

# Emile Joseph Taquet (1873~1952) : Genealogy and his Childhood at his French Home Town

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## Abstract

He was able clearly examine his personal background, his ability to devote himself to the Jeju region by checking the characteristics of his hometown and his general history revealed in his genealogical records. This reflection was made through communication with Bishop René Dupong(September 2, 1929~now) of the same missionary group who arrived in Korea two years after father Emile Taquet, both were members of the Paris Foreign Missionary Church. Recently, Bishop René Dupong visited Paris in person. However, due to the ageing population of librarians at the Paris Foreign Missionary Church, data was not available. But on the way out of Paris, his nephew, who was studying history, made him search for the genealogy.

### Key words :

Emile Joseph Taquet, the Jeju Region, Childhood at French Hometown, Genealogical records, Bishop René Dupong, Father Emile Taquet, the Paris Foreign Missionary Church.

## Introduction

By looking at the childhood of Emile Taquet (1873–1952), you can see his motivation and passion as a missionary in Joseon Korea and as a botanist who was able to devote himself to the Jeju community with both aspects. While only a novel by Han Rim Wha, he was able to be inferred Emile's childhood reasonably well. He was able clearly examine his personal background, his ability to devote himself to the Jeju region by checking the characteristics of his hometown and his general history revealed in his genealogical records.

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## The Limits of Han Rim Wha's Novel

The record of Father Emile Taquet's childhood was nonexistent except of that of Han's novel. (The only data before the investigation of his genealogy.)

Excerpts from the novel :

Father Emile Taquet suddenly recalled Mt. Blanc which he would look up to everyday during his seminary training at the foot of the Alps. When Mt. Blanc, covered with ice caps, was rosy after receiving the light from sunset. It was so blissful to look at, even if it was not for long. As a disciple of Jesus, who should be pure, he used to blame himself countless times for enjoying the luxury of frivolous emotion. Mt. Halla does not have such a bright character, Father recalled. But its richness never seemed to follow Mt. Blanc. When he came upon a mountain greater than the mountains of his hometown in an unexpected land, he again would ponder how delicate the providence of God was.

The Father was reminiscing back to the small

mountain village in Northern France, the birthplace of his father, which might not ever be home again. He was thinking of the small sheep at the foot of the mountain where the village was. He thought of his parents who were still raising sheep, sheering their fur to spin for wool, and making cheese from sheep's milk. Will it be good?

Father Emile Taquet recalled that his hometown was a mountain village and that he spent all his childhood in those mountains. His father knew nothing when it came to the mountains, but Emile knew the gentle rolling hills and mountain behind the village. He knew their secrets, their insides, where the herbs were growing. The influence of such a father brought him to like the mountains even if his father didn't have direct knowledge of them. His father was well-versed in herbs, the various wild flowers, grasses, and trees. Hanging from the eaves were seasonal herbs being dried for various uses. It smelled really good. Even now, when the Father think of his hometown, the smell of medicinal herbs comes to his nose first. He used to imitate his father when Emile was in the seminary. It was often the case, he would take walks in the mountains, pick some herbs and dry them, so when his city friends would get milk, he would add herbs to it, annoying the noses of the friends who were not used to the smell. Then one day, Emile cured a friend who shared a room with him, with some herbs. The story soon spread throughout the seminary. The dean didn't care for his botanical hobby, but the incident where Emile cured his friend's illness, allowed the dean to condone his hobby. By the time Emile was ordained, he also finished studies of professional botanical composition with the consideration of another priest. They were allowed to specialize in their botanical hobby with conditions attached. Plants are only a hobby, and in any case, only the priesthood should be his focus...

## The Significance of Emile Taquet's Genealogy and Hometown

The following is a reflection of his childhood organized together by Bishop Dupong of the Catholic Church in Paris and by Huh Chan Rhan, Chairman of the Ecological Environment Committee of the Jeju Diocese.

1. Let us look at the life journey of Father Emile Taquet, from life in his hometown near the French-Belgium border to his studies of theology in Paris.

