**Definition:** Rolling Stones from Collins English Dictionary

*pl n*

1 *the.* British rock group (formed 1962): comprising Mick Jagger, Keith Richards (born 1943; guitar, vocals), Brian Jones (1942–69; guitar), Charlie Watts (born 1941; drums), Bill Wyman (born 1936; bass guitar; now retired), and subsequently Mick Taylor (born 1948; guitar; with the group 1969–74) and Ron Wood (born 1947; guitar; with the group from 1975) See also Jagger

**Summary Article:** Rolling Stones, The from Chambers Biographical Dictionary

British rock group

The group was formed in 1961 in London, and its original members were Mick Jagger, Keith Richards (1943- ), Bill Wyman (1936- ), Charlie Watts (1941- ) and Brian Jones (1944-69). One of the longest-running and most successful pop groups, they released their first single, a version of Chuck Berry’s “Come On”, in 1963. Initially in the shadow of the Beatles, their carefully cultivated rebellious image and greater reliance on black blues and rhythm and blues soon won them their own following. Although their uninhibited lifestyles often hit the headlines (with Jones dying from drug abuse and Jagger and Richards both convicted of possessing drugs), it was the quality of their compositions and the popularity of their stage act which ensured their continuing success. Controversy continued to surround them, with a murder taking place at their infamous Altamont concert in 1969, and Richards being convicted of possessing heroin in Canada in 1977. Jones was replaced shortly before his death by Mick Taylor (1949- ), an outstanding blues guitarist, who was replaced in turn by the less subtle Ronnie Wood (1947- ) in 1976, while Bill Wyman left in 1992 and was replaced by Darryl Jones (1961- ). They remain the quintessential rock-and-roll band, and have recorded some of the classics of the genre in such singles as "Jumpin' Jack Flash" (1968) and "Honky Tonk Woman" (1969), and albums including Beggar's Banquet (1968), Let it Bleed (1969), Sticky Fingers (1971) and Exile on Main Street (1972).


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