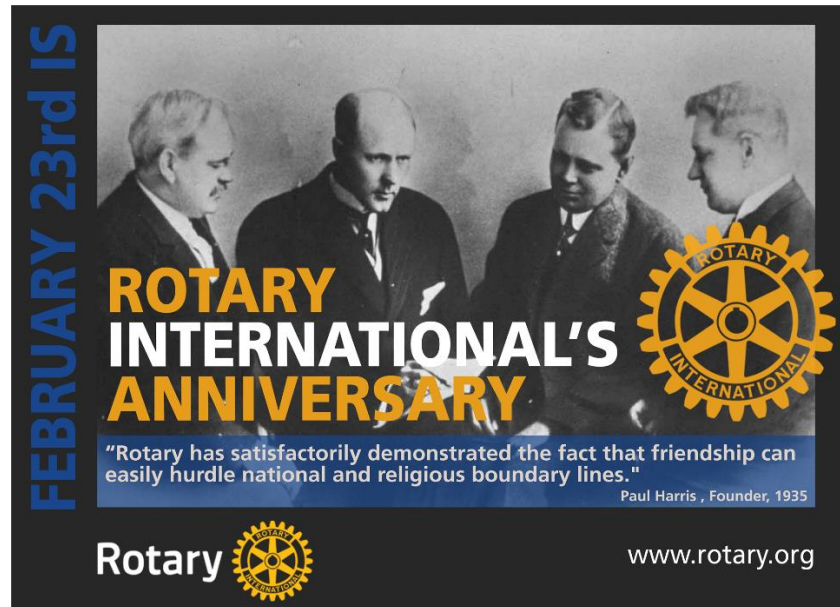


Nanking Rotary Club Marked Foundation Day in 1936

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

23 February 2016



“Whatever Rotary may mean to us, to the world it will be known by the results it achieves.”

~~Paul Harris, Rotary founder

Rotary started with the vision of one man — Paul Percy Harris (19 April 1868 – 27 January 1947). The Chicago attorney formed the Rotary Club of Chicago on 23 February 1905 in the United States of America, so professionals with diverse backgrounds could exchange ideas and form meaningful, lifelong friendships.

Over time, Rotary’s reach and vision gradually extended to humanitarian service. Members have a long track record of addressing challenges in their communities and around the world.

That commitment endures today through an organization that remains truly international. Only 16 years after being founded, Rotary had clubs on six continents. Our members now span the globe, working to solve some of our world’s most challenging problems.

We are not afraid to dream big and set bold goals. We began our fight against polio in 1979 with a project to immunize 6 million children in the Philippines. Today, polio remains endemic in only two countries — down from 125 in 1988. With every project, we are changing the world for the better. The following story trace our evolution as an organization through historical documents, artifacts, and images that show the people and events that shaped Rotary.

Observing the Founding of Rotary in China

Rotary first came to the Republic of China (中華民國) in July 1919 through the effort of an American shipping agent Past President Roger D. Pinneo of the Rotary Club of Seattle, U.S.A., to establish the Rotary Club of Shanghai (上海扶輪社) in the Shanghai International Settlement (上海公共租界). After the Club was formally admitted on 1 October the same year to the International Association of Rotary Clubs (forerunner of Rotary International until 1922), Rotary clubs began to be formed across the country in some major cities. Gradually after 14 years in 1933 winter, the 11th club -- Nanking Rotary Club (南京扶輪社) --- was formed in the capital city Nanking (*Nanjing*) (南京) of the Republican China. In celebrating the 31 years of Rotary around the world in 1936, the Club held a special meeting. A local English newspaper 《*North China Daily*》 reported such a piece of news on 28 February 1936:

NANKING ROTARY CLUB MARKS FOUNDATION DAY

Distinguished Assembly at Social Gathering

DR. HSU MO OUTLINES THE OBJECT OF ROTARY

The Nanking Rotary Club joined other Rotary Clubs throughout the world in observing the 31st anniversary of the founding of Rotary International. The Nanking celebration took the form of a social event in the International Club on Monday evening, February 21.

Dr. Hsu Mo, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, president of the Nanking Rotary Club presided and gave the address of the evening.

Dr. Hsu Mo opened his speech by expressing his gratification at the presence of so many distinguished visitors, including high officials of the Government and foreign diplomatic representatives. He then explained the significance of the anniversary in telling how on February 23, 1905, a Chicago lawyer, Paul Harris, gathered a few friends together with the object of forming a club to serve society in a high standard of ethics in the conducts of business and professions. Meetings were held each week in the office or home of one of the members by rotation, hence came the name “Rotary”. As more and more people began to take an interest in the activities of Rotary, clubs were formed in other American cities. Gradually they came into existence in other countries until today Rotary Clubs can be formed in every country in the world. The movement, indeed, has grown quite beyond the expectations of its original founder. There are now 3,905 clubs with 13,000 members in 79 countries.

Objects of Rotary

“Rotarians as such never talk and should not talk about politics,” said Dr. Hsu. “All discussions at the regular meetings of our clubs are devoid of political significance. We never

debate upon such questions as nationalism or internationalism, individualism or collectivism, fascism or communism, optimism or pessimism. All-lisms are beyond the scope of Rotary activities. We, however, advocate, we promote, we stand for service to mankind and peace among nations.

