

History of the Hanzaki (Giant Salamander)

Year	Event (events written in red are mostly to do with Yubara, while those in blue are the most important events)
918	In the book “Japanese Names of Medcal Herbs”, “ <i>Hajikamiio</i> ” (the former name for the Giant Salamander) was recorded.
1592-1596	As the Giant Salamanders neared extinction, in order to appease the “curse” Hikoshiro Mitsui had a new shrine established (as reported in the magazine Sakuyou).
1693	The magazine “Sakuyoushi” in the Soshin Emura collection published Hikoshiro Mitsui’s reports regarding the near-extinction of Giant Salamanders from 1592-1596.
1712	(Publication of) The Illustrated Shino-Japanese Encyclopedia (with an introduction to Giant Salamanders).
1826	A 23 million year old fossil of a Giant Salamander was found in Oeningen in the Baden region of Switzerland.
1829	Siebold returned to Holland with a few Giant Salamanders. Following his return, Temminck and Schlegel also began their own research.
1874	Rein and Rorentz (authors of “Japan”) came to the Chugoku Region for 2 years to research the Hanzaki.
1880	Chujiro Sasaki collected Hanzaki from Iga, Ise and Yamato.
1881	Siebold’s Giant Salamanders passed away in Amsterdam’s aquarium.
1883	Siebold published “Japan’s Animals” (which introduced Giant Salamanders to the world).
1887	Chujiro Sasaki gave a presentation at Tokyo Teikoku University (The first presentation on Japanese Giant Salamanders by a Japanese person).
1897	Yojiro Hata (of Tsuyama City’s High and Elementary schools) sent 4~5 hatched salamanders to Chiyomatsu Ishikawa.
1898	Chiyomatsu Ishikawa completed his first set of research in Yubara (age 37). He visited in May having walked from Okayama. He cooperated with Kamesaburo Teshima, who was then head of the village.
1899	Chiyomatsu Ishikawa came to Yubara for a second time in August to publish his second report on the area (age 38). He mostly stayed around the Kogawa area, where he collected basic data about the habitats, discovering new breeding holes and checking the number of spawn etc.
1900	Chiyomatsu Ishikawa gave his first notice in regards to his Giant Salamander Report.
1901	Chiyomatsu Ishikawa published his “Giant Salamander Report” (age 40).
1902	500 Japanese Giant Salamanders were born in Amsterdam Zoo.
1908	Chiyomatsu Ishikawa visited Rein in Bonn (Germany) to discuss the Hanzaki. Okayama Prefecture passed a ban on capturing and selling Hanzaki from the 1 st September to 31 th October to prevent overfishing.
1914	Hanzaki Stone erected by Kichigoro Mizushima (head of Mizushima-kan).
1916	Kumahichi Mikamo, upon Chiyomatsu’s request, created a pond in which to raise Hanzaki and observe them at his home (now just behind the Yubara Onsen Museum). By 1920 he had over 700 in residence.
1921	Chiyomatsu Ishikawa created a “Hanzaki Film” for his 60 th Birthday year. He also bought part of the land of the Hanzaki Grand Shrine.
1925	~1927 -Katsuya Tago researched Futakwa (part of Yubara town). Kumahichi Mikamo saw the first birth of the spawn in his pond. (as written in his report to the head of Yubara Elementary School).

1927	The Giant Salamander designated a nationally protected species. Yubara, Chuka, Yatsuka, Kawakami, Futakama (all currently Maniwa) all designated habitats for Giant Salamanders. Chiyomatsu Ishikawa visited Yubara and drew the area close to the Hanzaki Grand Shrine.
1930	Okayama Prefecture published a research report on the special animals that live in the region.
1933	Tekkan Yosano and his wife, Akiko Yosano, when staying in Yubara, composed the Hanzaki Tanka (a short poem of 5 lines).
1934	Kumahichi Mikamo's Hanzaki breeding pond was flooded due to a typhoon and destroyed. Kamesaburo Teshima's home was also destroyed.
1935	Chiyomatsu Ishikawa's death (75 years old).
1952	The Giant Salamander designated a protected species.
1954	Completion of the Hanzaki Bridge.
1955	Creation of Preservation Society for the Hanzaki Grand Shrine.
1958	The Preservation Society built a grave for Hikoshiro Mitsui in Yubara.
1962	1st Hanzaki Festival (the night before the closing ceremony of the 17 th Okayama Prefecture National Athletic Meet). Creation and Parade of the 10 th Hanzaki paper mache figure.
1967	Researcher of Yubara's Hanzaki, published "Hanzaki Fudoki" article in a collection of articles about the Giant Salamander. (Kaname Kagami) Seishi Yamaguchi's poem memorial stone erected.
1971	Hanzaki Center Established.
1973	Publication of "Japan's Giant Salamanders" in Yoshihiro Ikoma (by Tsuyama Science Museum leader Kenzo Morimoto).
1976	Special Memorial Emergency Survey Report 1 (Giant Salamander Habitats) by Okayama Educational Board (Leading member : Shiro Kawaguchi).
1979	Success in reduction in breeding of Giant Salamanders in Asa Zoo in Hiroshima Prefecture.
1993	Publication of "Newt and Salamander's Natural History Magazine" by Masao Usui.
2000	Publication of "Report on Local Environment of the Protected Giant Salamander Species" (written by Shiro Kawaguchi). Mariko Ichihara published "Hanzaki Komachi" with the theme of the Hanzaki grand shrine and Chiyomatsu's research.
2004	Establishment of Japan Giant Salamander Association.
2010	7th Japanese Giant Salamander Association Meeting (held in Yubara, Maniwa).
2011	Launch of Okayama Giant Salamander Association. 50th Anniversary of the creation of the Hanzaki Nebuta Float by local children.
2012	Publically honoring Chiyomatsu's Hanzaki Reseach and naming Yubara's famous pine tree : "Chiyomatsu Ishikawa".
2013	Okayama Giant Salamander Meeting. Outdoor Research Begin (Led by Kazushi Kuwabara).
2014	Employment of Yoshiko Hanzaki and Mariko Ichihara in Hanzaki Komachi.
2015	Discovery of a nest with spawn in the Tabane area.
2016	Renewal of Hanzaki Signs. Creation of new Talismans at Hanzaki Grand Shrine. Felling of the Withering Pine Tree known as "Chiyomatsu's Pine Tree".
2017	Hanzaki Center Renewal. U-suke's book "Zaki-han" published.
2018	120 th Anniversary of Chiyomatsu's Report Publication.