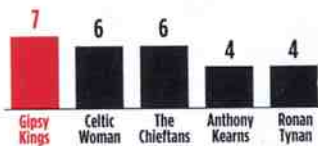


# AS THE WORLD TURNS 20

Twenty years ago this week, Billboard launched its Top World Albums chart, ranking the best-selling sets of the week with a distinctive global beat. ¶ On the premiere tally in the May 19, 1990, issue, the Gipsy Kings' "Mosaique" was No. 1, ahead of efforts from Black Uhuru and Le Mystere Des Voix Bulgares, respectively. Initially the chart was compiled based on reports from retailers, but that changed with the Dec. 3, 1994, list, when Nielsen SoundScan sales data began powering the ranking. ¶ The Gipsy Kings also hold the record for the list's most chart-toppers, with seven. Close behind with six each are the vocal group Celtic Woman and the Chieftains—both of whom tread in traditional Irish music waters. Anthony Kearns and Ronan Tynan, thanks to their credited work as members of the Irish Tenors, each have four No. 1s. ¶ While it seems like the World chart has been more of an Irish tally these days—this week six of the titles on the 15-position tally are Irish-related (see page 75)—the list has featured Hawaiian, Cuban, Celtic, European, Asian, Middle Eastern, African and South American music. That's in addition to any other music style native to lands outside of the contiguous United States.

—Keith Caulfield

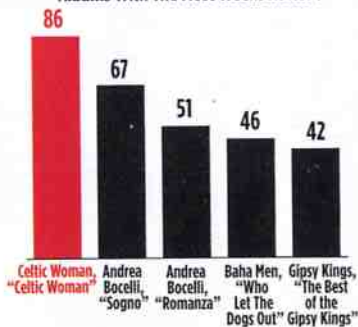
Acts With The Most No. 1 Albums



Acts With The Most Top 10 Albums



Albums With The Most Weeks At No. 1



World leaders:  
GIPSY KINGS

