

Miss Kyoto and the Friendship Doll Exchange

This is the true story of Miss Miyako Kyoto, a very special Japanese doll who arrived at the Children's Museum in June 1928 from the Kyoto Prefecture of Japan. Miss Kyoto now lives here in the Boston Children's Museum, across the "street" from the Japanese house exhibit she stands in the Japanese Reading Room with all her belongings: toys, lacquered furniture, lanterns, a parasol and a tea set. You will see her if you look in the main window of the Japanese Study Storage on your left when you enter the Reading Room.



This is the true story of a very special Japanese doll named Miss Kyoto. She is 63 years old and lives here in the Museum. She came to us as part of an exchange of dolls between the United States and Japan.

Miss Kyoto's story really begins in 1926 when a group of charity organizations all across the United States sent a gift of 12,700 American dolls to the children of Japan. It was the idea of Dr. Sidney Gulick, an American missionary who lived in Japan in the early 1900's, and who upon returning to the U.S. noticed that many Americans had bad feelings toward the Japanese. The American government had restricted the number of Japanese moving to the U.S. with the Japanese Immigration Act of 1924. Many Americans were also resentful of Japanese people coming to the U.S. and taking jobs away from American workers. Dr. Gulick came up with the idea of sending American dolls as ambassadors and messengers of friendship to the Japanese. Dr. Gulick said in a letter sent with the dolls: "I pray that this doll will be loved and enjoyed by you, your sisters and friends, and that Japan and the United States will always be good friends."

History of the U.S.-Japan Interchange through Dolls



▲ Friendship dolls carrying their passport to Japan. 1927.

Letter sent from the Blue Jay Club at San Mateo, California.

San Mateo, Cal
Jan 30, 1927

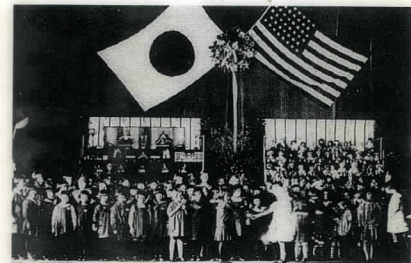
Dear friend across the sea:

We introduce to you our little representative of friends, Mae Lee Mateo, from the Blue Jay Club. We hope that she will please you and she will, for I do, give her best of love,

your friends,
Members of the
Blue Jay Club.

| To Boys and Girls in Japan | PERSONAL DESCRIPTION |
|---|---|
| <p>This passport introduces to you <i>Mae Lee</i>, a level and law-abiding citizen of the U. S. A. who goes to visit Japan as a Messenger of Friendship and to see the Hima Marian, March 3, 1927.</p> <p>This Message represents the Boys and Girls of America and carries their greetings and a Message of Goodwill.</p> <p>Please take care of <i>Mae Lee</i> while in Japan and give her any help and protection that may be needed. She will show all the love and concern of your country.</p> <p>With all good wishes,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"UNCLE SAM"</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1927.</p> | <p>Name: <i>Mae Lee</i></p> <p>Eyes (color): <i>Blue</i></p> <p>Hair (color): <i>Black</i></p> <p>Sex: _____</p> <p>Build: _____</p> <p>Place of Birth: _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"GIVE IT UP FOR DOLLS"</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1927-9-10</p> <p style="text-align: center;">共起行 手開き</p> |

▲ Dolls' passport.



Welcoming ceremony at Tokyo. March 3,



▲ Friendship dolls with Quakers. 1926. (Offered by Ms. Hyatt)



▲ Welcoming party at Kitamura elementary school in Hokkaido.

In 1926, thousands of American dolls were sent to Japan. American children sent the dolls with a message of friendship to the children of Japan.

The doll project was very organized. The "Doll-Mission of Friendship" was planned and promoted by the Committee on World Friendship Among Children. Girl Scouts, P.T.A.'s, women's clubs and church organizations were asked to gather dolls of moderate cost whose eyes opened and closed and said "Mama." There was a pamphlet distributed that described what girls could do: clothe the doll and prepare her for departure and what boys could do: make all travel arrangements through the "Doll Travel Bureau" like buying transportation tickets (fee: ninety-nine cents) and applying for the doll's passport (fee: one cent).



The American dolls could all close and open their eyes and say "Mama" when you rocked them. They were dressed in all sorts of outfits and called Friendship dolls.

