The nature of the documents about von Siebold’s Japanese daughter Ine differ much from those we have about Alexander and Heinrich. This is due partly because, in pre-modern Japan, women did not appear in historical documents, because they usually did not hold public office, one of the major prerequisites for being mentioned in official documents. Much of what we know about her, therefore, comes from the memoirs of her daughter Yamawaki Taka (b. 1852) and from Ine’s own records. Taka’s memoirs are sometimes inaccurate. They were written down when she was already old and many important memories may have been distorted or forgotten over time, not to mention the perennial attempt to beautify the past we find in much oral recording. For example, there are four versions of how von Siebold met Taki (Sonogi) for the first time and, unless more reliable documents come to light, the only thing we can do is to choose one of the four. However, we also know about Ine through documents, including one on her medical training, which she delivered to the Imperial Household Department at the time she was appointed, her family register (koseki) and the personal information she submitted once in order to rent a house and to obtain a midwife licence.

The most reliable study of Ine’s life, though very short, comes from Fukui Hidetoshi’s ‘Kusumoto, Yoneyama Ke Shiryo ni miru Kusumoto Ine no Sokuseki’ (Tracing Kusumoto Ine’s Footsteps according to the Kusumoto and Yoneyama Family Archives), a critical biography, based partly on the thorough biographical investigations of
Koga Jujiro’s *Maruyama Yujo to Tokomojin* (Maruyama Pleasure Girls and the Chinese and Dutch), vol. 2 (Nagasaki, Nagasaki Bunkensha, 1995).\(^1\) Another reliable source for Ine’s life and correspondence is Miyasaka Masahide’s ‘Burandenshitain Ke Monjo yori Hakken sareta Kusumoto Taki, Ine Boshi ni kansuru Dankan ni tsuite’ (Documents discovered in the Brandenstain Archive about Kusumoto Taki and Ine) he wrote after letters were discovered in the Brandenstain Archive.\(^2\) The following biography is based largely on the above.

As we have seen, Ine (1827–1903) was born on Dejima on 6 May 1827, the daughter of von Siebold and his Japanese wife Taki (Sonogi, 1807–65), a native of Nagasaki’s Doza-machi.\(^3\) Taki’s father had been a timber merchant whose private surname was Kusumoto, a name Ine later declared as her legal family name, when in 1870 all Japanese had to register their surnames. Taka reported that, unable to breast-feed the baby, Taki had two wet nurses for Ine, both admitted to Dejima after being registered as *yujo*. She also had an Indonesian babysitter named Olson, who von Siebold took with him back to Europe. One day, Taka remembered, Olson placed Ine on a rock and went swimming in the bay. When other Dejima residents lost sight of her, they looked around the entire island causing much of a stir until they found her alive and well. When von Siebold was banished from Japan at the close of 1829, Ine was not quite three years old, too young to remember her father, or his language and culture. All she learned about her father came from her mother and, later, from Ninomiya Keisaku and Ishii Soken.

Before von Siebold left Japan, he bequeathed his Narutaki estate to Ine,\(^4\) indicating something few historians are aware of, namely that foreigners were able to own and bequeath Japanese property. He also left Ine a manual for the study of the Dutch language in the hope that, as she grew up, she would try to learn Dutch.\(^5\) Von Siebold also left Taki and Ine one thousand taels worth of precious sugar, to which he later added five hundred more at the request of Dr Bürger who had replaced de Villeneuve, the person to whom he had entrusted the upbringing and welfare of his Japanese family. Dr Bürger felt one thousand taels was too little and had asked von Siebold to increase it. Von Siebold did not have more cash when he left Japan because of the large sums he spent on the upkeep of the families of his imprisoned Japanese students. The sugar was to be sold at a profit and the interest used for their daily lives. When de Villeneuve had to return to Batavia on the boat leaving Nagasaki at the end of 1830, he wrote von Siebold, ‘Bürger is looking after your daughter Ine every day. Please send him a letter of appreciation.’\(^6\)