

"Maehata ganbare" – "Go On, Maehata!"

By Volker Kluge



Hideko Maehata's
memoir, 1982.

Hideko Maehata, born in 1915, was the daughter of a tofu merchant from Hashimoto, Wakayama Prefecture. Almost without any instruction, she learned to swim at around three years of age in the Kinokawa River, which flows south of Osaka and has a strong current. She started with frog kick, a typical beginner technique that is easy to learn and is similar to the leg kick in breaststroke.

This was preceded by an episode that she wrote about in both of her autobiographies.¹ She was a strong but often sick child. Her mother, a devout Buddhist, decided to go to one of the temples on Mount Koya with her daughter to consult a priest about her health. The priest inspected her hair and advised the girl to do sport like a boy. Her parents chose swimming.

But not everyone liked this. "When I started swimming," wrote Maehata, "everybody used to say 'what a tomboy: swimming!' or 'Girls have no need to swim. The only thing they need to do is help with the housework and the sewing.'" So the girls who started swimming at that time were really very unfortunate.

I can understand the real difficulties of that time because I was one of them."² It took her some time before she realised that swimming is an ideal sport for girls to maintain a healthy body.

Despite this realisation, women's swimming remained in the shadow of men's sport. Even the extensive publication *Swimming in Japan*, published in 1935 by the International Young Women and Children's Society, only devoted a short paragraph to the topic:

As to swimming for women, Japanese girls are just as fond of the sport as the boys, but they were not permitted to swim for many years because the Japanese social customs differ so greatly from that of other countries. From the olden days, it has been considered that the women's place is in the home; this is true of all countries but more so in Japan. This idea still remains though modified. While girls are at school they are allowed to indulge in sports though not intensively for they are branded "flappers" if they do. But as soon as the girls leave school, their sports are dropped with their school uniform of middies and skirts, hence their talents cannot be fully developed. The writer believes that conditions in Japan will be ameliorated as the years go by, and consequently swimming for women will be improved.³

The passage was written by Ikkaku Matsuzawa,⁴ a coach whose training methods were considered revolutionary at the time, as was said when he was inducted into the International Swimming Hall of Fame, founded in 1965. "He emphasized developing leg muscles for a strong kick versus developing upper body limbs as the other countries were doing. He stressed the rhythmic motion of the trunk to minimize water resistance. He emphasized dryland training while providing leadership and instruction."⁵

Matsuzawa formed a winning duo with supervisor Masaji Tabata⁶ and in 1931 was appointed head coach for the 1932 Olympic Games in Los Angeles. It worked wonders: the team won five of the six disciplines and 11 out of 16 possible medals with a group of school boys and students – a humiliation for the Americans, unaccustomed to losing.

But there was also a 12th, silver medal that went to a young woman: Hideko Maehata. Her success story was

also closely linked to that of Matsuzawa. In summer 1929 he accompanied four “mermaids” on a trip to Hawaii as a coach. Their destination was the National Women’s Swimming Championships at the War Memorial Natatorium in Waikiki, to which the Americans had invited the Japanese as guests.⁷

It was the first time a Japanese women’s team had competed internationally and the 15-year-old Hideko Maehata almost couldn’t be there. Her father was seriously ill and wanted his daughter to be with him. When the residents of Hashimoto, then a settlement of around 3,000 people, heard about this, they told him that it would be the greatest honour for them if Hideko could travel to far-off Hawaii. With a heavy heart her father let her go. On the day of her departure, half of Hashimoto came to the train station to give the girl a royal send-off.⁸

The trans-Pacific liner *Shinyo Maru* had brought thousands of Japanese immigrants to Hawaii since it was commissioned in 1911. Now the ship was transporting the small team of kimono-clad women, who arrived in Honolulu on 28 July 1929 and were greeted with “aloha”, Hawaiian flower leis, and hula dances. Many Japanese people had come to the port to do so – their share of the archipelago’s population had just reached its peak at around 42 percent.⁹

The tour gave Maehata her international breakthrough, as she met the world’s swimming elite for the first time. To kick things off, in the YMCA’s Nuuanu pool she narrowly missed Agnes Geraghty’s US 220-yard breaststroke record (3:19^{2/5}) by only two fifths of a second.¹⁰ A few days later she won the Hawaiian Championship in the 100 metres with a US (guest) record (1:30^{1/5}).

