

Dr. Chengting Thomas Wang (王正廷博士)

The First Chinese District Governor addressed at the Rotary Convention

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Dr. Chengting Thomas Wang, Governor of 81st District, R. I.

Atlantic City of New Jersey, United States, enjoys the distinction of being the only city in the world (aside from Chicago) historically to be host of 5 Rotary International Conventions. Its first was held in 1920---and was attended by a record crowd of more than 7,000, one eighth of all the Rotarians in the world at that time. The other 4 were held in 1936, 1946, 1951 and 1963, respectively. During the first two Atlantic Conventions, i.e. 1920 and 1936, the Republic of China (中華民國) were well-represented by remarkable delegations.

The 1920 Atlantic Convention gave the 4-men delegation of the 8-month-old Shanghai Rotary Club (上海扶輪社) on stage the special honour to be presented by International President Albert S. Adams, after the presentation of the International Rotary leaders but prior to his team of district governors, during the Opening Ceremony. Club Secretary and Chief Delegate George L. Treadwell was invited to give a brief introduction on this first new club in China.

The 1936 Atlantic Convention, once again, gave the platform to China. The first ever Chinese District Governor, Dr. Chengting Thomas Wang (王正廷博士) of Shanghai Rotary Club, was invited to address at the Convention on 《The Story of *Fú Lún Shè*》 of Rotary in China (*see full text on Pages 3-8*). On the other hand, the Convention also gave China another glorious record that Peiping Rotary Club (北平扶輪社) and Foochow Rotary Club (福州扶輪社) gained the awards of the silver Convention Attendance Trophy. The China Delegation was formed by 19 Rotarians and ladies from clubs of Shanghai (上海), Peiping (北平), Tientsin (天津) and Foochow (福州).



Luncheon of the China Delegation at the 1936 Atlantic Convention

Award of Trophies and Presentation of Gift

The ceremony for award of trophies and presentation of gift was taken place in the last day morning of the Convention. It was the Closing Plenary Session convened at 10 a.m. on Friday, 26 June 1936. It was presided by Rotary International President Ed. R. Johnson. After listening the reports from Registration Committee and the Credentials Committee, Leonard D. Algar, chairman of the Award of Trophies Committee, was invited to give the announcement. Algar said: "Friends, it is a great pleasure for me this morning, because I am going to make some of you boys happy and the first thing I want to announce is the attendance trophy which was won by the Rotary Club of Peiping, China, with 57,300 points, coming a distance of 9,550 miles, 3 members out of the 50. (*Applause*) The runners-up were the Rotary Club from Foochow, China, with 49,600 points, coming 9,920 miles, 2 members out of a membership of 40. (*Applause*) The third is from the Rotary Club from Levelland, Texas, 39,128 points, coming 2,250 miles, 4 members out of a membership of 23." (*Applause*) And then, there was the presentation of golf trophies.

Following the Award Committee, President Johnson announced: "There are certain presentation to be made at the present time, trophies which are coming to the Atlantic City Club and to others, perhaps. We are asking Al McKeown, chairman of the Convention Committee, to take this list and supervise these presentation." The first invited was the presentation of the Japanese flag to the Rotary Club of Atlantic City by the Rotary Club of Tokyo from Japan.

The second on the list was the Tientsin Rotary Club (天津扶輪社) from China. It was represented by Rotarian J. S. Chwang (莊仁松) to send a model of the Chinese junk to the host---Atlantic City Rotary Club. On behalf of Tientsin, as well as the China Delegation, Chwang spoke to the congregation:

I am here only as a messenger when I left Tientsin, my club handed Chengting Wang and me a little souvenir in the form of a Chinese junk for the host club, and our president wrote a letter and asked me to read it before you:

[We understand that a great deal of interest is being taken in the United States, at the present time, in models of the old American sailing ships, including the “tea clippers” which formerly carried in trade between China and the United States and which broke all records for speed in sailing ship.

