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[Review of] The Tin Pan Alley Song Encyclopedia

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Hischak, Thomas S. **The Tin Pan Alley song encyclopedia**. Greenwood, 2002.
530p bibl index afp ISBN 0313319928, \$74.95

Hischak (SUNY-Cortland), author of numerous popular music guides, offers this companion to his *The American Musical Film Song Encyclopedia* (CH, Sep'99) and *The American Musical Theatre Song Encyclopedia* (CH, Oct'95). It contains descriptive analyses of 1,228 songs, primarily from the 1850s through the 1950s, beginning with a brief overview of Tin Pan Alley history and a glossary, followed by the alphabetical song entries. Entries (usually 100-300 words) provide title, composition date, a description of the song's style and history, a listing of artists who performed it, and shows in which it was performed. Most of the songs have been recorded many times, but it would be helpful had Hischak included discographies of the major recordings. Appendixes include "Alternate Song Titles," "Tin Pan Alley Standards from Stage and Screen" (entries for the latter are included in the two companion titles), a bibliography, and an excellent 73-page index. Since no other work provides this kind of detail on the songs themselves, this is a useful companion to Philip Furia's *The Poets of Tin Pan Alley* (CH, Feb'91) and Ken Bloom's *American Song* (CH, Feb'02). **Summing Up:** Recommended. General and academic collections.

--R. A. Aken, University of Kentucky

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