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[Review of] Frank Sinatra and Popular Culture: Essays on an American Icon

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Frank Sinatra and popular culture: essays on an American icon, ed. by Leonard Mustazza. Praeger, 1998. 311p bibl index afp ISBN [0275964957](#), \$39.95

Mustazza (English and American studies, Penn State Univ., and author of *Ol' Blue Eyes*, CH, Oct'98) brings together 19 fan-oriented essays by historians, critics, popular personalities, and even Frank himself, a few reprinted from journals and CD liner notes. The three main sections treat fame, image formation, and Sinatra's influence on pop culture; the music; and personal reminiscences. Contributors include Will Friedwald (author of *Sinatra! The Song Is You*, 1995), Philip Furia (author of *Tin Pan Alley*, CH Feb'91), *New Media's* Dan Okrent, Legacy Records' Chuck Granata, and former Warner Brothers v.p. Stan Cornyn. The volume concludes with career highlights and a substantial selected bibliography. Though many of the essays smack of tribute more than scholarly analysis (Mustazza is primarily "concerned with . . . surface myths and image . . . with factors that led to the sculpting of the iconic Sinatra"), this title provides a more substantial analysis than Mustazza and Steven Petkov's *The Frank Sinatra Reader* (1995) or anecdotal works like Bill Zehme's *The Way You Wear Your Hat* (1997). A useful addition to popular music and culture collections at academic and public libraries.

--R. A. Aken, University of Kentucky

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