Over two million people throughout the U.S. helped to send the dolls. Dolls were dressed in all sorts of outfits: wedding dresses, ruffled play clothes and bonnets, and winter coats with fur collars.

Before the dolls left there were farewell ceremonies and a contest where dolls were selected to represent each of the 48 states. Finally, 12,700 dolls were sent by steamer, each in her own trunk just in time for the Girl's Day doll Festival, called Hina Matsuri, held on March 3 every year.



The dolls came from all across the United States. When the dolls were ready to go they were sent by ship to Japan.

The dolls were received in Yokohama harbor with fireworks, a big welcoming ceremony and a parade on March 3. Young Japanese girls wearing their best kimono and riding on colorful floats carried the dolls through the streets of Yokohama. After the festivities, Miss America and the dolls representing the 48 states were placed as a permanent exhibit in the Imperial Educational Museum in Tokyo. They occupied a miniature Doll Palace that was a gift of the Empress of Japan. All the other dolls were given to kindergartens throughout Japan. Even the smallest, rural villages knew of the doll messengers from America. Soon after the dolls' arrival in Japan, thousands of thank you letters came to America written on decorated Japanese paper, such as this letter from a Japanese girl:

...I am looking at a forest where our village shrine is built. There is a river running below the forest. It is summer and strong sunshine falls upon them and everything appears tinged with green. Looking through my windows at this scenery, I am writing this letter of thanks to the girls and boys of America who sent us this beautiful doll. It was May 20th, I think, the day the azalea in our garden began to bloom, that our teacher introduced us to a blue-eyed doll from America. She has a beautiful dress and hat and very pretty shoes. She has come to live with us, and we are so happy that we feel we are in dreams and we say to each other, 'What a warm heart the American boys and girls have.'

In Japan the children were very happy to see the American dolls. They wrote nice thank you letters to the United States that said, "What a warm heart the American boys and girls have."

The dolls were nicknamed "blue-eyed dolls" (even though not all the dolls had blue eyes). A "blue-eyed doll" song "aoi mei no ningyo" was composed that is popular among Japanese children even today.

**AOI-ME NO NINGYO
(Japanese)**

**A Doll With Blue Eyes
(English Translation)**

AOI -ME O SHITA ONINGYO WA

A doll with blue eyes

AMERIKA UMARE NO SERUROIDO

Is an American born celluloid

NIHON NO MINATO NI TSUITA TOKI

When she arrived at a Japanese port

IPPAI NAMIDA O UKABETETA.

Her eyes were filled with tears.

"WATASHI WA KOTOBAGA WAKARANAI.

"I cannot understand the language

MAIGONI NATTARA

If I get lost

NANTOSHO."

What shall I do?"

YASASHII NIHON NO JOCHAN-YO

My dear gentle Japanese girls

NAKAYOKU ASONDE YATTOKURE

Please be nice and play with me

NAKAYOKU ASONDE YATTOKURE.

Please be nice and play with me.

The Japanese children even wrote a song about the dolls called the "Blue-eyed Doll" song.

The Japanese send "Black-Eyed" Messengers to the U.S.

The Japanese felt it was important to send a gift of Friendship Dolls in return to the Americans. So 58 very real looking Japanese dolls were made by three well known dollmakers, each doll wearing the traditional Japanese festival costume of a young Japanese girl: silk kimonos called furisode with a large bowed sash called an obi, special socks called tabi and two pairs of thonged sandals called zori and pokkuri geta. This photo was taken in 1927 and shows how the doll makers dressed the dolls.

Each doll was valued at \$200. The expense was met by 2,610,000 Japanese girls from kindergarten and elementary schools contributing one sen (1/2 cent).

Then, Japanese doll makers made very beautiful dolls to be sent to the United States. They were also called Friendship dolls. Each doll looked like a young Japanese girl dressed up for a special occasion. Nearly two million Japanese school girls each gave 1/2 cent to help pay for the dolls.



