

漫画の文化：手塚 治虫

Comic Culture: Osamu Tezuka



- God of Comics,
- Creator of The Mighty Atom (鉄腕アトム),
- Producer of over two million pages of manga



This AIU retrospective display celebrates the Master's Life, and commemorates his 80th anniversary.

No-one Has done more for the Japanese comic and animation Industry, and it might even be possible to say that, without Tezuka there would be no anime as we know it today.



What is *manga*?

The word "manga" today is becoming a common term for comic book or style of film in many western cultures. In reality, its origin as Japanese cartoon drawings come from as far as 800 years in history beginning in temples.

Early in the 13th century illustrations of animals and the afterlife began to appear on temple walls. These crude and exaggerated representations bore a similar look to manga today. These practices carried over centuries cover many subjects, yet the style remained intact.

In the 1600's these illustrations moved from temple walls and onto woodblocks in a medium known as Edo. Because of this the work became more of a centered interest and attraction for the first time. The subjects were less religious and often became graphically erotic, and moved on the various subjects such as satire. Around this time the first use of the word manga arose to describe the artistic style. The pictures were generally monochromatic with simple outlines and blocks of color to represent shading. The subject took lead over the method of representation.

"In 1702, Shumboko Ono, an early celebrity manga artist, made a book out of prints of these pictures with captions, although it was a collection of pictures rather than a progressive story." The method of creating books of visual prints evolved over hundreds of years in which paragraphs and illustrations combined to tell stories. The art became just as sequential as the narrative to compose a story. "The tradition of Toba-e, as these comics were called, grew over the next century until they were the main form of literature for most of Japanese society."

Animated film began to grow in Europe and in the United States in the 20th century, but after 1940, over 40% of Japan's film output was in the form of manga films, or more commonly known as "anime". "In the Western world cartoons have always (primarily) been seen as a child's phenomenon, but in Japan, manga has always been the method of art for all age groups.

Japan's export of manga often come directed towards children or in target audience anime films, but in Japan printed manga is often the most primary form. Not all manga is for entertainment either. Often times educational roles such as economics and science are used. The popular manga and now animated series by Ken Aramatsu called Love Hina (targeted at college age readers) had been re-printed as graphic-novels (100 or so page comics in volumes) in Japanese and English to help the average Japanese citizen learn English.

"Manga films like the classic Akira, which are aimed at an older audience, have a very different style, using intricate backgrounds to set the story, and complex animation to give the illusion of reality while being able to manipulate characters and physics more easily than would be possible on real film, while retaining the empathy with characters. The most significant difference tends to be in the shading, while western animation uses two tones per surface and keeps the movement of colour consistent with the general stillness of the animation, manga animation tends to be shaded with

Osamu Tezuka – Biography

(Tezuka Osamu in traditional Japanese format, last name first) created a revolution in comics and animation. Born in 1928 in Toyonoka, in Osaka, Japan, he was raised in the nearby city of Takarazuka. From a very early age he loved to draw (and loved to collect insects so much that he later incorporated the ideogram for "insects" into his first name as a penname). When he was eighteen, enrolled in college as a medical student, he made his debut as a cartoonist with a four panel newspaper comic strip titled "Ma-chan's Diary." Not too long thereafter, paperback compilations of his longer stories, with titles such as "New Treasure Island", "Lost World" and "Next World", became smash hits, selling what was then unthinkable for comics-over 400,000 copies each-and making him nationally famous.

Although Tezuka Osamu eventually received his physician's license, he chose to devote his life to comics and animation rather than practice medicine. In doing so he brought an unusually creative and educated mind to both fields; In comics, in particular, he pioneered long narratives of hundreds, even thousands of pages, bringing "cinematic" art styles and novelistic plots to the medium. By 1950 he had firmly established his position as the leading comics artist of his day when he serialized his now-classic work, Jungle Emperor Leo(also known as Kimba the White Lion), in the monthly magazine, Manga Shonen. Then, in 1952, he began serializing Mighty Atom in the young boys' monthly Shonen. Mighty Atom, which later became "ASTRO BOY" as known as to Americans, becoming one of Tezuka's most popular and famous works Tezuka did not stop with Atom, however. He began turning out one hit after another, with Princess Knight in 1953, Ambassador Magma and W3("Amazing 3") in 1965, Vampire in 1966, and Dororo in 1967. In 1967 he also began drawing what he called his "Life work--the Phoenix--" and creating comics targeted at a more adult audience.

Remarkably, Tezuka continued creating comics with powerful, original themes throughout his long career. Some of his best known later works include Ode to Kirihito, 1970; A History of Birdmen, 1971; A hundred Tales, 1971; Ayako, 1972; Black Jack and Buddha, 1973; MW, 1976; A tree in the Sun, 1981; Tell to Adolph, 1983; Ludwig B., 1987; and Neo Faust, 1988. Tezuka continued creating and drawing comics until he died on February 9, 1989.

