

# The Netherlands and Japan in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the archives and a database.

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## Organisation of the archives in The Netherlands

From the top down the organisation of the Dutch archives is as follows: on the top level is the National Archive at The Hague, formerly called *Algemeen Rijksarchief* (General State Archives). According to the latest version of the Dutch Archive Law (1995), all government institutions have to send their documents and papers older than 20 years to the National Archive where they may be consulted by the public. Unfortunately, many ministries are not observing this law to the letter: the Ministry for Foreign Affairs is still keeping many archives of consulates, e.g. the archives on Japan after 1890, in their own archive.

A special law called 'Openbaarheid van Bestuur' (Publicity of Administration) makes it possible for researchers to consult documents of a younger date. This law is often used by journalists to gain access to contemporary papers and documents. Only documents containing material important for the safety of the state, and those which might be harmful to still living persons are excluded.

Under the National Archive are the Provincial Archives, officially called *Rijksarchief in de Provincie* (name of the Province) e.g. *Rijksarchief in de Provincie Gelderland*.

Under the Provincial Archives are the Municipal archives, maintained in most larger towns. Municipal Archives do not have to give their material to the National Archive. Smaller towns or villages will often have transferred their archives to the Provincial Archive of the province in which they are located, or to the nearest larger town. The Provincial Archive is located in the capital of the Province. (The Provincial Archive of Noord Holland is not in Amsterdam but in Haarlem, capital of that province). In Zuid Holland the Provincial Archive is in the National Archive at The Hague.

## Archives for the research of 19<sup>th</sup> century material.

For research in the material about Japan during the 19<sup>th</sup> century in The Netherlands, the National, Provincial and Municipal archives are to be considered first. To make a good use of the archives, a little history of The Netherlands will be useful.

After the *Vereenigde Oostindische Compagnie* (United East Indian Company (V.O.C.) had been

abolished in the last years of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the Dutch relations with Japan were administered from Batavia. The Netherlands came under French occupation and after a short period as a kingdom with a brother of Napoleon Bonaparte as a king, the country became a province of the French empire in 1810. In 1811 Batavia was occupied by the British and ruled by Stanford Raffles who tried to conquer the Dutch trading post on Dejima for the British. This period, in which Hendrik Doeff was chief factor of the trading post on Dejima forms the subject of a beautiful book recently published by Prof. dr. Nagazumi Yoko.

The archive of the government in Batavia is kept in the National Archive, in the Colonial Archives, under the name *Hooge Regering te Batavia* (Supreme government at Batavia) 1602-1827, and it contains much material about the government of posts outside the Indies, also about Japan. The archive consists of 1101 inventory items and is 20 running meters large.

After the end of the French occupation of The Netherlands, from 1813 on, the Dutch government established several ministries and institutions of which the Ministry of the Colonies and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs are the most important relating to Japan. During the Congress of Vienna (1815) the large states in Europe, Prussia, Great Britain and Austria had decided that the Republic of the Netherlands and the Austrian or Southern Netherlands should be united to form a kingdom. This kingdom would have to serve as a bulwark against an eventual new extension of the French Republic to the north. Great Britain had returned the Dutch East Indies to The Netherlands in order to provide a sufficient source of income to the new kingdom. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Ministry of the Colonies was the most important ministry in the Dutch government because it administered this source of income. As a member of the Dutch parliament once expressed it: 'the Indies is the cork that keeps The Netherlands afloat'. The difference in importance of the ministries of the colonies and for foreign affairs was shown in their size: while the Ministry of the Colonies counted hundreds of civil servants, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs was much smaller and in 1849 only 23 people were employed, growing to 45 at the end of the century.

Because of the distance, in place and in time, between The Netherlands and the Dutch Indies, a government was established in the colony. It consisted of a Governor General, assisted by a Council and several departments administering the navy, the agriculture, justice, etc. The government at Batavia also administered the relations of The Netherlands with Siam, China and Japan. Though the Regulations for the Administration of the Dutch Indies (*Regeringsreglement*) of 1855 specified the archipelago as the sphere of action of the Governor General, the relations with the three mentioned countries stayed the responsibility of the Batavia government till 1862, though gradually the Dutch Ministry of the Colonies and the government of The Hague became more directly involved in the decision making during the years before 1862.

