Beat Generation: A Gale Critical Companion* (2003) deals with Beat literature in much more depth, if more selectively. *Beat Culture: Lifestyles, Icons, and Impact* covers the whole Beat spectrum, enlightening the reader not only about literature but also about the painting of Jackson Pollock, the dance of Merce Cunningham, the "Beatness" of Bob Dylan and Woody Guthrie, the educational philosophy of Black Mountain College, and the Beat style of dress. A useful purchase for public and academic libraries. Carol Sue Harless Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

Great price. Received on time.

The literary works of the Beat Generation captured a wide audience and helped foster the

subsequent Hippie movement; but few titles have provided a comprehensive overview of the entire Beat experience - until *Beat Culture: Lifestyles, Icons And Impact*. This encyclopedic reference gathers scholarly contributions from around the world and features over 250 A-Z entries on Beat writers, artists, culture and history, including an easy chronological reference to highlight events in sequence with cultural and political events. Add vintage black and white photos throughout and you have a handy reference for high school grades on up.

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