

# Gustaaf Schlegel and his Dutch-Chinese Dictionary

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In the 1880s, Dutch sinologist Gustaaf Schlegel (1840-1903) published his 荷華文語類參 *Dutch-Chinese Dictionary with Transcription of Chinese Characters in Zhangzhou dialect* in four volumes. The dictionary lists Dutch words alphabetically, and provides Chinese equivalents with Hokkien transcription. The aim of the dictionary was to help Dutch students and translators with their translations into Chinese. Many of the users were (to be) appointed as Chinese interpreters in the Dutch East Indies (present-day Indonesia). Much more than a lexicon, the dictionary includes sample sentences in Chinese from Chinese source texts, such as the *Book of Odes* 詩經, *The Analects* 論語, *Wonders Old and New* 今古奇觀, and *Kangxi Dictionary* 康熙字典. In addition, Schlegel also gives comments on Chinese culture and informs the user of cultural differences and provides explanations when there is no equivalent in Chinese. In some cases of untranslatability, he even resorts to the Bible translation for examples. By analyzing the sources, translations and comments in the entries, my findings will shed light on Schlegel's interpretation of Chinese literature and culture, and his translation strategy. This will be revealing of Schlegel as a translator and teacher of Chinese, who must have had great influence on his students, translators and other users of his dictionary. Hence, the present study will contribute to the history of translators of Chinese in the late-nineteenth century.