

FOATMAD NEWS

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A Five-String Banjo Sourcebook

The American 5-string banjo is many things: a physical object of material culture with roots back to Africa and farther east, and a complex and ongoing development in North America; an equally complex musical culture ranging through vernacular, classical, and popular musical idioms and histories; and connections to social, cultural, and artistic networks. One volume cannot encompass all this, but Gérard De Smaele's earlier work in French, "Banjo Attitudes", comes close. In the meantime we are lucky to have in hand De Smaele's exhaustive compendium of history, research, and commentary on the banjo that will inform and nourish inquiry and interest.

Art Rosenbaum, 2018

NB: Newly edited by L'Harmattan (Paris, 2019):

<http://www.editions-harmattan.fr/index.asp?navig=catalogue&obj=livre&no=63706>