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Ruppli has compiled several volumes in this series (e.g., Atlantic Records, CH, Jan'80), and compiled with Novitsky The Mercury Labels (CH, Oct'94). They have assembled another solid catalog, providing the first definitive listing of the MGM recording sessions and its subsidiary labels Orbit/Cub, Lion, and Metro. European releases (e.g., Polydor in Germany) and leased/purchased recordings are also included. MGM has been a major distributor of popular music, particularly soundtracks, works by jazz and popular vocalists (e.g., Louis Armstrong, Sarah Vaughan, Mel Tormé, Judy Garland), releases by Hank Williams and the Animals, and some classical and spoken word releases. The main lists, numerical by master number, include personnel, song titles, recording dates, and master and issue numbers for each track. All formats except tape are included. Because the numbering systems are complex, including subsidiary and acquired labels and leased and purchased catalogs, several cross-reference appendixes are provided. Volumes 1 and 2 contain the bulk of the session listings and an artist index for each volume; volume 3 includes jazz sessions with no master numbers, soundtracks, spoken word recordings, children’s stories, foreign releases, classical works, distributed labels, and indexes to composers and artists that cover all three volumes. This specialized source will be useful in collections that support discographical research, and to collections that already own Ruppli's The Clef/Verve Labels (1986) (MGM acquired Verve in 1961).

--R. A. Aken, University of Kentucky

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