

Kokugi Konnections

by Todd Lambert

Each issue of SFM, Todd Lambert – our man online – will bring you a review of some sumo related sites to be found on the World Wide Web. Enjoy.

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston - Sumo: Japan's Big Sport

<http://www.mfa.org/exhibitions/sub.asp?key=15&subkey=5005>

An online exhibition of the museum's collection of woodblock prints. These portraits feature famous rikishi of their day in some of their most memorable bouts, along with scenes of the stars from daily life. The mammoth athlete-gods are also depicted as heros and even supernatural fantasy creatures wrestling on the stages of the Kabuki theatre. Each print comes with complete catalogue information, along with a description of the historical context of the scene. The viewer can zoom, pan, and even print a copy of each scene depicted. View the portraits in order, or skip to a section of special interest. A superb display of the beauty of Japanese culture through art.

Yagura - Honke: Ozumo Anaijo

<http://www.ouzumou.com/index.htm>

This homepage for two sumo chaya purports to be an official

information outlet of the Japan Sumo Association, selling sumo tickets, food, and souvenirs. They do business at two stalls in front of the Osaka Municipal Gymnasium for the Osaka Basho.

Their business includes individual customers, corporations, etc., and they endeavor to provide fans with everything necessary to enjoy the live sumo experience. Many customers buy tickets for important friends, welcoming companies they wish to do business with, and for the welfare of their employees. You can also reserve sumo tickets for Tokyo, Nagoya, Kyushu tournaments throughout the year. Inquiries are welcomed.

Through the menu at the bottom of the page, going from top to bottom, viewers can access the main page, an explanation of sumo, a guide for watching sumo, Osaka Basho ticket info, souvenirs, directions and a guide to the Osaka Municipal Gym, a travel journal featuring sumo around the world, a transaction form, a company overview, and contact info.

Non Japanese readers may wish to try using some of the Japanese translation resources mentioned in previous SFM issues to enjoy navigation through this website.

Sumopedia

http://en.sumopedia.org/wiki/Main_Page

The latest collaborative online database is Sumopedia, a community website for sumo fans. This is a very new, yet ambitious effort, with the intent of being a one-stop shopping site for all things sumo. Currently, the wiki has the same basic information found on the granddaddy site Wikipedia.

Over the coming months, the team is looking for volunteers to sign up for editor accounts and do rewriting, editing, and add new categories and information. Drop by the main page to see a list of what needs to be done. Why not get in on the ground floor, and support the efforts of an exciting new project that promises to be the Bible of sumo for the next generation of fans.