When the Black-Eyed dolls or "Dolls of Gratitude", as they were called, were completed, each doll attended big going away ceremonies. On November 4, more than 2,500 girls and all the dolls assembled in Tokyo for the final send off. Eight year old Masako Matsumoto gave the farewell message:

... We received very, very nice dolls from American friends.. These dolls were messengers of peace. How happy we were at that time. Now we are asking our Japanese dolls to go to America to say thank you. Today our dolls... are going to sail to the Land of Stars and Stripes. We are very happy that the dolls are ready to leave, but also we feel a little sorry that we must now part. Our dear Messengers, when you get to that land, please tell our real warm hearts to the American friends, and also tell them that we are thankful to have those American dolls and that they are having a nice time since they came. Our American friends must be waiting for your arrival. I do hope they will love you. If so, we shall be so happy, because we too will become good friends. I think there are many interesting things to see in that country, such as big houses, nice parks , beautiful flowers. American girls will show you such pretty things. Please tell them our interesting fairy tales...We shall never, never forget you, even forever. Good bye...

Pictured is Miss Kyoto's farewell ceremony. If you look carefully you will see two dolls that look like they may be American Blue-eyed dolls seated to the left of Miss Kyoto. The little girls on stage wear the beautiful long-sleeved silk furisode just like Miss Kyoto.

Miss Kyoto was one of these Japanese dolls. Before she was sent to America the Japanese school children had a big party for her.




The dolls, packed individually in metal trunks each with her own visas, furniture, lanterns, tea sets, toys and letters from Japanese children, were then boarded on a steam ship at Yokohama Port. This Associated Press report detailed the dolls arrival in the port of San Francisco on November 25, 1927:


Fifty eight Japanese dolls, correctly arrayed in court attire, arrived here today aboard the liner Tenyo Maru as an expression of the friendship of the children of Japan for the children of America. The leader of the dolls, "Miss Dai Nippon," stands nearly three feet high and was the gift of Princess Teru, daughter of the Emperor. The gift was made to the children of America in return for the shipment of more than 12,000 American dolls distributed to the children of Japan under the auspices of the Committee on World Friendship among Children...

Miss Osaka's first class ticket to San Francisco on Tenyo Maru. Her baggage included formal and informal tea sets, furniture, samisen, toys, and 76 letters from Osaka schoolgirls.

NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA
(N. Y. K. LINE)
FIRST CLASS TICKET No. 44
Good for this trip only, and not transferable.

Cabin No. 00 Berth No. A  Port of Tokyo, Nov 27

This ticket entitles person or persons named below to First Class Passage From Yokohama To San Francisco in this Company's steamer "Tenyo Maru" Voyage No. 90 sailing from Yokohama on or about November 10th 1927 or in any other vessel which may be substituted, subject to all stipulations and conditions stated on the back hereof which are hereby agreed to by passenger or passengers named herein.

For the NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA,
AMOUNT PAID \$ 157.50
Issued gratis 
Agents.

| NAME OF PASSENGER | ADULT | HALF | QUARTER | INFANT |
|-------------------|-------|------------|---------|--------|
| <u>Miss Osaka</u> | | <u>one</u> | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| TOTAL FARES | | | | |
| <u>one</u> | | | | |

If "Round-the-World" passenger, state original port, sailing date and name of steamer.

Round-the-World Tours

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Arranged in conjunction with various services of the N.Y.K. Line

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NOTICE—Passengers are particularly requested to read the stipulations and conditions on the back of this ticket.
Manual rate \$ 157.50 Half fare \$ 157.50

The dolls came by steam ship to the United States.

Seventeen of the dolls then crossed the country by train to Washington, D.C. , while the others went on by steam ship through the Panama Canal to New York where they were presented with a busy social schedule of teas and dinners. The New York Times newspaper reported:

... From the City Hall the little envoys went immediately to Lord and Taylor's, one of the oldest and best known shops on Fifth Avenue, which was to be their headquarters during their ten days in New York. Here hundreds of people came daily to admire and ask questions about them. A notable tea was given at the home of Mrs. Whitelaw Reid in honor of Ambassador and Madame Matsudaira and of Mr. Sekiya, with the dolls on view in a rarely beautiful and distinguished setting...

Here is another photo taken in 1927 of the Black-eyed dolls with some of their furniture and lanterns. Miss Kyoto is on the right.



When they arrived in the United States there were teas and dinner parties for the new Japanese Friendship dolls.

Our Miss Kyoto is one of the 58 black-eyed Dolls of Gratitude sent to the United States. Her full name is Miss Miyako Kyoto. She stands 34" tall and makes a noise when you tilt her. Miss Kyoto was given to the Boston Children's Museum before Boston and Kyoto were made sister-cities. So it is mere luck that the doll, like our Kyoto town house comes from the same area of Japan.

