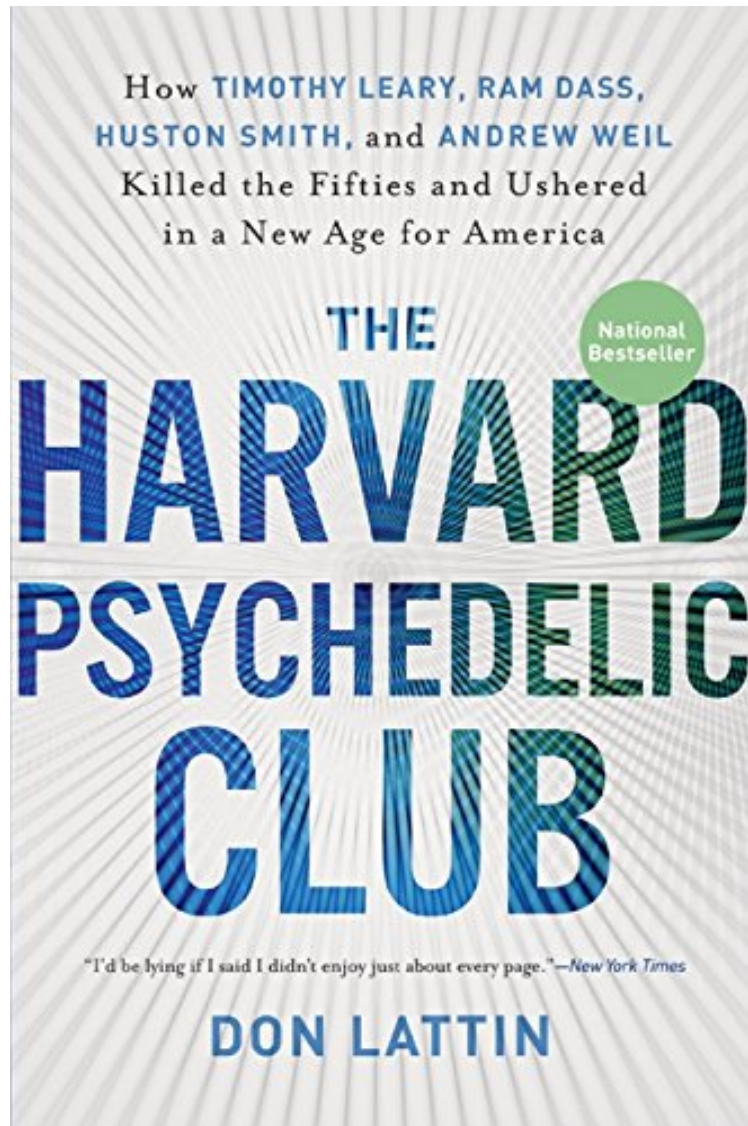


[Mobile pdf] The Harvard Psychedelic Club: How Timothy Leary, Ram Dass, Huston Smith, and Andrew Weil Killed the Fifties and Ushered in a New Age for America

# The Harvard Psychedelic Club: How Timothy Leary, Ram Dass, Huston Smith, and Andrew Weil Killed the Fifties and Ushered in a New Age for America

Don Lattin

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#134152 in Books Don Lattin 2011-01-01 2011-01-04Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.00 x .61 x 5.311, .45 #File Name: 0061655945272 pagesThe Harvard Psychedelic Club How Timothy Leary Ram Dass Huston Smith and Andrew Weil Killed the Fifties and Ushered in a New Age for America | File size: 19.Mb

**Don Lattin : The Harvard Psychedelic Club: How Timothy Leary, Ram Dass, Huston Smith, and Andrew Weil Killed the Fifties and Ushered in a New Age for America** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it

would be worth my time, and all praised *The Harvard Psychedelic Club: How Timothy Leary, Ram Dass, Huston Smith, and Andrew Weil Killed the Fifties and Ushered in a New Age for America*:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. What a story, what characters, what interesting times!!!By zunderzeeI haven't enjoyed a book in the past few years as much as I have enjoyed this one. Probably it's because Timothy Leary and Ram Das were so prominent in the 1960's when I was in college and their psychedelic message touched and tempted nearly everyone I knew then. Like Dylan, The Jefferson Airplane, the Grateful Dead, the Vietnam war/protests, and the ever-present specter of the draft, they were part of the inescapable background hum of those times that influenced the whole college-aged culture. And though we thought we knew what was going on and who Leary and Alpert were, we really didn't know anything. Now we know, from this book, a lot more of the reality and the characters that influenced that time and the years that followed. It's clearer now that as smart and influential as these two guys appeared, they had huge flaws, giant egos, outlandish dreams and self-centered life styles (and plenty of money) and despite their claims of enlightenment and universal love, they could hold petty grudges for years and be real jerks. But charming. Just as fascinating as these two were, it was just as amazing to read about some of the side characters who were part of the Leary/Ram Das story who are well-known today--Dr. Andrew Weil, Huston Smith, Dan Millman, Alan Watts, Eldridge Cleaver, Jerry Garcia, Ken Kesey, Houston Smith. And, as interesting, was watching the non-people characters of LSD, psilocybin, mescaline and marijuana move from Harvard-government approved mental health and spiritual awakening possibilities to dead ends and finally to illegal substances. If "'60s", "psychedelic," and "hippie," and "Be Here Now" mean anything to you, this is your book! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great history of early sixties! By Bill Hartman If you grew up in the sixties, like I did, or a student of this period, you will really enjoy this book. The writer really did his research about these four men and I learned a lot about them. The sad part for me was what happened with Timothy Leary, who was obviously bi polar. This book was marked down when I found it on Bookbub, so grab it while you can! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Psychohistory By I Sam A must read for psychohistorians of any age. Personally compelling if one participated in the inception of the psychedelic transformation of post WWII Western rational materialistic consciousness.

