

WHAT IS 'ETHNOGRAPHIC ENOUGH'?

'there is still a strong tendency, particularly in the study of certain

musical genres, for musicological analyses to reduce often vibrant

musics to lifeless corpses fit for autopsy. This tendency produces

analyses whcih are, at best, partial and often significantly skewed

(and thereby misleading). As this short 'riff' will argue, Cole and

Hannan's study Goa Trance (Perfect Beat vol 3, no 3, July 1997)

illustrates precisely these limitations with regard to its notional

subject of analysis, the phenomenon of Goa trance music, its

oridin

associated subcultural milieu, its habitues and its myths of

seems to take the words of local deejays, musicians, Internet

'they fail to critically analyse their primary sources in a study that

'glossy' music magazine J-Mag), at face value.' (Sebastian Chan)

sources (and the totally unrelated and subculturally inappropriate

Maxwell, p.109

We need to weigh the kinds of claims we are

advancing carefully against our own

aspirations and beliefs.





