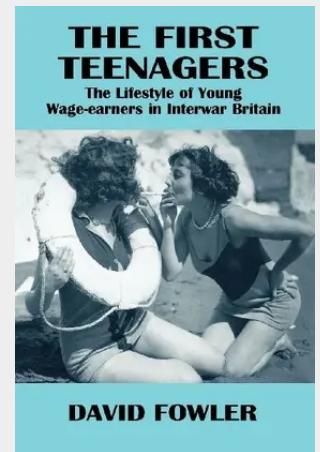


The First Teenagers

The Lifestyle of Young Wage-earners in Interwar Britain

First Published in 1996. The first generation of British teenagers- young people eager to spend a significant proportion of their wages on consumer goods and services such as cosmetics, clothes, magazines, records, motorcycles, cinemas and dance halls- is generally regarded as that of the 1950s and 1960s. The same group, sociologists and economic and social historians have claimed, was the first to enjoy the autonomy in the labour market and to experience low unemployment. This study argues convincingly that in fact a teenage culture in modern sense already existed in the period between the two world wars. The book is grounded in extensive original research; on hitherto unexploited sources such as the records of the interwar Juvenile Employment Bureaux; on the records of youth movements ranging from the Boy Scouts to inner-city lads' and girls' clubs; on magazines aimed at youth, from millgirl magazines to specialist film, music and hobbies publications; and on contemporary social surveys, newspapers and oral history.

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