

Doll Messenger of Goodwill Returns to Japan

In 1927 a large-scale exchange of "dolls of friendship" was carried out between the U.S. and Japan. Over 12,000 dolls were gathered from all over the United States and sent to Japan at the inspiration of Dr. Sidney Gulik, an American missionary to Japan who believed that "a friendship gesture between children might succeed where political and diplomatic maneuvers were failing." In return, the Japanese organized a drive whereby students at schools that had received a "blue-eyed" doll were asked to contribute one sen (about one-half U.S. cent at the time) to a fund which was used to commission the making of 58 large (33 inch) dolls.

In March of 1985, the doll which came to Boston as part of this program was returned to Japan for conservation. Miss Miyako Kyoto, as the doll is affectionately nicknamed, has been held since 1927 by the Children's Museum of Boston, and since 1983 has been on permanent display in the Museum's newly completed Japan Study Storage. The doll, however, was in much need of cleaning and restoration. Arrangements were made by the Consulate General of Japan, with the cooperation of the Children's Museum, to return her to Japan for repairs.

At a send-off party at the Children's Museum on March 3, Consul General



Miss Kyoto poses with Gov. and Mrs. Dukakis and Consul General Taniguchi at the Children's Museum.

Taniguchi presented the doll with a document explaining the reason for her trip to Japan and wishing her a safe return to Boston.

On March 9, the doll was taken to a ceremonial rendezvous in Kyoto with her American counterpart, Miss Ann, who had been sent to Japan as part of the 1927 exchange, and who has been kept since then by the Sujin Elementary School in Kyoto. She was accompanied to the ceremony at Kyoto City Hall by Massachusetts Governor and Mrs. Michael S. Dukakis, who were visiting Kyoto in celebration of the 25th anniversary of the

Kyoto-Boston sister-city relationship.

Miss Kyoto was then transported to Tokyo, where all necessary repairs were to be carried out by pupils of the late Goyo Hirata, the Living National Treasure who was originally commissioned to make the doll.

In a ceremony at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on March 14, Miss Kyoto was formally handed over by Mrs. Dukakis to Mr. Hirohide Ishida, President of the International Cultural Association, which provided support for the conservation work.

Sumo Wrestlers Come to Boston

Two of Japan's best loved athletes, the retired sumo wrestlers Dewanoumi and Azumazeki, paid a visit to Boston on June 2-3 to introduce Japan's time-honored tradition of sumo wrestling and to promote friendship between New England and Japan in the area of sports and culture. A reception for the wrestlers, cosponsored by the Consulate General and the Japan Society of Boston, was held on June 2 at the Back Bay Hilton Hotel.

Formal words of greeting were offered by Japan Society Program Director John Thayer III and Consul General Taniguchi, as well as by Dewanoumi, a high-ranking official in the Japan Sumo Association. Azumazeki, who is better known by his former wrestling name of Takamiyama, introduced a video tape showing a tournament and illustrating the techniques of sumo. Born as Jesse Kuhaulua in Hawaii in 1944, Azumazeki is the first of only two non-Japanese ever to rise to the top ranks of sumo. He

acquired Japanese citizenship in 1980 and retired from the ring in January of this year.

Dewanoumi and Azumazeki were interviewed the following morning on Channel 5's "Good Day" show.

Sumo wrestling, although it is over 1500 years old, continues to have a vital and vibrant existence in contemporary Japanese life. Six tournaments, each 15 days long and equally spaced throughout the year, are major media events. The

important part of each day of wrestling is televised in full before a national audience. With origins in Shinto ritual, sumo even today is heavily adorned with ceremony and pageantry which give it an atmosphere both of high seriousness and high spirits.

Americans were given a taste of the sport as over 60 of Japan's top wrestlers came to New York's Madison Square Garden for a three-day Grand Sumo Tournament on June 14-16.



Dohyo-iri, a traditional sumo ritual.