

Dr. Andreas Mettenleiter

Universität Würzburg
Institut für Geschichte der Medizin
Oberer Neubergweg 10a
97074 Würzburg
Germany



**Ine Kusumoto (1827-1903) – the first rangaku obstetrician and gynecologist.
Facts and fiction.**

After Philipp Franz von Siebold's return to Europe in 1829, his Japanese daughter Ine was brought up and taught by his pupils. She studied rangaku medicine with them and specialized in obstetrics and gynecology. Due to the reputation of her father and the protection of a local daimyo, she could play an extraordinary role as a rangaku physician in her time and was even called as an obstetrician to the Imperial Court in Edo. During Siebold's second journey to Japan, she was able to meet him, and she got support from her German half-brothers Alexander and Heinrich. Her fascinating fate inspired novel writers and manga artists – even a musical was devoted to her life, mixing facts and fiction.

Less known in Japan is the fact that in the German family of her father Philipp Franz, there had been already a remarkable tradition of obstetricians and gynecologist, starting from her grand-grandfather Carl Caspar Siebold in Würzburg. Philipp Franz von Siebold's cousin Charlotte and his step-aunt Josepha were – like an astonishing European parallel to Ine's biography – two early female obstetricians who even got a university degree, more than two generations before the first universities opened their lecture halls and clinics to female students!

CV

Andreas Mettenleiter (*1968) studied medicine and humanities in Regensburg, Würzburg, Rom, Utrecht/Netherlands and Caen/France. After graduation in Würzburg, he started his training in surgery at the Juliusospital in Würzburg, but later changed to the department of History of Medicine as a lecturer. During his postdoc period, regular stays in Nagasaki fostered his special interest in Japanese-German relations in the field of medicine. Other main topics of research are the physicians' dynasty von Siebold, the medical history of Würzburg and autobiographical testimonies of German-speaking physicians. As a vice chairman of the Siebold-Gesellschaft, he has prepared and curated several exhibitions related to the history of medicine and German-Japanese relationships in the Siebold-Museum in Würzburg. Furthermore, he is the managing director of the MEKRUPHY GmbH producing hands-on science experiment sets for schools.