



Universiteit
Leiden
The Netherlands

Translating China : Henri Borel (1869-1933)

Heijns, A.J.

Citation

Heijns, A. J. (2016, June 28). *Translating China : Henri Borel (1869-1933)*. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/40701>

Version: Not Applicable (or Unknown)

License: [Licence agreement concerning inclusion of doctoral thesis in the Institutional Repository of the University of Leiden](#)

Downloaded from: <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/40701>

Note: To cite this publication please use the final published version (if applicable).

Cover Page



Universiteit Leiden



The handle <http://hdl.handle.net/1887/40701> holds various files of this Leiden University dissertation.

Author: Heijns, A.J.

Title: Translating China : Henri Borel (1869-1933)

Issue Date: 2016-06-28

Translating China: Henri Borel (1869–1933)

Proefschrift

ter verkrijging van

de graad van Doctor aan de Universiteit Leiden,
op gezag van Rector Magnificus Prof.mr. C.J.J.M. Stolker
volgens besluit van het College voor Promoties
te verdedigen op 28 juni 2016
klokke 15:00 uur

door

Audrey Jane Heijns

geboren te Delft

in 1967

Promotores: Prof. Dr. M. van Crevel
Prof. Dr. B. ter Haar (University of Oxford)

Promotiecommissie: Dr. C. Bruno (SOAS)
Prof. Dr. A. B. M. Naaijken (Universiteit Utrecht)
Prof. Dr. R. P. E. Sybesma

CONTENTS

Introduction	vii
Biographical Note.....	xi
Biographical Timeline.....	xii
Acknowledgements	xiii
Conventions	xv
 Part I: Discovering China (1888-1894)	
Chapter 1: Preconceptions	3
1.1 Before Leiden	3
1.2 From Dislike to Fascination	7
1.3 A Prelude to Future Publications	13
1.4 Perceptions of China	19
 Chapter 2: Romanticism	 23
2.1 Poetics and Poethood	23
2.2 Chinese Pedagogies	27
2.3 Scholarship and Disappointment	29
2.4 Translating China	32
 Part II: In Search of ‘the Real China’ (1894-1916)	
Chapter 3: Orientalism	43
3.1 ‘A Degeneration of the Chinese’	44
3.2 Private Law from a Chinese Perspective	50
3.3 Chinese Philosophy	52
3.4 Negotiating between Cultures	65
3.5 Return to the Netherlands	74
 Chapter 4: Torn between East and West	 77
4.1 Issues of Belonging	79
4.2 Searching for China	85
4.3 Transfer to Pontianak	86
 Chapter 5: A Poetic Vision	 91
5.1 The Visual and the Spiritual	92
5.2 Over-Confidence	109
5.3 Criticizing Dutch Sinology	117

Part III: Reevaluating China (1916-1933)

Chapter 6: A Chinese Spirit	127
6.1 Intuitions	129
6.2 Idealizing China	140
Chapter 7: Sinicizing Chinese Literature	151
7.1 <i>Strange Stories from a Chinese Studio</i>	152
7.2 <i>Wonders Old and New</i>	164
7.3 <i>Of Life and Death</i>	171
7.4 <i>Mencius</i>	177
Epilogue	185
Works Cited	189
Summary in Dutch	213
Propositions	216
Curriculum Vitae	217



Henri Borel, 1892.

From *Letters of Frederik van Eeden to Henri Borel* (Brieven van Frederik van Eeden aan Henri Borel) by Frederik van Eeden, 1933.

