ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Ichigaya, Tokyo, 1996. My encounter with Tadano Makuzu began in a coffee shop. Kate Nakai and Umezawa Fumiko, my advisers for my Masters thesis at Sophia University, mentioned to me that Tadano Makuzu’s collected works had been published only recently, and knowing of my interest in the lives of women during the Tokugawa period, they thought it would be worthwhile for me to look into her work. With the book in my suitcase, soon after I left for California. In September 2003 I submitted my dissertation on Makuzu to the Institute of Japanese Studies at Tübingen University, Germany. Two and a half years later, this book is completed.

During these years my research has been nurtured in several academic communities. From my alma mater, Tübingen University, I received the greatest support that a student could wish for. I was an unconventional student: I left Germany for Japan after my undergraduate studies, never to return permanently. Klaus Antoni, Viktoria Eschbach-Szabo, and Klaus Kracht helped me overcome bureaucratic obstacles arising from my absence from Germany and were approachable at all times, offering their intellectual advice and academic support. Auditing Herman Ooms’s seminars at UCLA and Anne Walthall’s at UCI was mind-opening. I was truly fortunate to have met some of the finest scholars in our field. Without Anne’s guidance in particular in writing my dissertation, which must have been trying at times, I doubt that I would have come this far. Our translation group—Janet Goodwin, Elizabeth Leicester, Yuki Terazawa, and Anne Walthall—confirmed and reinforced my decision to work on Makuzu despite the initial difficulties I had with her thought and with how to conceptualize it in a larger framework. After the translation of Makuzu’s Solitary Thoughts had been published in Monumenta Nipponica, we continued our regular meetings (now also joined by Kristine Dennehy), where we read and discussed my manuscript chapter by chapter. I learned to keep tight deadlines, but more important, I profited from their excellent and stimulating critique, which I miss dearly. I am in particular thankful for having met Elizabeth, who shares not only my interest in Tokugawa history but also similar life choices.
During my research in Japan many scholars mentored, inspired, and supported me. I would like to thank many of them for their valuable assistance and guidance, including my former advisor at the Rikkyō University, Arano Yasunori, and my advisor at Ochanomizu Women’s University, Ōguchi Yūjirō. I am especially grateful to Kado Reiko, Seki Tamiko, Shiba Keiko, and Suzuki Yoneko who shared with me their knowledge, expertise, and their sources on Makuzu. My mentors, Kate and Fumiko, who continue to share their vast knowledge with me, have my deep respect and gratitude.

While I transformed the dissertation into a book, Wesleyan University in Middletown, CT, became my new haven. William Johnston and Steven Angle introduced me to academic life from the other side of the classroom; but they also gave me needed advice about the publishing process. Others who have read my entire manuscript are Gregory Smits and the reader for Brill. I appreciate all their suggestions and hope to have responded to most of them. Their input adds to the invaluable comments on the presentations that I gave at various conferences over the past five years. I also would like to acknowledge the encouragement I received at various stages of this project, even though I cannot properly thank everyone to whom I am indebted. Any errors that remain, of course, are mine alone. Some short segments have been published in “Tadano Makuzu and Her Hitori Kangae,” MN 56:1 (Spring 2001). Portions of chapter 5 have been published in “A Woman’s Critique of Male Academics in Early Nineteenth Century Japan,” in Kulturwissenschaften und Frauenstudien, ed. Viktoria Eschbach-Szabo et al., vol. 1 (Tübingen: Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen, 2005).

Financial support was provided in the summer of 2004 by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science; the ideal working conditions of that summer and the following one, when I was close to Kate, Lynne Riggs, and Takei Masako, who offered me concrete advice, enabled me to be most efficient in the short period of time available. My time in Tokyo was also enriched by the Saturdays I spent with the members of the Katsura no kai, who introduced me to the wealth of Tokugawa women’s writings and their meaning for women today. Gaye Rowley deserves special thanks for helping me to gain access to the Waseda University Library. Laura Mercs, Yui Suzuki, and Andrea Vogt know best how much I relied on them in recent years, and I appreciate their friendship. My mother, Charlotte Gramlich, and my sisters and brothers have my deepest affection for always being there for me.
Special gratitude goes to Tadano Hama and her family, who invited me to their home and spent hours in the heat of the summer showing the relentless historian materials that were kept in heavy boxes. I am honored to be able to present here for the first time some images of what she showed me.

In addition to Laurence Marceau who introduced me to Brill, there are two individuals who helped with getting the manuscript ready for Brill’s printer: my editor Julia Perkins at Wesleyan University, who did an excellent job in responding to all my particular requests, and my husband Oka Kiyoshi, who created the graphics and images.

Finally, the book is dedicated to Kiyoshi, Dai, and Shin for sharing the journey, and to my in-laws, Oka Masahiko and Tomiko, without whom I could not have accomplished half of the research I did while I was in Japan.

New York, Winter 2006