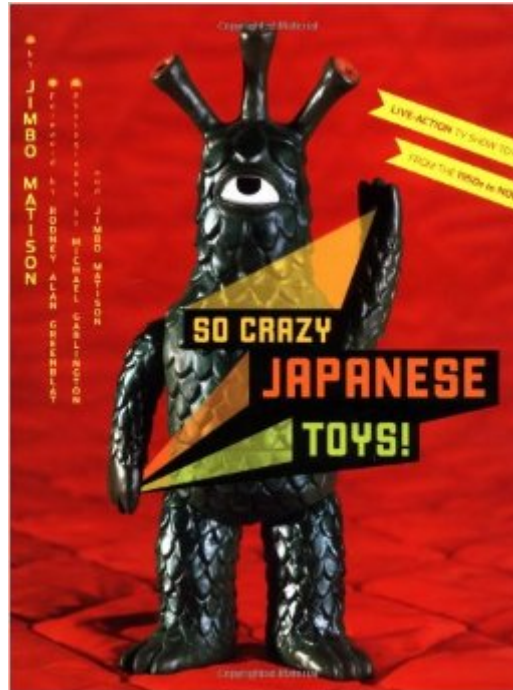


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So Crazy Japanese Toys! Live-Action TV Show Toys From The 1950s To Now



Synopsis

When huge alien spiders or ocean-dwelling mutant dinosaurs hell-bent on destruction decide to pay a visit to humankind, they always seem to stop in Japan first. So Crazy Japanese Toys! showcases a cast of totally cool, totally sugoi creatures culled from the most popular Japanese children's TV shows. From early and obscure Japanese shows to programs that have gained mass popularity around the world including Ultraman, Space Giants, and Johnny Sokko and His Flying Robot So Crazy Japanese Toys! will delight both casual fans and hardcore aficionados. Readers will encounter rubber-clad superheroes galore, kawaii 'n' cuddly characters, high-revving motor heroes, and of course rockin' chicks of both the friend and foe varieties. This book is a must-have for anyone attracted to anime and manga. This isn't mere eye candy it's a gobstopper.

Book Information

Paperback: 136 pages

Publisher: Chronicle Books; 1st edition (March 1, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0811835294

ISBN-13: 978-0811835299

Product Dimensions: 8.1 x 0.5 x 10.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.5 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (18 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,024,470 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #219 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Antiques & Collectibles > Dolls, Toys & Figurines > Toys](#) #454 in [Books > Humor & Entertainment > Television > Guides & Reviews](#) #892 in [Books > Humor & Entertainment > Television > Shows](#)

Customer Reviews

As a long time collector of Japanese vinyl monster toys, I'm so glad that we finally have a domestically published book for stateside collectors (until this great book was published, we collector-types had to rely on expensive and hard to find Japanese import books as reference tools). This book is beautifully put together by Jimbo Matison and follows the format of many of the Japanese toy collector books, i.e. each page consists of a single photograph of a toy placed in a fantasy setting (similar in format to the book on vinyl toys available from the Marusan USA website) with a "key" at the back of the book that gives the name of the toy, date of production, manufacturer information, etc. Rather than a comprehensive collector's guide that tries to list every vinyl toy ever

made (like Sean Linkenbach's Godzilla collectibles book), this book takes a selective approach to showing these toys. There are "chapters" organized according to genre of toys (heroes, monsters, female characters, vehicles, etc.) with a sampling of both vintage and new toys in each category. This is not a price guide, rather, the toys are photographed and presented for their design and artistic appeal. There's a nice combination of toys from vintage manufacturers such as Bullmark and Marusan as well as modern companies like M-1 and Marmit. The only criticism I have is that I wish the book showed more toys! On balance, this is a beautiful, large format book with page after page of beautifully photographed Japanese vinyl toys. You'll love this book whether you collect these toys or are just interested in their aesthetic appeal. Nice work Jimbo!

Just got this book and it Rocks ! The photos are richly reproduced, most in full page format. The innovative use of textured backgrounds paired with some of the craziest looking toys ever made, make this book a must for your coffee table. This book is pure , 100% eye candy to feed your imagination..it's no wonder many if not all the current hot designers and artists have been influenced by Japanese toys, old and new.

I'm so happy to see a book that has a whole chapter dedicated to female heroines (and villains)! The chapter is called Rockin' Chicks. I never knew such great female characters existed. Only in Japan. The other chapters are fun too. Ultraman is in the Men In Rubber chapter. My brother and I watched Ultraman when we were kids. I totally forgot about Ultraman until I saw him in this book and all of the memories came back. (I actually bought this book for my brother but when it arrived I decided to keep it for myself. Bad sister! I ordered him one too.) The photos are so vivid and the design is great. I recommend this book to anyone who knows all about these Japanese shows (like my brother who loved it) or anyone who has an imagination. I have a new heroine and her name is Mimina! Great book.

I must admit that I am no expert in the Japanese toy field, but I LOVED this book as though I have known these toys for years! I came across it in a bookstore while I was looking for a gift to give to a friend that actually knows about this stuff. I had no idea there was such a comprehensive and specific book out there, I figured some book about rock and roll was what I would find, BUT NO! I found the PERFECT thing! SO CRAZY! I thought at first the layout of just pictures was a little odd, but the friend I gave it to said that is the old school way they put these things together. He absolutely loves it! (so do I, I got one for me too...) THANK YOU MISTER MATISON FOR GIVING

US SOMETHING TO GIVE TO OTHERS THAT IS SO FUN, SO COOL, SO CRAZY AND SO GOOD!!!!

[You] can't hide the author's vast knowledge of this fascinating subject. I found it alternately charming and illuminating. The author ("Jimbo", obviously not his real name), most likely some kind of bike riding hero in strange suit himself, has managed to capture the flavor and oddity of the strange and wonderful world the Japanese have created. The beautiful photography is a catalog of the bizarre no culture miner should be without. This book should serve as a "must-have" resource for students of Japan, Kaiju, Anime, Toys, and anyone who can't resist the lure of brightly colored vinyl.

First I'll state that this is generally a really a fun and wellput together book. I give it props for presenting the toys in a clear, large, and well-laid out format. The book typically presents a picture in either a full, half or quarter page layout, any of which do incredible service to the toys themselves. There is just the right amount of text and commentary, allowing the pictures to speak for themselves (each 'chapter' has a one-page intro). I don't give this book five stars for the following reasons: 1. as the book is only 136 pages, I wish they had not let so much page space go unused. For example, there are about 17 pages which have blank color-toned space that could have easily been used to present more toys. I am familiar with the concept of using blank space to 'let the eye rest' - I don't know if that's what they were attempting, but I wish they hadn't gone that route. This book could "easily" have fit another 30 to 50 (if not more) figures without adding more pages. Its not like Jimbo, Mark and the others lacked resources. 2. The book devotes several pages worth to TV stills (i.e. Ultraman, Kamen Rider, etc) which are 'nice' but didn't warrant whole pages. There are even gate-fold (two-page) layouts that have the books seem going right through the middle of the image! Why not just reduce the image a bit? Why did they do this? Anyway, as much as those points annoyed me, the book is a rare kind and deserves appreciation for what it is: by fans of the genre, for fans of the genre. Jimbo Matison is a super talented guy and shared his fun with the rest of us. Thanks Jimbo (and don't forget Vol. 2)!

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