The 220-yard breaststroke race for the US Championship on 10 August 1929, with Maehata taking on Geraghty, was a highlight of the event, as thousands of Japanese in the crowd cheered on their compatriot. With a time of 3:20.0 min Maehata came second to Geraghty (who had earned Olympic silver in Paris in 1924 and won with a new US record of 3:17.0) and beat Margaret Hoffman, who came fifth in the Amsterdam Olympics.¹¹

Losers of 1920 turn into winners

Breaststroke was already seen as a Japanese speciality at this time, but this was because of the men, who had taken the first three places in the first international match with Hawaii in Honolulu in 1926. In first place was Yoshiyuki Tsuruta, who was to win Japan’s second Olympic gold in Amsterdam two years later. The almost 25-year-old first learned to swim as a seaman at the Seseho Naval Station – albeit in the classic *hira-oyogi* style, which was once a martial art for samurais on the open sea and was similar to modern breaststroke.

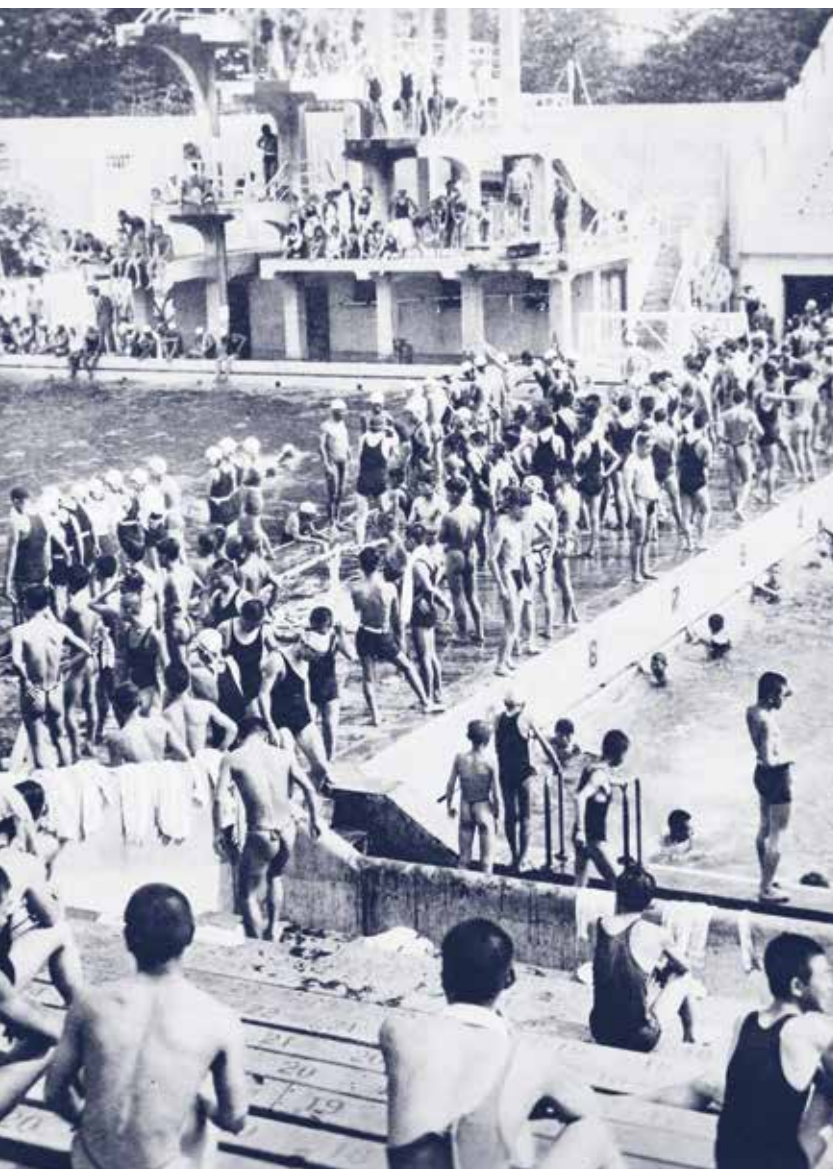
However, front crawl was far more popular than breaststroke, even though it was completely unknown to the Japanese a decade earlier. Before that, they had practiced a style called *chimba-nuki* over short distances, known as “doggy paddle” in other countries. For longer distances, a stroke called *kata-nukite-hitoe-noshi* was common, in which the swimmer put one hand forward while the other arm paddled under the water.¹²

The turning point came when the swimmers Seiren Uchida and Kanekichi Saito, despite their self-confidence beforehand, returned from the Olympic Games in 1920 as losers. They brought the news with



Four Japanese
“mermaids” in
Hawaii in 1929.
Right: 15-year-old
Hideko Maehata.