We wish to show our American friends that China also had her wooden sailing ships, as well as her modern steamships, although the sailing has not, as yet, been displaced by the steamship to the same extent as it has in America.

We recall the great voyage made by those junks in the olden days and that certain authorities even claim that Chinese junks had touched the western shores of the American continent centuries before Christopher Columbus reached its eastern coast.

This model of a junk which we are asking you to take with you is a very small one but by the same time it reaches Atlantic City, it will have completed a great voyage and will carry a great cargo.

We remember that the Tientsin Rotary Club erects in the Victoria Park, every year in the Christmas season, a tree with illuminated motto in both Chinese and English, reading: “Peace and Good Will”. In the same way this friendly cooperation not only to the American people and good will and of the earth. Its motto is the ancient Chinese proverb: “Within the four seas all men are brothers”.]

This old proverb was taught by our ancient sage, Confucius, in the 《Four Books》. By his saying “within the four seas”, he means north, south, east and west. That means the whole world. All men are brothers. He means all men of the whole world are brothers.

Of course, we all know that all men in the whole world do not come by the same birth. What Confucius means is that all men must have cooperation and the mutual assistance of each other, must help each other as brothers of one family.

It is cooperation men should have and this is exactly coinciding with the principles of Rotary. To this end, may I have the pleasure and the honor of presenting this little junk to the host club with the best greetings and sincere wishes from our club to you all?

After Chwang’s presentation, there was a long list of gifts-giving following. The Plenary Session was carried on presiding by President Johnson on several businesses until the highlight of the morning session---keynote speech by Dr. Chengting Thomas Wang.

The Story of Fú Lún Shè --- Keynote Speech by Dr. Chengting T. Wang

President Ed. R. Johnson:

The day before yesterday when we sat and listened to the remarks made by those who participated in the International Round Table, I am sure we were all thrilled with the remarks made by Dr. Wang, the governor of the 81st District of Rotary, and the district governor-elect for that same district. No further words of introduction are necessary at this time, so I am happy to present to you again, Dr. C. T. Wang, Governor of the 81st District of Rotary International. *(Applause)*

《The Story of *Fú Lún Shè*》

After witnessing the many presentation of gifts to the Atlantic City Club as well as to our beloved president, certainly it warms up one's heart to know that Rotary is founded on friendship and here we have a distinct exhibition of that friendship.

I have been assigned to tell you the story of the Rotary work in China, particularly, and in the 81st District.

The 81st District was organized only in October of last year, and was therefore only six months old by the time we had our first district conference.

It is, therefore, among the eleven baby districts which have been brought into being since the last convention.

When our district was organized, we had only fifteen clubs: eleven in China, one in Hong Kong, and three in the Philippine Islands, with a total membership of 826. The Shanghai and Manila clubs are both the oldest and the largest. Both were organized in the year 1919, and each has over one hundred members.

The 81st District is certainly very small in so far as the number of clubs or the number of members is concerned, but when we come to look at its area, all its population, one can readily see that it is one of the largest, if not the largest district of those which make up the Rotary family. It includes not only China but also Hong Kong and the Philippine Islands. China alone is as big as the United States of America. We have about fifty districts in this country and we have only one in China, so yours humbly has really quite a big job in his hands.

While there may be room for another Rotary club in Hong Kong and we may organize, perhaps, a score of clubs in the Philippine Islands, the place for extensive growth of Rotary is in China. I will, therefore devote myself this morning largely to this phase of the work in the 81st District.

When Rotary was first brought to China, it was largely the work of foreign residents in China who had been either members of clubs or who had known its work in their homelands. Naturally, such clubs were organized only in the port cities where foreign businessmen resided in sufficient numbers to warrant their organization.

A number of Chinese people who have been abroad and have come to know the value of Rotary work were also enlisted, but these clubs are not much different from clubs in this community, using the English language as the medium of expression in their meetings, correspondence, and records.

