

YESTERDAY: FAB FOUR REVISITED

FOR a photojournalist interested in 'serious' news, it was hardly a welcome assignment.

Harry Benson was on his way to cover a weighty story in Africa when his editor redirected him to Paris to take pictures of a pop group that had become the latest teen fad. Almost half a century later, the great Scottish photographer admits he may have been a little quick to dismiss The Beatles, for the assignment made his career and changed his life forever.

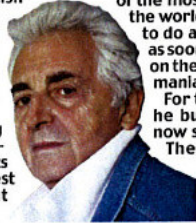
Now a fascinating collection of Glasgow-born Mr Benson's shots of the world's biggest band at the height of their powers has

By Jonathan Brocklebank

been published in a glossy, limited-edition book. Many of the stills have remained unseen by the public since the day they were taken.

Mr Benson, pictured, who went on to become one of the most revered news photographers in the world, admits that at first 'I didn't want to do a piece of s*** like The Beatles. But as soon as I heard the music, I knew I was on the right story. Something like Beatlemania had never happened before.'

For two years, between 1964 and 1966, he built up a Beatles portfolio which now stands as a historical document of The Beatles' middle years. Harry Benson, *The Beatles*, published by Taschen, will set you back £450 - but here we present some of the book's most remarkable shots.



You Can't Do That: The Beatles at the George V Hotel in Paris. When Harry Benson suggested a pillow-fight, John Lennon told him not to be ridiculous. Then he left the room... and returned armed with a pillow



You've Got To Hide Your Love Away: John Lennon photographs his then wife Cynthia with George Harrison during their US tour. Cynthia had to keep in the background as Brian Epstein wanted to present the Fab Four as unattached. In the hat is Phil Spector



It's Been a Hard Day's Night: John Lennon, alone and exhausted in a Chicago hotel room after the 1966 press conference in which he apologised for suggesting The Beatles were more popular than Jesus



Ticket To Ride: A dapper Paul McCartney stares at the passing scenery while taking tea on a train during the filming of The Beatles' first movie, *A Hard Day's Night*, in 1964



John, Paul, George... and Jimmy: The band pose in a hotel room on a European tour, but one face does not fit. For eight shows, drummer Jimmy Nicol stood in for Ringo Starr, who was in hospital with tonsillitis