

## INTRODUCTION

The “Serrurier Collection” is named after L. Serrurier, the compiler of *Bibliothèque japonaise* (1896), a catalogue of old Japanese books, maps and manuscripts in Leiden. The items described in this catalogue are kept in three different places in Leiden: the majority is in the Leiden University Library, a large minority is in the National Museum of Ethnology (Museum voor Volkenkunde) and a number of books is in the Herbarium (Museum Naturalis). The description here only comprises the Serrurier Collection as far as it is presently kept in the Leiden University Library, and it also includes later additions of old Japanese books not appearing in Serrurier’s catalogue. All items that are now kept in the National Museum of Ethnology and Museum Naturalis in Leiden are therefore excluded and do not appear on the list below.

Lindor Serrurier (1846-1901) studied Japanese and Chinese with J.J. Hoffmann in the 1870s. He became curator of the National Ethnographic Museum in 1877, and director in 1881. From 1887 to 1896 he was also lecturer in Ethnography and the Japanese language at Leiden University. From 1896 until his death he taught History, Geography and Ethnography of the East Indies at the Willem III Gymnasium in Batavia. Between 1876 and c. 1890, Serrurier compiled several auction catalogues of Japanese books (see bibliography below).

In 1882, W.N. du Rieu, Librarian of the University Library, asked Serrurier to compile a catalogue for the Japanese collections, including older University holdings, which was published in 1896. At the same time, Du Rieu asked G. Schlegel, professor of Chinese in Leiden, to compile a catalogue of Chinese books, which was published in 1883 (with a supplement in 1886).

Serrurier’s catalogue is entitled *Bibliothèque japonaise: catalogue raisonné des livres et des manuscrits japonais enregistrés à la bibliothèque de l'Université de Leyde* (Leiden: E.J. Brill, 1896). The catalogue gives descriptions of 1263 items in total. More than half of these had been collected by Dutch officials and scientists on Deshima in the early nineteenth century. These were at first J. Cock Blomhoff (1779-1853), living on Deshima in 1809-13 as clerk and later assistant trader, and in 1817-23 as chief trader (*opperhoofd*) (29 items) and J.F. van Overmeer Fisscher (1800-1848), on Deshima in 1820-29 as clerk and later assistant trader (60 items, all having his ex-libris and name stamp). Their collections give an overall view of the arts and literature in Japan in the period 1804-1829. The best known collector was Ph.F. von Siebold (1796-1866), physician on Deshima in 1823-29, who also continued acquiring books in the 1830s (until 1830 c. 440 books, manuscripts and maps, later in total about 525 items). Siebold focused on natural history and geography. The former two collections were acquired by King William I in 1826 and 1832, and were therefore first kept in the Royal Cabinet of Rarities (*Koninklijk Kabinet van Zeldzaamheden*). The latter was acquired by the King in 1831, but Von Siebold was allowed to keep it in his house in Leiden. Around 1836, Von Siebold borrowed parts of the other two collections from the Royal Cabinet and moved them to Leiden, but failing to return them within three months as he should have done; instead he merged them with his own collection. His assistant J.J. Hoffmann compiled a catalogue of these collections, totaling 594 items, which Von Siebold published in 1845 as *Catalogus librorum et manuscriptorum japonicorum*. This consists of a list of titles transcribed in Japanese or Chinese (about 35 Japanese reprints of Chinese books) with succinct Latin descriptions, followed by a list of titles in Chinese characters. The characters were written by Guo Chengzhang (Ko Tsching Dschang 郭成章) before November 1835, when he left Holland to return to Batavia.

In 1859, the *Rijks Japansch Museum von Siebold* was established in Leiden for all materials collected by Von Siebold, Cock Blomhoff and Van Overmeer Fisscher. At that time, the books, manuscripts and maps in the three collections were stamped with the seal “*Verzameling Von Siebold*” (Von Siebold Collection). Five years later, in 1864, the name of the

Museum was changed into *Rijks Ethnographisch Museum* (National Ethnographic Museum); from then on a seal with this name was used for new acquisitions. Since 2014 it is called Museum Volkenkunde, which is part of the National Museum of World Cultures.

