



The Fall: inspired weirdness

# WIRED IN WONDERLAND

## THE FALL

458489 The B-Sides

BEGGARS BANQUET BEGA 116/MC/CD

**AFTER THE** departure of Mark E Smith and colleagues for Phonogram, Beggars Banquet are doing a fine clean-up job on their slice of The Fall's back catalogue.

'The B-Sides' double LP collects 25 flip-sides, remixes, free singles and at least one alternative version ('Northern In Europ', another take of 'Australians In Europe') which appears to have been recorded on somebody's dictaphone.

The tracks are presented chronologically, affording an opportunity to take a backdoor view of the band's mutation during the end of the '80s.

On 'Pat Trip Dispenser', 'Lucifer Over Lancashire' and the mighty 'God-Box' they're

still generating spikey pocket rock. But by side three, when the corresponding A-sides ('There's A Ghost In My House' and 'Hit The North') are more commercial, the flips are going completely off their trolleys.

'Mark'll Sink Us' hangs like a bad cloud. 'Haf Found Bormann' is a strange and acrid snippet from Smith's *Hey! Luciani* play. And the manic 'Australians In Europe' is primal Fall at their peak, wiry and wonderful.

The final side is composed of more familiar material chiefly drawn, or in the case of the hilarious 'Acid Priest 2088', remixed from the 'I Am Kurios Oranj' LP.

Given Smith's avowed intent to get back to The Fall's white-trash essence, this archive of inspired weirdness may be more timely than retrospective.

■■■□□ ANDREW HARRISON