Miss Osaka, another Friendship doll that now lives at the Museum of Natural History in Newark, New Jersey, came with a little brother doll.



Each doll came in a trunk with her own furniture, lanterns, tea sets and toys. Some of the Japanese dolls came with little brother dolls.

Miss Kyoto arrived with toys, and two wonderfully written letters from young Japanese girls living in Kyoto prefecture. Notice how the letter comes in an oblong envelope and to read it you roll it out like you might read a scroll. It reads:

To Star Country's Friend:

We adore Julia very much. We celebrate Girls' Day with Julia. We take care of Julia and will be her friend forever. This means we will be friends with America forever, too. Just once we would like to meet you and talk with you, but that would be very difficult. We decided to send our most precious doll "Miss Kyoto" instead. She is our delegate. On October 8, we had a goodbye party for Miss Kyoto. We sang and danced for her because she will not come back to us again. She is very happy about going to America. She does not look sad at all about the country she is leaving behind. She has never left Japan. She does not know America at all and she is going alone. Perhaps she will feel homesick if she thinks about the cherry blossoms of beautiful Japan. Would you please comfort her if she looks lonely. Miss Kyoto will arrive in America around Christmas time. Please take care of her forever. We will pray to God that we will be friends forever. We wish that you all take care of yourselves.

Goodbye,

Michiko Ikuta
October 13, 1927
Kyoto, Japan
6th Grade

A young Japanese girl sent a letter with Miss Kyoto that says, "Please take care of her forever."

Twelve years later war breaks out and Japan and the United States are enemies

In 1940 when the U.S. became involved in World War II, the two countries turned enemies. Likewise the American dolls living in Japan became symbols of the dreaded enemy. An article in the February 19, 1943 Nippon Times reported that many teachers and school administrators considered the doll ambassadors from the United States a dangerous presence in the Japanese schools. Polls were taken in some schools to decide the fate of the doll messengers and even the young school children suggested the dolls be burned, cast to sea or decorated with a white flag signifying surrender. Eventually an order was given to all the schools: the blue-eyed dolls were to be destroyed or removed. Nearly all the once beloved blue-eyed dolls were consequently burned, broken or lost.

In the United States the black-eyed dolls also suffered through the war. People were no longer interested in seeing the dolls from Japan, so museums took the dolls off display and put them away in storage rooms where many dolls were lost forever.

Fortunately, some dolls survived the war years. In Japan, teachers committed to their blue-eyed doll friends risked their jobs and careers to save the dolls. There are reports of dolls being hidden in chests behind photos of the Emperor where inspecting officials would not look.



◀ During the war, some dolls were destroyed for being made by the enemy. 1943.

Sadly, almost 15 years later, there was a war and the United States and Japan became enemies. During the war, many of the Friendship dolls were lost or destroyed.

Dolls discovered after the war

A Goodwill Messenger of 50 years Ago Prays for Peace on the Hina Doll Platform
(Asahi Shinbum, March 4, 1975)

In 1975 it was reported that on Girl's Day at the Sujin Elementary School in Kyoto a blue-eyed American Friendship doll named Miss Away, born in Portland, Maine, was presented along with the other Japanese Hina dolls at the school's Hina Matsuri Doll Festival. The principal of the school remarked that because the doll was almost 50 years old, she looked "somewhat ghostly." A teacher at the school commented that "although the United States and Japan fought a war, now they are close friends. She likes to see Miss Away as praying for eternal peace between the countries." The blue-eyed doll is much loved by the school children and is displayed every year at the school's Girl's Day Doll Festival.

As the two countries became peaceful allies after the World War II more dolls thought lost or destroyed were recovered. By 1989, 233 Blue-eyed dolls had been discovered in Japan out of the original 12,700 and 21 Black-eyed Japanese dolls from the original 58, remain in the U.S. Pictured here is Blue-eyed doll Miss Martha May displayed with children from Suhara Elementary School in Nagano Prefecture.



After the war, Japan and the United States became friends again. Some of the friendship dolls thought to be lost forever were found again.

92 Blue-Eyed Dolls make a return visit to the United States

In October of 1989, 92 of the original blue-eyed dolls made a return visit to the United States. The Dartmouth Children's Museum in Dartmouth, Massachusetts hosted one of the homecoming exhibit of the blue-eyed dolls. Miss Kyoto was also presented in the exhibit. Many of the returning American dolls are pictured on the next two pages. Can you find Martha May? She is the doll born in Bulfinch Place Church in Boston whose passport says she has brown hair, brown eyes, straight hair, a cupid mouth and "is dressed in memory of our dear ministers wife Mrs. Eliot." Martha May sits on a purple pillow in the photo below. Do you think she looks like a church minister's wife?



