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Sayonara Home Run!: The Art Of The Japanese Baseball Card



Synopsis

With talented young Japanese players signing to the American Majors, interest in Japanese baseball is at an all-time high. Sayonara Home Run! introduces curious fans to Japan's national pastime through the lens of the country's playfully beautiful baseball cards. A fascinating text traces the roots and cross-cultural history of the Japanese game, while hundreds of illustrations showcase gorgeous vintage cards. Woven throughout are profiles of key Japanese players, features on important U.S. team tours of Japan (with Japanese cards of players such as Babe Ruth and Joe DiMaggio), and insights into the social history of the cards. Including primers on Japanese player nicknames and baseball terms, and the fine points of the Japanese game, Sayonara Home Run! is a must-have for anyone interested in baseball, Japan, or this unique chapter in popular design.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

John Gall is the art director for Vintage/Anchor Books. He lives in Maplewood, New Jersey. Gary Engel is a collector, dealer, and noted authority on Japanese baseball cards. He lives in Southern California. Steven Heller is the author of ninety books on design and popular culture.

Sayonara Home Run! The Art Of Japanese Baseball Card is a lovely book that gives you the history and development of baseball cards and related baseball collectibles. While it does not really get into a detailed history of the game itself it does give you a basic background of how it got started in Japan and, if you know American baseball, does compare how it is different or similar. Not knowing

the history of American baseball or understanding how they rate players a lot of it went over my head. I can't really blame the book for that and do plan to correct my lack of information by reading a book on the history of American baseball. They even have small bios on the base Japanese players and some team histories. BUT the book itself does have a flaw. The pages are thick, heavy paper, sown together and very solid. But the wonderful cover is glued on and came right off after only a few days. I am NOT rough with my books and there is really nothing that could explain this outside of the fact that the glue became too dry to keep the cover on the book. This is a shame because if the book had a better cover or maybe was a hard cover book it would have made a great coffee book and a great gift to those interested in either baseball cards or Japanese baseball. It is kind of sad that they went cheap on such a major detail.

I was doing a Google Image Search on Japanese graphics, and came across one of the images from this book. As a graphic designer, illustrator, and baseball fan, I was curious to see more and ordered a good-condition-used copy of this book. I think it is terrific. A quality paperback book, wonderfully designed, and absolutely chock-FULL of amazing graphic examples of Japanese baseball cards. Is the topic a bit "esoteric"? -- Maybe, but I think many people who are interested in ephemera and vintage graphics tend to have esoteric tastes and interests. Offbeat, well-designed books (especially affordable books like this) are like visual vitamins in my art studio....This book is a winner.

Vinatge Japanese baseball cards are among the most beautiful baseball collectibles in the world. I discovered these treasures over ten years ago during a trip to Japan and became an avid collector. My passion for the cards eventually led to a on-line card business and a career as a baseball writer. John Gall and Gary Engel's new book Sayanara Homerun! depicts hundreds, if not thousands, of theese beautiful cards. The book's presentation is wonderful. Cards are gracefully portrayed as art but the accompanying text will statisfy both baseball card collectors and fans of Japanese baseball. If you are an American baseball cards collector, come see what you are missing. If you a fan of Japanese baseball, come see great pictures of your favorite stars. I spend hours paging through this book and expect that you will enjoy it as much as I have.

If only there were more books like Gall's comprehensive appreciation of Japanese baseball cards! This is a must-own for any collector of the weird, the odd, and the beautiful. Japanese baseball cards, like their American brethren, are steeped in the pop culture of their country. In fact, it's nearly

impossible to determine that which is more influential on the other. It's not quite a catalog, nor a mark-your-place narrative. Instead it's just a great addition to the collector's library. Gall's exhaustive research and extensive color plates are invaluable. Not just as a cheat-sheet for collectors looking to make headway into the rapidly exploding Stateside interest in Japanese baseball, but as a complete, self-contained history of the genre.

This could've been featured in our collector's section or even our sports section, but is presented here for its powerful artistic survey of Japanese sports through its lovely baseball card art.

SAYONARA HOME RUN! THE ART OF THE JAPANESE BASEBALL CARD features player history, card art, and loved and hated baseball teams alike. It will attract any with an interest in world baseball or in collectible ballgame cards - and many a browser with an interest in neither! Diane C. Donovan, Editor California Bookwatch

This is a wonderful book, a collection of vintage Japanese baseball cards and a bit of the history behind them. I've been picking through baseball memorabilia and artifacts all my life (and have written two published books on the sport) and this ranks among the most fascinating books I've ever seen. I just discovered this book today at the bookstore of the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles. To the authors: Grand slam, guys.

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This book has nice pictures of vintage Japanese baseball cards and informative text. But the cover fell off of my book while I was reading it! A minor complaint, perhaps, but I thought I should mention it.

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