

RichardRobinsonCreemMagazineRockRevolution1973TextTVS

Rock Revolution \*\*\*\*

From Elvis to Alice- the Whole Story of Rock and Roll

by Richard Robinson and the editors of Creem Magazine

Curtis Books, 1973.

Ben Edmonds, Lester Bangs, Dave Marsh, Ed Ward, Lenny Kaye, Lisa Robinson, John Morthland, Greg Shaw.

The best write-ups here are by Lester Bangs. I could tell almost instantly each were one of his pieces- works with a revved up beatnik flair for free word association- an entertaining stylistic genius that works with the rock and roll theme. I appreciated the articles on the east and west coast music scenes- especially the mention of long forgotten baby bands of future rock and roll heroes. A good mix of black and white photos- and a handsome color cover featuring the Stones and Stevie Wonder on stage together in 1972. It's interesting to assess the writers' opinions against how things actually went and for the most part, the "important names" really did follow through. The final chapter is titled "What Comes Next: Possible Projections of the Future" by Ben Edmonds and in the very last lines makes a startlingly savvy prediction- "The time is not far off when...television might actually play a vital role in developing the course that the music will take." The historic detail involved here reveals that these writers are also fans and they almost always find something exciting to say about their subject. Includes list of Creem's top rock albums 1955-1973. Rock 'n' Roll Fifties, The English Invasion, The Beatles, Rolling Stones, Bob Dylan, Beach Boys, Led Zeppelin (interviews with Page and Plant), Rod Stewart (the only article in the book that doesn't ultimately paint a positive picture), Grateful Dead, David Bowie, San Francisco Scene. This copy must have been used as a text book- there are underlined passages throughout the text. Though carefully drawn with a straight-edge, the chosen passages do not particularly point out the best parts. The book is full of typos and misspellings, but these mistakes somehow go along with the "underground" feel of the prose.