

The dating of Cabanis's "*Museum Heineanum: Singvögel*"

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ABSTRACT: Jean Cabanis's *Museum Heineanum: Singvögel* includes gathering dates that evidence type-setting in 1850-1851 which is the date range given on the title page. However, other evidence presented here shows that publication occurred in 1853, and April 1853 is recommended on that basis. At least the first nine gatherings, all typeset in 1850, have been reported, and must have been proofed, and seen by other ornithologists but these are considered proof sheets which, as indicated in Article 9 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN, 1999), do not constitute publication.

KEYWORDS: Cabanis, Heine, Museum Heineanum, publication date, proofs, bibliographic sources (Germany).

INTRODUCTION

Ferdinand Heine¹ (1809-1894), landowner and public official, established a large collection of birds in c.1830 at his homestead St. Burchard near Halberstadt, Saxony-Anhalt, Germany (Nicolai et al., 1994, Quaisser & Nicolai, 2006). In the second half of the 1840s, Heine invited Jean Cabanis (1816-1906), bird curator at the Zoologisches Museum (now Museum für Naturkunde) in Berlin, to identify specimens in his collection and to publish a catalogue of the collection (Quaisser & Nicolai, 2006). The first volume of the Catalogue, covering *Singvögel* (true songbirds) was published some years later. It is usually dated from 1850-1851 (e.g. Schalow, 1906: 343, Zimmer, 1926: 122) or from 1851 (e.g. Quaisser & Nicolai, 2006: 20), but various uncertainties led Quaisser & Dickinson (2011: 81) to consider the dating of this work unresolved. This prompted me to review the available evidence.

Cabanis's *Singvögel* appeared in 29 consecutively numbered gatherings (plus introduction plus two additional pages), of which gatherings 14-29 bear gathering dates ranging from January 1851 (gathering 14; day not given) to 23 October 1851 (gathering 29). The cover bears the date range "1850-1851" and the preface was signed by Cabanis in October 1851. This indicates that at least some gatherings (presumably 1-13) were set in 1850 and that the remaining gatherings were set in January - October 1851. However, gathering dates are not the same as publication dates.

THE BOOK AS A WHOLE

Hartlaub (1851) did not list Cabanis's *Singvögel* in his report on the advances in ornithology achieved during 1850 (although he cited a species from the work; see below). In

¹ This Ferdinand Heine was the father of Ferdinand Heine Jr. (1840-1920) who co-authored further parts of the catalogue with Cabanis (Cabanis & Heine Jr., 1859-1860, 1860, 1863a,b) and a final catalogue with Reichenow (Heine Jr. & Reichenow, 1890). For bibliographies of the Heines see Gebhardt (1964) and Quaisser & Nicolai (2006).

his subsequent report for 1851, presumably written in the first half of 1852, Hartlaub (1852: 4) wrote (my translation): “Dr. J. Cabanis is busy writing a [...] catalogue of the excellent ornithological collection of [...] F. Heine [...]. Some 150 pages of this [...] significant work have been already printed and [...] we can thus briefly mention this work here even *before* [my italics] it is published [...].” Hartlaub (1852: 4) thus explicitly said that the book was not published in 1851 and, indeed, I was not able to find Cabanis’s *Singvögel* listed in any other “recent literature” reviews for 1851. Moreover, I was not able to discover any other indication in the contemporary literature that the work was published before 1853. Cabanis (1853b) reviewed and praised Hartlaub’s (1852) report and did not object to Hartlaub’s statement that his (Cabanis’s) *Singvögel* was not yet published. He called the work (p. 45; my translation) “an aptly written annual report of our esteemed friend Hartlaub” and further evaluated this and previous reports from the same series as follows: “The great usefulness of these reports is acknowledged. They are not only of great importance for the history of ornithology, but they offer a brief but thorough overview for everybody who is interested in the ornithological literature of the past decades. We cannot recommend these annual reports warmly enough and we sincerely hope they will long continue to be published.” Cabanis’s review appeared in the January 1853 issue of the *Journal für Ornithologie*; the preface to this issue was signed by Cabanis (1853a: 4) and dated 12 November 1852.

