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Ring The Banjar: The Banjo In America From Folklore To Factory



Synopsis

(Banjo). This history of the banjo is a second edition of a publication originally published to coincide with a groundbreaking exhibition of the same name at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Museum. Includes information on the instrument's enduring popularity, the banjo makers of Boston, instruments from the exhibition, a glossary and bibliography of the banjo, and more.

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Customer Reviews

This is an older, but excellent brief history of the banjo, and the various Boston banjo builders of the 19th and early 20th centuries. There are also many fine illustrations in BW and color of banjos in the book. The historical essay by Robert Loyd Webb is very informative and well documented, and illustrated. This book was originally published as a guide to a museum exhibit at the MIT museum. It is definitely a book for banjo history buffs, but it's a nice little gem. I liked it very much, as any banjo buff would.

Great

See my other review for a much better book on the subject.

Among the very few available resources on early banjos I rank this book very highly. Essentially the catalog of the 1984 banjo exhibition at the MIT Museum, it presents Webb's informative and highly

readable brief history of the banjo, and more. I love looking at the excellent photographs of early players, ephemera and banjos from the exhibition, but my favorite part of the book by far is Jim Bollman's information packed section entitled "The Banjomakers of Boston". This book has proven a reliable and surprisingly complete compilation of hard to find information. I highly recommend it to banjo collectors, historians, players of vintage banjos and anybody interested in the story of "America's instrument" and how it came to be.

I bought this book hoping it would be more of a textual history of the banjo in America -- its development, construction, artistry, and unique place in American history. This book is NOT a history of the banjo per se; it's the companion book to a museum exhibit that ran at MIT a number of years ago. As such, it does a competent job giving a very general overview of the history of the banjo -- without much detail -- with numbing descriptions of the banjo manufacturers featured in the exhibit. I'm sure it would've done the trick nicely for the exhibit, but there's not much meat for the bone if you're looking for a more comprehensive book. Nice pictures, though.

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