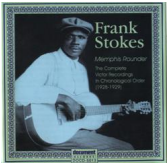


Frank Stokes - The Complete Victor Recordings (1928-1929) (2000)

Written by bluesever

Wednesday, 12 July 2017 15:13 -

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Memphis, February 1, 1928 01. 41822-1 *Downtown Blues* 02. 41822-2 *Downtown Blues*
03. 41825-1 *Bedtime Blues* 04. 41826-1 *What's The Matter Blues*
Memphis, August 27, 1928
05. 45419-1 *Mistreatin' Blues* 06. 45420-1 *It Won't Be Long Now* 07. 45420-2 *It Won't Be Long Now* 08. 45421-2 *Nehi Mamma Blues* 09. 45422-2 *I Got Mine*
Memphis, August 28, 1928
10. 45426-2 *Stomp That Thing*
Memphis, August 30, 1928
11. 45452 *'Tain't Nobody's Business If I Do - Part 1* 12. 45453-1 *'Tain't Nobody's Business If I Do - Part 2* 13. 45453-2 *'Tain't Nobody's Business If I Do - Part 2* 14. 45454-2 *Take Me Back* 15. 45455-1 *How Long*
Memphis, September 23, 1929
16. 55573-2 *South Memphis Blues* 17. 55574-1 *Bunker Hill Blues*
Memphis, September 25, 1929
18. 55584-2 *Right Now Blues* 19. 55591-1 *Shiney Town Blue*
Memphis, September 30, 1929
XX. 56303 *I'm Going Away Blues* XX. 56304 *Old Sometime Blues* 20. 56305-2 *Frank Stokes' Dream* 21. 56306-2 *Memphis Rounders Blues*
Frank Stokes – guitar, vocals Dan Sane (?) – guitar (1-4, 11-15) Will Batts – violin (16-19)

This 21-song compilation of Frank Stokes' late-'20s recordings for the Victor label is a more expansive version of the Stokes collection available on Yazoo Records, with very little overlap between the two. The sound is variable, as is usually the case with Document's releases, some songs sounding like they came from decent master sources and others purely of academic interest, in terms of the playback quality. What isn't variable is the quality of Stokes' playing, singing, and songwriting, which is filled with wry humor throughout, veiling a certain degree of pride and restlessness, and all manner of clever lyrical and musical conceits. This disc is well worth owning in tandem with CDs devoted to Stokes' work with the Mississippi Sheiks. --- Bruce Eder, AllMusic Review

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Frank Stokes was first recorded by Victor in 1927 with his "Downtown Blues" and "Bedtime Blues" selling well and when Victor returned to Memphis in August 1928 they recorded ten further selections. In 1929, Stokes and Sane recorded again for Paramount, resuming their 'Beale Street Sheiks' billing for a few cuts. In September, Stokes was back on Victor to make what were to be his last recordings, this time without Sane, but with Will Batts on fiddle. ---
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