One year later, Hartlaub (1853: 27–28) included *Singvögel* among the works published in 1852, albeit without giving a date of publication for the work (he gave no publication dates for most works he listed). It is known that Hartlaub sometimes included in his annual reports on ornithology works published after the given year, but received by him before he finished his report on that year (Mathews, 1922; Mlíkovský unpub. obs.). Hence, an inclusion of a work in one of Hartlaub’s annual reports does not mean that the work indeed was published in the target year. I found no explicit statement in any contemporary work that Cabanis’s *Singvögel* was published in 1852.

First reviews of Cabanis’s *Singvögel* were published in 1853 (Agassiz, 1853: 287, Anonymous, 1853a: 69 (Figure 1A), Anonymous, 1853b: 226, Anonymous, 1853c: 20 (Figure 1B), Anonymous, 1853e: 50 (Figure 1C), Gersdorf, 1853b: 57 (Figure 1D); see also Graevell, 1854: 32). The earliest of these appeared on 15 May (Anonymous, 1853a: 69). Gersdorf (1853b: 57) listed the book in the issue of the (almost) weekly *Leipziger Repertorium*². Obituaries listed in this periodical indicate that Gersdorf (or his staff) received the book during the period 6–18 April 1853³. Hartlaub (1853: 28) mentioned that *Singvögel* will be of use to the participants of the “diesjährige Versammlung in Halberstadt” (“this year’s meeting in Halberstadt”), i.e. of the 7th Annual Meeting of the Deutsche Ornithologen-Gesellschaft (“German Society of Ornithologists”), which was held on 11–14 July 1853

² Somewhat fewer than 52 issues were published per year and the exact dates of individual issues is so far unclear.

³ In the period of interest, Gersdorf (1853a) listed obituaries of persons deceased from 4 March – 5 April 1853, Gersdorf (1853c) listed those deceased from 4–14 April 1853, and Gersdorf (1853d) listed those deceased from 19–26 April 1853. The apparent gap between the latter two lists apparently reflects the fact that no persons of interest died during 15–18 April 1853, because Gersdorf’s 1853c and 1853d reports were published in consecutive issues of the *Leipziger Repertorium* (see references). Gersdorf reported on Cabanis’s *Singvögel* in the sheet with the obituaries for 4–14 April. Obituaries included in the preceding and the subsequent issues of the *Leipziger Repertorium* thus indicate that he (or his staff) received Cabanis’s book after 5 April and before 19 April 1853.

(Cabanis 1854). Pucheran (1853: 550) referred to p. 233 of Cabanis's *Singvögel* in the December 1853 issue of the *Revue et Magasin de Zoologie Pure et Appliquée*, showing that he had access to the book before that date. Anonymous (1854: lxiv) mentioned that the Library of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia received a copy of Cabanis's *Singvögel* on 6 December 1853. Pucheran (December 1853) appears to have been the first naturalist to refer to the *Singvögel* in a scientific paper. All previous reports from 1853 were from "recent literature" reviews.

Cabanis, Dr. Jean, Museum Heineanum. Verzeichniss der ornitholog. Sammlung des Oberamtmann Ferd. Heine, auf Gut St. Burchard vor Halberstadt. Mit krit. Anmerkgn. u. Beschreibg. der neuen Arten, systematisch bearb. 1. Thl., die Singvögel enthaltend. gr. 8. Halberstadt 1851. n. 1 Thlr. 20 Ngr.

Figure 1A. Anonymous (1853a) – page 69 from *Intelligenz-Blatt zum Serapeum*, 1853(9): 69-72.

Cabanis, Jean, Museum Heineanum. Verzeichniss der ornithologischen Sammlung des Oberamtmann Ferdinand Heine, auf Gut St. Burchard vor Halberstadt. Mit kritischen Anmerkungen und Beschreibung der neuen Arten, systematisch bearbeitet. I. Theil, die Singvögel (Oscines) enthaltend. Halberstadt, 1850 — 51. R. Frantz in Comm. 8. (VIII. 233 p. Corrigenda 1 p.) 1²/₃ rthl.

