At last! An A-to-Z reference guide for readers who want to learn the cryptic language of Rock Snobs, those arcana-obsessed people who speak of “Rickenbacker guitars” and “Gram Parsons.” We’ve all been there--trapped in a conversation with smarty-pants music fiends who natter on about “the MC5” or “Eno” or “the Hammond B3,” not wanting to let on that we haven't the slightest idea what they’re talking about. Well, fret no more! The Rock Snob's Dictionary is here to define every single sacred totem of rock fandom's know-it-all fraternity, from Alt.country to Zimmy. (That’s what Rock Snobs call Bob Dylan, by the way.)
Lexicon of Rockological Knowledge by David Kamp

Hucama

Pros: Some of the artists I like: Television, Kraftwerk, Gram Parsons, Wilco, Nick Drake (all on my iPod, all great),
Also, accessible read
Also, explicit stuff

Vudogal

I've bought this book for any serious music lover but more importantly I've discovered some real gems in here from Dennis Wilson's, Pacific Ocean Blue to Roxy music. Great for the beginner or the full blown music rock snob.

Grab the book and you'll find yourself checking itunes and youtube for each and every artist you never knew or that influenced your favorite artist.

You can go on their site and check out a few of the blurbs or entries they have also to give it a test drive. And you can get a used copy with shipping for next to nothing. This and 1000 Recordings To Hear Before you Die by Tom Moon are my music encyclopedia's that I can spend a day with and discover new music each time.

Tehn

The subtitle reads "An Essential Lexicon," but it isn't. "Essential" connotes a comprehensiveness that this lacks, which indicates that this book was not meant for education so much as fun and humor, and in this it succeeds admirably.

So, what is a rock snob? Evidently, somewhat to my surprise, I am not. I'm a music fanatic, and I would have imagined that sufficient to gain rock snob status, but apparently not, since the book defines "rock snob" as: "reference term for the sort of pop connoisseur for whom the actual enjoyment of music is but a side dish to the accumulation of arcane knowledge." For me the actual enjoyment of the music has been paramount, so I am imagining that anyone who truly loves the music first is exempt, on technical grounds, from rock snobbishness.

The joy of the book comes from the way they simultaneously elevate and then deflate various figures and artifacts from the world of rock. Many of their characterizations are dead on. I've never understood the esteem in which many hold Burt Bacharach. Folks, it really is just elevator music, and I don't care how much Elvis Costello tries to pump his reputation. The authors write about such figures with wit and derisive humor. The lists that litter the book are marvelous, and usually dead on.

Plus, the book is fun to argue with. If you are a serious fan of music, you will spend a lot of time flipping through to see if your own candidates were included in the book, and a surprising number of the more arcane folks I searched for were to be found. For instance, I was amazed to see that Jim Dickinson, Dan Penn, The Fugs, and the Louvin Brothers showed up. I was somewhat disappointed that several of the folks I would have nominated were not, including: Can, Greg Sage and the Wipers (a monumental oversight), the Shoes, Moby Grape (though Skip Spence gets a nod), Robert Quine, Jack Logan (a shocker), R. Stevie Moore, the Buzzcocks (with an especial mention of their EP SPIRAL SCRATCH), the Mekons, Les Paul, the album HAVE MOICY!, guitar pioneer John Fahey, the Flying Burrito Brothers (though Gram Parsons, of course, has an entry), Rory Gallagher, and Second Edition (Johnny Lydon's aka Rotten project after the Sex Pistols). But like I said, this book isn't about
completeness, but humor. There also is a cut off point. Few very recent bands receive a mention, even such crucial Rock Snob bands as Yo La Tengo (which inspired the wonderful ONION headline about a few dozen record store clerks dying at one of their concerts when the roof collapsed, crushing the crowd) fail to receive mention.