Under the Dutch constitution of 1848 the king had supremacy over the colonial and foreign affairs. Therefore nearly all decisions taken by the Ministers of the Colonies and for Foreign Affairs had to be approved by the king. For this reason, the archive of the Cabinet of the King (*Kabinet des Konings*) sometimes yields interesting information lacking in the ministerial

archives. The archive consists of numbered files, an alphabetic index makes it possible to find which numbers refer to Japanese affairs. However, the contents of many numbers are missing as the papers from earlier numbers were transferred to later numbers when they were consulted. Searching for documents, it is easier to begin with the highest numbers and then work your way down to the lower numbers.

Friction between the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and that of the Colonies occurred when the Minister of the Colonies took decisions which were in the field of Foreign Affairs, like an American request for maps of the sea around Japan for the expedition of Perry. The matter was finally settled in June 1862, when the king agreed to the transfer of the administration of the relations with Japan (later also China and Siam) to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. In Japan this transfer was realised a year later with the appointment of Dirk de Graeff van Polsbroek to Political Agent and Consul General of The Netherlands in Japan. At the same time the Dutch Consulate General was transferred from Dejima to Yokohama. In Nagasaki a Consulate was maintained. Consul in Nagasaki became Albert J. Bauduin, agent for the *Nederlandsche Handel-Maatschappij* (Netherlands Trading Society) in Nagasaki.

The colonial civil servants in Japan left for Batavia and the accounts were closed. Until this change the archives on Japan are in the files of the Ministry of the Colonies in the *Nederlandse Factorij in Japan* (Dutch Factory in Japan). After the change, the archives on Japan are kept in the Foreign Ministry in the archive of the Consulate at Yokohama and Consulate at Nagasaki.

### **Decision making in the Dutch government in the 19<sup>th</sup> century**

For a good use of the archives it is important for the researcher to know how decisions were made by the Dutch government in the nineteenth century. The first important difference with today is that in the larger part of the nineteenth century the parliament did not play a role of importance. Apart from the yearly approval of the budget, the parliament had no powers and was not informed by the ministers or the king. The members of parliament did not belong to political parties and were roughly divided into two main groups: liberals, conservatives. They were chosen by districts or cities where only people paying a certain amount of tax were allowed to vote. Until the new constitution of 1848 which introduced freedom of religion, the state religion was Protestant and Roman Catholics could not be appointed in official functions or be a member of parliament.

Let us take a look at the decision making by studying an example: the visit of the Takeuchi Mission to The Netherlands in 1862. The coming of the Takeuchi Mission was announced by letter of the Japanese government to the Consul General at Dejima. He passed the letter on to the Governor General in Batavia. From there it was sent with the views on this visit of the Council of the Indies and the Governor General to the Minister for the Colonies at The Hague. The visit to The Netherlands was a subject discussed in the Cabinet Council (Ministerraad). From this deliberation resulted the plan for a conference with France and Great Britain and Russia in The

Hague, eventually with the Japanese. Consultation of the mentioned governments took place.

The Minister of the Colonies and his colleague for Foreign Affairs planned the visit. The Takeuchi Mission was one of the reasons that the representation of The Netherlands in Japan moved from the Ministry of the Colonies to that of Foreign Affairs. After the initial deliberations all the planning passed to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. A plan for the visit, including the several institutes and companies to be visited by the Japanese delegation, and the reception of the Japanese by the king and members of the royal family was presented to the king for his approval. The king agreed to the proposal but changed one member of the commission which would receive and accompany the Japanese: H.O. Wichers (engineer at Nagasaki) was dropped in favour of count J.M. van Lijnden, who had brought a portrait of the king to Japan in 1855.

The talks with Takeuchi and his colleagues were held at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and, because of the change in the representation, the Minister of the Colonies had no further task in the visit of the Japanese mission.

From the course of the decision making it becomes clear which archives will have to be consulted: those of the Ministry of the Colonies, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs (Consulate at Yokohama, the archives of the Dutch Legation at Paris, at London and at St Petersburg), the Cabinet Council, and the Cabinet of the King. Descriptions of the reception of the Takeuchi Mission and its stay in the Netherlands are to be found in several newspapers of that time which are available in the Royal Library (Koninklijke Bibliotheek). The remarks in the Dutch parliament are to be found in the official publication of the state the *Staatscourant* (Gazette).