Photo: *Swimming in Japan*,
International Young Women and
Children’s Society, Tokyo 1935



Bathing in the Meiji Jingu Outdoor Swimming Pool in Tokyo in the early 1930s.

Photo: Volker Kluge Archive

them from Antwerp that the new “classic” was the crawl. However, because of a lack of foreign coaches, the technique could only be found in American or English textbooks. They also found out that in other countries competitions were no longer held in rivers or lakes and the lanes were cordoned off with ropes. No one dared think about indoor pools yet. At that time there was only one 20-metre pool in Japan – at the YMCA in Tokyo, Matsuzawa’s home.

Elsewhere, people adopted a DIY approach: in a suburb of Osaka, at the Ibaraki Middle School, pupils aged 14 and 15 built themselves a pool where they could learn how to swim crawl. One of them was Katsuo Takaishi, who went on to finish fifth in the 100-metre and 1,500-metre freestyle at the 1924 Olympics in Paris.¹³

A decade later everything had changed. Foreigners visiting Japan were amazed by the number of swimming pools and how enthusiastic young people were about the sport. A prime example is the Meiji Jingu Outdoor Swimming Pool. It opened in 1931 and can seat 15,000

people. It was also the venue for the American–Japanese Swimming Meet, which took place that same year and was won by the Japanese by 40–23. Some foreigners were also astonished by the physical strength of these young and slender athletes. If questioned, Matsuzawa would say, “Look at the aeroplane! The scout-plane has a very small body but it can fly faster than the heavy bomber.”¹⁴

One of Japan’s strengths was that they developed their own style in the freestyle and backstroke, which helped give them the edge over other nations. According to Matsuzawa, “These swimmers try to aid their arm stroke by strongly kicking the legs. Japanese people have flexible ankles which enable them to kick strongly without much effort”.¹⁵ But each individual still had their own style.

In addition, the athletes underwent a professional training regime. Tsuruta revealed that he swam 2,500 to 3,000 metres four times a day in the run up to Amsterdam. The workload was even greater before the Los Angeles Olympics, where Tsuruta repeated his victory. In preparation, Matsuzawa brought the athletes to a training camp twice, once from 25 December 1931 to 10 January 1932 and again from 21 March to 10 April 1932, where “he enforced a strict system of training according to military discipline.”¹⁶

A silver medal as new motivation

Maehata, who was still working on perfecting her style, had been one of the world’s best breaststroke swimmers since Hawaii. In the 1929 rankings she came in fifth place for the 200 metres, with Hedy Bienenfeld from Vienna coming in at number 1 (3:15.8 min). A year later she was already second with 3:12.4 minutes, behind the English Celia Wolstenholme, who had set two world records over 200 yards and 200 metres, but in a pool shorter than 50 metres.

In Hawaii, Maehata was still an inexperienced young woman who swam as fast as she could, but who was often unaware of the champions she was competing with. It was Matsuzawa who first taught her to recognise her competitors’ weaknesses.

In the meantime, Maehata was invited by the headmaster to attend the Sugiyama Girl’s School in Nagoya, which had just built a new pool. But the year before the Olympics was not a happy one. Maehata’s mother and father both died of a stroke within six months of each other. It was not until November 1931 that she was able to qualify for the Los Angeles Olympic team at the Meiji Jingu Memorial.

Matsuzawa had trained Maehata to believe that she would win the gold medal in Los Angeles. But when she arrived in California, her self-confidence took a knock. Compared to the tall swimmers of the other nations, she later admitted, the Japanese seemed like children.¹⁷



Around the luncheon table at Chapman Park Hotel, which housed the female participants of the 1932 Olympic Games in Los Angeles. The Japanese team had 16 swimmers and athletes, accompanied by two chaperones. Below: Hideko Maehata in Los Angeles.