Last year, there was a reunion of the Friendship dolls in Massachusetts. Here are photos of many the American Friendship dolls that now live in Japan.



2 Elizabeth Kern

8 Hendren

9 Betty Jane Rose

10 Louisa Alcott

4 Elaine

5 Marie

6 Betty Jane

7 Barbara

26

11 Mary

1 Fannie Pio

3

21 Balanche Lafatie

22 Mary

23 Mary

24

25 Stella Louranell

27 Rosalie

37 Catherine

38 Paul Anna

39 Nancy Jane

40 Margaret Fox

41 Caroline

42 Mary

43 Mary

44 Becky

45 Mary Jane

56 Mary

57 Aloa

58 Myrtle Louise Hills

59 Mary

60

61 Cynthia Wayne

62 Martha May

63 Mary

64 Pathelo

65 Sala

68

69 Betty Lou

70 Mary

71 Ethel Dean

72 Jean Hiland

73 Anne

74 Mary Schneider

75

76

77 Bessie

78 Anna

Birthplace information based on the passports.

- 1 The Buffalo school, New York
- 5 Montclair, New Jersey
- 7 Montclair, New Jersey
- 10 Concord, Massachusetts
- 13 Texas
- 21 Indianapolis, Indiana
- 27 Pennsylvania
- 29 Braddock, Pennsylvania
- 32 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- 33 Palestine, Texas
- 40 Glen, New Hampshire
- 52 Pennsylvania
- 60 Hartford, Connecticut
- 61 Springfield, Massachusetts
- 62 Boston, Massachusetts
- 69 Indianapolis, Indiana
- 71 Portland, Maine
- 74 Denver, Colorado
- 79 Gardner, C.Breeze, New York
- 80 New Haven, Connecticut
- 84 Frank Johton N3337, Pena, Indianapolis, Indiana
- 86 Oakland, Florida
- 88 Wilkinsbourg, Pennsylvania
- 90 Sharonville, Ohio



84 Fransetta

85

86 Annama Julie

87 Alice Johnston

88 Emily Katherine

89 Mary

90 Carolyn Becker

91

92 Peggy

Miss Kyoto's return to Japan 1985

Although Miss Kyoto is now an old lady, she still looks young and beautiful because she returned to Japan in 1985 to be repaired and to receive a full beauty treatment.

Upon her first arrival in Boston in 1927 Miss Kyoto was suffering from a bad head injury, her head had four large cracks. The cracks happened while she was traveling from Japan to Boston. To fix her head, museum staff took off her hair and glued and taped the cracks on her head. They also glued Miss Kyoto's hair back incorrectly so it was crooked and strands of hair would fall out if you moved her. She was displayed in the old museum in Jamaica Plains and despite her injuries looked quite elegant.

When the Japanese Study Storage (the room opposite the Japanese house where Miss Kyoto now lives) was first established in 1983, Miss Kyoto was placed in the main viewing window for all to see. Unfortunately, after 50 years she was beginning to show her age. She had become very fragile (breakable). The tape and glue used in her first head operation had begun to brown, her skin was a bit dirty and discolored, she stood pigeon-toed and unbalanced with her hair on crooked and her kimonos had faded from being exposed to the sun. She really needed a visit to a doll hospital and a good doll beautician and hair dresser!

Not long ago, the Museum sent Miss Kyoto back to Japan to be repaired. Her head was cracked, her face was dirty and her hair needed fixing.



Miss Japan is pictured on the opposite page with blue-eyed doll. Miss Japan, one of Miss Kyoto's sister dolls living in the Smithsonian Museum in Washington D.C. returned to Japan in 1983 to be repaired. She now looks very young and beautiful again. The Children's Museum with the help and guidance of the International Cultural Association and the Japanese Consulate in Boston, planned a similar trip for Miss Kyoto. She would return to Japan in March 1985 with Governor Dukakis and his wife, Kitty, to help celebrate the 25th anniversary of the day Boston and Kyoto became sister cities. She is pictured here in the Japanese house before her departure with Governor and Kitty Dukakis and the Japanese Consul General Sadakazu Taniguchi.



