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. 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, 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.

1822 (Bunsei 5)

Oct. Changed his speciality from mathematics to astronomy.

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4 cf. ibid., p. 676.

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1823 (Bunsei 6)

6 Sep. Left Amsterdam for Java and became an apprentice pharmacist at the hospital in Djakarta.®

1825 (Bunsei 8)

14 Jan. Was promoted to the 3rd class pharmacist.® In this year, Von Siebold filed an application requiring two assistants for his work to the Governor-General of Dutch East Indie, to satisfy the above request, Dr. Heinrich Bürgers and Carolus Hubert de Villeneuve, a painter arrived at Dezima, Nagasaki, Japan. In December, he was advanced to the 2nd class pharmacist and worked remarkably in the study of physics, chemistry, pharmacology and mineralogy as an assistant of Von Siebold.®

1826 (Bunsei 9)

From 15 Feb. to 7 Jul. Followed the annual Edo government courtesy visiting voyage with Joan Willem de Sturler, the chief of Dutch firm and Von Siebold as a clerk.® Presented “BATTAGLIA DI ARCOLO” in Italian and a personage picture with an Italian eulogy was written to Katsuragawa Hoken whose name was known as a Botanicus at Nagasakiya, Edo;® Was presented Mino paper from Mizukuri Gempo.® The results and the effects resulted from the following researches which he performed in the above voyage were summarized later.

(1) Measured Japan physically in 1826 and in consequence made contribution to the development of geography.®
(2) Measured Japan geognostically on his way from Nagasaki to Edo in 1826.®
(3) Researched Japan on mineralogy, mine engineering and capital.®

In the same year, he translated the treatise with the title “Nippon Kodaishi-Kō” which was given to Von Siebold from his pupil, Mima Junzo, into German under the title of “Chronologie des Japanischen Reiches.”®

® General State Archives, The Hague, Koloniën 2479, resolution Governor General No. 6. 1823, No. 3.
® cf. ibid., p. 67.
® cf. (6) ibid., p. 81.
® cf. ibid., p. 82.
® cf. ibid., p. 85.
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1827 (Bunsei 10)

2 Jul. Practised the western clinics as an assistant of Dr. Ph. Fr. Von Siebold for the first time. The patient was a son of Noguchi Gihei, a retainer of the Lord Hosokawa in Higo province, Ritsuei, a twelve-year-old boy. And his illness was the cephalic tumor. In that year, summarized the report concerned with analysis of mineral spring in Japan.

1828 (Bunsei 11)

Sep. Occurred the Siebold event. During the period approximately from 1826 to 1828, he translated the “Liu-Kyu-Dan” written by Morishima Chūryū into German under the title of “Beschreibung von Liu-Kyu.” In September of that year, as Siebold was expired from his duty, he was requested to be a successor to Von Siebold by the Governor-General of Dutch East Indie. However, this succession was temporarily postponed due to the occurrence of Siebold event. So that in the mean-while he assisted Von Siebold’s study of Japan.

1829 (Bunsei 12)

25 May. Was presented the plants “Cephalotaxus drupacea utiemprioris” (Nomen japon, Inugaja) being collected by Kumakichi in Nagasaki a day laborer of Von Siebold and this plant was later distributed to the botanical gardens in European countries.

1 Oct. of that year Heinrich Burger was commissioned to be a successor to Von Siebold by the Governor-General of Dutch East Indie in public. His position is a government official with the physical research in Japan (Ambtenaar belast met het natuurkundig onderzoek te Japan).

In the same year, he forwarded the following collection list in Japan to the Governor-General of Dutch East Indie. List of dried plants sent to Batavia. List of some living plants sent from Dezima to Batavia for cultivation in Java.