Looking back now one can easily understand why in the intervening years from the time when the Shanghai Club was organized in 1919, to the founding of the 81st District in 1935, there have been organized only eleven clubs in China, a number far out of proportion to the growth of Rotary in other lands during the same periods.

The cities where foreign residents congregate and the available number of Chinese who are able to use the English language are naturally very much limited.

Furthermore, these clubs are rather widely separated from one another. In point of distance Peiping, formerly known as Peking, is about 3,000 miles from Canton.

When, however, we take into consideration the time required to journey from one city to the other, the distance is much longer, as it will take at least a week, except by flying which is only available recently. You can easily picture to yourselves the difficulties under which those Rotarians of a decade ago labored in love for the spread of Rotary in that land of vast dimensions. I wish here to register my professional admiration for the men who put service above themselves.

I wish to mention the names of one who is going to lead us as President of our Rotary International the coming year, William Manier, Jr. and another who has passed on but who had done splendid work, that is, Jim Davidson. These, together, with the local Rotarians, took up the work to found these clubs in China, and I wish therefore to register our profound admiration for their labor of love.

Three to the genius of Rotary in its work of growth and expansion, the Board of Directors of Rotary International on being informed of the state of affairs in China, took steps to make the movement indigenous by appointing a Chinese honorary commissioner about two years ago and make a grant of money to enable him to have the necessary Rotary literature translated into the Chinese language. With the way thus cleared for the rapid spread of Rotary in the interior cities of China, the growth since last October has been what it ought to be. In the six months between last October and the time when we held our first District Conference, there were organized six new clubs of which four have already been elected by Rotary International with a dozen other new clubs in the process of being organized in a more or less advanced stage.

In other words, before the introduction of the Rotary literature in Chinese, the growth had been less than a club a year. Now it is possible to organize six clubs in six months or at the rate of one club a month. Indeed, it gladdens my heart to think that we have in China over two thousand cities each having a population of over 50,000 wherein a strong and prosperous Rotary club is capable being formed. So, in the course of the next fifteen years that there will be a couple of hundred Rotary clubs in China is quite within the realm of possibility.

There you can envisage for yourselves the material of Rotary in China. But how about the spirit, the spirit of Rotary service on the four broad avenues, namely, the club service, the vocational service, the community service and international service? We have in Chinese a term exactly expressing this spirit of service, namely “*Fú Lún*” (扶輪) which means, when translated into the English language: “*Put your shoulders to the wheel and make it roll along.*” So, a Rotary club in Chinese is called *Fú Lún Shè* (扶輪社) which signifies that it is a society or club whose members are put their shoulders to the wheel and make it roll along to serve humanity.

Now, fellow Rotarians, this is not a term coined by the present generation to fit into our case. It was used in the literature some two thousand years ago and the spirit behind these two words *Fú Lún* has been the motivating force which has sustained a nation for over thirty centuries, in

so far as authentic history records, in spirit of the many vicissitudes of life which have overtaken us over these long centuries but through which we emerged every time stronger than ever.

To serve community is a high ideal and we are only too painfully conscious of the fact that an ideal is about the most different thing in the world to be attained. It requires long-sustained patience and the exercise of strong will power for its achievement. Let me just take one phase of our ideal of service, that of international service. From time immemorial the human race has strived to bring about world peace. Prophets of old and sages and philosophers of many countries and at all times have raised their voice for that blessed state when all within the four seas should be brethren and live in peace. And yet, how far we still are from that goal of world peace? True, there is an urgent cry for the peace and peace in the world today, but there is no peace.

Even the most recent World War of two decades ago, with the tremendous sacrifices of millions of lives and billions of wealth of the numerous countries engaged in that gigantic conflict, has not brought us any nearer to our goal of world peace. It was thought that blood-stained, yea blood-drenched, conflict would teach the world a lesson, costly it was, and that nations would turn from conflicts and worth for peace. But, at this very moment, the world is threatened with even a greater catastrophe than ever before.

