DISCOVERED DOCUMENTS OF VON SIEBOLD PART IV
SUMMARY OF THE LIST OF THE MATERIALS
CONCERNING JAPAN AND ITS NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES COLLECTED BY VON SIEBOLD
BETWEEN 1823 AND 1828

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Abstract: After many years of research work, we have discovered that Philipp Franz von Siebold was given a commitment by the Dutch King and the government to survey the Japanese nation. Siebold was in return asked to present to the King all the materials he had collected, except what he had acquired for private reasons. With the collection expanded, it is very likely that Siebold came to feel the necessity to record what he had collected and which ones he would present to the King. The list here can be one of such records. In the meantime, the word “summary” in the title implies a possibility of a comprehensive list prepared separately. Otherwise, Siebold may have tried to make a temporary list only for submitting to the officials. It has been revealed in the previous issues that Siebold exploited his personal connections with the Japanese, in order to collect the materials concerning Japan for his study. The list introduced here brings to light a part of the materials he possessed, which involve Japan as well as the countries surrounding Japan, such as Ryukyu (Okinawa), Ezo (Hokkaido) and the Korean Peninsula.

Key words: Dutch King, Ryukyu, Ezo, Korean Peninsula, Dutch government

1. INTRODUCTION

It has been revealed in the previous issues that Philipp Franz von Siebold exploited his personal connections with the Japanese, in order to collect the materials concerning Japan for his study. The list introduced here brings to light a part of the materials he possessed, which involve Japan as well as the countries surrounding Japan, such as Ryukyu (Okinawa), Ezo (Hokkaido) and the Korean Peninsula.

The list is divided into three sections: “Materials for a description of Japan”, “Materials to describe the neighboring countries of Japan”, and “Materials for a description of Japan and its neighboring countries, revised or translated by my Japanese friends”. The first and the second sections have a total of 114 items with serial numbers, and the third has 47. Since Siebold obtained an enormous amount of work on Japan and its neighbors, the list shows only a fraction of them. However, it includes not only some notable works to review, but also a number of items which have also been found in other lists he made. By looking through the contents, we will analyze what was the purpose of the list.

2. THE CONTENTS OF THE LIST

The materials in the first section are classified into five categories-mathematical geography, physical geog-
raphy, political geography, miscellaneous, and drawings.

The works of mathematical geography include the survey of the location of towns in Japan, the records of latitude and longitude measured by a chronometer, the map of Nagasaki Bay with its measured depths, and the various regional maps of Japan such as the map of the Port of Nagasaki and of the Strait van der Capellen. Some data were obtained and recorded by a geographer in Edo (presumably Takahashi Sakuzuemon), and some noted by the Dutch workers at Deshima and the Dutch sailors. Other documents were prepared by Siebold himself based on the observation and measurement results.

Among the works related to physical geography are the geognostic survey of the oryktognostic fossils by Burger, the analysis of the mineral waters of Japan, meteorological observations, barometer readings on the volcanoes and mountains, and the mineralogical analysis of the Japanese coins called Koban. Various materials concerning zoology and botany are also included in this category: the survey of the mammals and birds found in the vicinity of Japan; the notes related to zoology and zootomy; the enumerations and the classification of plants; the indigenous names of the Japanese plants; the sketches of reptiles, mammals, fish, plants, etc. by the Japanese painter Kawa- hara Keiga and the painter for the Dutch Factory de Villeneuve. It seems apparent that Siebold adapted all these materials for his book, *Flora Japonica* and *Fauna Japonica*.

Political geography concerns all the aspects of the Japanese life. The works include the notes on politics, economy, industries, social systems, religion, manners and customs, and language. Even the study of the Japanese history is included here. Having no indication of their writers, most documents are considered to be the works of Siebold himself or his disciples.

