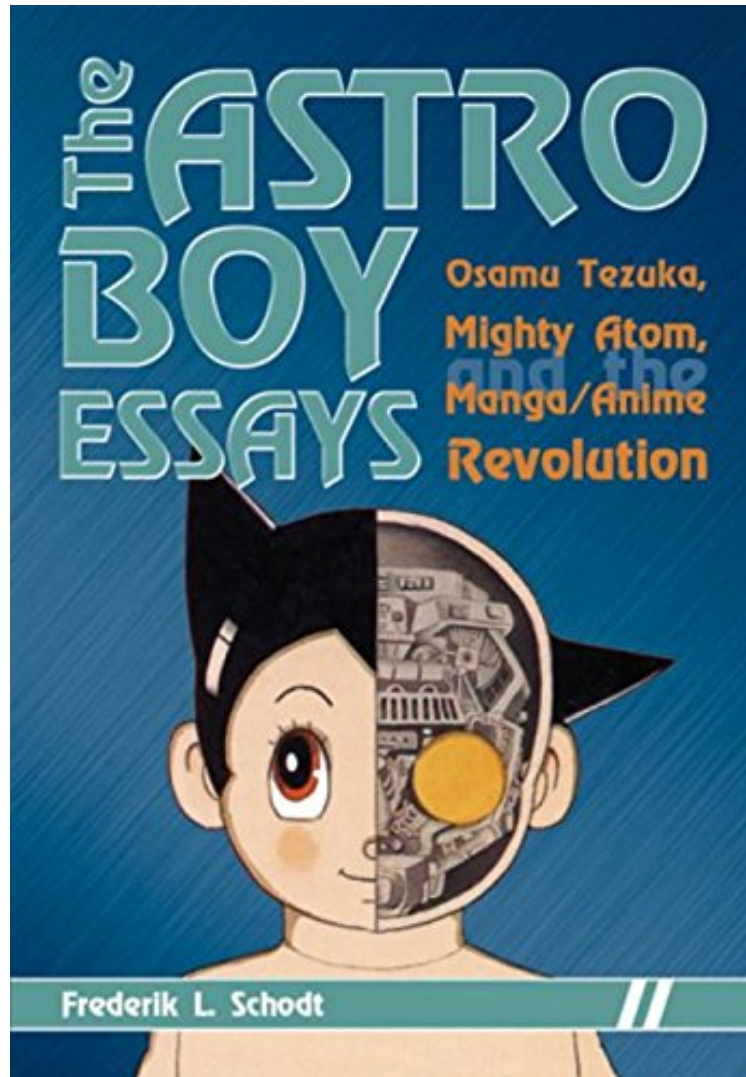


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The Astro Boy Essays: Osamu Tezuka, Mighty Atom, and the Manga/Anime Revolution

Frederik L. Schodt

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Frederik L. Schodt : The Astro Boy Essays: Osamu Tezuka, Mighty Atom, and the Manga/Anime Revolution before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Astro Boy Essays: Osamu Tezuka, Mighty Atom, and the Manga/Anime Revolution:

12 of 13 people found the following review helpful. Say Hello to the God of Manga! (Manga no Kami-sama ni Yoroshiku!)By Ada PalmerYou will not believe me when I try to tell you about Osamu Tezuka. He drew over 150,000 pages of manga in his lifetime, more than 700 separate series, and more than 70 anime, films and movies. He was a

pioneer every genre, from hard sci-fi to mahou shoujo to adult films. He developed the drawing and animation techniques that still dominate the industry today. Today's greats, from Rintaro to Yoshiyuki Tomino, worked and studied with him. He was a political activist, writing against war, racism, environmental exploitation, medical corruption. He was a national hero of Japan, and under consideration for the Nobel Prize in literature when he passed away in 1989. Astro Boy, Black Jack, Kimba the White Lion, Metropolis, Phoenix, Buddha and Princess Knight are only the best known of literally hundreds of creations which have impacted every corner of the manga world. If you think this sounds like too much for one man to plausibly accomplish in a lifetime, you're far from the only one who finds Osamu Tezuka a little superhuman. Fred Schodt, author of *Dreamland Japan* *Manga! Manga!: the World of Japanese Comics* and translator of *Phoenix*, *Astro Boy* and more, was a personal friend of the "God of Comics" and his translator when Tezuka visited America. In his long-awaited *Astro Boy Essays*, Schodt gives a concise and detailed introduction to the life, influence and significance of Tezuka in the history of Japan and the international comics world. Focusing on Tezuka's best known work, the anti-racist children's classic *Astro Boy*, it gives efficient, approachable portraits of Osamu Tezuka's life and personality, the atmosphere in Japan during and after WWII and their effect on the manga industry, the nightmarish behind-the-scenes production schedule that birthed Japan's first animated TV series, and the spread of *Astro Boy* as a Japanese, and later an international symbol of peace, technology, hope for the future, and above all of Japan itself. The rocky history of *Astro Boy*'s American distribution gives a fascinating look at the beginnings of American anime fandom, and how many barriers had to be broken to achieve the comparatively-smooth licensing and distribution system in place today. All the material is presented in a format beginners can understand, but with enough details that even experts will find themselves learning more with every page. The *Astro Boy Essays* is an invaluable contribution to manga scholarship, and provides a window for American otaku to finally learn about the "God" who made anime what it is today. For more information about the book, see: [...] For more information about Osamu Tezuka, his life and works, see: TezukaInEnglish.com 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A fun read By Paul G Detailed, serious, interesting.....and fun! Lots of fun! If you love *Astro Boy*, *Manga* or Osamu Tezuka.....grab yourself a copy. NOW! 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A book every anime/manga fan needs to read By D. Frederickson I just happened upon this book when I was shopping for manga and thought it looked like a good read. Well, it's a great read! Finally a book in English about Tezuka! Schodt does an amazing job breaking down *Mighty Atom/Astro Boy* along with Tezuka. He actually knew Tezuka so he brings a great insight to this work. The images in the book are great as well, especially the color inserts at the beginning of the book. Included are a great index of all the manga and anime episodes, and a character guide with both Japanese and English character names. If you are a fan of anime, manga, or both, you will want to read this book to know why the two art forms are so popular today, not only in Japan, but all across the world!

The pioneering genius of Japan's God of Comics, Osamu Tezuka (1928-1989), is examined through his life's masterwork: *Tetsuwan Atomu*, also known as *Mighty Atom* or *Astro Boy*, a comic series featuring a cute little android who yearns to be more human. The history of *Tetsuwan Atomu* and Tezuka's role in it is a road map to understanding the development of new media in Japan and the United States. Topics include Tezuka's life, the art of animation, the connection between fantasy robots and technology, spin-offs, and *Astro Boy*'s cultural impact. Frederik L. Schodt is a translator and author of numerous books about Japan, including *Manga! Manga!* and *Dreamland Japan*. He often served as Osamu Tezuka's English interpreter. In 2009 he was received the The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette for his contribution to the introduction and promotion of Japanese contemporary popular culture.

About the Author Fluent in spoken and written Japanese, Frederik L. Schodt is an author, interpreter, and translator who has written extensively on Japanese culture and Japan-U.S. relations. His classic *Manga! Manga!* introduced the English-speaking world to Japanese comics culture.