There must be some very strong deterrent forces to the bringing about of world peace, in spite of such noble attempt as the League of Nations Covenant, the Kellogg-Briand Pact and the numerous peace treaties conducted between the various nations. Shall we not pause for a few moments and consider what are these deterrent forces which work for war? We cannot shut our eyes and merely cry for peace. Even our high sounding will and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional men united in the ideal of service -- I say even this worthy ideal seems to be very important in the face of this threatened catastrophe. Shall we not, therefore, delve into this question of all questions -- what are the forces which work for war?

It has been advanced from certain quarters that economic struggles between different nations are the main causes for war. Is it? On the surface, it looks as if struggle for existence is the only purpose of our living. Fortunately for our human progress and happiness that it is not the sole cause. Otherwise, we would not be far advanced in our civilization over the brute beasts which only know this law of struggle for existence.

We have long passed the stage wherein every man fought against every another man, or each family waged war against another families, or tribes against tribes. But, unfortunately, we seem to stop there and do not advance further. Nations seem to be apt to plunge into war with other nations as tribes and families and individuals used to do in the ages past.

Now what are the factors which are holding us back from further advancement in our march of civilization? To begin with, it is our inherent prejudices for each nation to think that it is superior to any other nation.

History abounds with such instance. Take the book of the Old Testament. The inevitable impression one gets from its account is that the Israelites were the only civilized and privileged people of the whole world. They were the chosen, the elect, the privileged, people of God. Think

of what was connoted in such words as Gentile and heathen. Nothing but utter contempt, sorrow and pity for those who were not of the Jews. The Greeks used the very word barbarous to designate foreigners.

Coming down to modern time, let us take the English. They think they are entitled to own the whole world. Their ancestors should not have been Anglos but angels. Or let us consider the newest of all races, the Americans. Why, only the superlative of all superlatives is sufficient to express the things they do or own, the very best and noblest of all their deeds, the longest bridges, the tallest buildings, the fastest trains, so on and so forth, ad infinitum, so much so that they have to use a special word to express their idea of superiority. They say they are "IT."

Now, we Chinese are not a whit better in this respect. We think we are the "flower of all nations", in us is centered the highest of all civilizations, while the rest of the world are but "foreign devils". I suppose in each case there is some good ground for our superiority complex, but imagine what good would it do for us to parade these good parts before the other nations. Are we rather not impeding our efforts to gain friendship and work for world peace?

In the second place, we have often a false conception of patriotism or national pride. Far be it from me to belittle patriotism, what wonderful deeds of supreme sacrifices have been recorded in the annals of human progress which received their inspiration from patriotism! Nothing could be more noble than to lay down one's own life for the defense of one's country or nation. But how often have men been offered on the altar of patriotism simply because it is "my country, right or wrong".

Finally, and in my humble opinion, the strongest factor in causing conflicts between nations is a dire lack of knowledge of and appreciation for the good parts of other people and other nations. Two individuals, when they come to know of and appreciate each other, are the least likely to have quarrels between them. Each may have some eccentricity in their ways of living or in their views of things, but knowing them will give the consideration therefore. The chances of conflicts are thus reduced to the minimum. That reminds me of a case in my student days at Ann Arbor, Michigan.

In a boarding house there were several Chinese and overseas boys. One day the landlady brought to us a strong protest from the American boys to some kind of salt fish which we Chinese boys relished. True, when this particular kind of salt fish is being fried, it does give forth an odor which is likely to offend the noses of those who do not appreciate its taste.