Miscellanea contains different kinds of materials. There are the diary of the court journey to Edo and the notes on the excursions to the suburbs of Nagasaki, both of which were kept by Siebold. He also included in this category the descriptions of travel from Batavia to Japan, from Japan to Batavia, and from Batavia back to Europe, as well as the remarks on the cultivation of Japanese tea and on the state of botany and medicine in Japan. The letter from Ishisaka Sotetsu, the imperial acupuncturist, is partly quoted in the observations of their writers, most documents are considered to be the works of Siebold himself or his disciples.

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No.73 “Answers to some questions about Japanese mid-wifery” is considered to be the thesis in Dutch “Beantwoording eeniger Vragen over de Japanische Vroedkunde door mijnen leerling Mima Junzo Genee- shcher te Nagasaki” written by Mima Junzo, a pupil of Siebold who became the first schoolmaster of the Narutaki-juku. The thesis, which is based on the Siebold’s questioning to Mima over the mid-wifery, was released with the footnotes provided by Siebold in the Dutch memoirs “Verhendelingen van het Bataviaasch Genootschap van Kunsten en Wetenschappen, X, 1825”. Later its German edition appeared in the “Journal fur Geburthilfe, Frauenzimmer und Kinderkrankheiten, Frankfurt a. Main, 1826” which was edited by his uncle Elias von Siebold. After Germany, the paper was presented in France as well. The thesis outlines the treatment methods exercised by Kagawa Gen-etsu, the gynecologist who had revolutionized the standard of gynecology in Japan during the periods of Enkyo and Horeki (about 1744-1764). Kagawa’s practice is summarized in the paper by Mima, covering various issues such as pregnancy, recuperation after delivery, normal delivery, abnormal delivery, prescription for newborn babies, post-delivery diseases, and the diseases of newborn babies.

“The cultivation and preparation of tea in Japan” (No.77) seems to have a close relation with the paper written by one of the most dedicated pupils of Siebold, Takano Choei. This document entitled, “Aankweeking van den Theeheester en Bereiding van den Thee op Japan door Takano Tsjoie”, served as the base for the description of tea in Nippon, one of the greatest achievements of Siebold.

The last category is the drawings, where the maps of important towns and many sketches are included. The subject of the sketch varies from landscapes, costumes, tools, manners and customs, to the mammals, birds, and fish, all of which were drawn by either Japanese painters or de Villeneuve. Some works have been determined for their origin from the personal collection of Siebold.

The second section consists of three subsections, “The islands of Jezo (Ezo), Krafo (Sakhalin), and the Kuril”, “The Liu-Kiu (Ryukyu) isles”, and “The Korean Peninsula”, which are followed by the list of maps and drawings concerning these areas. It includes some documents prepared by the pupils of Siebold based on the Japanese literature, and some pieces of information collected with the help from his friends who were well informed about the northern part of Japan.

Among all, No. 100 draws most attention as it concerns the information given by Mogami Tokunai. While the Dutch delegation was staying at Nagasakiya in Edo, Mogami visited Siebold several times to provide him with the up-to-date information on the northern islands. He also helped Siebold in editing the dictionary of language used by Ainu people. Diction-
ary of the Ainu language (No.101) must be the result of their collaboration, where the collection of some Ainu words (No.102) may also be incorporated.

One more item to be noted is No.99 “Extract from a journey across Jezo and Kraf to the mouth of the river Amur in the years 1808/9 by the Japanese Mamia Rinsoo”. This may refer to the excerpts from the materials Siebold had borrowed from the imperial astronomer Takahashi Sakuzoemon, including Hokusai-bunkai-yowa, the record of the land survey conducted by Mamiya Rinzo in the region north of Japan.

The materials in the first two sections have been grouped according to concrete themes-Japan and the neighboring countries of Japan, respectively. It may be true that Siebold made such classification by intention, visualizing the contents and structure of his later publications such as Nippon.

The last section, however, holds a mixture of diverse information. Judging from the note at the beginning: “These pieces are in random order”, there may be no clear definition for this group. In fact, many of them are brief descriptions, which may indicate their lesser importance as a reference for his books. This part is characterized by a variety of subjects, including medicine, natural sciences, zoology, botany, geography, history, religion and industry, and in many cases its contents are overlapping with those of the foregoing parts.

