

# The Early Dutch Sinologists (1854-1900)

*Training in Holland and China,  
Functions in the Netherlands Indies*

VOLUME I



Koos Kuiper

BRILL

In *The Early Dutch Sinologists* Koos Kuiper gives a detailed account of the studies and work of the 24 Dutchmen trained as “interpreters” for the Netherlands Indies before 1900. Most began studying at Leiden University, then went to Amoy to study southern Chinese dialects. Their main functions were translating Dutch law into Chinese, advising the courts on Chinese law and checking Chinese accounts books, later also regulating coolie affairs. Actually their services were not always appreciated and there was not enough work for them; later many pursued other careers in the Indies administration or in scholarship. This study also analyses the three dictionaries they compiled. Based on a wealth of primary sources, it gives a fascinating picture of personal cross-cultural contacts.

**Koos Kuiper** (P.N. Kuiper, 1951), Ph.D. Leiden 2016, curator of old Chinese and Japanese books in Leiden University, retired in 2016. He published *Catalogue of Chinese and Sino-Western Manuscripts in the Central Library of Leiden University* (Leiden: 2005).

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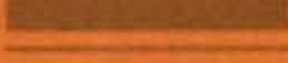


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BRILL

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*Training in Holland and China,  
Functions in the Netherlands Indies*

VOLUME I

*By*

Koos Kuiper



BRILL

LEIDEN | BOSTON

Cover illustration: The students A.E. Moll, A.A. de Jongh and J. van der Spek with their Chinese teachers, friends and servants in front of the “Dutch Consulate” on Gulangyu, 29 April 1879. COURTESY F.R. VAN DER SPEK, NOORDWOLDE (see figure 10.2, p. 492).

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The Early Dutch Sinologists (1854–1900)

VOLUME I

# Sinica Leidensia

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Barend J. ter Haar  
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VOLUME 135

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Alleen wezenlijke voorliefde voor de beoefening der Chinesche taal moet de drijfveer zijn zich aan die te wijden.

*(only a genuine predilection for the study of Chinese should be the motive to devote oneself to it)*

NOTA BY SCHLEGEL AND HOFFMANN, 9 APRIL 1873, IN V 31/5/1873 NO. 50 INV. 2589, quoting Schlegel and Von Faber's letter to the Resident of Batavia, 14 September 1868, in V 15/8/1870 no. 21 inv. 2339 (see pp. 295–6, 324)







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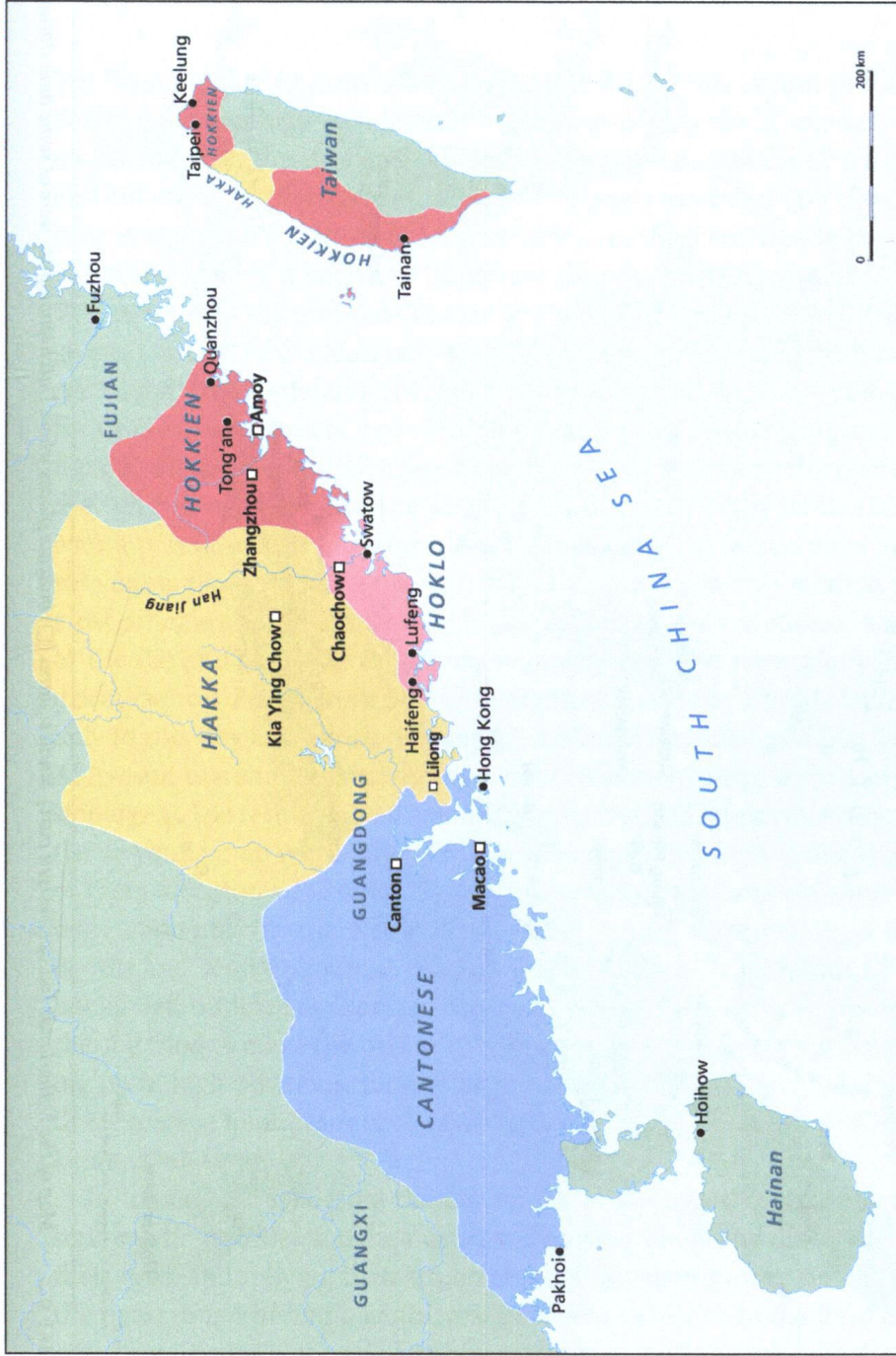
Thanks are also due to the staff of the former Sinological Institute Library (until 2009) and the East Asian Library (2009–2017), the former Oriental Department (now part of the Special Collections Department) of the Leiden University Library, the Special Collections Department of Leiden University Library, KITLV Library (now part of Leiden University Library), Nationaal Archief (The Hague), Letterkundig Museum (The Hague), Centraal Bureau voor Genealogie (The Hague), Athenaeum Bibliotheek (Deventer), Museum Naturalis (Leiden; in particular Steven van der Mije), National Museum of World Cultures (Ethnographical Museum, Leiden, in particular Paul van Dongen), Special Collections Department of Amsterdam University, and the Leiden archives (ELO) and other local archives.

