

Kokugi Connections

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.

Lynn Matsuoka Studios (<http://www.traditions.jp/>)

This promotional homepage offers the paintings and drawings of a Hawaii-based American artist and sumo fan to the public. As a former long-term resident of Japan, sumo became a major focus in her work. Samples of her art are available for viewing and purchase by clicking on the subject. Included are brief descriptions of the setting and media used, along with pricing and shipping details. Readers can also find information on commissioning the artist to have portraits of their own done.

Tom's Work Site (<http://www.tomsworksite.com/>)

Tom Lloyd is a craftsman who fashions sumo automata. Wikipedia defines automata as "non-electronic moving machines, especially those that have been made to resemble human or

animal actions, such as the jacks on old public striking clocks, or the cuckoo and any other animated figures on a cuckoo clock." The hand carved wooden figures in this collection depict osumosan in a variety of poses both mundane and humorous. Tom's homepage lists a brief biography, a gallery with a sample of his work, contact and ordering information, as well as links to other automata related websites.

Sumo Reference (<http://sumodb.sumogames.com/Default.aspx>)

One of the newest sumo sites out there, this homepage is already making big, big waves. Here is the mother-lode of sumo data. Banzuke, rikishi, matches, winners & losers, and kimarite to boot. Want more? Customizable searches are possible using a very flexible query form. All information is fully cross-linked,

and images accompanying the stats can be found throughout. And, all this is available in both English and Japanese at the click of a mouse. Visit now and let the results speak for themselves.

Hawaii - Up Close & Personal (<http://www.flickr.com/photos/9309883@N04/sets/72157600506675954>)

Hawaii may seem like the distant past now given that we have already had the Nagoya Basho and are looking at Aki but as SFM was the only foreign language dedicated sumo magazine with an accredited reporter at the event, we'd like to now take you back a couple of months to the balmy Honolulu event with a full on 54 shots of the event, the surrounds and the already seen – but only here on SFM - dinner with Wakanosato-zeki. See for yourself just how bad the media seats really were!