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14 cf. (2) ibid., p. 494.
15 cf. (12) ibid., p. 82.
16 cf. (14) ibid., p. 248–249.
17 cf. (15) ibid., p. 497.
18 cf. (10) ibid., 1. p. 354.
19 I received a letter (on the Kumakichi) from Prof. Dr. C. G. G. Van Steenis (Director of Rijksherbarium).
20 cf. (19) ibid., p. 211.
23 cf. (18) ibid., Addendum.
1830 (Tempō 1)

Jan. Germain Felix Meijlan, the chief of Dutch firm filed an application to Ohgusa Notono-Kami, a magistrate of Nagasaki province to make Heinrich Bürger accompany with him on the annual Edo government courtesy visiting voyage. However, this application was refused with an intention of the supreme court in the Edo government because he had already joined in the above voyage with Von Siebold in 1826. Consequently, Germain Felix Meijlan started for Edo with Carolus Hubert de Villeneuve, a painter, on his voyage in February of that year. In the same year, he forwarded the following collection list in Japan to the Governor-General of Dutch East Indie. List of living Japanese plants for the botanical garden at Buitenzorg. List of Japanese fishes, stuffed mammals and birds, to be sent from Dezima to Batavia 1830, with Chinese and Japanese characters.

1832 (Tempō 3)

May. Left Dezima, Nagasaki and reached Java with a lot of seeds and seedling of plants or vegetables. He was commissioned to cultivate them on the experimental farm, Krawang (Het Establissement van Landobow).

1833 (Tempō 4)

9 June. Participated in the exploration of mineralogy at Padang Uplands located of the west coast of Sumatra as a member of the natural science committee. This research was continued until the end of the year. 27 June of that year He was appointed to the inspector of plants cultivated at Krawang. The exploration of Sumatra was reported on the newspaper published by Verhandelingen van het Bataviasch Gemootschap. He was a member of the above newspaper office. He also indicated the quantity of copper retained and the amount of copper production in Japanese copper mines on the above mentioned newspaper “Eene beschrijving der Japanische Kopermijnen, en de bereidig van het Koper”.

1834 (Tempō 5)

17 Jan. Left Java and reached Dezima, Nagasaki, Japan and engaged again in the research of Japan (chiefly studied zoology and botany). He forwarded the data collection in Japan to Batavia.
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Sep. of that year. Was recognized his distinguished services on the study of Japan and was given a decoration as a member of natural science committee (Naturkundige Commissie). Became “Ridder in de Orde van de Nederlandsche Leew”.\(^{32}\)

1835 (Tempō 6)

June. Completed his study in Japan and left Dezima, Nagasaki and reached Java.\(^{34}\) His study in Japan was succeeded by J. Pierot.

1837 (Tempō 8)

Month is unknown. Married with Anna Cornelia van Daalen (1799–1874).\(^{36}\) Was requested to study Japan more by the Governor-General of Dutch East Indie. However, he refused this request.\(^{36}\)

1839 (Tempō 10)

30 Sep. Reappointed to a member of the natural science committee.\(^{37}\) Von Siebold filled an application so that a bounty would be granted to Heinrich Bürger to the Government of Holland.\(^{38}\)

1840 (Tempō 11)

Boarded the ship, “Cornelis Hautman” to leave Java. After arriving at Holland, settled down in Amsterdam.\(^{39}\)

1842 (Tempō 13)

Year is not exact. Met a German poet, Heinrich Heine (1797–1856) through the introduction of H. Wermann in Paris and this meeting was noted in his remembrances title “Geständnisse” of H. Heine.\(^{40}\)

1843 (Tempō 14)

30 June. The application filed by Von Siebold to grant the bounty of Heinrich Bürger was approved.\(^{41}\) In that year, he was ordered to work in Java by the government of Holland and he served for the governor-general of Dutch East Indie until 1850.

