

Contributions to Japan by Mr. Frederik L. Schodt

Mr. Schodt has translated many works of Manga including the works by Tezuka, has helped Japanese Manga writers when they visited abroad, and has written many books, articles and columns on Japanese contemporary popular culture. Please find below a summary of his contributions.

1. Introduction of Japanese Manga to the US

Mr. Schodt began translating Japanese Manga into English back in the days when even Japanese food or traditional culture had little appeal to the people in the US, let alone Japanese popular culture, and pioneered the introduction of Manga outside of Japan. For over 30 years, Mr. Schodt has translated or co-translated works such as Osamu Tezuka's famous Astro Boy, as well as those by other renowned artists, including Riyoko Ikeda, Reiji Matsumoto, Masamune Shirow, Yukinobu Hoshino, and Naoki Urasawa.

2. Introduction of Japanese Popular Culture

In addition to his translation works, Mr. Schodt has introduced Japanese popular culture through his own works as a non-fiction writer. One of which is “Manga! Manga! The World of Japanese Comics” in which he explained the historical and cultural background that contributed to the establishment and development of Manga in Japan. The book is now considered a “must read” among fans of anime and manga in the US. By publishing introductory books on manga culture, he has contributed significantly to the development of the new market in the US. Mr. Schodt has written more than 200 columns and articles on various media.

3. Assisted Japanese Manga Artists' Activities Abroad

When he was studying at International Christian University in Japan, Mr. Schodt met Osamu Tezuka for the first time. Mr. Schodt continued to develop friendship with Tezuka, and helped Tezuka whenever he visited North America. Mr. Schodt has also helped other Manga artists' activities abroad.

4. Contributed to Events Promoting Japanese Pop Culture

As a highly-regarded expert on Japanese popular culture in the US, Mr. Schodt has appeared at and consulted many events, utilizing his profound knowledge. He served as an advisor for the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco when the museum hosted a major exhibition on Tezuka.

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