

I. Introduction

The Japanese collections of the National Museum of Ethnology, Leiden mainly consist of those made by J. Cock Blomhoff (1779-1853), J.F. van Overmeer Fisscher (1800-1843) and Ph.F. von Siebold (1796-1866).

Blomhoff stayed in Deshima from 1809 to 1813 and from 1817 to 1824 and Fisscher from 1820 to 1829. The collections of Blomhoff and Fisscher were purchased by King William I and stored in the Royal Cabinet of Rarities in The Hague in 1826 and 1832, respectively. Siebold stayed in Japan from 1823 to 1829 and from 1859 to 1862, and his Japanese collections of both natural history and ethnography collected during his first stay in Japan were transferred to the Netherlands. His ethnographical collection was also purchased by King William I. In 1863 the Rijks Ethnographisch Museum (REM, now the National Museum of Ethnology) was established and finally in 1883 all the ethnological collections of Blomhoff, Fisscher and Siebold were stored together in the REM.

The mineral collection was probably unloaded at Rotterdam together with the zoological and botanical collections in 1830. The botanical collection was stored in the Rijksherbarium, Leiden (now, National Herbarium Netherland). The zoological and mineralogical collections were stored in the Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijk Historie (RNH, now the National Museum of Natural History, Naturalis). Siebold's mineral collection might have been transferred from the RNH to the Rijksmuseum van Geologie en Mineralogie (RGM) when it was established in 1878. Since RNH and RGM were unified into the Naturalis in 1978, the mineral collection has been in the Naturalis.

Since 2001, we have carried out an investigation of the mineral collection of P. F. Siebold at Naturalis (Tagai & Mikouchi, 2008, 2010a, 2010b). In the course of our investigation, we found that some mineral specimens had originally been stored as ethnological specimens in the REM and subsequently transferred to the RGM.

We have extended our research field to the Japanese collection in the National Museum of Ethnology and discovered there many specimens related to natural history, such as crude drugs consisting of minerals, plants and animals, tea leaves, metal alloys, stony tools and so on. A part of the ethnological collection had been investigated by Tsukahara and Osawa (1989) and they

reported the list by Lindor Serrurier (1846-1901) and the crude drug collection.

In this report, we will show the results of our investigations:

- 1) Three catalogues of the ethnological collection in REM; the catalogue by Siebold, that of “Serie 1” and that by Serrurier.
- 2) Three lists of the ethnological specimens related to natural history; the list of crude drugs including tea leaves, grains and beans, that of copper and copper alloys and that of geological and mineralogical specimens transferred from REM to RGM.
- 3) Three databases corresponding to the lists in 2).

II. Historical catalogues of the ethnological specimens

We investigated three important catalogues, namely the catalogue prepared by Siebold, that of “Serie 1” and that prepared by Serrurie.

[1] Catalogue of ethnological collection prepared by Siebold

This catalogue was found in 2010 in the library of the National Museum of Ethnology. It was written in Dutch by Siebold. He defined the collection as "Collection of objects of cultural and industrial natures, such as arts and crafts as well as the various tools." We show here Section IV of the list which Siebold defined as “raw materials and those obtained by simple preparation”. However, he did not describe the details of the specimens. In the following list, Categories A, B, C and D cover the products from the animal kingdom, the plant kingdom, the mineral kingdom and the prepared products, respectively.

II. Afdeeling

Verzameling van voorwerpen van cultuur en nijverheid, zoodanig bijeengebragt en gerangschikt, om de merkwaardigste voortbrensels van het land, van kunsten en ambachten als ook de onderscheidene gereedschappen, die betrekking tot zeden en gebruiken hebben, te doen kennen

IV Sectie

Ruwe stoffen of door eenvoudige bereiding verkregen