The landlady was apparently very reluctant to bring to us the unwelcome message, but had to, as we found out later, because the American boys had served a sort of ultimatum on her. To her relief, we assured her we would refrain from partaking of that excellent dish just to please her. A few days later we noticed that the American boys were eating something which was certainly as obnoxious to our noses as salt fish was to theirs. They were eating cheese, of a brand we learned later as gorgonzola. So, we ask the good lady to convey our protest to them also backed up by an "ultimatum". She was all in a flutter but she did it. To the credits of these American boys, they realized at once that we could both get along nicely, if we each would eat or let eat the things we liked best. And so, all became "quiet on the western front".

Why cannot nations do likewise? Cannot we live or let live? Madame, “the League of Nations”, would certainly have much less troubles, if only her “boys”, the member states of the League, would be more tolerant and considerate to one another.

Here is where our Rotary movement will make its greatest contribution to world peace. To some Rotarians the fourth object of Rotary seems to be a sort of platitude put in there just to make us feel comfortable and to think how noble we are. Is it? Certainly, it is not.

Let us Rotarians renew our pledge to the world that we shall persistently and consistently pursue for world peace as the cornerstone of the Rotary movement. The way we should go at it is, first of all, that we shall each search our own heart and soul and ask ourselves: (1) Do we know our neighbours and appreciate their good parts? (2) Are we living down our prejudices? (3) Have we been earnestly promoting good will among nations, and (4) Are we world-conscious and imbued with the spirit of internationalism?

Then let us multiply ourselves as fast as possible. To make us better Rotarians, to enlist more members in our existing clubs, and to organize more new Rotary clubs shall constitute as much work on international service as club service. To work to the call of the spirit of *Fu Lun She'*, let us, one and all, put our shoulders to the Rotary wheel and make it roll along to serve humanity.

(Applause)

The International Round Table

As mentioned above, there was the International Round Table held on the previous day, Wednesday, 24 June 1936, in the morning. Twelve Knights were invited from 12 countries to give their views on “What Rotary means in my country?”

Dr. Cheng T. Wang was invited to be one of the knights representing The Republic of China. The 12 countries were, according to the presentation order: The Netherlands, Japan, Peru, China, Austria, Italy, Federal Malay States, Czechoslovakia, France, Norway, England, and Canada.

Excerpted here below was the full presentation by Wang:

I believe that in any part of the world there is in existence a good deal of good will, but only that good will is not crystalized. There is a will to help the cities in which a man lives, a will to help his profession or business, a will to help the world, the cause of peace of the world.

I can say that there is plenty of that good will, but what is lacking is the common ground, a place where this good will can be gathered together and made into a force. That is why I believe in the Rotary Club as the meeting ground for the good will of the citizens, not only of the city, not only of the state, not only of the country, but of the world.

Another great feature of the Rotary Club is that it is not a club where we go only to enjoy ourselves. It is a club where we also go to carry out a very high and noble ideal, the ideal of service, of giving to others what we wish others to give to us.

This ideal of service is one that is going to be the staying power of the Rotary movement of the whole world. So, it is tremendously true that it is more blessed to give than to receive.

Rotarians are not worth their salt if they join the clubs in the hope of getting something. They will be true for what they stand for, if they join the Rotary clubs in order that they may give their best and their most.

A third point that impresses our people about this Rotary movement is that it is not localized, it is not a movement of a particular place; neither is it a movement comprising only a particular section of the community. Further than that, it is a movement that combines the world. We have now eighty different countries or regions in which Rotary is represented. We have member clubs numbering four thousand and over, and a force of 170,000 members.

Fellow Rotarians, this number is not small. If this number can only be made conscious that we are leading ideas, and ideals which stand for the whole world. Let us go in, and multiply ourselves that the influence, the ideals, what we stand for in Rotary, will be a force for real world peace and world fellowship.

Biographical Sketch of Wang as in 1936



1936 - China's Ambassador to the United States, Dr. & Mrs. Wang and 2 daughters in Washington D.C.