Research into the history of the Dutch-Japanese relations is made complex by the existence of so many archives. For decision making in The Netherlands up to 1862, it is necessary to consult the archives of the Ministry of the Colonies. Sometimes the Japanese affairs are discussed in the letters exchanged between the Minister of the Colonies and the Governor General in Batavia. This correspondence existed on three levels: Official Correspondence and Semi-Official Correspondence and Private Correspondence. In the Official Correspondence, as the name shows, official matters were discussed. The Semi-Official Correspondence was a kind of correspondence between the Minister and the Governor General in which less formal affairs were discussed. In this correspondence often appointments are discussed and details are mentioned which are missing from the Official Correspondence. The Private Correspondence was an informal correspondence between Ministers and Governors who knew each other from their terms in the Netherlands' government. It was terminated by Minister J. Loudon, who wanted the relationship with his Governor General to be purely formal.

The decision making in Batavia is reflected in the Resolutions of the Governor General in the Colonial Archives. Unfortunately not all the material has been sent to The Hague when the Dutch East Indies became Indonesia after the Second World War.

For the period after 1862, the Archives of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs are the most important. Later in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, from 1887 till 1941 a regular reportage was established about

political affairs in Japan. It is collected in one archive called Political Reportage Japan. The Resident Minister in Japan regularly reported on political matters from Tokyo to The Hague. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century many of these reports were written in French. The reports, contain newspaper clippings in English, French and German. Subjects in this archive are the Japanese Imperial Court, ministerial crises, changes of cabinets, political and student unrest, hostilities and military manoeuvres, negotiations on treaties and information on legislation, taxes and trade, state visits, death of leading persons, murders and political assassinations, and much more.

### **The archive of the Ministry of the Colonies.**

The materials in this archive are kept in Ministerial Archives, Deposited Archives, Documentation and the Library. The library of the ministry, containing many books on Japan, was donated to the library of the University of Leiden when the ministry was abolished after World War II.

The Ministerial Archives are divided in two parts, the *non secret* archives and the *secret* archives. The non secret archives contain minutes, resolutions, post books and indexes. The secret or cabinet archives likewise contain minutes, post books and indexes. The archive also contains a register of the resolutions of the Governor General of the Dutch East Indies, some of which refer to the relations with Japan.

The most famous source for material relating to Japan is the archive of the *Nederlandsche Factorij in Japan*, the archive of the Dutch trading post on Dejima. It consists of two parts: 1609-1842 and 1843-1860. In these archives are the Archives of the Director of the trading post, Archives of the ware housekeeper and the Archives of the Society of Private Trade in Japan, created in 1826 by the director G.F. Meylan, discontinued in 1831. The period of 1843-1860 is organised in the same way but also contains a separate archive of the voyage of J.H. Donker Curtius to Edo in 1859-1860. These archives have been made accessible by the work of Marius Roessingh in 1964 *The Archive of the Dutch Factory in Japan, 1609-1860*. The archive is 30 running meters large and contains 1952 inventory items.

The archive of the *Nederlandsche Factorij in Japan* contains the 'Japanese side' of the documents and letters. For the 'Dutch side' the archives of the Ministry of the Colonies has to be consulted. There, in the minutes and resolutions, the real decision making can be found.

### **The Archives of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.**

From 1814 till 1824 the Ministry was composed of departments for political, juridical, protocol, and secret financial affairs, and a department for consular and trade affairs. In 1824 the two departments were united. In 1861 the Cabinet of the Minister was separated from this department. From 1876 a department of political affairs, consular and trade affairs existed.

In the archives up to 1870 are kept non secret, secret and very secret correspondence and minutes of correspondence with post books, indexes, etc. arranged by section. After 1870 the

archives were divided in two parts: the *Large Archive*, consisting of the political and diplomatic affairs, called the A-files, and the B-files, concerning consular and trade affairs. The A-files up to 1918 have been transferred from the ministry to the National Archive. The National Archive also keeps a series of ratifications of treaties by foreign powers, conventions, etc. where the treaties concluded with Japan and other nations are kept.

### **Consulate at Yokohama**

The archive of the Consulate at Yokohama contains documents from 1860-1870. The archive consists of 30 inventory items, 2 running meters, containing General Correspondence with calendars, correspondence concerning the Dutch Hospital in Yokohama and the navy coaling station there (June 1865-June 1869), accounts and financial administration and receipts, and documents in Japanese. Important for researchers: the documents of this consulate from the opening of the consulate on 1 July 1859 till 1860 are kept in the archive of the Dutch Factory in Japan in the archives of the Ministry of the Colonies.

The period of this archive is dominated by the correspondence of Dirk de Graeff van Polsbroek, who became Acting Vice Consul of The Netherlands in Japan in July 1859. In 1862 he was promoted to Political Agent and Consul-General and in 1868 he received the title of Resident Minister. In January 1869 he was the first foreign representative to present his credentials to Emperor Meiji in Tokyo.