Figure 1B. Anonymous (1853c) – page 20 from *Bibliotheca Historico-Naturalis Physico-Chemica et Mathematica oder Systematisch Geordnete Uebersicht der in Deutschland und im Auslande auf dem Gebiete der Gesammten Naturwissenschaften und der Mathematik neu Erschienenen Bücher*, 3(1).

Cabanis, Dr. Jean, erster Custos d. kgl. zoolog. Sammlung zu Berlin. Museum Heineanum. Verzeichniss der ornitholog. Sammlung des Oberamtmann Ferdinand Heine, auf Gut St. Burchard vor Halberstadt. Mit kritischen Anmerkungen und Beschreibung der neuen Arten, systematisch bearbeitet. 1. Thl., die Singvögel enthaltend. Halberstadt, 1850 — 51. Frantz in Comm. (1 Bl., VIII, 234 S. gr. 8^o) geh. n. 1. 20.

Figure 1C. Anonymous (1853e) – page 50 from *Messkatalog. Neue Folge 6: Michaelis 1853*.

[4499] Museum Heineanum. Verzeichniss der ornitholog. Sammlung des Oberamtmann F. Heine, auf Gut St. Burchard vor Halberstadt. Mit krit. Anmerkungen u. Beschreibung der neuen Arten, systematisch bearb. von Dr. J. Cabanis. 1. Thl., die Singvögel enthaltend. Halberstadt, Frantz. 1851. VIII u. 234 S. gr. 8. (n. 1 Thlr. 20 Ngr.)

Figure 1D. Gersdorf (1853b) – page 57 from *Leipziger Repertorium der Deutschen und Ausländischen Literatur*, 19.

Further evidence comes from the book catalogues published on the occasion on the semi-annual Leipzig Book Fair, one of the largest book fairs in Europe, which started after Easter Day (March to April, depending on the year) and after St. Michael's Day (29 August) each year (Wittmann, 1999), but the dates varied from year to year⁴. Although R. Frantz of Halberstadt, the publisher of the *Singvögel* always had advertisements or notices in these catalogues, Cabanis's *Singvögel* was not mentioned in those in the 1851, 1852 and 1853 spring fair catalogues (Anonymous, 1851a, b, 1852a, b, 1853d) and first appeared in the catalogue for the St. Michael's Day Book Fair in 1853 (Anonymous, 1853e: 50). This indicates that Cabanis's *Singvögel* was not published early enough to be included in the catalogue for the 1853 Easter Day Book Fair, which presumably started on 17 April (Jubilate in 1853), but early enough to be included in the catalogue for the 1853 St. Michael's Day Book Fair (Figure 2), which started on 4 September (Sayre, 1959).

In summary, the reports by Hartlaub (1852) and Cabanis (1853b) show that Cabanis's *Singvögel* was not published before 1852, and there is no reliable evidence that the work was published in 1852; Hartlaub's (1853) report being unsubstantiated in this respect. Subsequent reports show that the work was published in 1853 before 11 July (Hartlaub, 1853), before 16 June (Anonymous, 1853b; first record outside Germany), before 15 May (Anonymous, 1853a), probably between 6-18 April (Gersdorf, 1853a, b, c, d), and probably after March 1853 (Anonymous, 1853e). I conclude that Cabanis's work *Singvögel* was quite probably published in April 1853. On this evidence the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN, 1999, Art. 21.3) leads me to recommend a date of publication of 30 April 1853 until better data are available.

ADVANCE SHEETS

Zimmer (1926: 122) observed that Sclater (1857: viii) said "I am informed that the sheets of his [= Cabanis's] work containing the Tanagers [= pp. 21-30] — though not in England — were in circulation in Germany in the latter part of the year 1850 [...]." and suggested that part(s) of the *Singvögel* might thus have been published in 1850. Iredale (in Sherborn, 1922: xxxiv) reported that "there is no evidence that any part was issued before Oct. 1851". Charles Davies Sherborn's unpublished note in a BMNH (Natural History Museum at Tring) copy of the *Singvögel* says "I do not know of any evidence to show that pp. 1-106 were issued before 1851" (Quaisser & Dickinson, 2011: 81).

