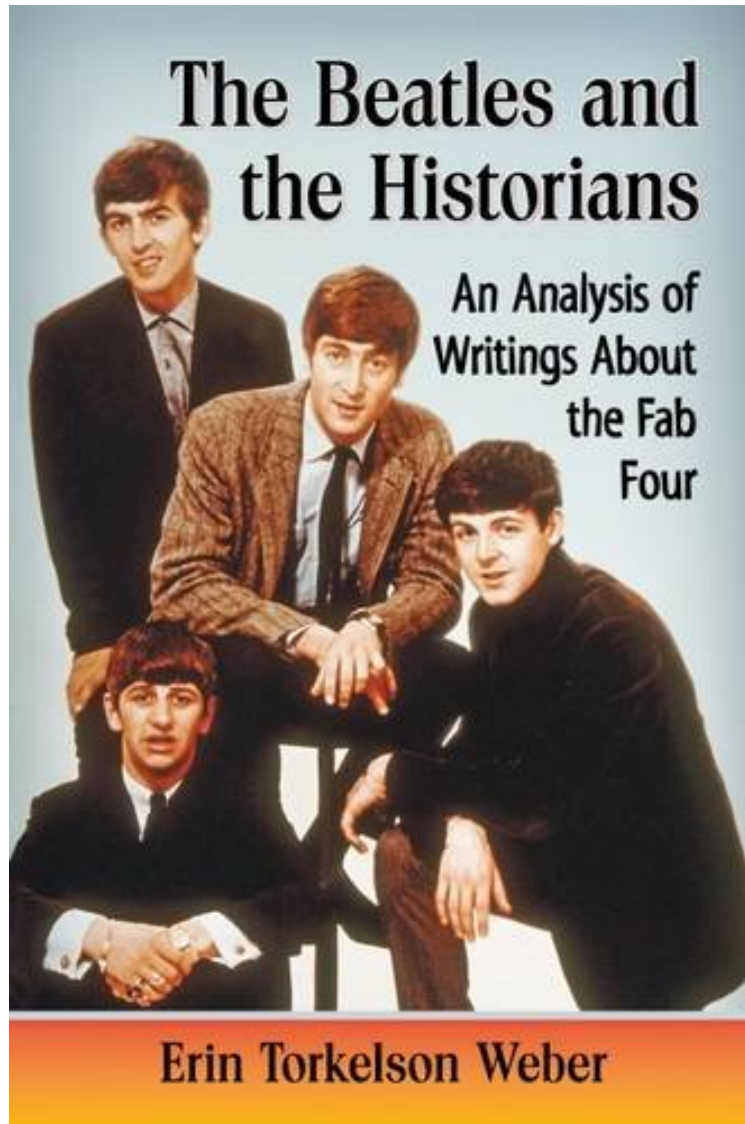


The Beatles and the Historians: An Analysis of Writings about the Fab Four

Erin Torkelson Weber
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Hundreds of books have been written about The Beatles. Over the last half century, their story has been mythologized and de-mythologized and presented by biographers and journalists as history. Yet many of these works do not strictly qualify as history and the story of how the Beatles' mythology continues to be told has been largely ignored. This book examines the band's historiography, exploring the four major narratives that have developed over time: The semi-whitewashed "Fab Four" account, the acrimonious breakup-era Lennon Remembers version, the biased "Shout!" narrative in the wake of John Lennon's murder, and the current Mark Lewisohn orthodoxy. Drawing on the most influential primary and secondary sources, Beatles history is analyzed using historical methods.

"Weber simultaneously lionizes a significant artistic group while dissecting the myths surrounding their long-term careers. This is a rare achievement in print." - Rock Music Studies Even though the book title sounds very academic, the author was able to reach out to the reader with a very exciting trip through the history of the Beatles years. I recommend the book enthusiastically! From Me to You Newsletter, p. 12, No. 132 Autumn 2016. (Translated from German) "Here Erin Torkelson Weber proves that the historiography of the Beatles is no small matter." Cercles About the Author Erin Torkelson Weber teaches American history at Newman University in Wichita, Kansas.