

# The Origin of the STRAY CATS' PIN-UP GIRL



Periodically, we receive email from people wanting to know who drew the Stray Cats' "Pin-Up" logo that was widely used in the early 1980s on a variety of UK and European record releases as well as merchandise and backstage pass laminates. Well, much like we did when we clued you in on the "Gonna Ball" diner mystery, we're going to do the same with the curvy blonde you all loved so well. The interesting thing is that what we uncovered was a complete surprise to even Brian.

Although it was widely believed (even by the Cats it seems) that Arista Records in England commissioned an artist to draw the "Pin-Up" logo, it was in fact "borrowed" from an illustration dating back to 1955. The first appearance of the girl used by Arista was in an English "Men's Magazine" called, "Blighty". A rather timid affair by today's standards, the magazine was available every Monday for 6 pence and teamed up pin-up style cartoons, with black and white photos of girls in bathing suits and semi-revealing evening-wear.

The issue with our girl (as seen above) featured a beautiful cover shot of Elizabeth Taylor. Clocking in at 98 pages, the magazine also contained articles and short stories, one in particular that caught our eye was called, "An Edwardian Courtship". Don't let the title fool you, that odd little tale had nothing whatever to do with Teddy Boy suits.

In any case, what you see below is our "Pin-Up" girl in her first incarnation. We'd also like to do something that we suspect has never been done, give the illustrator a credit. The gent's name was Robert Patterson.



## A selected display of the "Pin-Up" appearances on Stray Cats vinyl...



From 1981, Patterson's pin-up as she appeared on the a-side of the UK "Gonna Ball" LP label.



1981, the a-side label of the self-titled debut LP (UK pressing).



The a-side label of the UK "Rock This Town"/"Can't Hurry Love" 7 inch vinyl 45. (Paper label)



The b-side label of the UK "Rock This Town"/"Can't Hurry Love" 7 inch vinyl 45.



From 1981, the Italian pressing of the "Runaway Boys"/"My One Desire" 7 inch vinyl 45. (Paper label)



From 1981, the English pressing of the "You Don't Believe Me"/"Cross That Bridge" 7 inch vinyl 45. (Paper label)