Early Jazz History and Criticism Bibliography
John Szwed

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Charles Edward Smith (June 8, 1904 in Thomaston, Connecticut – December 16, 1970 in New York City) was an American jazz author and critic. He was the author or editor of several important early books on jazz history. Smith began to collect early hot jazz records in the 1920s and worked with William Russell, Eugene Williams, John Hammond, Hugues Panassié and Charles Delaunay in the Hot Record Society from 1937, from which the jazz label HRS Records sprang. With Steve Smith he was editor of the jazz Early attempts to define jazz as a music whose chief characteristic was improvisation, for example, turned out to be too restrictive and largely untrue, since composition, arrangement, and ensemble have also been essential components of jazz for most of its history. Similarly, syncopation and swing, often considered essential and unique to jazz, are in fact lacking in much authentic jazz, whether of the 1920s or of later decades. The syncopations of jazz were not entirely new; they had been the central attraction of one of its forerunners, ragtime, and could be heard even earlier in minstrel music and in the work of Creole composer Louis Moreau Gottschalk (Bamboula, subtitled Danse des Nègres, 1844–45, and Ojos Criollos, 1859, among others). Early Jazz History and Criticism Bibliography John Szwed Pre-1940 Writings *About Books, More or Less: In the Matter of Jazz,* The New York Times, February 18, 1922 *About Ragtime,* Ragtime Review. August 1916 Adorno, Theodore. On Jazz and Farewell to Jazz in Essays in Music. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2002, pp. 470-495, 496-500 *Aldrich, Robert. Jazz als Lehrfach. Signale fuer die musikalische Welt 86 (1926), pp. 43-44 Chotzinoff, Samuel. Jazz: A Brief History, Vanity Fair 20 (June, 1923), pp. 69, 104, 106 *Christensen, Axel The Teaching of Ragtime Versus Classical, Ragtime Review.