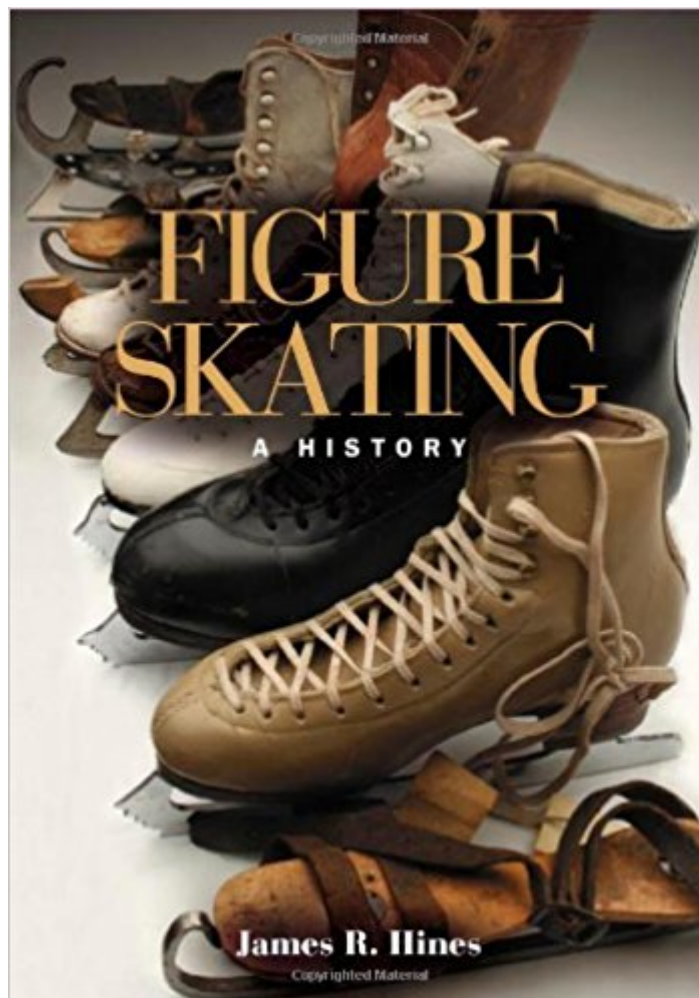


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# Figure Skating: A HISTORY



## Synopsis

Figure skating, unique in its sublimely beautiful combination of technical precision, musicality, and interpretive elements, has undergone many dramatic developments since the only previous history of the sport was published in 1959. This exciting and information-packed new history by James R. Hines explains skating's many technical and artistic advances, its important figures, its intrigues and scandals, and the historical high points during its long evolution. Hines divides his history into three periods separated by the World Wars. In the first section, he follows functional and recreational ice skating through its evolution into national schools, culminating in the establishment of the International Skating Union and the ascendancy of an international style of skating.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"James R. Hines has done a masterful job of explaining the origins of skating traditions throughout the world, and successfully integrates the history of the sport into a broader cultural context. He has woven together all of the sport's major developments, and highlights individuals from around the world who have contributed significantly to the artistry and athleticism of figure skating. This highly readable volume is supplemented by over 200 extraordinary photographs that capture the very essence of figure skating." Brian Alexander, Executive Director, World Figure Skating Museum and Hall of Fame

James R. Hines is professor of musicology at Christopher Newport University, Newport News, Virginia, and has been skating since the 1950s.

Gave this as a gift to a skating student - it is a bit dense, and as a teen she probably won't read it all, but maybe she will look through it once and again to take in a little tid-bit. Very interesting.

This book is good. I love all figure skating books, so I give it a high rating. I've seen some books that have more depth in photos or biography or history, but this one isn't bad.

Fantastic book. Arrived in excellent condition.

Very good

This book has all the information you could ever want about the history of figure skating. Very nice book.

This book will go over the heads of most skating fans and the author admits it. He even says that most books about figure skating fall into the category of "juvenile literature" because that's who's interested in them. That said, it's a wonderful history of the sport - back to caveman days! - and goes into the story of things many people don't know about now, like school figures, or bat an eye at, like non-white skaters. The photos at the back are fascinating to look at because of the changes in clothing styles and the sport's transition from winter-only to year-round in the 1960s. There is also a chapter on skating teams, including foursomes, a phenomenon almost unique to Canadian skaters, with a bizarre picture of two men and two women doing a simultaneous death spiral. It looked, um, kinda kinky. The section on adult skating - competitive or not - was fun to read as well. Its participants range from late teens to seniors. Little is said about scandals other than the infamous Tonya Harding/Nancy Kerrigan thing, but the AIDS epidemic's impact on male skaters, a huge percentage of whom are gay, is hinted at simply because of the large number of men who died too young in the 1980s and 1990s. There is also a section on the plane crash that killed the entire 1961 U.S. skating team, their coaches, and some of their relatives, and led to the cancellation of that year's world championships and destroyed America's lead in this sport for many years afterwards. I found it was not a book that I could just sit down and read, other than the chapters in the front, but rather looked things up in the index and went from there. Enjoy!

This was ... pretty good ... but kinda like the little girl with the little curl. Where it's good it's really

interesting. Where it's bad it just ... dull. Some sections the author goes into a lot of detail about skaters and events. Other sections read rather like a biblical genealogy. "Jane Jones won in 1936 and Sue Smith won in 1937 and Mary Martin won in 1938 and 1939." Tell us MORE about Jane and Sue and Mary. What were their performances like? Who was the competition? Skaters who were neither world nor olympic champions, even if their stories are interesting and they've made a major impact (i.e., Paul Wylie) barely rate a mention. Many of the photos are posed shots rather than action photos, making it hard to picture what the events might have been like. I did find it very interesting to read about synchronized skating and adult skating. (Having a friend who is involved in both, but knowing little about it, it was very enlightening.)

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