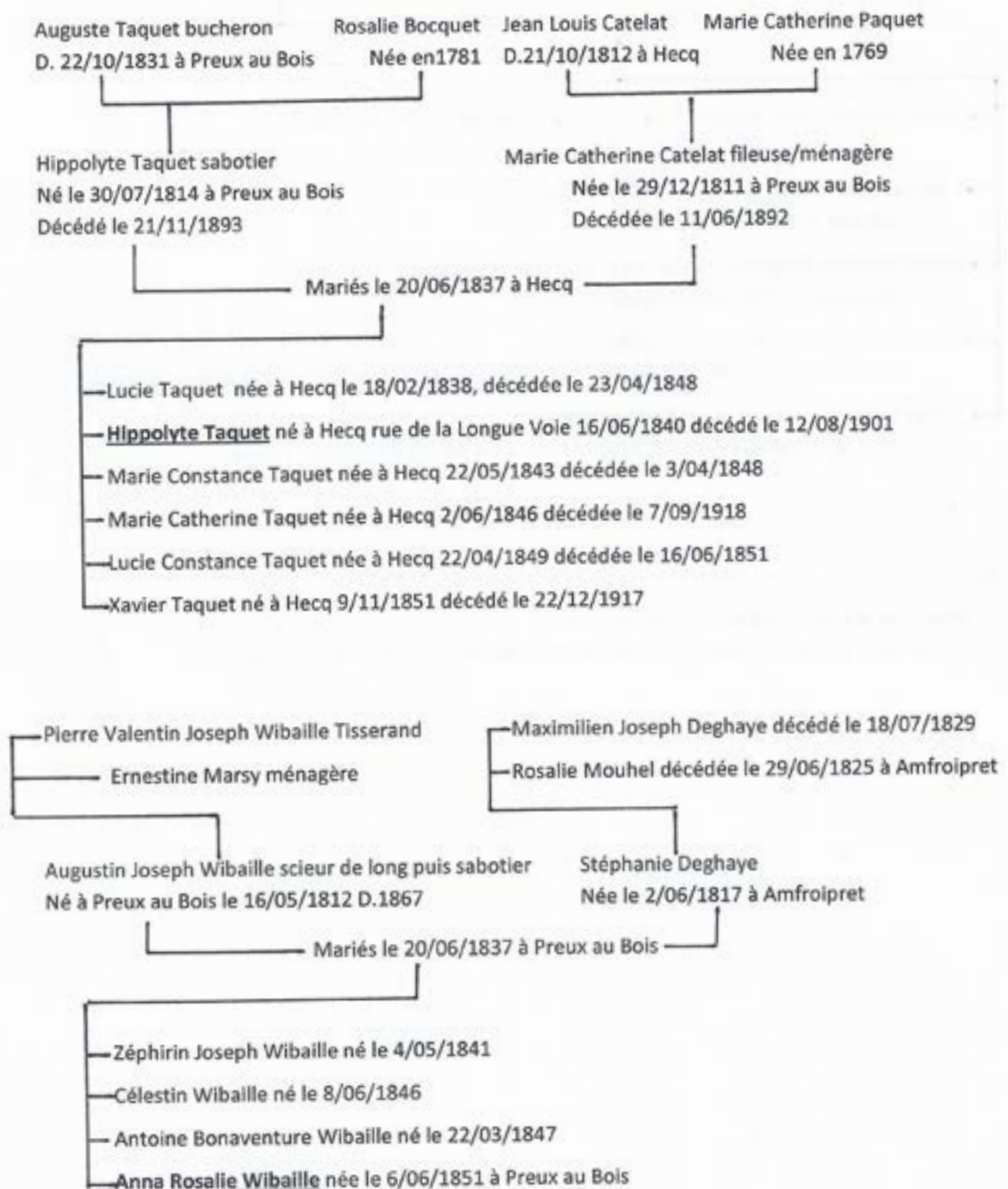
2. Father Emile came from a modest family who made their living by making and selling clogs from the resources of the nearby forests. The simplicity of life in the forest and the abundance of nature were so nature to Emile, that the gathering of branches and wood for making clogs seemed more like a game to him instead of work

3. I think Emile's noted missionary work in Gyeongsang-do, Jeolla-do, Daegu, and Jeju-do was possible because of the many experiences of living with nature from his background.

4. In the image of his father and uncles being able to make a living by selling clogs to the local forest villages, Father Emile Taquet was able to help the troubled Catholic Church of Jeju by raising money through the proceeds he gained by selling plant sample to Europe gathered from Mt. Halla and the rest of the island.