“[Don Lattin] has created a stimulating and thoroughly engrossing read.” —Dennis McNally, author of *A Long Strange Trip: The Inside History of the Grateful Dead, and Desolate Angel: Jack Kerouac, the Beat Generation, and America* It is impossible to overstate the cultural significance of the four men described in Don Lattin's *The Harvard Psychedelic Club*. Huston Smith, tirelessly working to promote cross-cultural religious and spiritual tolerance. Richard Alpert, a.k.a. Ram Dass, inspiring generations with his mantra, “be here now.” Andrew Weil, undisputed leader of the holistic medicine revolution. And, of course, Timothy Leary, the charismatic, rebellious counter-culture icon and LSD guru. Journalist Don Lattin provides the funny, moving inside story of the “Cambridge Quartet,” who crossed paths with the infamous Harvard Psilocybin Project in the early 60's, and went on to pioneer the Mind/Body/Spirit movement that would popularize yoga, vegetarianism, and Eastern mysticism in the Western world.

From Publishers Weekly Starred . It's hard for folks who didn't live through the 1960s to imagine what it was like to live in a drug- and sex-soaked culture, one where traditional values were drowned in a rush of hedonism and hippiedom. Names like Timothy Leary and Ram Dass bring back all the memories and all the conflicts. In this beautifully constructed study, Lattin (*Jesus Freaks*) brings together four of the most memorable figures from that period. Each comes across as a flawed genius and irrepressible fanatic. The author says of Leary that he activate[d] conservative anxiety in America, but this could easily describe any of the players in this grim and gritty story. Laying out their stories side by side in roughly chronological form, the author traces the lives of each of the players, exposing a kind of dysfunctional relationship among them that is not part of our corporate memory. This is a fast-moving, dispassionate recounting of a seminal period in our history, and all in all, a wonderful book. (Jan.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist \*Starred\* This would be a terrific social history of a fascinating historical period even if it didn't star some of the most important influences on today's culture. But Andrew Weil remains a guru of alternative medicine and nutrition, and Huston Smith's books on world religion are required reading at almost every college, while Timothy Leary and Ram Dass are icons of consciousness exploration through drugs and Eastern religions, respectively. So this energetic study of the time all four were together at Harvard tells much about today's culture. Lattin's quasifictional techniques (most notably, reconstructed dialogue) bring to life the antics of trickster Leary, who once said that he'd turned seven million people on and only 100,000 ever thanked him, and seeker Ram Dass (originally Richard Alpert), who helped bring awareness of meditation and other Indian religious techniques to the West. Smith, son of Christian missionaries in China and early on a fellow traveler with Leary and Alpert, determined that drugs constituted but a shortcut to the religious ecstasy he sought, while Weil's opposition was instrumental in ending Leary's and Alpert's tenures at Harvard (although he was himself experimenting with the same drugs). Some laugh-aloud passages make this an entertaining read, but the underlying exploration of the sociocultural reasons for the extravaganza that was the 1960s merits