Better data were provided by Hartlaub (1852), who said that Cabanis's work was *not* published by 1851, but that some 150 pages were already printed, presumably at the time he wrote the report, i.e. in 1852 (presumably in the first half of that year). Note that gathering dates show that the whole work was proofed before November 1851, but this information had apparently not reached Hartlaub. Hartlaub (1852: 4) mentioned some details from Cabanis's work, so he must have seen a part of it. In the taxonomic part of his annual report

⁴ The Easter Day Book Fair started on "Misericordias Domini" (second Sunday after Easter Day) in the early 19th century (Sayre, 1959: 4-5), on "Jubilate" (third Sunday after Easter Day) in mid 19th century (Bohn, 1850: 86) and on "Cantate" (third Sunday after Easter Day) in the 1860s (Anonymous 1869). I adopt here "Jubilate" as the starting date of the Easter Day Book Fair in 1853. The St. Michael's Day Book Fair started on the first Sunday after the St. Michael's Day in mid 19th century (Bohn, 1850: 86). The catalogues had to be printed before the start of each Book Fair, hence the deadline for acceptance of entries for the catalogue had to be a few weeks earlier.

for 1851, Hartlaub (1852: 17-38) listed new species of birds described by Cabanis in his *Singvögel* but without providing descriptions for them. A comparison of Hartlaub's list with Cabanis's book shows that Hartlaub (1852) examined only the first nine gatherings of the *Singvögel*, i.e. pp. 1–72 of this work, while excerpts from subsequent gatherings appeared in Hartlaub (1853), when he had the whole of Cabanis's book at his disposal.

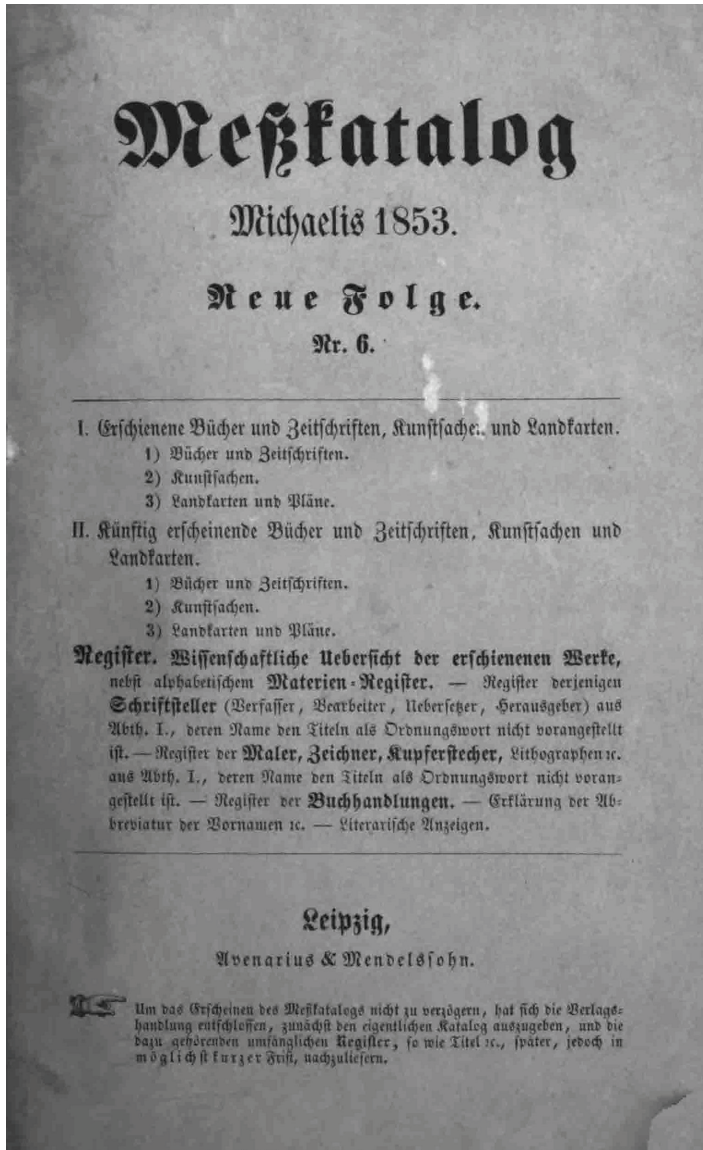


Figure 2. The cover of the Michaelmas 1853 Leipzig Book Fair (Neue Folge 6)

