The Beatles by the book


In the 25-odd years since the Beatles left Liverpool to find pop stardom, they have emerged as true icons of the baby-boom era. They influenced not only music, where their mark is indelibly stamped on the writing and playing styles of legions of past and present rock 'n' rollers, but fashion, political thought, and morality as well.

No single volume can relate the entire Beatles story; there is simply too much to digest. The Long & Winding Road contains detailed recording information about each individual song recorded by the Beatles, including such tidbits as who wrote what parts of what songs, who played what, running times, chart placings, and inserted random trivia. Also included are several appendices covering such subjects as the "Paul is dead" rumor, unreleased recordings, bootlegs, and songs written by the band but recorded by other musicians.

All of this information is crucial to the serious record collector who seeks to acquire and differentiate among several different versions of a given song, often encompassing only minor variations. Some of the earlier Beatles records commanded prices of several hundred dollars, as does the famous "butcher block" cover of Yesterday and Today — the most infamous of all banned album covers.

This book is not a price guide or an evaluation of any sort, however; it merely provides information for the reader to make his own judgements. Its only fault is that no recordings made by the solo Beatles are included in the exhaustive listings, information which has been published in similar books.

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