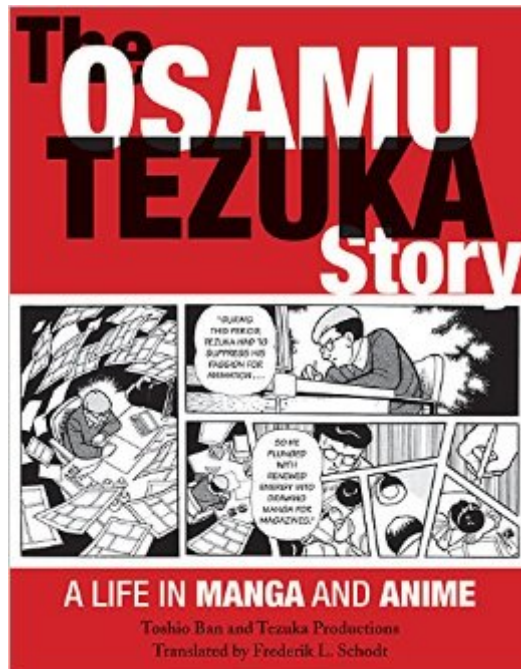


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The Osamu Tezuka Story: A Life In Manga And Anime



Synopsis

This graphic-format biography of Osamu Tezuka's Japan's "God of Manga" looks at one of the twentieth century's great creative artists (Astro Boy, Kimba the White Lion, Black Jack). It is also an anecdotal study of the evolution of Japan's early manga and anime business and its heroes. A never-before-seen popular culture history of postwar Japan, it is sure to fascinate fans and anyone interested in manga, anime, and the potential of the graphic storytelling medium. Toshio Ban joined Tezuka Productions in 1974 as one of Tezuka's assistants. After working for a period as a free-lancer, he later re-joined Tezuka Productions in 1978 as the sub-chief of manga production for magazines, supporting Tezuka's creative work until the end. Tezuka Productions Co., Ltd., is the now-legendary company founded by Osamu Tezuka in 1968 to produce his own manga and anime. In the wake of Tezuka's death in 1989, it has continued as a family enterprise, responsible for the development, production, merchandising, licensing, and distribution of his many manga and anime creations, including books, films, and characters. Frederik L. Schodt is a translator, conference interpreter, and award-winning author of books on Japanese history and pop culture. He often served as Osamu Tezuka's English interpreter and was a consultant on one of his animated features and a TV series.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

THE OSAMU TEZUKA STORY is a wondrous, red brick of a book. It is a life-spanning yet intimate biography [in long-form manga] of the man who would become post-WWII Japan's manga no kami-sama, the "God of Manga", in order to finance his experimental and commercial anime which

went on to win film festival prizes globally for more than a decade. Originally collected and published in 1992, three years after Tezuka's death, writer/artist Toshio Ban builds his 866 page epic in stages: Part 1: Osamu to Osamushi (1928 - 1945); Part 2: Dreams of Manga (1945 - 1959); and Part 3: Dreams of Anime (1960 - 1989). The reason the byline on the cover reads "Toshio Ban and Tezuka Productions" is the degree of unlimited access Ban had to Tezuka's family, friends, editors, assistants, and staff. As his narrating avatar, Toshio Ban speaks through one of the earliest characters Tezuka ever created: Shunsaku "Mustachio" Ban. Using Osamu Tezuka's own words and the words of those who had known him, we can see what skills and strengths Tezuka absorbed within the environment of his loving family which allowed him to survive and be shaped by his cultural environment. As viewed through samples of his life-long artwork, we can see Tezuka form his manga dreams into rising manga reality from the ashes of 1945's Post-war, Occupied Japan. It was the cinematic pacing of Tezuka's manga which allowed me to read volumes of HIN NO TORI even without knowing Japanese when I discovered his manga in the mid 1960s. It wasn't until 2008 that I could read PHOENIX in English. Throughout those years and beyond, I sought as much of Osamu Tezuka's work as I could find.

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