### **Consulate at Nagasaki**

The archive of the Consulate Nagasaki covers the period 1860-1915. The archive consists of 94 inventory items, 2 running meters. Among these items are the general correspondence, civil registry, documents about the shipyard at Tategami and the workshop at Aku no Ura, and disputes between trading companies, both foreign and Japanese.

After transfer of the Consulate General to Yokohama in 1862, the Agent of the Netherlands Trading Society, Albert J. Bauduin was appointed Consul at Nagasaki. Bauduin left for Hyogo in 1868 where he became Consul and the Consulate at Nagasaki was directed by F.P. Tombrinck. In later years, especially after 1870, the number of Dutch citizens in Nagasaki decreased quickly and in the 1880's only five Dutch nationals were living in Nagasaki. It became more and more difficult to find enough Dutch nationals for the Consular Court or the function of Consul. In the later years the Consulate was held by German or Belgian Consuls.

### **Dutch Legation in Japan**

After the Meiji-transformation of 1868, there were changes in the representation of The Netherlands in Japan. In 1868 the representation in Japan changed from a Consulate General to a Legation. De Graeff van Polsbroek left Japan in February 1869. The archive of the Dutch Legation in Japan covers the period from 1870 till 1890. During this period a Consulate was

maintained in Yokohama. The archive ends in 1890 because the papers from 1890 till 1923 were kept in the Dutch Embassy in Japan, which was destroyed during the Kanto earthquake. Only the correspondence sent from Tokyo to The Hague during those years may be found in the archives of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

The archive consists of 58 inventory items, 2,5 running meters, containing general correspondence, correspondence with the consulates in Japan, and subjects like hunting licenses in Japan, opening and closing of Japanese harbours, contracts, passports for travel in Japan, liquidation of the Takashima coal mine, etc.

### **Trade treaty with Japan**

A special archive was kept for the documents concerning the negotiation of the trade agreement with Japan, 1852-1870. This archive, runs parallel with the archives of the Dutch Factory in Japan and the Consulate Yokohama and it contains papers and documents sent from Japan in those years. The archive consists of the numbers 3141-3147 in the archive of Foreign Affairs, containing papers concerning the 'opening' of Japan to western trade with some earlier documents. For researchers of the negotiations between Japan and The Netherlands about the treaties of 1856, 1857 and 1858 this archive will furnish most documents.

### **Civil Registry**

The archives of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs also contain the registers kept in foreign countries. The registers kept in Japan, contain records of birth, marriage and death of Dutch citizens in Japan. At the end of the nineteenth century marriages of Dutch citizens with Japanese women are registered and the legalisation of children born from relations of Dutch citizens with Japanese women in earlier years are registered.

### **The Ministry of the Navy**

The Ministry of the Navy contains some material on Japan, especially where the contacts between the Dutch Navy and Japan are concerned. Some documentation on the navy detachments teaching in Japan under command of G.C.C. Pels Rijcken en J.W. Huijssen van Kattendijke, and the logbooks of Dutch navy ships, are preserved in the National Archive. Files on the personnel of the navy may be consulted to find particulars on members of the crews of navy ships which visited Japan. A special branch of the Dutch Royal Navy, the Institute for the History of the Navy (Instituut voor Maritieme Historie) in The Hague contains many documents and pictures.

### **Nederlandsche Handelmaatschappij (Netherlands Trading Society)**

Kept in the National Archive are the archives of the *Nederlandsche Handel-Maatschappij* (Netherlands Trading Society, NHM). This organisation was created in 1824 in order to promote national trade, shipping, fishing and agriculture, factories and business. Agencies were

established in many countries, from 1859 on also in Japan. The first agency in Japan was set up in Nagasaki by Albert Bauduin while P.F.B. von Siebold was employed during the first two years as an advisor. An agency in Yokohama followed in 1863. A short time the Netherlands Trading Society maintained agencies in Nagasaki, Yokohama, Osaka, Hyogo/Kobe and even Niigata and Edo/Tokyo but after the Meiji transformation the Dutch trade with Japan rapidly declined and in 1884 the last agency, the one in Yokohama, closed its doors. Dutch Consuls in opened ports in Japan were usually recruited from the personnel of the NHM.

The archives contain correspondence with the agencies and yearly reports of the agencies and the direction in Amsterdam. Because the agencies in Japan played an important role as purveyor of teachers and ships for Japan, contracts with European teachers sent to Japan, and for example, documents and drawings of ships like the *Kaiyo Maru* and a later ship *Nitsin* are in these archives. The archive kept in the National Archive is about 1000 running meters long.