In the 1850s, the last head (*opperhoofd*) of the Dutch settlement on Deshima, J.H. Donker Curtius (1813-1879; in function 1852-59) acquired about 100 Japanese books for the Ministry of Colonies, in particular in the fields of geography, linguistics, and military sciences, including translations from Dutch into Japanese. In 1862, when the responsibility for Japanese and Chinese Affairs was transferred from the Ministry of Colonies to Foreign Affairs, this collection was also given to the Ethnographic Museum in Leiden and Leiden University Library.

From 1830 onwards Von Siebold was assisted in Leiden by J.J. Hoffmann (1805-1878). In 1846, when Von Siebold left Leiden, Hoffmann was appointed as Japanese translator for the East Indies government. In 1855, he became titular professor of Japanese and Chinese. After his death the Leiden University Library acquired his collection of about 200 Japanese books from his estate (together with about 100 Chinese books). These were mostly specimens of Japanese texts, dictionaries and other reference materials. Hoffmann's books are now easily recognizable, since most of them are bound in blue hard covers.

Subsequently, in 1880, Serrurier, who was now acting director of the Ethnographic Museum, suggested to transfer all Japanese items from the Museum to the University Library, except those connected with the Museum collections such as woodcuts and illustrated books and manuscripts. In the spring of 1881, about 500 books, maps and manuscripts were transferred to the University Library, leaving about 200 items in the Museum.

An important later addition of Japanese books was from the library of A.J.C. Geerts (1843-1883), professor at the Medical School of Nagasaki (in Japan 1869-1883). Serrurier compiled an auction catalogue for this library (1887) and later acquired a selection of 66 books for the Museum. Geerts' library contained many medical books and books concerning the early Meiji government. In 2015, most of these books were transferred from the Museum and Herbarium to the University Library.

At some time, Serrurier allegedly also compiled an auction catalogue for the library of K.W. Gratama (1831-1888), who taught medicine in Japan as well (1866-1871). Gratama donated 153 items to the Museum in 1886.

After Serrurier had published his *Bibliothèque japonaise* in 1896, he left Holland for the Indies. Some time later, probably under the guidance of M.W. de Visser, appointed as second professor of Japanese in 1917, new additions of Japanese books were numbered from 1264 on. This system of numbering was used for all Japanese books, but for most twentieth century books this was only an "accession number": they were placed outside the Serrurier Collection, obtaining another call number. However, old Japanese books (mostly blockprints) that were acquired later, are incorporated in the Serrurier Collection of the Leiden University. These books have numbers lying between 1264-2013 or from 7941 to 8002. Later additions can be numbered from No. 8003 on.

When second or third identical copies of books were obtained, these were not given a new number but were placed next to the first copy, having the same Ser. number with one or more asterisks added, the letters a, b, c, etc., numbers (after a colon) or the word "bis", or a combination of these. Numbers (after a colon) may also be used to indicate volumes of multi-volume works.

More additions are expected, since there are a number of uncatalogued old Japanese books and there may be possible future acquisitions of old Japanese books. The following is a complete list of books with call number Ser. (Serrurier) now (2016) kept in the Leiden University Library.

For more information on and holdings of each item, one should consult the Leiden University Library online catalogue, H. Kerlen's *Catalogue of Pre-Meiji Japanese books and maps in the Netherlands* (1996) and Serrurier's *Bibliothèque japonaise*.

Holdings of each item may be different, for instance, there are three copies of the Sino-Japanese encyclopaedia *Wakan sansai zue* 倭漢三才図会, which should have 81 volumes when complete; the copy in Ser. 1 has 80 vols., vol. (*kan*) 66 is missing, Ser. 1\* only has 18 vols., while Ser. 1\*\* has 50 vols. (including vol. 66). It should be noted that subsections of which all items are now kept in the Museum, and none in the University Library, are placed between brackets.