In the entire list, the most notable may be No.88 “the Festivals of the Japanese: drawn by Hokusai in Jedo”. So far nearly twenty drawings of Hokusai have been discovered in the collection of Siebold, including “Genre Scenes in Japan,” but it is not yet clear whether the one listed here corresponds to any of them.

There is another possibility of Hokusai’s work in No.87 “Various costumes of the Japanese, 12 sheets ; by the most distinguished Japanese artists in Jedo and Miako.” It is imaginable that Hokusai’s drawings, unlike his mass-produced prints, were extremely difficult to obtain even in the time of Siebold, unless having personal contact with the artist. Unfortunately, the relationship between Siebold and Hokusai was not at all mentioned in the diary of Siebold during his court journey, and we cannot determine how the drawings came into his possession.

There are some points, however, which may prove that the two persons knew each other. Let us focus on the strong possibility that the No.90 “Weapons and war materials ; drawn by a friend in Jedo” refers to the “Album of arms and armor,” one of the collection items of Siebold which is now preserved at the National Museum of Ethnology in Leiden. Considering that the album uses the papers of the same quality as those used for Hokusai’s “Genre Scenes in Japan,” and the coloring techniques in the both works are very similar, the album is also assumed to be the work of Hokusai. Accordingly, the remark in the No. 90 “a friend in Jedo” could mean the artist-a proof of their close relationship.

3. THE PURPOSE OF THE LIST

Before clarifying the purpose of the list, the following three points must be taken into consideration: (i) some other lists with similar contents have been discovered, (ii) the main title clearly shows that the list was made for the use by a third person, and (iii) the list has been kept with other documents at the National Archives in Hague.

The existence of the parallel lists made by Siebold has been confirmed outside the National Archives in Hague. Some are presently being kept at the Brandenstein Castle Archives in Germany, which is operated by the descendents of Siebold. Also, there are some lists documented later when the whole collection was examined after the death of Siebold. Compared with such lists, the one introduced in this paper apparently contains far less numbers of items. Considering the fact that Siebold obtained more than five hundred books related to Japan, it only reveals a limited part of his collection.

Nevertheless, all the materials here can be highly evaluated because they were prepared either by Siebold himself or his cooperators, and have something to do with the important survey of Japan and the countries nearby. In spite of the scarcity in the number of items involved, the list itself holds a substantial amount of information: As mentioned before, most of the listed materials were with no doubt integrated into his works, Nippon, Flora Japonica and Fauna Japonica, all of which have laid the foundation for his success in the study on Japan. It can be said that this valuable list highlights the center of his academic interests, while illustrating the entire picture of his study.

The main title and the writing clearly indicate that Siebold prepared the list for someone else. If not for himself, for whom did he make it? Since the list was preserved together with other documents related to Siebold such as the reports he sent to the Governor General of the Dutch India in Batavia and the list of the items confiscated from his personal collection, it may be natural to think that it was made to be submitted to the Dutch government or the King.

After many years of research work, we have discovered that Siebold was given a commitment by the Dutch King and the government to survey the Japanese nation. The expense for his study was entirely covered
by the Dutch government, and Siebold was in return asked to present to the King all the materials he had collected, except what he had acquired for private reasons. With the collection expanded, it is very likely that Siebold came to feel the necessity to record what he had collected and which ones he would present to the King. The list here can be one of such records.

In the meantime, the word “summary” in the title implies a possibility of a comprehensive list prepared separately. Otherwise, Siebold may have tried to make a temporary list only for submitting to the officials. With lists containing more specific information, we would be able to clarify the shadowy part of his collection—the precise number of Hokusai’s works, for example. In order to determine the real purpose of the list, we need to compare the items on the list with the contents of the books of Siebold. This remains to be challenged in the future, and meanwhile, we must continue to seek for significant discoveries.