\(^{32}\) G. S. A. Kolonië 3954, royal decree Sep. 16, 1834, No. 61.
\(^{34}\) G. S. A. Koloniën 2855, resolution June 14, 1835, No. 4.
\(^{36}\) cf. (31) ibid., p. 499.
\(^{38}\) cf. (35) ibid., p. 499.
\(^{40}\) cf. (35) ibid., p. 500.
\(^{41}\) cf. (38) ibid., p. 499.
\(^{40}\) cf. Doi Yoshinobu, Heine Senshu 14 “Kokuhaku, Kaiso, Yuigon” (Geständnisse) Kaihōsha, Showa 23, p. 100–101.
\(^{41}\) G. S. A. Koloniën 2646, resolution Jun. 30, 1843, No. 9.
The work was to encourage the horticulture under the direction of Von Siebold and C. L. Blume.

1844 (Kouka 1)
Engaged in the transportation of rice, supplying of rice and oil to Bütenbezittingen (Outer Possession, i.e. the island outside Java), the work of insurances, the management of mining industry or sugar manufactory.

1845 (Kouka 2)
Published the treatise “Grundriss der Geographie” Breslau and “Hülfs und Nachweisungstafeln” Breslau.

1850 (Kaei 3)
Returned temporarily to Amsterdam and came back to Java again.

1852 (Kaei 5)
Published the treatise “Physikalischer Atlas van 95. Karten” Gotha.

1854 (Ansei 1)
Published the treatise “Die Baudenkämmer aller Völker der Erde” Brüssel und Leipzig 2 vol.

1855 (Ansei 2)
18 Dec. Was authorized to be a naturalized citizen in Dutch.

1857 (Ansei 4)
Jul. Worked remarkably as a resident of Batavia.

1858 (Ansei 5)
25 Mar. Closed his life when he was 52 year old in Indramaju, Protectorate of England. His wife Anna Cornelia van Daalen settled down there until 1874, the year of her death.

As for the plants, fishes in the Flora Japonica, Fauna Japonica, Burger’s part, takes still a great place. His name is often used in honour of his works in these

41 cf. (39) ibid., p. 499.
42 cf. (42) ibid., p. 500.
43 cf. Catalogue de la Bibliothèque, Apportée au Japon : Mr. Ph. F. de Siebold pour servir à l'étude des sciences physiques, géographiques, ethnologiques et politiques et de guide dans les recherches et d'écouvertes scientifiques dans cet Empire Dezima imprimerie néerlandaise 1862.
44 cf. (43) ibid., p. 499.
45 cf. (44) ibid.
46 cf. (46) ibid.
47 cf. (46) ibid.
49 cf. (45) ibid., p. 500.
50 cf. (49) ibid., p. 500.
fields as follows.

(A) *The botany of Japan*[^1]

1. Aquilegia Buergeriana Sieb. et zucc. (Nomen japon. Yamaodamaki)
2. Buergeria stellata Sieb. et zucc. (Nomen japon. Sidekobushi)
3. Acer Buergerianum Miquel (Nomen japon. Toukaede)
5. Fimbriatylis Buergeri Miquel (Nomen japon. Ōtentsuki)
7. Prunus Buergeriana Miquel (Nomen japon. Inuzakura)
8. Rubus Buergeri Miquel (Nomen japon. Fuyuichigo)
10. Desmodium Buergeri Miquel (Nomen japon. Shibahagi)
11. Ilex Buergeri Miquel (Nomen japon. Shiimochi)
15. Maachia amurensis Ruper. var Buerger Schneid (Nomen japon. Enju)

(B) *The animals of Japan*[^2]

1. Dictyosoma burgeri van der Hoeven (Nomen japon. Dainangimpo)
2. Entatretus burgeri Girard (Nomen japon. Nutaunagi)
3. Halaelurus burgeri Miller. et Henle (Nomen japon. Nagasakitorazame)
4. Rhacopharus burgeri Schlegel (Nomen japon. Kazikagaeru)

[^1]: Makino Tomitarō, *Makino Nippon Shokubutsu Zukan* Hokuryūkan, Shōwa 32, (An Illustrated Flora of Japan, with the Cultivated and Naturalized plants. By Tomitaro Makino, Dr. Sc.).