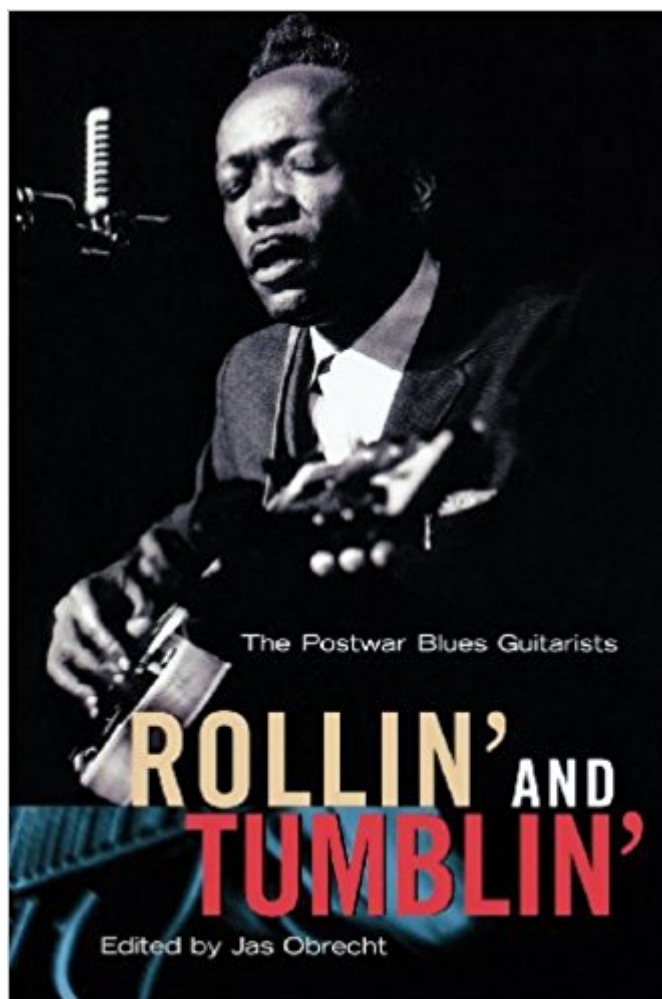


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# Rollin' And Tumblin' : The Postwar Blues Guitarists



## Synopsis

This is the most comprehensive and insightful study ever published on the pioneers of electric blues guitar - including the great Chicago, Mississippi Delta, Louisiana, Texas and West Coast bluesmen. *Rollin' and Tumblin'* offers extensive interviews with some of the world's most famous blues guitarists, and poignant profiles of historical blues figures. Following a sweeping portrait of blues guitar history, the book features such players as T-Bone Walker, Muddy Waters, John Lee Hooker, Lightnin' Hopkins and many more.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Documents the most important time, places, and faces in music history." -- Ben Harper  
"More than the greatest bluesmen telling their stories, it's a way to fall in love with the blues all over..." -- Dave Marsh  
"Rollin' and Tumblin' is a great tribute to the guitarists of the past 50-some years who defined the blues -- not just by the notes they've played, but by the lives they've lived. This book has the most in-depth biographies and interviews ever published on certain artists. Jas Obrecht has done his usual excellent job, with his passion for the true stories of the blues." -- Jim O'Neal, founding editor, Living Blues  
"The book's like a river of whisky and it made me feel like a diving duck." -- Dave Marsh  
"This is the book that tells the story of the first music that was here." -- John Lee Hooker  
"This is the story of the blues before Pepsi!" -- Ry Cooder

Editor Jas Obrecht edited *Blues Guitar: The Men Who Made the Music*, and co-authored *My Son*

Jimi with the legendary guitarist's father, James A. Hendrix. A long-time editor at *Guitar Player* magazine, Obrecht currently is Editor in Chief of the San Francisco-based Groovengine music website. Obrecht won the Blues Foundation's Keeping the Blues Alive Award in Journalism at the 1997 W.C. Handy Awards.