Summary of the literary work done by the undersigned or under his direction from 1823 to 1828 in Japan.

I. Materials for a description of Japan

A. Mathematical Geography
1. Sketch of a chronological geography of the Japanese empire; based on the Japanese work Hon-Tsjook-Kok-Sets (Honcho Kokugun kenchi <enkaku> zusetsu).
2. Survey of the locations and positions of the most important towns in the whole of the Japanese empire or Dai-Nippon, as communicated by the imperial astronomer Taka-hashi Saku-Sai-mon (Takahashi Sakuzuemon) in Jedo (Edo).
3. Observations of latitude and longitude by use of chronometer during the court journey to Jedo and back in the year 1826.
4. Survey of all the ports and anchorages along the coasts of Japan; based on a Japanese work.
5. Some explanations and notes concerning the (illegible) of south-western Japan; by Mr. Pistorius.
6. Remarks and explanations concerning the map of the Port of Nagasaki; by Mr. Pistorius.
7. Instructions for entering the Port of Nagasaki; by Mr. Pistorius.
8. Observed depths of Nagasaki Bay, as communicated by Captain-Lieutenant S. Bezemer.
9. Observations concerning the map of the surroundings of Nagasaki.
12. A map of Strait van der Capellen.
13. A map of the Port of Nagasaki and its surroundings.
14. A map of Nagasaki Bay; with help from Mr. Pistorious and some manual civil servants on Deshima, revised in the year 1825.
15. Itinerary from Jedo to Miako, as communicated by a geographer in Jedo.
16. Itinerary from Jedo to Nikko; by the same Japanese geographer.
17. Subdivision of the Japanese empire into prefectures [Doo], provinces [Kuni], and districts [Koori], with a table and a survey in Japanese and Chinese writing.

B. Physical Geography

a. General
18. Contributions to physical geography of Japan, with a geognostic survey of the deposits of oryktognostic fossils that have been found until now; by Mr. Burger in the year 1826.
19. Analysis of the mineral waters of Japan; revised with help from Mr. Burger.
20. Meteorological observations.
21. Names and locations of the most important mountains in Japan and on the isle Jezo (Ezo, now Hokkaido), with barometer readings in the mountains around Nagasaki, on the volcano Wun-Zen on Shimabara, in the (illegible) mountains and on the notorious volcano Fu-si (Fuji) on Nippon.
23. Geognostic observations during the journey from Nagasaki to Jedo in the year 1826.

b. Particular

α The realm of animals
24. Survey of the mammals of Japan and its neighbouring countries.
25. Survey of the birds found in Japan.
26. Some zoological-zootomical observations.
27. Miscellanea on zoological-zootomy.
28. Attempt to a Japanese zoology.

β The realm of plants
30. Botanics fase. # 2. Id.
36. Botanics fase. # 8. Lignorum Japonicorum; Jezoensium nec non chinensium enumeratio (Enumeration of Japanese kinds of wood; neither from Jezo nor from China).

**c. Drawings**
39. Portraits of Japanese-12 pieces; by Mr. de Villeneuve.
40. Depictions of some of the strangest mammals of Japan; by Mr. de Villeneuve.
41. Depictions of some reptiles and skeletons of mammals; by Mr. de Villeneuve.
42. Depictions of some fish and echinodermata; by the Japanese painter Toioske (Kawahara Keiga).
43. Flora Japonica or depictions of the most noteworthy plants of Japan, some 600 pieces; by the Japanese painter Toioske. The fruits and their anatomy; mostly by Mr. de Villeneuve.
44. Phytotomical contributions.

