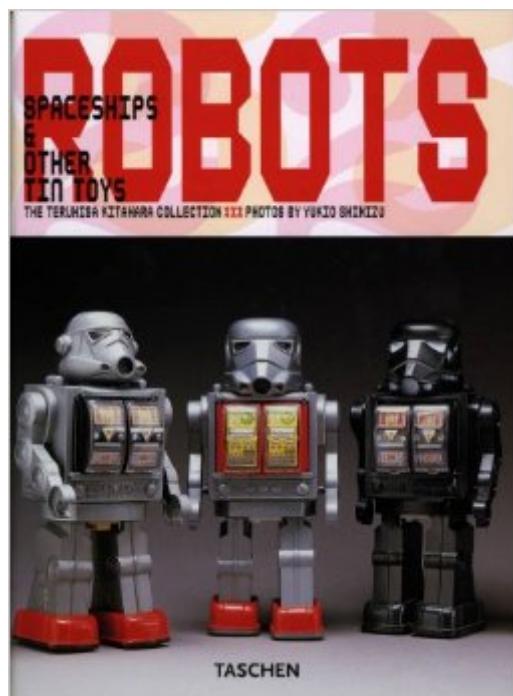


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# Robots: Spaceships And Other Tin Toys



## Synopsis

Now that computer games have come to stay, tin toys have become obsolete for today's children. For those of us who remember them from times past, these tin toys can transport us back to our childhoods; they call up a vision of a time we thought we had already forgotten. They also bear witness to history; they have survived wars and crises, and tell us something of the fashions, colors and tendencies of their times. This book will be of special interest to anyone fascinated by early space travel and technology, those who simply want to wax nostalgic about a bygone era of their youth, and of course to collectors and fans of 50s and 60s tin toys. The roots of today's toys can be seen in these precursors, notably in the early transformer robots. Taken from collector Teruhisa Kitahara's vast collection, which is on display in many museums in Japan, the tin toys featured here are quite rare and give a wonderful overview of this era in the history of toys. It is a must for any toy lover!

## Book Information

Hardcover: 349 pages

Publisher: Taschen; 25th edition (March 14, 2006)

Language: German, English, French

ISBN-10: 3822850624

ISBN-13: 978-3822850626

Product Dimensions: 6.4 x 1.4 x 8.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.5 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (10 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,028,940 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #221 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Antiques & Collectibles > Dolls, Toys & Figurines > Toys #920 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Antiques & Collectibles > Antiques Care & Reference > Reference #2010 in Books > Reference > Encyclopedias & Subject Guides > Antiques & Collectibles

## Customer Reviews

Kitahara's world famous tin toy collection has been photographed many times, and featured in very small paperbacks and large coffee table spreads. This is probably the happy medium; a very inexpensive, large (nearly 350 pages) and visually inviting photoessay that lets the toys speak for themselves. As many books as there are on tin toy robots, they nearly all feature the same collections, and so the photography and presentation become paramount. Taschen has often featured Kitahara's museum(s) but never to better effect than in this inexpensive volume. Kitahara's

collection also includes non-space themed tin toys, but this book concentrates on the robots and space toys from the '50s and '60s when Japan brought unbridled creativity and unparalleled design to tin toys.

These are toys, the subject matter of a brilliant collection of the artifacts of Japanese ingenuity. Tin toys, produced by tin printing and punching machines, permit a peek into the Japan of the 1950's. Tin toys are mass produced but seem hand-crafted. There are robots and space ships. A robot tractor and bull dozer have particular charm. There is a robot seesaw. Also there are moon scouts, astronauts, capsules, space stations, and rockets. There are gear robots. Figures and scenarios are elaborate. Ball escalators are amusing. Skiers are pulled by a dog or turn on a sort of wheel. There is a ball kicker. A highly-wrought horse-race is presented, complete with painted spectators, seating, airplane, clubhouse, greenery. There is a Coney Island rocket ride. Popeye figures roller-skate, ride a bike, a plane. The pipe is always present, (signifier). There is a girl with a hula hoop, and one with a sewing machine. A remarkable piece is a boy with a camera--highly realistic. Other characters created by comics artists are present, such as Mickey Mouse, Batman, and fantasy figures. Finally, there are the cars. There is a TV crew bus and car. There is more than one Cadillac, Mercedes Benz, Lincoln, and Packard in the collection. This is magnificent.

My 4 year old son loves collection toy robots that were popular from my childhood era of the 80s/90s . This book as been fun for us to read, doodle pictures from and even search for different old robots while hitting up local junk shops.

Only a few pages of text and hundreds of color pictures! Its a great picture book full of robots of all decades, spaceships, and metal toys in general. They're all beautifully photographed and a great reference. If you love metal toys and collect then this is a book for your shelf.

This is mostly photographs, so it probably doesn't matter...but the introductory essay is in 3 languages. A really beautiful presentation.

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