This book covered a lot of blues artists. I found it to be comprehensive without getting boring or repetitive. The blues guys that get a look run the gamut from acoustic guitars-to harpists-to electric guitarists. The book is very informative. Some of the material was from interviews with the blues artists done by magazine writers over the years. Other material came from recollections from contemporaries. The reader gets a feeling for the personalities, rivalries, lifestyles, and origins of the music. I was amazed at the common starting point for many of the artists, usually early childhood. A lot of these shared gigs and even material. You can trace the influences from early blues players like Robert Johnson on down through subsequent generations. The evolution to electric guitar and a rundown of some of the amps and rigs in general was very interesting also. Another thing I gleaned from this book is the exposure to artists like T-Bone Walker and Otis Rush. I checked them out on YouTube and like what I heard enough to order 2 discs of each.

I'll keep it short and sweet. This is a great book but there are some GREAT, post-war blues guitarists that did not have their own chapter in this book that should have. Maybe Jas Obrecht can write a sequel called *More Rollin' and Tumblin': The Postwar Blues Guitarists, Volume 2*. The guitarists that should have had their own chapter in the book but didn't are: Eddie Taylor, Earl Hooker, Magic Slim, Lightnin' Slim, Albert Collins, Luther Tucker, Phillip Walker, Earl King and Abe "Little Smokey" Smothers. Those guys deserve a book written about them too. The impact they had on blues music was INCREDIBLE! Don't get me wrong- this was a GREAT book! I just think it needs a sequel.

Blues music is a highly-codified deep poetry designed to be sung in front of both blacks and whites but only truly understood by blacks. Ask about Sonny Boy's "Fattenin' Frogs For Snakes" and Southern whites will start talking about frogs and snakes; blacks recognize that this is about working and not getting paid or buying a dress for a woman who goes off with another man. This book is one of a few blues books that lets the blues poets tell their story, much of which is between the lines of their stories and their songs. Read it closely and you will begin to understand what it was to be a black in the Mississippi Delta or Chicago in the 1930s through the 1960s. Then you will find parallels

with today's world that will change you forever. Jas Obrecht's book has the wisdom to allow the interviewees the dignity to speak in their own words and dialect with minimal editing. This is a major book on life ... and the blues.

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this is a great book because it covers the famous and not so famous players that have influenced countless guitar players over the years. its well written, and never bogs down with useless info. i just wish mr obrecht would do a book like this for post war jazz guitarist as well

By "postwar blues", we mean the upbeat, amplified, often aggressive material that many popologists see simply as the roots of rock'n'roll. But for blues fans, the muscular power and driving passion of the bluesmen is enough by itself, and this collection of articles and interviews profiling many of the genre's greatest players, is manna from heaven for the folks who could care less what happened after Elvis shook his little heinie on the Ed Sullivan show. This is a classicist's view of the blues -- standardbearers such as Otis Rush, Muddy Waters and BB King get multiple entries, wild West Coast and Texas bluesmen like T-Bone Walker and Clarence Gatemouth Brown also get their props, and while the main emphasis is on the dudes who plugged in, acoustic players such as Fred McDowell also get a nod or two. The book draws on a variety of writers, and reflects a variety of interviewing and narrative styles -- most of the material originally appeared in "Guitar Player" magazine, but while some technical points are investigated, the book is an even better source of information about the players themselves -- their personalities, their stories, their world view. A true blues fan should enjoy this book quite a bit!

Rollin' and Tumblin' a look at the postwar blues guitarists edited by Jas Obrecht takes a personal look at the many men who pioneered electric blues and had a profound effect on rock and roll and pop music as we know it today. Many of these gentlemen are largely unsung guitar heroes today. The book provides a wonderful look at their varied and interesting lives and the humanity that they displayed in the past and some continue to display today. The book provides a close look at the lives of many bluesmen, some of whom have learned the secrets of staying power and longevity and some of whom lived quick hard lives. While reading the book you feel as if you are getting to know some of these people. Some of them are arrogant and cantankerous and some appear to be genuine kind people. whatever their personalities, there love for the music which they have dedicated their lives to comes through and makes me glad that I am able to listen to it and appreciate it.

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