**C. Political Geography**

**a. General**
45. Sketch of a political geography of Japan.

**b. Particular**
46. The origin of the Japanese.
47. The chronology of the Japanese and chronological tables of Japanese and Chinese empires.
48. Epitome linguae japonicae (Summary of the Japanese language); reviewed and enriched with many additions, illustrations and material for the second volume.
49. Dictionarium Japonico-Belgico-Latinum (Japanese-Belgium-Latin dictionary); a dictionary comprising 3600 characters; revised with the help of some Japanese linguists.
50. Vocabularium Japonicum (Japanese vocabulary); a copy of an originally Japanese dictionary, arranged so that spellings and translations can be added later.
51. Halma dictionary, translated into Japanese in the past under supervision of Mr. H. Doeff.
52. Concise field-dictionary; translated into Japanese by one of my Japanese friends.
53. Halma dictionary, translated into Japanese in the past in Jedo, rewritten and with phonetics added.
54. De fragmenti quibusdam linguae Samscrudumicae in Jap... (illegible) reperti Epistola (About a letter recovered in Japan with some fragments in the Sanskrit language).
55. Pantheon Japonicum (The Japanese pantheon); description and depiction of most Gods, temples, Bonzen (Buddhist priests) and religious utensils of the Buddhist and Shinto sects in Japan.
56. Form of government; sketch of a national history and a translation of the imperial state directory of the year 1826.
57. Material resources of the state.
58. State revenue.
59. Mining, copper-refinement; by Mr. Burger.
60. Population of the Japanese empire.
61. Measures, weights and coins.
62. Ranks.
63. Sketch of the Japanese music.
64. Summary of all foods and drinks.
65. Manners and customs.

**D. Miscellanea, containing a multitude of materials for a description of Japan.**
66. Diary kept during the journey to Jedo and to the court of the shogun, the worldly emperor, in the year 1826.
67. A sketch of the journey of the Dutch legation to Jedo and to the court of the shogun; as a handbook for future delegations.
68. Miscellanea to describe Japan.
69. Contributions to the Japanese literature.
70. Ephemera # 1. A sketch of the voyage from Batavia to Japan.
71. Ephemera # 2. De historia naturalis in Japonia Statu (The state of natural history in Japan).
72. Ephemera # 3. About the state of botany in Japan.
73. Ephemera # 4. Answers to some questions about Japanese mid-wifery.
74. Ephemera # 5. About the oldest script of the Japanese; based on a Japanese work.
75. Ephemera # 6. An excursion to the fishing village Kosedo.
76. Ephemera # 7. Some words about acupuncture, taken from a letter from the imperial acupuncturist Ishi-Saka-So-Tets (Ishisaka Sotetsu).
77. Ephemera # 16. The cultivation and preparation of tea in Japan.
80. Ephemera # 10. Attempt to picture the state of the medical science with the Japanese.
81. Ephemera # 10. About the hieroglyphs of northern Japan, oshu, that are still in use in Japan.
82. Ephemera # 12. An excursion to the mountain Tsitsi yama near Nagasaki.
83. Ephemera # 13. Brief description of the festival Kisunon Kei-Tsjoo, and the entertainments that take place.
84. Ephemera # 14. The storm of September 18th, 1828 and its unfortunate consequences.
85. Ephemera # 15. Sketch of the return-voyage from Japan to Batavia and from Batavia back to Europe.

E. Drawings, serving as a description of Japan.
87. Various costumes of the Japanese, 12 sheets; by the most distinguished Japanese artists in Jedo and Miako.
88. The festivals of the Japanese; drawn by Hokusai in Jedo.
89. Noteworthy sights on the way from Nagasaki to Jedo; by Toioske, a painter that accompanied me on this journey in the year 1826; 20 sheets.
90. Weapons and war materials; drawn by a friend in Jedo.
91. Some of the most remarkable gold, silver and copper coins; partly drawn by Mr. de Villeneuve.
92. Various paintings by the painter Toioske and other Japanese artists.
93. Maps of the towns Jedo, Osaka, Miako, Himeji and of the castle at Oosaka (Osaka). These original Japanese pieces belong to my own personal collection of books and paintings that contains much more material for a description of Japan.
94. Mammals, birds and fish, revised by several of my Japanese painter-friends. However, these pictures can only serve to acquaint us with the Japanese way of painting curiosities of nature and the (illegible) of these objects.