Thanks are in the first place due to Ms. Tomoko Okuda 奥田倫子 who compiled a first draft of the list around 2009-2012. Secondly to Prof. dr. Harm Beukers, Prof. dr. W.J. Boot and Daan Kok, who provided information or comments, but in particular to dr. Matthi Forrer who checked the whole text.

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(Former curator of the old Chinese and Japanese books and manuscripts)

A chronology of the main origins of the Serrurier Collection in the Leiden University Library. Since the various parts of the collection were later combined and became mixed up, the numbers are often indicative only.

| Year    | origin or catalogue                   | years of collecting | custody place               | number of items |
|---------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| 1826    | Cock Blomhoff                         | 1809-1823           | Royal Cabinet               | c. 29           |
| 1831    | Von Siebold                           | 1823-c. 1860        | At Siebold's home           | c. 440          |
| 1832    | Van Overmeer Fisscher                 | 1820-1829           | Royal Cabinet               | c. 60           |
| 1845    | <i>Catalogus librorum Japonicorum</i> |                     | At Siebold's home in Leiden | 594             |
| 1862    | Donker Curtius                        | 1852-59             | Museum/University           | c. 100          |
| 1878    | Hoffmann                              | c. 1830-1877        | University                  | c. 200          |
| 1881    | Division of the Museum collection     |                     | University/Museum           | c. 500/200      |
| 1886    | Gratama                               | 1866-1871           | Museum                      | 153             |
| c. 1890 | Geerts                                | 1869-1883           | Museum/Herbarium            | 66              |
| 1896    | <i>Bibliothèque japonaise</i>         |                     | University/Museum           | 1263            |

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

Siebold, Ph.F. von, and J.J. Hoffmann, *Catalogus librorum et manuscriptorum Japonicorum a Ph. Fr. de Siebold collectorum, annexa enumeratione illorum, qui in museo regio Hagano servantur* (Leiden: with the author 1845). [Catalogue of the Japanese books, manuscripts and maps collected by Cock Blomhoff, Van Overmeer Fisscher and Von Siebold].

Serrurier, L., *Catalogue d'une collection choisie de livres Japonais et Chinois suivis d'ouvrage de linguistique, d'ethnographie et d'histoire du Japon et de la Chine : en vente aux prix marqués chez Martinus Nijhoff*, Février 1876, Catalogue no. 150 (La Haye: Nijhoff). [auction catalogue].

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Serrurier, L., *Verzameling van Japansche boekwerken, door J.H. Donker Curtius op zijne reis naar Yedo in 1858 voor het rijk ingekocht, beschreven door wijlen J.J. Hoffmann en uitgegeven door L. Serrurier* (Den Haag: 1882). [Many translations of Dutch works with indication of the sources].

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Ningen Bunka Kenkyū Kikō Kokubungaku Kenkyū Shiryōkan [Suzuki Jun and others], *Shīboruto Nihon shoseki korekushon : genzonsho mokuroku to kenkyū* 人間文化研究機構国文学研究資料館編, シイボルト日本書籍コレクション ; 現存書目録と研究 = *Japanese books in the Von Siebold collection, a catalog and further research* (Tōkyō : Bensei shuppan; 東京 : 勉誠出版, 2014) [This catalogue also describes many books collected by Cock Blomhoff and Van Overmeer Fisscher. The total number of items in the Netherlands is 698. Materials in Britain, Germany and Denmark are described as well.]

Yamaguchi Takao 山口隆男, Nakano Mitsutoshi 中野三敏 (Ed.), Matthi Forrer, Takasugi Shio and Miyazaki Katsunori (Compilers), *Shīboruto shūshū washo mokuroku* シーボルト蒐集和書目録. Tokyo: Yagi Shoten 東京 : 八木書店, 2015. [contains also an analysis and reproduction of Siebold and Hoffmann's catalogue of 1845]

## LIST OF SUBJECTS

Contents of Serrurier's *Bibliothèque japonaise* with call numbers

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