“By service to mankind, we mean service above self. It is not a lofty idea but a common practice, a common habit with Rotarians when occasions arises, for instance, we will contribute as much as within our means, and will make others contribute even more liberally, towards any fund that is destined to support a worthy cause.

“In advocating world peace, we firmly believe that all human beings are brethren, that there is no reason for the existence of national prejudice or enmity that international peace is not a dream, but a possibility. But international peace rests on international friendship and international friendship, in turn, rests on international understanding.”

It is practically fitting that the diplomatic and consular bodies were well represented as guests of honours. The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Gen. Chang Chun, was present and spoke briefly on the goodwill generated among leaders of many peoples. The American Ambassador Mr. Nelson T. Johnson; the German Ambassador Dr. Oscar Trautmann, and the Royal Danish minister Dr. Oscar L. F. A. O’Neill der Oxholm, gave brief addresses in respond to the welcome by Dr. Hsu Mo and in congratulation on the success of Rotary.

The programme, interspersed with dancing, consisted of a violin solo by Mr. Dai Tsui-tuen, a vocal solo by Mr. Lao Hsing-hsien, a male quartettes by Messrs. Brian Low, John Magee, J. H. McCallum and W. R. Wheeler and a duet with banjo and saw by Dr. and Mrs. J. Horton Daniels. An excellent buffet supper was served and the merry makers to the number of one hundred and thirty-three guests pronounced the evening a delightful social event.

The Nanking Rotary Club is a little over two years old and began with 29 members. Its organization was promoted by several former Rotarians living in Nanking and by leading members of the Shanghai Rotary Club, ably assisted by Mr. Douglas C. Howland of Calgary, Canada, who then was travelling in various parts of Asia to visit Rotary clubs in behalf of Rotary International.

Brief Profile of Dr. Hsu Mo (徐謨博士)



Hsu Mo was a Chinese lawyer, judge, politician and diplomat. He worked from 1931 to 1941 as Deputy Foreign Minister of the Republic of China. During this period, Hsu was a charter member of Nanking Rotary Club in 1932, and later served as Club President in 1935-1936.

Hsu Mo received his early Chinese education at home and finished his middle school in Shanghai. He entered the Law Department of the Pei-Yang University (國立北洋大學) at Tientsin (*Tianjin*) (天津) in 1912 and was graduated with Bachelor of Laws degree in 1916. He then taught English and law in 1917-18 at the Yang Chow Middle School (揚州中學), Kiangsu (*Jiangsu*) Province (江蘇省). In 1919, He was awarded by the Justice Ministry of the Peking Government a certificate for exemption from judge's examinations, and passed the diplomatic and consular service examinations with honor. Later, Hsu served as an attaché to the Chinese Legation at Washington and in the meantime, secretary to the Chinese Delegation to the Washington Conference during the winter of 1920-22. The Chief Delegate was Dr. Chengting T. Wang (王正廷博士). When in the United States, he studied law and political science at George Washington University and was graduated with Master of Laws degree in 1922.

Upon his return to China in 1922, he was appointed professor of law and political science of Nan-Kai University (南開大學) in Tientsin and continued to hold that position up to 1926; from 1925-26, he was also Dean of the College of Arts of the same University. In 1926, Hsu became a member of the Chinese Bar Association in Tientsin and at the same time, acted as the chief editor of the 《Yi Shih Pao》 (Social Welfare News) (益世報), a newspaper held by the local Roman Catholic Church. He went to Shanghai in the latter part of 1926 and was appointed judge of the Shanghai Provisional Court, as well as President of the District Court of Chinkiang (*Zhenjiang*) (鎮江市), Kiangsu Province in 1927. In 1928, he moved to the Chinese Foreign Ministry, where he worked as Counsellor and Director of the International Affairs Department. From 1928 to 1931, Hsu was Director of the European-American Department, and Director of the Asiatic Department of the same Ministry. Three years later, he became Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs. After ten years in this position, he became Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador to Australia in 1941. During his office there, he was conferred Doctor of Laws (*honoris causa*) by The University of Melbourne on 15 March 1943. From 1944 to 1946, Hsu was transferred as Ambassador to Turkey.

After the end of World War II, in April 1945, Hsu participated on the United Nations Committee of Jurists in Washington D.C., U.S.A., tasked with preparing draft statutes for the then contemplated International Court of Justice. He also served as the rapporteur of the Committee on Chapter VI of the United Nations Charter on the Regulations for the Peaceful Settlement of Disputes. A year later he was elected a judge, the first ethnic Chinese judge, of the International Court of Justice in The Hague, where he worked until he died in office in June 1956. His successor was his compatriot Dr. V. K. Wellington Koo (顧維鈞博士). Hsu Mo became a member of the Institut de Droit International in 1948, and later was elected Vice-President in 1956.