Photos: Official Report
Los Angeles 1932

Maehata was beaten by Clare Dennis by a tenth of a second in the Olympic final, which for breaststroke was only held over 200 metres until 1964. The Australian, at just 15 years old, had set a world record in Sydney on 18 January 1932 with 3:08.4 min, which was beaten twice over the following four months, ultimately by Denmark's Else Jacobsen with 3:03.4min. Although Maehata received universal praise for being the first female Japanese swimmer to get a medal, she was deeply disappointed in herself.

Maehata turned 18 in May 1933. While many of her friends had started thinking about marriage and having children at that age, she decided to go to Los Angeles to continue swimming and try to win that gold medal in four years' time. If you trust NHK's *Idataen* as a source, then Tokyo's mayor Hidejiri Nagata, preparing for his city's upcoming bid for the 1940 Games, also helped motivate her. He said, "If only you had won that gold medal. It's so frustrating. Don't forget the bitter taste of defeat. Let it drive you to do better four years from now at the Berlin Olympics."¹⁸

As soon as the water in the outdoor pool got warmer in April, Maehata intensified her training regime to 10 kilometres per day, split into three swims. In her memoir, she recalls that sometimes she practiced the starting jump as many as 100 times, often causing her to cry out in pain.

Maehata, who studied at Sugiyama Women's College in Nagoya after school, was unparalleled in Japanese women's sport. She not only held all the national records in breaststroke from 50 to 500 metres, but also three world records since 1933: 200 metres in 3:00.4 min, 400 metres in 6:37.6, 500 metres in 8:03.4. She was also top of the 1934 world rankings for the 200 metres by a wide margin, followed by the German Martha Genenger and Clare Dennis.¹⁹



"The Japanese flag will fly today"

It looked likely that Maehata's goal of winning Olympic gold in Berlin in 1936 could only be achieved by defeating Genenger. The German from Krefeld had already benefited from the home advantage in 1934 when she became European champion in Magdeburg. Matsuzawa must have been aware that, though 24 years old, Genenger had continued to improve since then. A few days before the start of the Games, the Japanese coach and his team attended the German championships in Halberstadt to study the Germans' tactics. They timed intervals and counted the number of strokes per length.



Berlin 1936: The decisive moment in the 200 m breast-stroke came at the last turn, where Hideko Maehata (lane 6) bested Martha Genenger (lane 7). Right: The “second man” of the Nazi regime, Hermann Göring (in a white suit) watched the race standing. Below: The last few metres.

Photos: *Reichssportblatt*; *Die XI. Olympiade Berlin 1936*, Heinrich Franck, Ludwigsburg

Unlike her teammates, Genenger had not trained in Hirschberg in Lower Silesia,²⁰ but with her stepfather in Düsseldorf. As expected, she won the championship title with a time of 3:02.5 min – an outstanding result. The onlookers from the Far East had recorded a time of 2:17.0 min at the third turn, after 150 metres. That was seen as proof that she should be able to break the three-minute barrier. This was also something Maehata was capable of.²¹

Everything went as predicted. The two favourites impressed in the heats: Genenger set an Olympic record of 3:02.9 min, which Maehata beat by one second in the next round. The next day, the Japanese swimmer won the first semifinal, the German the second. After a day of rest, the final followed on 11 August 1936, which Genenger saw as a good omen. Her birthday was 11 November and the street number of her swimming club in Krefeld was 111.

As on every other day, on 11 August the Olympic Swimming Stadium was filled to capacity with 22,000 spectators. At 2:50 pm – ten minutes before the start of the event – some leading Nazi officials began to turn up, including Hitler’s deputy Rudolf Hess and Reich Interior Minister Wilhelm Frick. The finals began with the men’s 4x200-metre freestyle relay, which, as expected, ended with a victory for the Japanese in world-record time.

