Kicking the old year...

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Every year, we self-professed autoritarians on whatever get the chance to flash back through our memories, catching all sorts of "Ten Best..." lists which summarily pick out or attack the biggest, commercial successes and supergroupes in favor of the most ecleclic sampling of nada. That time is upon us again (in fact, it's a bit past), and this article is no exception. An indulgence in ego gratification. So here goes, based on my list of the Top Ten Rock Albums of 1973 in roughly descending order of quality, only to be followed by even more alphabetically-listed Honorable Mentions. In keeping with the tone of this article, I will include a few imports, excluding "best of..." or "Greatest Hits" packages (such as the 1973 albums by the Guess Who, Philles, Carpenters, and Bread) as well as a Todd Rundgren's Something (Anything?) two albums by the same performer(s) will be listed with the best one first.

1. Quadrophenia - The Who (Transatlantic)
2. Queen (Elektra)
3. Selling England By The Pound/Live - Genesis (Charisma/Charisma Import)
4. For Your Pleasure (Stranded Rock)/Brothers In Arms/Island (Epic)
5. Lute (Island)
6. Band On The Run - Wings (Apple)
7. Break Away - The Association (Columbia)
8. Outline - The Association (Columbia)
9. Chocolate - Mike Oldfield (Bearsville)
10. That's The Way Of The World - The Eagles (Atlantic)

Wanda Fischer

1973 was the year of shortages — but not as far as the music world was concerned. In fact, some of 1973's music is superlative. But I would like to include some of the "best" offerings (in no particular order), according to folk, country, rock, blues, pop, R&B, and bluegrass style.

1. Maria Muldaur - Maria Muldaur (Reprise, this lady showed this album with a duet in a close-up of vocal masturbation since the old Jim Kweskin Jug Band days!)
2. Live At The BBC - Andy Fairweather Low & The Champions (Columbia). This is an exceptionally nice piece of work from a fine artist who tragically wasn't heard far too often. 'The Circle Be Unbroken?' - Nitty Gritty Dirt Band (United Artists). This is an excellent, three-record collection of solid bluegrass music by both older and younger country artists.
3. Live Goas Rhyme's Simon - Paul Simon (Columbia). This is by far Simon's finest offering so far since appearing up with Garfunkel on Parsley, Sage, Rosemary, and Thyme many moons ago.
4. For The Rose (A&M). This is one of Joni's finest, second only to her blue album of a couple of years ago.
6. Underwater World - Emerson, Lake & Palmer (Charisma) is, if nothing else, a terrific lesson in the use of the keyboard. And don't forget that this is the virtually unknown British group Genesis. They borrow from King Crimson of all places, but I'm sure you'll like it. Their lyrics interest. Contains some of the most experimental music of the year. McLean, 1972)
7. Also by Genesis, Selling England By The Pound (Charisma) goes easy on the vocals but hard on the keyboards, in the sunny glow of Undesignated Space. If one of two seconds here for more in the superlative category of the electric guitarist.

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8. Ex-Procol Harum guitarist Robin Trower, who some of us consider to be one of the world's best, takes Hendrix one fascinating step beyond in Two-Toned Removed From Yesterday (Charisma). One of two seconds here for true believers in the supremacy of the electric guitarist.
9. Top honors for the year go to sort of a farewell album by the Move, Split Company (Blue Thumb). This is by far McLean's finest offering so far since appearing up with Garfunkel on Parsley, Sage, Rosemary, and Thyme many moons ago. A true masterwork containing almost every song a fan could ask for. No other 1973 album comes close. Yet little more than a few awards are in order.