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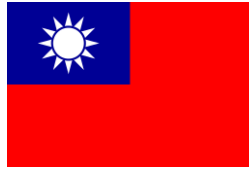


The regular weekly meetings of the Nanking Rotary Club was held in this International Club (國際聯歡社), in the nation's capital Nanking, which was the clubhouse of the Foreign Affairs Ministry. The complex was completed in 1936 by the architecture firm of Tientsin Rotarian Kwan Sung-Sing (天津扶輪社社員關頌聲).



Today, the complex is still functioning as part of the Jinjiang Nanjing Hotel (錦江南京飯店).

南京 --- 1928年-1949年中華民國首都
Nanking --- Capital of the Republic of China 1928-1949



Bundesarchiv, Bild 137-002188
Foto: Fischer, Prof. | 1920/1935 ca.



National Congress Hall 國民大會堂



Presidential Palace 總統府



Executive Yuan (Prime Minister's Office) 行政院



Legislative Yuan (Parliament House) 立法院



Ministry of Foreign Affairs 外交部



Central Academy of Army Officers 中央陸軍軍官學校

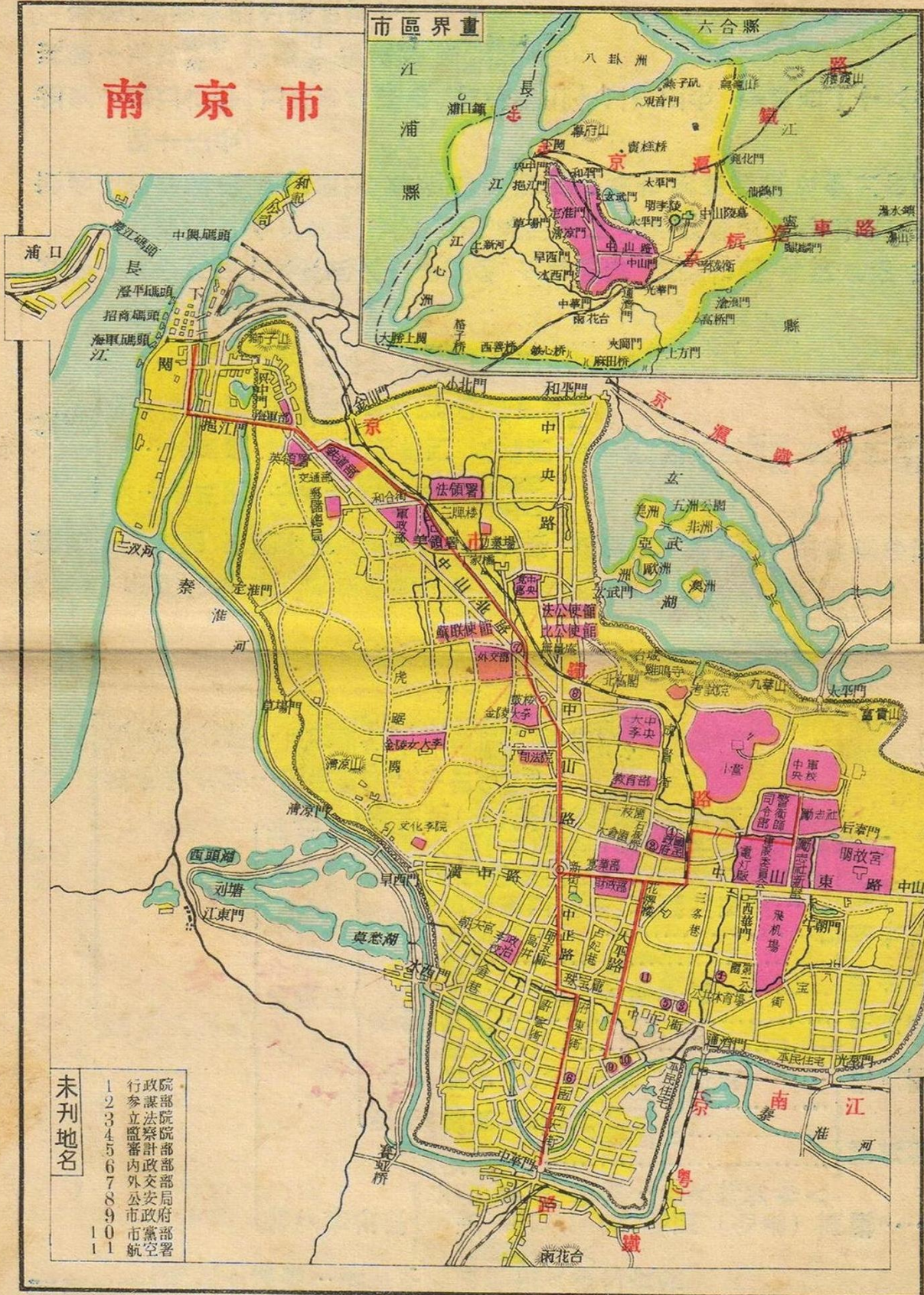


University of Nanking 金陵大學

紙田

南京市

市區界畫



- 未刊地名
- 1 院部院院部部部局府部署
 - 2 行參立法察計政安局政黨空
 - 3 立審審內外公市市
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