II. Materials to describe the neighbouring countries of Japan

A. The islands Jezo, Krafto (Sakhalin) and the Kuril islands
95. Description of Jezo and the nearby isles Krafto, Eterof (Etorofu) and Kuna-shiri (Kunashiri); taken from the Japanese work by Haja-si-hei (Hayashi Shi-hei).
96. Some notes concerning Jezo; taken from a letter that I received from a friend in Matsumae.
97. Miscellanea about Jezo, various notes concerning this island.

B. The Liu-Kiu (Ryukyu) isles
98. Description of the isle Krafto; translated from Japanese.
99. Extracts from a journey across Jezo and Krafto to the mouth of the river Amur in the years 1808/9 by the Japanese Mamia Rinsoo (Mamiya Rinzo).
100. Some information about Krafto, Jezo and Santan, as communicated by my friend M. Tok'sai (Mogami Tokunai) in Jedo.
102. Collection of some Ainu words.

C. The Korean Peninsula
103. Description of Liu-Kiu; translated from Japanese.
104. Answers to some questions about the Liu-Kiu isles.
105. Explanations concerning the maps of Liu-Kiu, with some Liu-Kiu words.

D. Maps and drawings, contributing to a description of these countries.
106. Maps of the isle Jezo and the Japanese territory of the Kurils.
111. An atlas consisting of 72 sheets covering Jezo, Krafto and Santan; revised by several Japanese artists.
112. Portraits of two Koreans; by Mr. de Villeneuve.
113. A Korean vessel; by Mr. de Villeneuve.
114. Portraits and costumes of the Koreans; by the painter Toiosuke.

My private collection of books, paintings, tools, etc. contains varied materials for a description of these countries.

III. Materials for a description of Japan and its neighbouring countries, revised or translated by my Japanese friends, or prepared for later adaptations.

Note: These pieces are cited in random order.
2. Origin of all Japanese things: arts, sciences, etc.
3. Description of the Liu-Kiu isles.
4. Description of the foodstuffs produced in Japan.
5. Brief description of the most famous temples in
Miako.
9. The production of sake.
10. About the bees.
12. Description and depiction of ancient weapons found in Japan.
15. Description of petrified teeth, called Ten-ku-no-tsume-seki (Tengu no tsume seki ryakki).
16. The production of salt in Japan.
17. The production of soy.
19. About acupuncture.
20. Instruments that were used for acupuncture in the past.
21. Description of some strange (illegible) in Japan.
23. Some notes on rice cultivation.
24. Description of whales and whaling in Japan.
25. Notes on and depictions of the most common lobsters and crabs found on the Japanese coast.
27. Description of the Japanese chronology.
28. The causes of smallpox.
29. Brief description of moxibustion.
30. About the kinds of fir-trees growing in Japan.
31. The production of lacquer.
32. Description and depiction of all kinds of ginseng, Panax quinquefolium, known in Japan.
33. Answers to some questions about the medical science.
35. Notes concerning some household tools, etc.
36. Some Korean words.
37. Description of some fish.
38. Description of bees, silk-worms and some other useful insects.
39. Description of the maga-tama (comma-shaped beads), the treasures of the oldest inhabitants of Japan.
40. Description of the dye-plant Ai, Polygonum chinense, (illegible) and of the best way to dye linen.
41. An essay on mathematics.
42. Cultivation of the tea-shrub.
43. Summary of all birds found in Japan.
44. List of all Japanese mammals.
45. Name-list of the Japanese reptiles.
46. Name-list and brief notes concerning most of the plants growing in Japan.
47. About the blue dye ai-somea (indigo) and about early rice.

Dr. von Siebold

Note
[ ] : original notes     ( ) : annotations
Fig. 1 A part of the list of the materials concerning Japan and its neighbouring countries which was collected by von Siebold between 1823 and 1828 (cf. Section I, E: “Drawings, serving as a description of Japan”). Hokusai’s work (No.88, The festival of the Japanese; drawn by Hokusai) is included here.