

The Early Dutch Sinologists (1854-1900)

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

VOLUME II



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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By

Koos Kuiper



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Cover illustration: Hoetink as Labour Inspector and his staff, Medan 1904. *Weekblad voor Indië* (see figure 14.1, p. 893).

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The Early Dutch Sinologists (1854–1900)

VOLUME II

Sinica Leidensia

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Barend J. ter Haar
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Wanneer ik de ondervinding, die ik en mijne andere collegas heb opgedaan, raadpleeg, dan blijkt het dat de meeste administratieve autoriteiten ons liever *niet* dan *wel hadden*, ons zooveel mogelijk uit alle Chinesche kwestien hielden, en ons, om een japanschen term te gebruiken, als lastige *dwarskijkers* beschouwden, die door hunne kennis der Chinesche taal, en het vertrouwen wat *dien ten gevolge* de Chinesche bevolking in hun stelde, met menig omstandigheid bekend raakten, die men liever onbekend wenschte te laten.

(In my and my other colleagues' experience, it became clear that most administrative authorities preferred not to have us, keeping us as much as possible out of Chinese affairs, and considering us, to use a Japanese term, as troublesome snoopers, who through their knowledge of the Chinese language, and the confidence given them accordingly by the Chinese population, became acquainted with many circumstances that they preferred to leave unknown)

NOTA BY SCHLEGEL AND HOFFMANN, 9 APRIL 1873, PP. 11–12, IN V 31/5/1873
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