Photo: Fay Foto Service, Inc.

Miss Kyoto returned to Japan with Governor Dukakis. There was a party for her before she left.

お帰りなさい答礼人形 青い目の人形交流展

会期／昭和63年5月20日(金)～5月29日(日)
 会場／徳島そごう8階特別催し会場
※そごう休業日は、休憩させていただきます。
●入場料／般大学生100円、小学生・高生500円
 ●開場時間／午前10時～午後5時30分、最終日5時30分閉場



徳島 **そごう**
 TEL. (0886) 53-2111

あれから61年。
 子どもたちに夢をあたえた日米親善の
 人形50余体がいま、ここに集いました。



青い目の人形交換会保存
 ミスアメリカ

主催 社団法人国際文化協会・朝日新聞社・財団法人そごう美術館
 後援 外務省・文部省・アメリカ大使館・米国日米協会連合
 徳島県教育委員会・徳島市教育委員会・鳴門市教育委員会
 協賛 財団法人理想教育財団・理想科学工業株式会社
 協力 全日空

TEL. (0886) 53-2111

Before making her long plane trip to Japan, the museum had a farewell party for Miss Kyoto on March 3, Girl's day. (Can you see how Miss Kyoto is standing slightly off balance.)

Then museum staff very carefully packed the fragile Miss Kyoto in a big box with a lot of padding so that she would make it safely on the plane to Tokyo without breaking any further.



Miss Kyoto carried a visa, a special paper stamped by a government official that travelers must carry when traveling and staying in another country. Miss Kyoto was of course no stranger to Japan but the documents were important anyway. The real Japanese consul general in Boston, Sadakazu Taniguchi stamped Miss Kyoto's visa.

Before she left she was given a visa, an official, stamped paper that says she can return and travel in Japan.

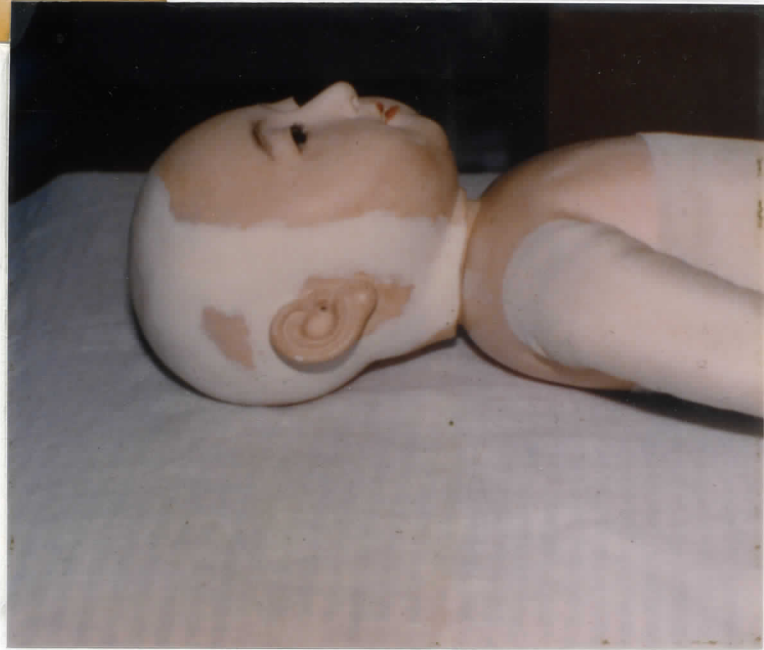
Back in her homeland, Miss Kyoto was welcomed with great fanfare. When she first arrived in Kyoto, many important people came to greet her. There was a special Miss Kyoto welcoming ceremony and banquet at Kyoto City Hall, attended by Massachusetts Governor and Mrs. Dukakis, Kyoto Mayor Masahiko Imagawa and other Japanese officials as well as over 30 local television and newspaper reporters. Also at the ceremony were two women Mrs. Tsugi Tomooka and Mrs. Toshiko Kirimura who, as sixth graders in 1927, participated in Miss Kyoto's first good bye ceremony. Mrs. Tomooka as a little girl wrote a calligraphed letter that accompanied Miss Kyoto when she arrived in Boston. When Mrs. Tomooka first saw Miss Kyoto again after 57 years, tears came to her eyes. As a young girl Mrs. Tomooka had thought she would never see her friend again. To celebrate the unexpected reunion with Miss Kyoto, Mrs. Kirimura and Mrs. Tomooka presented the Museum with a gift of 100,000 Japanese yen to buy Miss Kyoto "something special" (or to have her tabi cleaned.)