At 3:50 pm the women’s final in the 200-metre breaststroke started with seven participants: Maehata in lane 6, Genenger in lane 7. After the first 50 metres they were both neck and neck. After 100 metres they practically turned in unison. At this stage Maehata was on 1:27 min. The Japanese spectators waved their flags enthusiastically, while the German fans cheered Genenger on, chanting “Martha, Martha!”. The *Olympia-Zeitung* later declared, “It seems that the German is not as fresh as usual, her movements look a bit forced.”²²

Maehata increased the pace at 120 metres, but the race was only decided at the last turn. To the disappointment of the German crowd, Genenger, who had not swum a smart race tactically, was defeated. “Gold medal

given away?” wondered the *Reichssportblatt*, a sports magazine.²³ An insignificant detail: Maehata’s winning time (3:03.6 min) was worse than her results in the heats and semi-finals.

For the first time a female Japanese athlete had won an Olympic gold medal, which is still heralded as an event of national significance to this day. The development of modern media also likely played a role in ensuring this success long endured in the Japanese memory, although no film recording of the race survives. The director Leni Riefenstahl decided instead to include Tetsuo Hamuro’s victory in the 200-metre breaststroke over the German Erwin Sietas in the second part of her



epic, *Olympia*. Nothing is known about the whereabouts of the recordings of the women's races.²⁴ A radio report did survive, however.

In 1932 the organising committee for Los Angeles refused to cooperate with foreign broadcasters. Japan's sports announcer Norizo Matsuuchi had to visit the NBC studio in Los Angeles before he could send a short report to Tokyo.²⁵ In contrast, four years later in Berlin, original shortwave broadcasts could be made to all continents with the exception of Australia. Some of the reports were also recorded and broadcast at a later date by the Overseas Department of the German *Reichs-Rundfunk*.²⁶ Thanks to this, Sansei Kasai's²⁷ energetic commentary of the race still exists today. Robin Kietlinski has published it in English:

Maehata and Genenger are side by side. Ah, Maehata pulls ahead! She's in the lead! She's a little bit ahead. Fifty metres down, 100 metres down. Fifty metres left to go. Maehata is a little ahead, Ah, Genenger is coming. Come, come on! Maehata is in danger, she's in danger! Go for it! Maehata go for it! They turned, the swimmers just now turned and Maehata holds onto a slight lead. C'mon Maehata. Go for it! (Repeated four times) Forty metres to go. (Repeated four times) Maehata is ahead! Maehata is ahead! Genenger is coming, it's just a very small lead by Maehata. Go for it Maehata! (Repeated four



"Maehata, ganbare!" Sansei Kasai gave the historic report on 11 August 1936. Below: Award ceremony: On the left, in third place, Dane Inge Sørensen; on the right, Martha Genenger. The small oak tree that Hideko Maehata received for her Olympic victory was planted at Sugiyama Girl's School, which she had attended.

Photos: Official Report Berlin 1936; Olympia-Weltseher, Reichs-Rundfunk-Gesellschaft, Berlin.



times) *Twenty-five metres left to go! Maehata's lead is small, it's very small! ... Maehata! Go for it Maehata!* (Repeated eleven times) *Maeheta is in the lead!* (Repeated six times) *Five metres left to go! Four metres left! Three metres, two metres. Maehata is ahead! Maehata has won!* (Repeated eighteen times) *By a small margin Maehata is the champion! Thank you Ms. Maehata, the Japanese flag will fly today. Thank you! For the first time in the history of women's swimming the Japanese flag will fly.*²⁸

What their victory over the Soviets in the ice hockey was for the Americans in 1980 ("Miracle on Ice"), Maehata's triumph over Martha Genenger was for the Japanese, even decades later. At least that's what Roy Tomizawa thinks: "Reminded by Kasai's ringing voice in the lead up to the [1964] Tokyo Olympics, the Japanese were

primed to see their underdog athletes give it their all, and on occasion, stand on the top podium, and see their flag fly."²⁹

However, considering the eight-hours time difference between Berlin and Tokyo and the fact that Kasai's report may have been broadcast with a time delay, how many Japanese people actually experienced Maehata's Olympic victory at midnight on the radio "live"?

Anyhow, even in the present new legends can be created, as NHK has shown with *Idaten*. At the end of Maehata's story in the programme, an angry Hitler can be seen leaving the stands without a word.³⁰ In fact, he was at the Olympic sailing events in Kiel that day. A late arrival at the swimming stadium, Prime Minister Hermann Göring, who was standing at the edge of the pool in a white suit to watch the 200-metre breastfinal, was probably not significant enough for the producers.