On February 10, 1989, the day after Tezuka passed away, Japan's Asahi Newspaper explained the contribution of this great artist as follows: "Foreign visitors to Japan often find it difficult to understand why Japanese people like comics so much. For example they often reportedly find it odd to see grown men and women engrossed in weekly comic magazine on the trains during commute hours. One explanation for the popularity of comics in Japan, however, is that Japan had Tezuka Osamu, whereas other nations did not. Without Dr. Tezuka, the postwar explosion in comics in Japan would have been inconceivable.



Osamu Tezuka – 1928-1989

Osamu Tezuka – Timeline

1928 - Born eldest son of Tezuka, Yataka & Fumika in Osaka

1937 - At 9 yrs old writes his 1st manga about himself called “Pin Pin Namachan”

- his favorite magato read was “Norakuro” & Small General “ by Suihon Tagawa which was featured in his subscription to “Minor Citizen Paper”

1939 - At about 11 years old, he writes the picture story “Martian come over!” & the manga “Fishing With Fuku -Chan” His long magna “Night in China” circulates his classroom and impressed his classmates & teacher

1942 - creates an animal lover’s group w/ his friends at age 14

1943-1944 - creates a series of animal picture books

1945 - enters the medical dept of Osaka U. & writews “Old Fellows Treasure Island” which becomes “West Rush” & “Ghost Fellw” in Indian Ink

1946 - writes the 1st of the “Lost World”

1947 - Brings out “New Treasure Island” book w/ sotr b Shichima Sakai, sold 400 thousand copies

1949- Metropolis, the artificail intelligence sci-fi, was published as a graphic novel (released as a long animation in 2001)

1950 - “Jungle Emperor Leo” is to be serialized under the publisher, Gathudaousha in the comic magazine called “Manga Shonen”, he is 22 years old

1951 - graduates form the medical dept. of Osaka U.

- Joins children;’s manga society of Tokyo (Jimannagaya)

1955 - “Mushi Neuo” starts the Tezuka Osamu Friendship Club

1957 - “Astroboy” starts airing on Tokyo TV

- Tezuka appears on the TV program “Everybody Wants to See Him” on Tokyo TV

1958 - “Beeko-chan” & “Cartoonist Seminar on Biology” recieves Shogakukan Publisher Manga Prize

- Joins Kids Manga Festival held by CMST

- Produces 1st animation “His Yu Chi” by Toei Films

- Assoc. of Artists Pub. award him for oil paintings

1959- Matsuzaki Production produces TV drama "AstroBoy" on Fuji TV

- Oct. 4th, Tezuka marries Etsuko Okada

1960- On Japan Educational TV program "Echo of Tokyo, from View of Manga Writer."

1961- Birth of eldest son Makoto

- Establishment of Tezuka Osamu Production Animation

1962- Changes production name to "Mushi Productions"

- "Adventures of Sinbad", "AstroBoy" movie, & writing "Doggie March" for Toei Films

1963- Visits America for NBC/AstroBoy contract

- Receives various awards & honors such as Blue Ribbon Educational Culture Film Award, the Encouragement Award from the 17th Art Festival, & the Noburo Award at 17th Marnichi Film Contest for "Tales of Street Corner."

1964-1965- Produces numerous animations & illustrations such as "Amazing Three", "Warriors of Univers", & "Mermaid."

1966- "Kimba the White Lion" (Jungle Emperor) wins film of the year Children's Cultural Asset Center & Public Welfare, & Award for Broadcasting.

- Releases "Pictures at an Exhibition" (which wins 4 major awards in 1967)

- "New Jungle Emperor: Go Ahead Leo!" goes on air

- "Phoenix" starts print in the 1st issue of "Com"

- 193rd and final episode of "AstroBoy"

1967- "Tezuka Osamu Exhibition" opens at Cafekobotan later with conversation and screening of "Tales on a Street Corner", "Pictures at an Exhibition", and "Drop"

1970- Produces "Kindly Lion", and wins many awards such as the Noburo Award

- Receives the Manga Section Kodan-sha Publishing Cultural Award of Children for "Phoenix"

- Becomes president of Mushi Productions Co.

- Releases "Cleopatra" long animation- drafted, organized, & directed w/ Eiichi Yamamoto

1971- Becomes judge of "Tezuka Osamu Award"

- Declines from presidency of Mushi Productions Co.

1973- Mushi Productions becomes bankrupt

1971- "Tezuka Osamu 30 Years Exhibition" opens at Ogikubo Shimizu Museum

1975- Wins awards for "Black Jack", "Buddha", & "A Pet Animal" mangas

1977- Exhibitions at KBS Realism Center in Kyoto & at Ikebukuro Seibu

1978- Leo becomes mascot of the baseball team the Seibu Lions

1980- At 54 years old, writes, drafts, & directs the long animation "Phoenix 2772: Space Firebird"

1982- Participates in "Manga Expo '82" at Uenonomori Museum

1983- Released the "Fantastic Adventure of Unico II" produced by Sanrio (makers of "Hello Kitty")

1988- Receives Asahi Award for Creative Achievements After War

- Created sculpture "Laughter" for Kawasaki-shin Citizen Museum for exhibit of "Tezuka Osamu's Special World"

1989- Feb 9th, dies of stomach cancer at age 60.