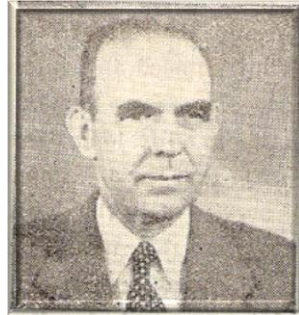


Roger D. Arnold

Charter Secretary of Kunming Rotary Club

By Herbert K. Lau (劉敬恒) (Rotary China Historian)

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Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Nanking (南京扶輪社) from the capital, the Rotary Club of Kunming (昆明扶輪社) was a member club of Rotary International, No. 4298, and in point of seniority came next to the Chinkiang Rotary Club (鎮江扶輪社), Kiangsu (*Jiangsu*) Province (江蘇省). Informally founded in December 1936 under the supervision of Governor Dr. Fong Foo-Sec (鄺富灼博士), the 81st District of Rotary International, the Club was officially elected a member of Rotary International on 28 May 1937 with 34 charter members, as the 20th Rotary Club in the Republic of China (中華民國). The Club met every Thursday at 7 p.m. at Hsin Yah Restaurant.

English was the lingua franca of the East and West, and this being a very international Club, its proceedings were conducted in that tongue. While no definite principle was laid down, account was generally taken, in the election of directors and successive presidents, of the various national representations in the Club membership.

Roger D. Arnold (安汝智) was one of the charter members and served as the first Club Secretary. By profession, he was the general secretary of the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) in Kunming.

After the Chinese mainland was in the Communist regime, in 1950, Roger moved to Taipei (臺北) of the Taiwan Province (臺灣省), and carried on his service as general secretary of the YMCA in the city.

Roger D. Arnold joined the staff of a city YMCA (Kansas City, Missouri, U.S.A.) in the autumn of 1913 ... with Mrs. Arnold landed at Shanghai of Republic of China (中華民國上海) in September 1916. Here below is his memoir in 1955 written for the commemoration of the 10th Anniversary of the Taipei Chinese YMCA (臺北中華基督教青年會).



After Forty-Two Years

By Roger D. Arnold (1955)

The Young Men's Christian Association has been fulfilling its particular function in the world for one hundred eleven years. It is not often that a centenarian is found among individual, and when one does pass that mark, he is usually found to be trail if not actually helpless. With this YMCA Movement, however, just the opposite seems to be true---the more years added to its life, the greater vigor and youthfulness it seems to show.

Men have long sought for a fountain of permanent youth. The search has been unavailing. But with the YMCA it would almost appear that a measure of perpetual youth has been realized.

This does not mean that the Young Men's Christian Association is immature or is prone to inadequately-considered judgements. On the contrary, YMCA enterprises have in the main been executed with skill that speaks of an ability to re-evaluate and to adapt and change where necessary, in order to meet an ever changing environment and need. My first contact with Association work was as a high school student. I had opportunity to observe its activities in a nearby college. Upon entering that college it was the Student YMCA that became one of my first interests and remained throughout college years. Attendance at a Student YMCA Summer Conference after the sophomore year determined the whole direction of later life.

Following college it was my privilege in the autumn of 1913 to join the staff of a city YMCA (Kansas City, Missouri) and to remain there for three years. All activities of that period were focused on fulfilling the purpose to serve in some Association Movement beyond my native shores.

When I was asked to proceed to China there was no hesitation. With Mrs. Arnold, I landed at Shanghai in September 1916. Somewhat overawed encountered, we were nevertheless extremely happy to be started on the years that have now reached almost forty.

A year in study of the National Language at Peiping (then Peking) was the first essential. In the autumn of 1917, we found ourselves assigned to the YMCA in Taiyuan, Shansi Province. A happy term of more than five years ended with the first furlough in 1923.

Returning to China in the autumn of 1924, Yunnan Province was designated for future service. The time there extended to twenty-five years, interspersed with furloughs, attendance at conferences from time to time, and several upheavals with temporary family separation, but all adding up to a body of unforgettable experience for our family. For the last twelve years of that period, duties as regional secretary for Yunnan and Kweichow took me often to Kweiyang where an Association organized during war time was contributing to the life of that important interior area.

Almost four years in Taiwan have been a continuation of the highly period privilege of working with community-minded Christian colleagues. Though young in years, the Association in Taiwan has taken its responsible share in the total effort to make China a strong member of the free world. In addition to the Taipei YMCA with two centers of work, Taiwan has recently organized an Association; and two other preparatory committees are at work looking toward the realization of units in their cities.

The Centennial Conference of the World's Alliance of Young Men's Christian Associations was held at Paris, France, in August 1955. Above 10,000 Y members from more than 70 lands returned to the place where exactly 100 years earlier the then eleven-year-old Movement first affiliated on a world-wide scale. From Taiwan eleven delegates were in attendance this year. They will bring back a wealth of new insight and inspiration for the future development in this Island.

Though methods and skills are a continued concern of YMCA's the world around, the basic element in all the multiplied activities and programs is the Christian motivation. This has been re-affirmed and strengthened in YMCA circles everywhere during this Centennial year.

What can one say after four decades of intimate relation to the Young Men's Christian Association? Is there still a place for its ministrations in a modern world? Looking back is pleasant. More important, however, is the look ahead---the sober, factually-based forecast of the future.

First and foremost, Youth is always an important segment of our society. In the formative stage of their lives, they ever have needs and problems. Again, right approach and wise leadership never fail to draw out the interest and normal response of Youth. Their great desire is to live worthily. YMCA work, geared to Youth's need and interest will continue to be relevant, whatever the trend of years to come.

Though one severs his immediate relation to a life-long endeavor, it need not be the ending of active interest. On that basis we confidently look forward to a bright of expanding service for the YMCA, not only here but throughout the world. A loyalty to the guiding principles underlying our accomplishments, a will to go forward and not remain static, and above all a determination of all who have contributed to the permanent values in our Movement---these will be our guarantee of on-going usefulness in a world where the challenge of Youth persists with each new generation.