The Netherlands Trading Society was reformed into the *Twentsche Bank*, later *Algemene bank Nederland* and now *ABN-AMRO Bank*. Not all materials have been transferred to the National Archive. Sometimes it is advisable to contact the main office of the ABN-AMRO Bank at Amsterdam and make inquiries. The archives of the bank have recently been moved to Weesp.

### **Provincial and Municipal Archives**

To find out what kind of material is kept in Provincial and Municipal Archives it is best to consult the two blue books entitled *Sources of the History of Asia and Oceania in The Netherlands*. They were published in 1982 and are now out of print, but many good libraries will possess these books. The index in these books will provide an entry to the enormous amount of letters and documents owned by the various archives.

For example, the Provincial Archive of the province Gelderland in the city of Arnhem owns a letter written by a midshipman on board the Dutch navy ship *Medusa* in 1863 during the incident at Shimonoseki where the ship was fired at by the guns of Choshu. The midshipman, W.G.A. Ziegenhirt von Rosenthal, wrote a letter to his mother describing the event from his level. The Municipal library at Arnhem keeps Dr J.K. Van den Broek's manuscripts of a Japanese-Dutch and Dutch-Japanese dictionary.

The Municipal Archive of Amsterdam likewise contains the archives of companies trading with Japan in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. A number of them are mentioned in the already mentioned books *Sources of the History of Asia and Oceania in The Netherlands*.

### **Others**

A special institute is the *Koninklijk Instituut voor Taal, Land- en Volkenkunde* (Royal Institute of Linguistics and Antropology) in Leiden. Though its main subject is the Dutch Indies, the Institute has a library of many books and magazines containing articles about Japan.



Among the libraries in The Netherlands, the library of Leiden University deserves to be mentioned. It contains not only many books on Japan but also manuscripts and the papers left by Prof.dr. J.J. Hoffmann, first professor of Japanese (1855), and A.C.J. Geerts, a Dutch pharmacist in the service of the Japanese government during the last half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Other important libraries are the Royal Library at The Hague and the Library of Amsterdam University.

In The Netherlands are a lot of archives kept by private persons. In the National Archive a register is kept of private archives which may be consulted to find out where to find these archives. However, as there is no obligation to register, the list is by no means complete.

### **Photographs**

Photographs from 19<sup>th</sup> century Japan are kept by private collectors and some museums in The Netherlands. The Study and Documentation Centre for Photography of Leiden University, now situated in the University Library, owns a collection of reproductions of most of the photographs of the period 1859-1875 in its own and other collections. Photographic collections are in the *Nederlands Historisch Scheepvaart Museum* (Maritime Museum) at Amsterdam (albums of Dirk de Graeff van Polsbroek) and *Koninklijk Huis Archief* (The Royal House Archives) at The Hague (only accessible after previous appointment). The *Rijksmuseum* (National Museum) and the Maritime Museum at Amsterdam both have a small exhibition of objects from Dejima. The last mentioned museum also owns the diaries of Dirk de Graeff van Polsbroek and H.O. Wichers besides other material. The *Rijksmuseum voor Volkenkunde* (Museum of Ethnology) at Leiden proudly owns the collections of P.F.B. Von Siebold, whose collection of plants is kept by the *National Herbarium* at Leiden while the animals, stones and minerals he brought back from Japan are in the *Museum Naturalis* in the same city.

Maps are kept in the National Archive, but the Library of Amsterdam University has a huge collection of maps and atlases too, with very old items among them.

In this paper it is not possible to mention all archives, institutes and libraries in The Netherlands keeping material about the history of the relations between The Netherlands and Japan. Because of the long duration of the relations with Japan there are few archives, museums or libraries in The Netherlands which have nothing at all on Japan. An index on all archives and libraries does not exist and in many cases the researcher will have to use her or his own ingenuity to discover where the wanted documents or objects might be. As my own experience has recently shown, there is still much to be discovered by a thorough search of Dutch archives, libraries, museums and other institutions.

### **A Database of the Foreign Affairs archives on Japan.**

For those among you, who are unfamiliar with databases, just a few words of explanation. All of us use databases in our daily life, without even thinking about it. If you want to find a

telephone number in your pocket book, you are actually consulting a database. Telephone numbers are sorted by the name of the person or institution you might want to call and usually you also add their addresses or fax numbers. To use your telephone list, you have to know the name of the person you want to call. If you only remember the telephone number, but you forgot the name, you will have a hard time going through your list to find the name corresponding with the number. This is where databases in computers are very useful. If you made a card file on an archive, containing a keyword, the archive where you have found it and the date of the document, you will sort the cards by keyword. But what if you want to sort them by date? A computer database can do so in a few seconds.

