

JohnGabreeTheWorldOfRock1968TextTVS

The World of Rock \*\*\*

by John Gabree

Fawcett 1968

This book took me by surprise. I purchased it along with several other vintage books from the height of the rock period. Despite material on the covers that indicate a "with it" production, this one, however, assesses the rock scene with a very jaundiced eye. Blues and early rock and roll get a fair shake, but the author consistently disregards the work of most of the musicians who come after as vacuous and derivative. Gabree makes sweeping quality judgements of everyone from the Beatles to Motown and comes up on the wrong side of pop history every time. This writer seems to delight in deflating everyone's image of the rock generation- an indication of a deep cynacism that reveals this uptight fellow didn't know what he was talking about, but he somehow got the writing gig. Lots of photos help make the book seem like a comprehensive overview, but the text reveals less thought and more knee-jerk reaction. A book about rock written by a starry-eyed fan can be annoyingly incomplete too, but the naysaying here is interesting only in how wrong Gabree got it.