"Maehata" has been floating in the sky since 1992

According to the NHK script, Genenger said goodbye to Maehata, hoping to swim together again soon. In reality this was indeed a possibility, as the Japanese team, divided into groups, took part in a few more competitions in Germany after the Games. There was no rematch between Maehata and Genenger, however. The German had other plans. As her stepfather had announced before the finals at the Olympics, "She is to be married ..."³¹ She got married to a farmer on 2 November of that year, after which Martha Engfeld, as she was now called, only returned to competitive sport for a short time. In Copenhagen on 7 March 1937 she beat the world record, previously held by Maehata, in the 400-metre breaststroke with a time of 6:19.2 min.

Maehata had also reached a turning point in her life. After a 40-day journey by boat, she received a hero's welcome numerous times. Ballad singers performed a so-called *naniwa-bushi* in her honour: small episodes from her life that were accompanied by *shamisen*, a traditional Japanese musical instrument. Her welcome at Sugiyama Girl's School, which Maehata once attended, was especially warm. She gave the school the "Olympic Oak" sapling that she had received in Berlin with her gold medal.³²

A big media event followed on 3 March 1937, when Maehata married Masahiko Hyodo, six years her senior. She was the daughter of a tofu merchant, he was a surgical assistant who came from a princely family. His father had served as an imperial court advisor under Emperor Taisho.³³ The groom later became professor of medicine at Nagoya University. She remained by his side and gave birth to two children.

In the first few years after Berlin, the memory of her victory was still very much alive. On the second anniversary of her Olympic gold, the newly opened



Aiko Maehata

200 m
Breast.

swimming pool in Wakayama was named “Maehata Stadium”. And when the American Avery Brundage, member of the IOC Executive Board since 1937, came to Tokyo in the spring of 1939, she and Hamuro were invited to the welcome party. By this point, Tokyo 1940 was no longer a possibility. The Second World War followed, and Maehata lost her Olympic gold medal in an air raid.

Coach Ikkaku Matsuzawa’s hope that women’s swimming would soon improve in Japan only gradually came to fruition. Alongside her already significant contribution to the sport in spirit with her victory in the Olympics, the only gold for a Japanese woman until the success of the volleyball team at Tokyo 1964, Maehata also made a physical contribution. In 1967 she opened a swimming school in Gifu, where she lived with her family. Meanwhile, Martha Engfeld, née Genenger, was doing the same thing at a sports and recreation facility in West Germany. It wasn’t until the 1978 World Championships in West Berlin, held in the same pool in which they had once competed for medals, that they met, and swam together, again.

Hideko Hyodo (née Maehata) died of acute kidney failure on 24 February 1995. Martha Engfeld outlived her by 158 days. Three years earlier, another “Maehata” was floating in the sky – an asteroid discovered by the director of the Gesei Observatory, Tsutomu Seki.³⁴ He made use of his right to name it and chose the heroine of his youth. She will now fly, perhaps forever, in the vault of heaven.



IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch awarded Hideko Hyodo (née Maehata) the Olympic Order in 1981. In the middle: IOC Honorary Member Dr Ryotaro Azuma; far left: IOC Member Masaji Kiyokawa, who won the Olympic backstroke in 1932.

Photo: *Olympic Review*, 1982, no. 5.

- 1 Hideko Hyodo, *Maehata ganbare* [Come on, Maehata!] (Tokyo: 1982); Yuki, *namida, soshite ai: Maehata wa nido ganbarimashita* [Courage, tears, and love: Maehata persevered twice] (Tokyo 1990).
- 2 Hideko Hyodo, *Maehata ganbare*, 20.
- 3 International Young Women and Children’s Society, *Swimming in Japan*, Tokyo 1935. 90. The organisation was founded in 1905 by foreign missionaries and one year later became part of the World Young Women’s Christian Association (YWCA). The director was Tetsutaro Hasegawa. The book has 260 pages, which in addition to the short treatise on women’s swimming also contains an eleven-page article by Hideko Maehata on the topic of “Women’s Breast Stroke”.
- 4 Ikkaku Matsuzawa (1900–1965) came to swimming through the YMCA, which split from the Japan Amateur Athletic Association in 1921. As a student at First Higher School in Tokyo, he co-founded the Nippon Intercollegiate Swimming Association in 1921 and the Amateur Swimming Federation of Japan in 1924.
- 5 www.swimmingworldmagazine.com/hall-of-fame/bio/coach.
- 6 Masaji Tabata (1898–1984) was a political reporter for *Asahi Shimbun* and co-founder of the Amateur Swimming Federation of Japan. After the Second World War, he became President of the Japanese Swimming Federation (1948–1957) and President of the Japanese Olympic Committee (1973–1977).
- 7 The natatorium, with its 100 m x 40 m (l x w) saltwater swimming pool, was opened on 24 August 1927 by the legendary Hawaiian swimmer Duke Kahanamoku. The 100 m freestyle Olympic champion of 1912 and 1920 turned 37 on that day.
- 8 *The Nippu Jiji*, 6 August 1929, 3. This newspaper has been published in Honolulu since 1919 in both Japanese and English with a circulation of 15,000 copies. After the attack on Pearl Harbor, *The Nippu Jiji* was discontinued and re-registered as the *Hawaii Times* in 1942.