In the end, the book really isn’t for aspiring rock snobs, but actual rock snobs who get all the references, know all the books and movies mentioned in the lists, and “get” the self-mocking nature of the whole affair. My only real disappointment with the book is that if you have a pretty good knowledge of rock, you aren’t going to learn much new. But at least you can laugh about your own pretentiousness about imagining that to be the case.

Auridora

A really funny and somehow still informative summary of rock snob knowledge. One of the co-authors is a veteran of “Spy” magazine, so if you are a fan of that writing style, you’ll love this book.

Washington

When I received this book, it seemed kind of lame in its approach. But it does have a few good things to mention in it. If you are a rock enthusiast, it wouldn’t hurt to have this book in your collection.

Eseve

We clearly were not rock snobs as we didn’t know many of the people/bands mentioned. Yeah, I’d heard of Mott the Hoople but who cares? Sometimes popular music is popular because it’s good, capiche?

Cetnan

The Dictionary is an encyclopedia of sorts, listing the artists that any aspiring rock snob should know about. I suppose the idea is that you can impress your friends with your insider knowledge. The book is often funny and entertaining but there are some strange selections. I’m not convinced that the authors are the right people to write this book. Flicking through the entries you also realize that rock has become a music where its most famous practitioners are either old or dead. The authors widen the definition of rock to include 1960s pop, MOR and anything the baby-boomers might be listening to these days. The book seems aimed at aging boomers who want to believe they are still listening to rock music.

When I was growing up in the early seventies, rock was for young people, and most bands had a killer guitar player. It was fun and exciting and was considered subversive by my parent’s generation. My parents and many rock critics at the time hated bands like Zeppelin, Sabbath, and Deep Purple. Strangely this Dictionary includes plenty of music my parents did like, including Burt Bacharach, Beach Boys, Scott Walker and the Mamas and the Papas.

The book mentions some artists like Big Star and Nick Drake who were ignored in their prime, but there are no real surprises. There are too many pop acts from the 1960s. The book’s reverence for John Philips of The Mamas and the Papas is mystifying. Even his manager, Lou Adler, gets an entry. After reading this book I tried to listen to Philips’s “masterpiece,” The Wolf King of LA. It sounded like a country album made by a folkie who could not sing. Scott Walker makes an appearance. I remember him as a crooner that my mother liked. It is hard to understand what the Master Musicians of Jajouka or Ennio Morricone are doing in a rock guide. It is unlikely that a fan of Judas Priest or Def Leppard would enjoy the music of Van Dyke Parks or the droning voice of Nico. Neither British metal band gets a mention, but mainstream critics have never liked metal.

All rock snobbism is ultimately pointless, because everybody believes they have good taste. Who is to judge? However, the book encourages the idea that certain people, like the authors, are qualified to decide what is good and bad. The problem is that a lot of what the Dictionary champions is not really
rock music as I understand it. They also seem to consider Cameron Crowe, who was a former Rolling Stone critic, the coolest man on the planet. In my opinion, Crowe likes Elton John a little too much to be considered really cool.

Rock is really a youthful enthusiasm. When I was at college in the 1970s my roommate would start the day playing some Hendrix very loudly. Eventually you reach an age when listen to music to relax and the mellow music your girlfriends listened to (e.g., Elton John and Carole King) starts to sound quite good. It eventually dawns on you that you are no longer really listening to rock music. I did enjoy the book but it would have been better had the authors been real rock fans.

Related PDF to The Rock Snob's Dictionary: An Essential Lexicon of Rockological Knowledge by David Kamp

The Big Rock (Aladdin Picture Books) by Bruce Hiscock
Talent Quest (Girls Rock!) (Girls Rock!) by Shey Kettle
Capitol Rock by Mark Opsasnick
Mastering Rock Keyboard (The Complete Rock Keyboard Method) (Book & CD) by Sheila Romeo
Rock Hudson: His Story by Rock Hudson
Recombinant do re mi: Frontiers of the rock era (Planet rock) by Richard Horn, Billy Bergman
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