Miss Anne, a blue-eyed doll born in Portland, Maine and now living at a school in Kyoto, was also present to welcome her doll friend. The Japanese endearingly call Miss Anne, Anne-chan. Maybe Anne-chan also attended Miss Kyoto's going-away party in 1927 and is pictured in the old black and white photo of the ceremony.



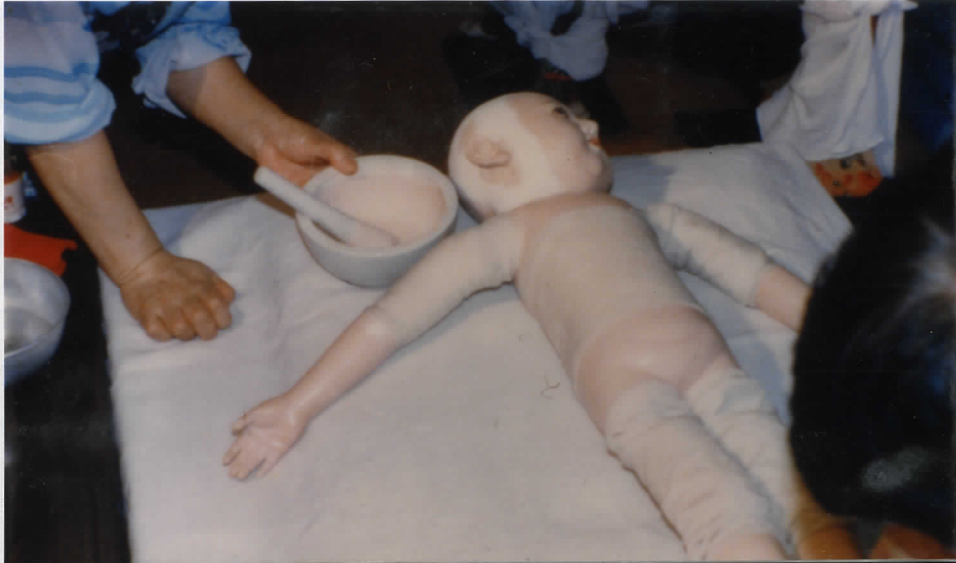
In Japan, Miss Kyoto met an old American friend, the friendship doll Miss Anne from Maine.

After the welcoming ceremonies Miss Kyoto made her much needed visit to the doll doctors, four women who had studied under the very famous Japanese doll-maker, Goyo Hirata, who had first made Miss Kyoto. The women removed Miss Kyoto's hair and cleaned her head. Then the cracks in her head were re-glued.



Miss Kyoto visited the doll doctors who fixed the cracks in her head.

Miss Kyoto's skin was to be resurfaced (or repainted) with a special mixture called gofun made out of crushed oyster shells and glue. Gofun is used like a lacquer and makes the skin of the doll look very luminous and beautiful. The women made the gofun then applied it to Miss Kyoto's head to cover her scars. After her head was fixed the women gave her new makeup.



The doctors covered her scars. Then, they gave our doll friend new makeup,



And a new hair-do!

In the mean time, Miss Kyoto's undergarments were washed and hung to dry. Japanese dolls do not normally wear underwear but when Miss Kyoto was made in 1927 the doll makers thought she might feel embarrassed to live without underwear under her silk robes in the United States where all the dolls wear pantaloons. Her socks hanging on the right are sort of unusual, they are called tabi . They leave a separate place for the big toe. They fit on feet sort of like mittens so that you can wear socks with thonged sandals (called zori in Japanese).



In the meantime, Miss Kyoto's socks and underclothes were washed and hung to dry.

Miss K's silk robes or kimono were redyed by a special silk dyer. Miss Kyoto and all the Black-Eyed dolls were dressed in the traditional festival dress of a young, unmarried Japanese girl. They wear the furisode or long-sleeved kimono. Miss Kyoto's turquoise outer robe bears the symbol of Kyoto Prefecture, the area in Japan that she represents. Can you make out the designs on Miss Kyoto's kimono? The white butterflies symbolize Kyoto Prefecture. The cherry blossoms and white peonies pictured on the bottom of her robe are flowers seen all throughout Japan in the early spring.