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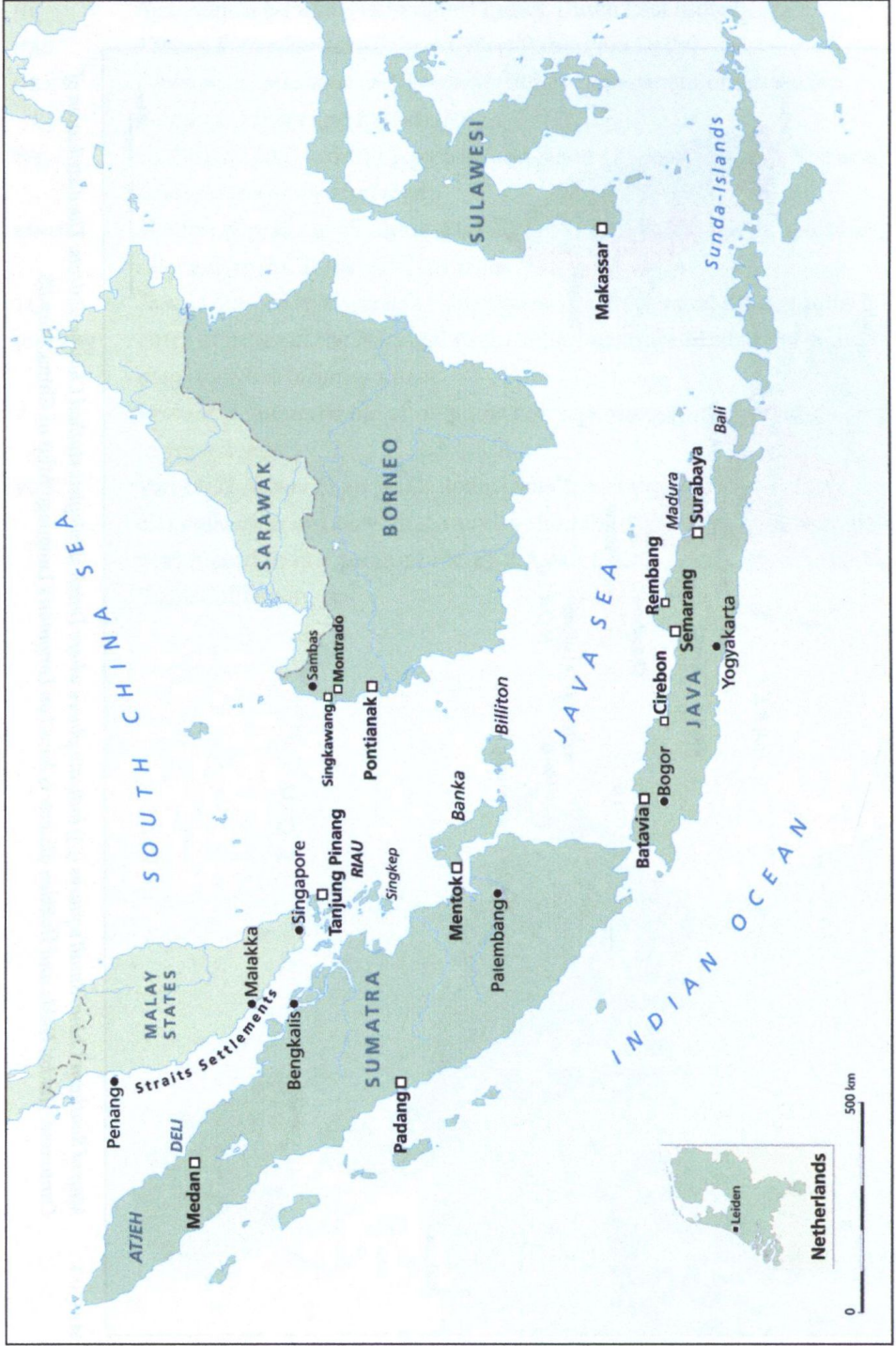
# Abbreviations