Other references to Cabanis's *Singvögel* prior to April 1853 are limited to Hartlaub (1851: 57) who referred to p. 66 of the *Singvögel* (re: *Falcunculus gouldi*) (as previously noted by Mathews, 1922: 17) and to Cabanis (1853d: 93–94), who referred to p. 33 of his own *Singvögel* (re: *Phyllobasileus*) in the March 1853 issue of the *Journal für Ornithologie*.

In summary, only the following authors referred to the *Singvögel* before April 1853 (the postulated publication date of the whole book): Hartlaub (1851) to gathering 9, Hartlaub (1852) to gatherings 1–9, and Cabanis (January 1853) to gathering 5. In addition, Sclater (1857) reported that gatherings 3–4 were allegedly “circulated” in Germany in 1850, and Hartlaub (1852) said that some 150 pages (i.e. some 19 gatherings) were printed at the time he finished his report (presumably in the first half of 1852), but there is no evidence that he saw more than the first nine gatherings.

Thus, the only published evidence for a “circulation” of advance sheets of the *Singvögel* is of the first nine gatherings which were available to Hartlaub in the first half of 1851 (Hartlaub, 1851) and one year later (Hartlaub, 1852). The only person other than the author (Cabanis) to use data from these sheets, appears to be Hartlaub (1852) and he, himself, considered these sheets as *not* published. I therefore conclude that any gatherings made available before April 1853 were proof sheets, which do not constitute a publication according to the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN, 1999, Article 9.3).

I also conclude that no separates or preprints of Cabanis's *Singvögel* existed, that the work was not published in parts (although it was proofed by gatherings over several months), and that it was published in a single volume by the date given above.

A PUBLICATION SCENARIO

The Heine Collection was among the largest and most important ornithological collections in Central Europe, when Cabanis started to write its catalogue. Good for the collection, but unfortunately for the forthcoming catalogue, the Heine Collection rapidly grew in the same period (Quaisser & Nicolai, 2006: 9–11), and thus the draft catalogue presumably was outdated by the time of its completion. This may have been the reason why the first nine gatherings (all presumably proofed in 1850) were made available to Hartlaub, while gatherings proofed subsequently (presumably in late 1850 to October 1851) were not advertised and not made available even to Hartlaub. The gathering dates show that Cabanis finished his work in October 1851 and signed and dated the preface to the book. It is possible that the discrepancy between the Catalogue and the current state of the Collection was by now so large that initially Heine decided not to publish the Catalogue.

Heine was an active member of the Deutsche Ornithologen-Gesellschaft (German Society of Ornithologists) in those years, and a decision was taken at the 6th Annual Meeting of this society, held on 5–10 July 1852 at Altenburg, that the 7th Annual Meeting would be held on 11–14 July 1853 at Halberstadt, the home of Ferdinand Heine (Cabanis 1853c: 66, 1854). A visit to the Heine's famous bird collection was an obvious highlight of the Meeting. This, two-and-half years after Cabanis's draft was completed, might have been the impetus finally causing Heine to decide to publish the first volume of the Catalogue, some nine months after it had been decided that this ornithological meeting would be held at Halberstadt, and just in time for the Meeting. That the Catalogue was not then updated could have been due to the very limited lead time.

NOMENCLATURAL ISSUES

Cabanis (1853e) described numerous new genera and species of birds in his *Singvögel* (Schalow, 1906: 343-344, Quaisser & Nicolai, 2006), all of which have generally been believed to date from 1851 or even from 1850. Showing that they were published much later, in April 1853, may affect precedence, because many ornithologists, including H.G.L. Reichenbach, C.L. Bonaparte and G.R. Gray were all busily publishing during this period. Extensive comparisons of literature will be necessary to expose such issues and I will publish these in a second part of this paper. In the meantime, new names of birds created by Cabanis in his *Singvögel* should be dated from 1853, but no nomenclatural changes should be made on the basis of this fact alone.

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