Emile Taquet's Genealogy – Attached is the original French

Généalogie d'Emile Joseph Taquet

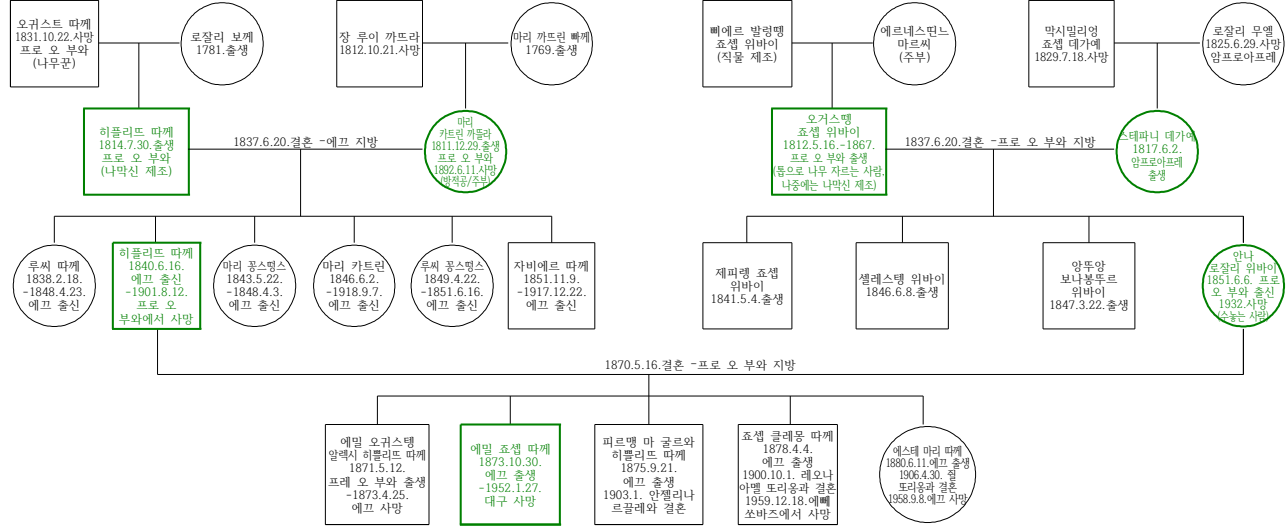


### A Continuing Study on Emile Taquet

Now the Dioceses of Jeju has decided to set up an Emile Taquet museum, research center, and the creation of the Emile Taquet Road, which will include nature sights in the Seogwipo area using materials from Emile Taquet's genealogy, childhood materials, and materials from his time in Korea. There is also hope to establish an exchange between the cities of Seogwipo and Hecq or Preux-au-Bois and between Korea and France in the near future. With hopes that this exchange could reveal more about the importance of Emile Taquet's studies of the Jeju King Cherry Trees' natural habitat and other information sent to the foreign headquarters of the French Catholic Church. This exchange would commemorate the 13 years of missionary work (from 1902 to 1915) that Father Emile Taquet did on Jeju island. We can share an opportunity to committ to the continuing search for the implications of Emile Taquet's missionary, ecological, and community welfare work.

References

에밀 죠셉 따개의 계보



- 1. 에밀 다케의 고향인 프로 오 부와 (면 단위), 엑끄 (리 단위) 같은 프랑스\_벨기에 국경에 있는 작은 숲속 마을에서 파리기까지 신학을 공부하러 갔던 에밀 다케 신부의 인생여정에 대해서 생각해보자.
- 2. 어린 에밀 다케는 숲에서 수확한 나무가지로 나막신을 만들어 팔고, 나무 자르는 일을 하며 살아온 에밀 다케 가문에서 자랐다. 숲속 생활의 단순함과 자연에서 얻는 풍요로움은 그로 하여금 채집과 같은 놀이는 너무나 자연스러운 일이었다.
- 3. 조선의 경상도, 제주도, 전라도, 대구에서 선교활동이 가능했던 것은 아마도 그가 자라온 배경에서 체득한 강한 생명력이라고 생각한다.
- 4. 숲속 작은 마을 공동체에서 나막신을 만들어서 사람들에게 내다 파는 아버지의 모습, 동네 아저씨들의 모습에서 에밀 타케는 한라산에서 채집한 식물 표본을 유럽 각지로 보내서 생긴 수익금으로 어려운 제주 천주교회를 도울 수 있었다.

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