BB	<i>Binnenlandsch Bestuur</i> (Interior Administration), regional and local government of the Netherlands Indies, or short for Department of Interior Administration
BPL	Bibliotheca Publica Latina, shelfmark prefix of the Western Manuscripts Collection, Special Collections Department, Leiden University Library.
CBG	<i>Centraal Bureau voor Genealogie</i> (Central Bureau for Genealogy, The Hague)
ELO	<i>Erfgoed Leiden en Omstreken</i> (Leiden Municipal Archives, formerly Regionaal Archief Leiden e.o.)
Exh.	Exhibitum, file prefix of incoming documents or letters without immediate response by the Minister of Colonies, placed before the <i>Verbalen</i> of each day
<i>f</i>	<i>florijn</i> (formal name of the Dutch guilder)
Go	Shelfmark prefix of the Go Sian Lok Collection, a Chinese special collection in Leiden
HBS	<i>Hoogere Burger School</i> (Civil High School)
IB	<i>Indisch Besluit</i> (Indies Decision), archival prefix of a Government decision ( <i>Gouvernementsbesluit</i> ), a decision by the Governor-General of the Netherlands Indies
inv.	<i>Inventaris</i> (inventory)
Jhr	<i>Jonkheer</i> , esquire
KIT	<i>Koninklijk Instituut voor de Tropen</i> (Royal Tropical Institute, Amsterdam); its Library concerning the Dutch colonies was incorporated in Leiden University Library in 2014
KITLV (van NI)	<i>Koninklijk Instituut voor Taal-, Land- en Volkenkunde (van Nederlandsch-Indië)</i> , Royal Institute for Linguistics, Geography and Ethnography (of the Netherlands Indies); its Library was incorporated in Leiden University Library in 2014
KNAG	<i>Koninklijk Nederlandsch Aardrijkskundig Genootschap</i> (Royal Dutch Geographical Society), shelfmark prefix of a Chinese special collection donated by the KNAG to the Sinological Institute in Leiden in 2004
KNAW	<i>Koninklijke Nederlandse Akademie van Wetenschappen</i> (Royal Dutch Academy of Sciences; since 1938 with addition of <i>Nederlandsche</i> )
Mr.	<i>Meester</i> (Master of Laws)
NA	<i>Nationaal Archief</i> (National Archives, The Hague, formerly ARA)
NHM	<i>Nederlandsche Handel-Maatschappij</i> (1824, predecessor of ABN-Amro Bank)

- NI *Nederlandsch-Indië* (Netherlands Indies, Dutch East Indies)
- NRC *Nieuwe Rotterdamsche Courant* (New Rotterdam Daily)
- OEN *Onderwijs, Eeredienst en Nijverheid* (Indies Department of Education, Religious Affairs and Industry)
- Ser. Shelfmark prefix of the Japanese and some Chinese books in Serrurier's *Bibliothèque Japonaise* (1896).
- SINOL. Shelfmark prefix of all Chinese books in the East Asian Library, before 2009 referring to the Sinological Institute.
- TLV *Taal-, Land- en Volkenkunde* (Linguistics, Geography and Ethnography)
- toegang entry number in the National Archives, for instance Ministry of Colonies 1849–1900 has *toegang* 2.10.01
- V *Verbaal* (Ministerial file of outgoing correspondence on one day concerning one dossier)
- VGK *Van Gulik Kamer* (Van Gulik Room), shelfmark prefix of the Chinese special collection of books that were in the Library before about 1970, until 2016 placed in one room of the East Asian Library together with the Van Gulik Collection.



MAP 0.1 Map of Southern China. Small squares (□) indicate places where Dutch sinologists studied Chinese dialects. The distribution of Cantonese, Hakka, Hoklo and Hokkien dialects is based on Longman's Language Atlas of China, Map B8.



MAP 0.2 Map of the Netherlands Indies (Western part). Small squares (□) indicate places where Dutch sinologists were at some time stationed.

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