In a computer database the 'card' on which you write your data is called a 'record'. The data are entered into 'fields' where each field contains specific data, not entered into other fields.

In 1999 I was asked by the Microfilm company MMF in Lisse, The Netherlands, to compile an index on the archives of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs on Japan which they had filmed in the National Archive. The company wanted a list of keywords and the numbers of the microfiches they had published the documents on. Because it was important for my own research to compile a larger reference, I decided to add many other fields to the database which might prove to be useful. This resulted in a database containing nearly 17.000 records.

The indexed archives were the five archives mentioned before, Consulate Nagasaki, Consulate Yokohama, Legation Japan and Trade agreement with Japan and the Political Reports. For the first four archives I built a database containing the fields

Nr. Or.,	the original number of the letter or document
Nr.Ex.,	the number of the document in the archive
Jaar,	Year (e.g. 1862 or Bun 2 for Bunkyo 2)
Maand,	Month. (Japanese intercalary months are indicated by*)
Dag,	Day
Fiche No.,	The number of the microfiche
Van,	From, the name of the sender of the letter or the document
Aan,	To, the name of the destination of the letter or the document
Trefwoord,	Keyword (sometimes a document has more than one keyword)
Archive,	Name and number of the archive

All fields in this database may be searched for information. In my own database an alphabetical list will open showing the possible terms for a search, but this depends on the program used. I have built the database in Filemaker Pro 5 on a Macintosh G3 Computer.

A typical record would look like this:

Nr. Or.,	224
Nr.Ex.,	429
Jaar,	1867
Maand,	11

Dag, 25  
Fiche No., 236  
Van, Consul Generaal  
Aan, GGNI  
Trefwoord, Japanners voor Ind. leger  
Archive, CY 10

From these data it appears that the Consul General in Japan (Dirk de Graeff van Polsbroek) wrote a letter No. 224 to the Governor General of the Dutch Indies (GGNI) on 25 November 1867 about the employment of Japanese in the Dutch Indian army. This letter is to be found in the archive Consulate of Yokohama (CY) No. 10, No. 429, or on microfiche No. 236 of this archive. The database was sorted on date (year, month, day) and fiche number.

The strength of the database is the flexibility in the display of data. It is very simple to arrange the records by date or by keyword or by a combination of several terms, e.g. the documents sent by the Governor General in 1859. In this way it is possible to create a so-called sub-set which contains all the records you would need for a specific research.

The databases of the four first mentioned archives were similar in structure and could easily be joined into one large database. Still some work was necessary to take out writing mistakes and to make the terms in the different fields more homogenous.

When this large database was finished I decided to make it not only available to the buyers of the microfiches but also to researchers wherever they may be. The MMF company agreed to put it on their web page at [www.mmfmicropublications.nl](http://www.mmfmicropublications.nl) from where it may be downloaded free of charge. The database is available as a comma delimited file. That means that the fields containing the information in the original database are separated by commas, enabling import of the file into various database programs and various computer systems. In this way it may be used both on Macintosh and other (e.g. Windows) computers. An explanation is available in downloadable text files.

The database is in Dutch but with a Dutch-Japanese dictionary it will be easy to change the Dutch words or expressions into Japanese words in a suitable database program. Researchers who want to visit the National Archive in The Hague to search the mentioned archives are able to find where to look for the subject they want to study by the use of this database. Entering the subject, they will find the numbers of the archives and files where their subject is mentioned.

#### Literature:

C.B. Wels, *Aloofness and neutrality* (Utrecht, HES Publishers, 1982) ISBN 90 6194 373 6

J.A. de Jonge and others, *Geschiedenis van het moderne Nederland* (Houten, De Haan/Unieboek, 1988) ISBN 90 269 4645 7

F.G.P. Jaquet (Ed.), *Sources of the history of Asia and Oceania in The Netherlands, Part II: Sources 1796-1949* (Munich, New York, London, Paris, K.G. Saur, 1983). ISBN 3 598 21477 4.



Flyer distributed in Edo announcing the Takeuchi Mission to Europe. Enclosure in the letter of P.F.B. von Siebold to the Minister of the Colonies in The Hague, 6 June 1861.  
(National Archive, Colonial Archives Nr. 5916)