Miss Kyoto's robes were cleaned.

Miss Kyoto was then carefully redressed. If you look at the cover of this book you will see Miss Kyoto in her complete festival costume. Can you see the hakoseko or small wallet tucked into the overlap of the Miss Kyoto's robe on the left side of her chest? She also carries a small fan that fits into the top of her obi. The cloth cord that secures her obi is called the obijime. Miss Kyoto came with two pairs of shoes, pokkuri geta which are fabric covered sandals with raised heels worn for very special occasions and zori which are flatter. The pokkuri geta sometimes have a bell inside the heel that rings as you walk.



She is dressed in the traditional costume of a young Japanese girl.

Miss Kyoto looks as young as ever and now that she has been repaired and restored she is strong enough to travel to other museums for very special Friendship doll reunions. In 1988, Miss Kyoto made another plane trip to Japan for an exhibit with 18 other Black-eyed dolls and 30 Blue eyed Dolls. The exhibit toured ten places including Tokyo and Yokohama and was visited by more than 80,000 people. During Miss Kyoto travels she even met Japanese royalty. The Prince Akihito and Princess Nichiko of Japan who are now the Emperor and Empress visited our friend in Tokyo.



Now that Miss Kyoto is clean and repaired she is ready to meet the Prince and Princess of Japan. You can meet Miss Kyoto too. She lives across the hall from the Japanese house in the Reading Room. Look in the big window on the far left wall.

The history of Japanese dolls (ningyo) and the Ichimatsu doll

Miss Kyoto and the Black-eyed friendship dolls are called Ichimatsu dolls or Yamato Ningyo. The Ichimatsu doll was the first type of doll in Japan to be made with a soft, naturalistic body. The dolls were introduced in the 1700's. The first dolls are thought to have been modeled after a famous Kabuki actor of the 1740's and 50's, Sanokawa Ichimatsu, well known for his beauty and stylishness. Doll makers of this period often used Kabuki actors as models for doll faces. The dolls are distinctive for the realism of their faces and body features and the structure of the legs with joints at the hip, knee and ankle. The dolls have bodies of carved wood with cloth joining the abdomen with the shoulders so that the doll can bend at the waist, and cloth upper arms and upper legs. The heads are made of wood or sawdust bound with glue. In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the Ichimatsu dolls were mainly play dolls for children of wealthy families and were dressed in very fine cloth.

The Ichimatsu dolls of the 1920's and 1930's are also called Yamato ningyo which means Traditional Japanese doll, Yamato being the ancient name of Japan and ningyo meaning doll. Yamato ningyo wear the traditional festival robes of young Japanese girls and boys (just like Miss Kyoto and the other black-eyed dolls.)

Dolls in Japan are considered much more than play things, they are objects of great cultural significance. In prehistoric times dolls, shaped in miniaturized human forms had religious or magical importance. The tradition of presenting o-hina for the Girl's Day Doll Festivals or Hina Matsuri began in the 1600's. Young girls put out dolls that represent members of the ancient imperial court of Japan, the Emperor and Empress displayed on the top shelf with their two lords and three ladies, five musicians and three servants seated on the tiers below. Children's Day, May 5, also includes an important display of warrior dolls.



The Blue-eyed Friendship dolls are received in Japan with true reverence even today. The doll messengers were always honored guests at the o-hina "imperial doll court" each year during Hina Matsuri.



The influx of Western dolls with the Friendship Doll Exchange also influenced the craft of Japanese doll-making. Taken by the moving eye-lids and voice box of the American dolls, Japanese doll designers added these features to the standard Ichimatsu doll model. However, after over sixty years Miss Kyoto's voice box now utters "squeak" rather than "okaasan" which is the Japanese word for "mama."

Goyo HIRATA, the maker of Miss Kyoto was a famous puppet and doll maker born in Tokyo in 1903. In 1955 he was designated as one of the LIVING NATIONAL TREASURES for his specialized work with doll making. In 1974 he was awarded the Fourth Class Order of the Rising Sun. He died in 1981. Miss Kyoto's back bears the signature of Goyo HIRATA and the number twenty-two, probably signifying that Miss Kyoto was the twenty-second doll made from the same Ichimatsu mold.

For further reading on this subject ask a staff member to show you our folder of articles on the Friendship Doll Exchange.