

Wolfgang T. Sobue

# The 8man World

The Second Edition



The 8man World / The Second Edition

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ISBN978-4-911144-22-0

First Edition published April 2023

Second Edition printing May 2023

Second Edition reprinting September 2023

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Publisher Bunsaido publication

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Printed by Seihonchokuso.com (<https://www.seichoku.com/>)

## Preface to the Second Edition

The first edition of “The 8man World” was published simultaneously in Japanese English and was well received. Although the enthusiasm for the publication of the first edition has not yet cooled, this book has been revised and supplemented to publish a second edition. To give an overview of the structure of this book again, Chapter 1 is an introduction to the Showa 30s, which gives an overview of the atmosphere of the time, albeit in an extremely small way, and invites the reader to it. Chapter 2 explores the 8man Tribute, and Chapter 3 explores the secrets of the 8man. This section also provides an overview of the history of computers, so if you read it, you will be able to get a basic knowledge of it. In Chapter 4, I summarized the future of artificial intelligence in an essay style.

Even so, as we delve into the secrets of 8man, we are amazed at their innovation. We have to take our hats off to the original author, Kazumasa Hirai, who devised this mechanism at that point on the time-axis of the Showa 30s. I would also like to pay tribute to Mr. Jiro Kuwata, who embodied this in the form of drawings, for his outstanding drawing ability. It is no exaggeration to say that we, who will live in the next generation, have a responsibility to pass on this

excellent cultural heritage.

May 2023 Author

## From Preface to the First Edition

Why "8man" now? It is a kind of inspiration. While the Covid-19 disaster was in Japan, or rather, as it swept the world, a site was launched as a companion to 'stay-at-home'. That was the site "<http://landcell.la.coocan.jp/>", and the "The 8man World" ("We are Showa TV Kids") section started with a project to create some interesting pages in the content of the site. As we proceeded with this project while enjoying it, the content became a little cohesive, and we decided to make this book as a commemorative book. Therefore, this book is a compilation of the series of articles in the same section from March 15, 2021 ~ December 4, 2022.

In the Internet environment, it is possible to instantly link to music, videos, and books from multiple angles, and it has a three-dimensional effect which books do not have. If it is made into a book, such merit disappears. In addition, the content that is updated daily has the feeling of watching a theater-style stage play, so to speak, but by making it into a book, the live feeling is also lost.

However, books have the advantage of being enjoyed beyond time and

space. You don't need a power supply, you don't need a computer, you don't need a smartphone. All you have to do is slip a book into your pocket and you can enjoy talking to the author anytime, anywhere. Originally, that is the merit of making a book.

Today, the world situation is chaotic. It is not always possible to be placed in an environment where neither the power supply nor the computer can be used. At that time, the existence of the site will also become suspicious. Nevertheless, the booklet remains in our possession by making it into a book. In that sense, it is a valuable book.

We added a little to the book this time. However, the content may not be satisfactory. The fiction and reality of 8man and the rationale that connects them are unclear, but we tried to explore them through this project. In addition, there are many parody contents, and we hope that you will enjoy this book to kill time.

The illustrations in the text are taken from the manga shop version of "8 (Eight) man" complete edition volumes 1~5, and some of them are also quoted from the main story of TBS anime "Eightman". We would like to take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude to

all those involved.

April 2023

~This book is dedicated to the late Kazumasa Hirai and Jiro  
Kuwata~



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Fig.8 and 9) Scenes from original movie “Metropolis”

Fig.25) Scene from original TV anime "Cyborg 009" 1979 edition

Fig. 29 and 34) Scenes from original TBS anime “Eightman”

Fig. 35) Scene from original TV drama “Ultraman” (1964)

Fig.46 and 47) Scenes from original TV drama “artificial human Kikaider” (1972)

Fig.61) Cover illustration from original comic “Second Man” / Mitsuteru Yokoyama. Kodansha

## Chapter 1 Prologue

Original scenery ~ that nostalgic world, playing with childhood friends, swallows visiting ..



8 (Eight)man's first comic was published in 1963, from the 20th issue of 'Weekly Shonen Magazine' in Showa 38(1963).

Speaking of Showa 38, Japan recovered from the ruins of the postwar period, and while development and urban development were proceeding at a rapid pace just before the Tokyo Olympics, the tallest buildings in Tokyo were only TV Tower or Tokyo Tower, and on a clear day, Mt. Fuji could be seen from anywhere, open spaces were not uncommon, and if you ventured a little further into the suburbs, the



countryside would spread out and thickets of trees would grow.

When reading the manga “8man”, you should not miss this background. As is the case with anime, when you enter that story, you think, "Oh? Where is this?" There is a sense of bewilderment as if you have entered another world for a moment, but there is an original scenery in that world. It can be said that the world in which 8man was active has changed with the passage of time and cannot be seen today. However, there is no doubt that it is a world that once existed, and it is also an original landscape that lives on in the hearts of those who lived at that time.

And this is exactly what can be said about anyone, but what kind of place and in what era you were active in is a very important point.

## Tokyo, Showa 30s (1955~1964)

Reviving scenery. If you want to enjoy it with books, "Reviving with large-format color photographs Showa 30s Tokyo Nostalgic cityscapes and people's lives: Travel back in time to Tokyo 60 years ago!" (TJMOOK) and "Sanhome Photo Studio" ~People, Things, and