

A Brief Chronology of Dr. Heinrich Bürger

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The personal history and achievements of Heinrich Bürger who engaged in the study of Japan as an assistant of Von Siebold have not yet been cleared up in Japanese historians' circle. The studies of his career are published in many fragmentary reports in Japan, but not in perfect forms. But, while I was investigating many Dutch literatures about Japanese natural history, I fortunately happened to know the life of Bürger by the kind help and suggestions of Dr. Prof. C. G. G. J. van Steenis, director of Rijksherbarium at Leyden, and Mrs. van Steenis.¹ In this report, I will summarize the results of my study in a brief chronology, based on the materials.

1806 (*Bunka 3*)

Was born at Hameln in Weser (Hanover), on the 20th of January as the seventh son of ten brothers among Samuel Bürger and Eva Meyer are German having Jewish blood. His father was a merchant at Hameln, but he lost his father in his childhood. (There is a version that he was born in the beginning of 1804 at Hameln in Weser,² but his birth was not recorded clearly in the church register of Hameln, so it has no distinct source. Therefore I intend to regard the truth that he was recorded in the note of enrollment).

1821 (*Bunsei 4*)

25 Oct. Was admitted to enter the Göttingen University as a student of the mathematics course.³

1822 (*Bunsei 5*)

Oct. Changed his speciality from mathematics to astronomy.⁴

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¹ cf. "Hosei-Sigaku" Mar, 1970 Journal of Hosei Historical Society in Hosei University No. 22 p. 95-113.

² [Blumea] vol. XI, No. 2, 1962 "Contribution to the History of Botany and Exporation in Malaysia" M.J. van Steenis-Kruseman. p. 499.

³ cf. Götz van Selle, Die Matrikel der Georg-August Universität zu Göttingen 1734-1837 No. 28978 and 29536, p. 660.

⁴ cf. *ibid.*, p. 676.