



What's Important to Know

BACKGROUND

The original Miss Columbia, a 19-inch rag doll, headed west from Boston in April 1900 and traveled around the world by herself for close to three years. The initial purpose of Miss Columbia's trip was to raise money for children's charities, a major philanthropic concern at the turn of the century. In the process, she created a remarkable legacy for herself and her caretakers and provided unprecedented insights into the diverse cultures of a then disconnected world.



Children and adults gave her souvenirs, which she faithfully collected and brought with her during her travels. A journal, kept along the way by attentive friends, recorded the highlights of her many adventures. In a time when almost every other culture in the world was foreign to Americans and transportation and communication so slow, it was truly a miracle that this small, fragile ambassador visited as many countries as she did and returned unscathed to her owner on Christmas morning, 1902.

THE PROJECT

The original Miss Columbia remains on permanent display at the Wenham Museum in Wenham, Massachusetts. To celebrate the centennial of her voyage, the Museum has commissioned the creation of an exact replica of the original Miss Columbia and a new, contemporary Miss Columbia (Miss Columbia 2000) as well. Together they will leave Wenham in September, 1999, and travel across the United States and around the world, visiting (and briefly uniting) hundreds of schools and communities along the way.

PROJECT GOALS

The heart and driving force of the new *Around the World with Miss Columbia* project is its educational focus and its mission to connect thousands of children and teachers throughout the world. Through the use of this Interdisciplinary Guide, through partnerships established between local museums, schools, and families, and through the wonders of the World Wide Web, those who come within Miss Columbia's orbit will connect with the past and with each other. If your participation in the project inspires even a few students in your community to look up off the page and consider their place in the small, small world around them, Miss Columbia will have done her job.