- 9 Robert Schmitt, *Demographic Statistics of Hawaii 1778–1965* (Honolulu: 1968), Table 1. According to this, the 139,631 ethnic Japanese in Hawaii made up 42.7 percent of the population on 1 April 1930.
- 10 *The Nippu Jiji*, 6 August 1929, 3.
- 11 *Ibid.*, 11 August 1929, 1, 3. A chapter written by Maehata on women’s breaststroke in *Swimming in Japan*, 179, states that the race was won by Eleanor Garatti. This is clearly an error, as Garatti was a freestyle swimmer who had set a world record (1:09.8 min) in the same championship in the 100 m freestyle.
- 12 *Swimming in Japan*, 4–5.
- 13 *Ibid.*, 6–7.
- 14 *Ibid.*, 88.
- 15 *Ibid.*, 89.
- 16 *Ibid.*, 248.
- 17 *Ibid.*, 179–180, cf. Hyodo 1982.
- 18 *Idaten*, episode 4.
- 19 On 30 September 1933 in Tokyo Maehata achieved a time of 3:00.4 min in a 25 m pool. In 1934 she also became the world’s best in Olympic-size 50 m pools with a time of 3:02.8 min.
- 20 Today Jelenia Góra, Poland.
- 21 “Randnotizen zum Training der Olympiaschwimmerin Martha Genenger und die ‘11’” [Side notes on the training of Olympic swimmer Martha Genenger and the ‘11’], in: *Völkischer Beobachter*, 1 August 1936, 6.
- 22 *Olympia-Zeitung*, no. 23, 12 August 1936, 454.
- 23 “Weltrekord aber auch Enttäuschung” [World record but also disappointment], in: *Reichssportblatt*, vol. 3, no. 34, 18 August 1936, 1287.
- 24 Cf. Volker Kluge, “The truth about the prologue to Riefenstahl’s OLYMPIA”, in *Journal of Olympic History*, vol. 26, no. 2, 50–61.
- 25 Cf. Michael J. Socolow, *Six Minutes in Berlin. Broadcast Spectacle and Rowing Gold at the Nazi Olympics* (Illinois Press: 2016).
- 26 Cf. Reichs-Rundfunk GmbH Berlin (Ed.), *Olympia-Weltseher*, Berlin 1936.
- 27 Sansei Kasai (1898–1970) was a commentator for the Japan Broadcasting Association, later president of the Sendai Central Broadcasting Association and the Japan Broadcasting Publication.
- 28 Robin Kietlinski, *Japanese Women and Sport. Beyond Baseball and Sumo* (Bloomsbury: 2011), 72–73. Yasuhiro Sakaue, *Kenryoku sōchi toshite no supōtsu* [Power devices and sport] (Tokyo: 1998), 220–1.
- 29 Roy Tomizawa, 1964. *The Greatest Year in the History of Japan* (Lioncrest: 2019), 196.
- 30 *Idaten*, episode 4.
- 31 *Völkischer Beobachter*, 11 August 1936, 1.
- 32 The “Olympic Oak” planted at Sugiyama Girl’s School died in 1997. A new one was planted on the Hoshigaoka Campus in Nagoya.
- 33 Kietlinski, 74.
- 34 NASA, main-belt asteroid 9870 Maehata (1992 DA), diameter 4135 km, discovered 24 February 1992.