attention, especially from those interested in the period. --Patricia Monaghan "[An] unexpectedly grounded story...makes sense of a complicated movement so often reduced to its parody-ready costumes, haircuts, and groovy lingo. And [Lattin] does it with authority and an evenhanded understanding of the good, the bad, and the crazy of it." (The New York Times Book )Many of the stories in this book have been told elsewhere, but Lattin tells them with new energy and weaves them together to create a satisfying narrative that re-creates and explains the era. (San Francisco Chronicle Book )In this beautifully constructed study, Lattin brings together four of the most memorable figures from that period...this is a fast-moving, dispassionate recounting of a seminal period in our history, and all in all, a wonderful book. (Publishers Weekly (starred review))A terrific social history of a fascinating historical period . . . laugh-aloud passages make this an entertaining read. (Booklist (starred review))With care and considerable humor, Don Lattin shows us how the interwoven relationships of four charismatic visionaries contributed to the expansion of mind that changed American culture forever. The way we eat, pray, and love have all been conditioned by their lives and teachings. (Mirabai Bush, co-founder and Senior Fellow of the Center for Contemplative Mind in Society, co-author (with Ram Dass) of Compassion in Action)I suspect I'm not the only person who thought the psychedelics-at-Harvard story had been pretty well settled, but Lattin's work has widened my perspective considerably. By focusing on Huston Smith and Andrew Weil as well as Leary and Alpert, he's created a stimulating and thoroughly engrossing read. (Dennis McNally, author of A Long Strange Trip: The Inside History of the Grateful Dead, and Desolate Angel: Jack Kerouac, the Beat Generation, and America)The Harvard Psychedelic Club is not only a great read, it's also an unforgettable head trip. Lattin weaves a masterful tale of 1960s-style spirituality, professional jealousy, and out-of-body experiences. Lattin has done his homework and it shows. Read this book and expand your mind. No hallucinogenics required. (Eric Weiner, author of The Geography of Bliss)A revealing account of four iconic personalities who helped define an era, sowed seeds of consciousness, and left indelible marks in the lives of spiritual explorers to this day. The Conclusion is alone worth the price of the book. (Dan Millman, author of The Peaceful Warrior)"Lattin succeeds where less accomplished chroniclers of this period have failed." (San Jose Mercury News and Contra Costa Times)"A rousing tale of jealousy, drugs, betrayal, vengeance, careerism and academic intrigue with a Harvard accent-it also carries the moral that brains alone won't make you holy." (Shelf Awareness)"Outstanding book." (Cleveland Plain-Dealer)"A fast, funny, and savvy book that dishes about some of the most celebrated figures in the American counterculture." (Jewish Journal of Los Angeles)"The Harvard Psychedelic Club's intimate, revealing vista makes the book soar, and, as Lattin hopes, just might inspire today's idealists to carve a new path and profoundly change the world as these four dynamic visionaries once did." (Miami Herald)"Lattin's snappy conversational prose and poignant insights into his subjects' often-tortured personal lives make his book worth the trip." (Washington City Paper)"...raucous, witty and licentious... [Lattin] has created a post-Kerouac road scholar classic." (The Edge)"With equal parts keen historicity and great humor, Lattin... chronicles how these founding fathers of the so-called New Age movement in the U.S. and worldwide met at Harvard in the early 60s and - despite rivalries, infighting and backstabbing - managed to change the spiritual landscape for generations to come." (Chicago Sun-Times)"Lattin weaves the biographies of these brilliant men into a compelling tale of possibilities and disappointments, angels and demons, triumph and tragedy... a page-turner that can stand proudly alongside its fictional counterparts." (Northern Dutchess News)"Don Lattin tells the story with panache...[he is] fascinated by these men, but he's also a fierce judge of their trespasses and their lapses from authenticity. (So we're glad to have him tell the story.)" (The Los Angeles Times)"Informative and entertaining" (HistoryWire.Com)"Lattin... deftly captures the intoxicated spirit of the 1960s zeitgeist... [The Harvard Psychedelic Club is] a fresh, expertly written text that serves to remind Leary's generation of their past while providing a new generation with some context of where today's pervasive drug culture came from." (The Daily Californian)"The Harvard Psychedelic Club, takes a lucid look at four founding fathers of a movement that changed the world." (East Bay Express)"[T]horoughly engaging... Packing his book with strange, wonderful scenes, Lattin argues that America would never be the same because of an unlikely quartet that did time — and drugs — at Harvard in the early 1960s." (New York Post)"[A] colorful tale." (Boston Globe)"Lattin's new book The Harvard Psychedelic Club takes a lucid look at four founding fathers of a movement that changed America and thus the world." (PsychologyToday.com)"Lattin artfully weaves [the stories] together,creating a stronger, more compelling narrative that enlightens as much as it informs. ...Mind-blowing." (Religion News Service)"The Harvard Psychedelic Club sets the record straight: Four extraordinary personalities crossed paths, and the result was electrifying." (Portland Oregonian)"...[T]hese stories provide the psychedelic movement with context and continued relevance-important elements for a generation of readers trained to laugh at stock hippie characters and stoner epiphanies." (The Onion)"Don Lattin, one of America's most-respected religion newswriters in recent years, has been devoting his considerable skills to unearthing and fully reporting some of these milestone stories. This Harvard book is his latest revelation." (ReadtheSpirit.com)"Don Lattin's recent Harvard Psychedelic Club is a wryly tumultuous history... [that] focuses sharply on the group that began in Cambridge." (The Huffington Post)"Lattin satisfyingly places the parallel and interconnected lives of these four titans along a timeline, drawing in a cast of minor characters as fascinating as its stars." (BookReporter.com)"In 'The Harvard Psychedelic Club' Lattin adds depth, breadth and surprises to the story. Searchers, thinkers, philosophers and occasional wackos fill the pages of this entertaining book with their quests and

questionable behavior. The book is a fast, often delightful read... This is a good one.” (San Mateo County Times)