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[Review of] The CD Rock & Roll Library: 30 Years of Rock & Roll on Compact Disc

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Shapiro, Bill. **The CD rock & roll library: 30 years of rock & roll on compact disc.** Andrews & McMeel, 1988. 188p bibl disc index ISBN 0836279476, \$8.95

Scores of new and remastered audio CDs are released every month (3,000 rock titles were available in 1987), varying in both musical content and recording quality. Shapiro (National Public Radio commentator) reviews 467 works by 200 artists, arranged alphabetically in four decade groupings. David Praker (British audio reviewer) in *Rock n' Roll on Compact Disc* (1987) focuses mostly on the 1970s and 1980s in 350 reviews (plus 200 unreviewed titles) by 187 artists, while Shapiro gives greater space to the 1950s, rhythm and blues, soul, and 43 multiartist compilations. Praker provides introductory material on CD technology; Shapiro concentrates on historical and artistic context in introductions to each decade and in a 90-item bibliography. Both provide biographical background, graded reviews (100-150 words) that evaluate content and CD quality, running time, and US order numbers. Praker also includes UK order numbers, song titles, mastering process, date of LP issue, and illustrations of British-release cover slips. Shapiro shows an undefined antipop bias but includes most major works currently available. Because each writer covers nearly 100 artists not treated by the other, both titles will be useful for collection development and popular music/culture collections.

--R. A. Aken, *University of Kentucky*

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