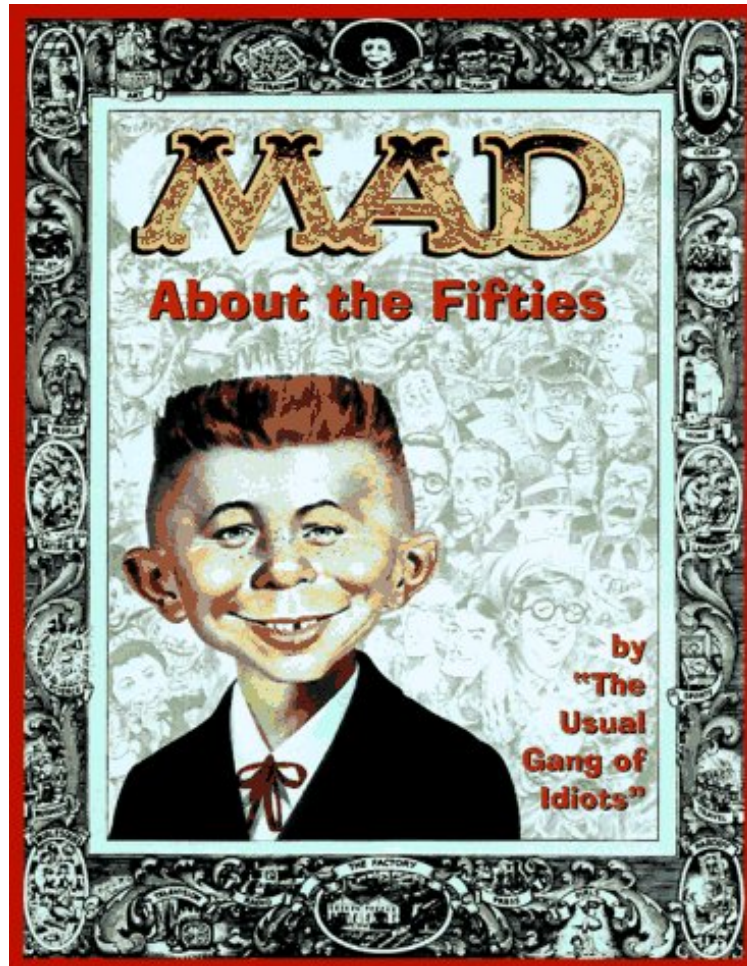


Mad About the Fifties

Usual Gang of Idiots

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Usual Gang of Idiots : Mad About the Fifties before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mad About the Fifties:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Even a 10-year-old likes it
By Robert Crosman
When I found my grandson reading and enjoying a current issue of MAD, I told him about my discovery of MAD comics sixty years ago. I told him about "Superduperman," "Batboy and Rubin," "Shermlock Sholmes and the Hound of the Basketballs," and "Mickey Rodent" ("Hey, Darnold - duck!!!") He sounded interested, so I ordered this collection, which arrived in two days, and he found it as fascinating as I'd hoped he would. Another victory for the usual gang of idiots - many, alas, now deceased, but they live on in their immortal humor.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Mad about Mad
By Handmaiden C
Very funny - brings back memories. Good clean fun. Highly recommended.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars
By frank munde
great stuff

Now in "MAD About the Fifties" young whippersnappers and wizened elders alike can appreciate MAD's subversive beginnings. Thrill to cult classics like "Superduperman!", "Melvin of the Apes!", and "Mickey Rodent!"; pointed parodies like "Gunsmoked," "Perry Masonmint," and "The Ed Suvillan Show"; hilarious humor from seminal comedy pioneers like Tom Lehrer and many more; comic creators like the maniacally logical Don Martin, Harvey Kurtzman, Wally Wood, Jack Davis, Will Elder, and Al Jaffee, as well as early examples of the "MAD Primer," "Scenes We'd Like to See," and the compellingly loony "Strangely Believe It!" series; and rare reproductions in full color of historic early covers and classic ad parodies. But wait! There's more! Special bonus! Amazing revelations about the mysterious origins of Alfred E. Neuman (was his original name really Melvin Coznowski? or was it Mel Haney?).

.com Of all the recent collections assembled from the archives of MAD magazine, this volume might be the most interesting. It shows the beginnings of the magazine as a comic book, its transformation into a "slick" three years later in 1955, and its settling down into a familiar format under the stewardship of Al Feldstein. The early material, as tame as it is by today's standards, shows quite clearly what the hubbub was all about: Harvey Kurtzman, Willie Elder, Wally Wood, and the rest parody comic characters with a zany zest that is infectious. This book boasts color reproductions of MAD's comic book highlights, including "Starchie," "Superduperman," and "Batboy and Rubin." Many readers will remember these stories, if not from the first time around, then from the Ballantine paperback collections so ubiquitous in the 1960s and '70s. MAD About the Fifties shows MAD's tentative transformation into an American institution; this tentativeness, far from being a drawback, results in the only experimental period in the humor magazine's 45-year run (who knew that Stan Freberg, Bob and Ray, and Ernie Kovacs contributed?). Kurtzman's departure in 1956 brought in Al Feldstein, who would expand the magazine's appeal from the thousands to the millions. Purists are still debating whether this was a good idea or a sellout--MAD About the Fifties allows you to decide for yourself. Aside from historical pop culture interest and the powerful desire among aficionados to complete the set, (MAD About the Sixties and MAD About the Seventies were released previously), MAD About the Fifties also includes some darn funny material. As usual, the art has aged better than the writing--but what art it is! Few have been better than Wood, Elder, Kurtzman, Davis, Jaffee, Martin, and all the rest. MAD About the Fifties contains more of their gems; it deserves a space in any MAD reader's library. --Michael Gerber