

Letters to the Editor

Dear SFM,

I have been a sumo fan since 1965. I was stationed in Japan when Takamiyama was starting to move up the ranks. I also remember Taiho's bouts, and Sadanoyama. I have followed sumo since. At that time, the only sumo book I could find in English was copyrighted 1955. That was it until Sumo World came out. When Andy retired along with Hatano, we all lost a lot of good information about sumo.

I found several books on sumo along with Takamiyama's book. With the internet now, I can do a lot more. However, I have been trying to figure out when the ranking system as it is today, six divisions, came into existence. I have read about the early days of sumo when only the makuuchi and

makushita divisions were the only ones in existence. Then recently I read on line that the juryo division came into existence in 1888. I don't know if this is true or not.

There is another sumo web site that I refuse to go to anymore because of there obscene comments, and extremely huge egos. I am hoping to hear from you as to where I can find out information on this subject (I was a history major in college, but only fair with a computer). If possible, I think this would make a great story for your website for all to read. Thanks for the good work, interesting and informative articles.

Ron Kloess,
Honolulu, Hawaii

SFM Editor's reply
Dear Ron,

Thank you so much for contacting the magazine with your detailed and interesting comments. We will certainly prepare a piece on the history of the ranking system. Hopefully, we can have the piece ready for the next issue. I can tell you that what you say about juryo coming into existence in 1888 is indeed correct – it used to be the top ten ranks of makushita. If you come to Japan, let us know. I hope we can meet in the Kokugikan someday.

If you any further questions, please don't hesitate to ask us here at SFM.

All the best,
Chris Gould, Editor
[Sumo Fan Magazine](#)