

Bio information: **MATCHING MOLE**

Title: "**SMOKE SIGNALS**" (Cuneiform Rune 150)

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FILE UNDER: ROCK/PROGRESSIVE ROCK

Matching Mole was the band formed by drummer/vocalist **Robert Wyatt** after he left the pioneering UK outfit Soft Machine in July, 1971. Soft Machine were hugely popular in France, and Robert got the name of his new band as a play on the French translation of Soft Machine: Machine Molle. What eventually became the first Matching Mole album was begun as a solo album by Robert in late 1971. Midway through recording, he was joined by guitarist **Phil Miller** (Delivery, Hatfield & The North, National Health), organist **Dave Sinclair** (Caravan), bassist **Bill MacCormick** (Phil Manzanera's 801) and guest electric pianist **Dave MacRae** (Mike Westbrook). These recordings became their self titled first album, released in early 1972.

Sinclair left soon after the release of their album, and MacRae joined full time. This quartet performed often throughout Europe, and recorded a second album, *Little Red Record*, which was produced by Robert Fripp of King Crimson, and which was released in fall, 1972. Shortly after the release of *Little Red Record*, Robert decided that he did not want the responsibilities of being a band leader & broke up the band.

For a band that was only in existence for a year, Matching Mole was particularly active: two studio albums, over fifty concerts in Britain and continental Europe, and a number of TV and radio broadcasts. *Smoke Signals* compiles all previously unreleased performances from the band's most intense gigging period, the spring of 1972, and has been assembled to replicate their continuous concert set.

The set list for *Smoke Signals* is mostly drawn from *Little Red Record*, but the way the band performed the pieces live is quite different from the heavily overdubbed versions of the songs found on the studio disc. Despite their short lifetime, Matching Mole developed an individual sound for themselves, a unique take on fusion, with interesting structures that allow for much individualistic expression via solos. *Smoke Signals* will prove to be a revelation for both the long time fan and the novice alike