[Review of] The Billboard Book of Number One Adult Contemporary Hits

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Hyatt (author of *The Encyclopedia of Daytime Television*, 1997, and head of communications for KC and the Sunshine Band) has produced another volume in the anecdotal "Billboard Number One Hit Series" (see Adam White and Fred Bronson's *The Billboard Book of Number One Rhythm & Blues Hits*, CH, Sep’94). The 677 chronologically arranged entries (1961–March 1999) each begin with the title of the number one song, the performer, label and record number, the date the song first hit number one, number of weeks there, and the writers and producers. The remainder of each half-page entry provides biographical background on the performer, interview excerpts, and anecdotal and chart information about the recording, including covers and placement on other genre charts, in prose both entertaining and replete with useful comparative comments and data. Many entries are accompanied by black-and-white photos of the performers. The work also lists singles that spent the most weeks at number one (by record and by artist), most number one hits by artist, and works that were number one on the AC and pop charts. Artist and song indexes cover the main listings but do not include textual references. A 50-item bibliography concludes the work. *Joel Whitburn’s Top Adult Contemporary, 1961–1993* (1993) lacks the textual detail Hyatt provides. A useful addition for popular music collections that hold the series or cover adult contemporary material.

--R. A. Aken, University of Kentucky

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