Dr. Chengting Thomas Wang (王正廷博士), *HonLLD (Peking)*, *HonLLD (St. John's)*, BA (*Yale*), a statesman, twice Minister of Foreign Affairs for The Republic of China, was for some time acting premier. After his graduation from Yale University, he was a leader in the Revolution of 1911 and helped draft the laws founding the Republican China. He became Vice-Speaker of the Senate, and later was a delegate to the Paris Peace Conference in 1919, and helped to negotiate Shantung rehabilitation agreements.

Wang first joined Rotary on 20 August 1920 as an Active Member of Shanghai Rotary Club. Though had never been a Club President, he was first appointed a Rotary International officer on 1 July 1934 as an Honorary Commissioner (i.e. the same as Special Representative today) to supervise some non-districted clubs in Asia, and led the formation of a new Rotary District. When the brand new 81st District was inaugurated on 1 October 1935, Wang was appointed the District Governor, and to carry on for one more year until 30 June 1937. However, Wang resigned in August 1936 due to state mission as China's Ambassador to the United States.

The 81st District of Rotary International was first composed by 15 clubs with 11 from The Republic of China (中華民國): (1) Shanghai (上海); (2) Tientsin (天津); (3) Peiping (北平); (4) Canton (廣州); (5) Hangchow (杭州); (6) Tsingtao (青島); (7) Tsinan (濟南); (8) Foochow (福州); (9) Amoy (廈門); (10) Hankow (漢口); (11) Nanking (南京); plus 1 club from the British Crown Colony Hong Kong: Hong Kong (香港); and 3 clubs from The Philippine Islands (United States Protectorate): (1) Manila; (2) Cebu; (3) Iloilo.

Wang was born on 7 September 1882 in Fenghua, Chekiang (*Zhejiang*) Province of the Ch'ing Empire, and his father was an Anglican Church minister just outside Shanghai, where Wang attended mission schools before entering the preparatory school for the Peiyang University in Tientsin (*Tianjin*). After teaching in the Provincial High School in Changsha, Hunan, Wang studied in Tokyo, Japan, where he was founder and secretary of the Chinese Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA). Then in 1907, he went to the United States to study law at the University of Michigan. He soon transferred to Yale University, graduating in 1910 and being elected to Phi Beta Kappa.

On returning to China from Yale, Wang became secretary of the YMCA in Shanghai. Within a few months, however, he plunged into the turmoil of Chinese politics. He was active in the Revolution of 1911 which overthrew the Ch'ing Empire and helped draft the basic laws on which the Republican China was tentatively organized. In January 1912, he was elected a member of the Provisional Legislature and was chosen its Deputy Speaker. In February 1913, he was made Vice-Minister of Industry and Commerce and became Acting Minister of the same Board in May. When, in 1913, the first National Assembly of the Republic met in Peking, Wang was Vice-President and Deputy Speaker of the Senate. In the ensuing struggle between the President, Yuan Shih-K'ai, and the majority party of the Assembly, Wang took sides against the President. In consequence, his life was in danger and he was among those unseated by the would-be dictator.

Then for two years, while out of public office, he found vent for his energies in social service as national secretary of the Chinese YMCA and in lecturing and church work. On the death of Yuan Shih-K'ai in 1916, the National Assembly dismissed by Yuan reassembled, and Wang resumed his post of the Deputy Speaker of the Senate. Within about a year, in the vicissitudes

of Chinese politics, the National Assembly was again dismissed, this time at the instance of a clique of military leaders in the North who inherited the traditions of Yuan. Thereupon a group of the Assemblymen, Wang among them, in protest against what they believed a retrograde and unconstitutional action, formed a government at Canton (*Guangzhou*). In the autumn of 1918 Wang was sent by this Canton Government as its representative to the United States. The following year he was appointed a member of the official delegation which so ably presented the case of China at the Peace Conference at Paris. After the adjournment of the Washington Conference in 1922, when eventually Japan became willing to withdraw from Shantung (*Shandong*), Wang became in June China's ranking member of the joint Sino-Japanese Commission which drew up the formal agreement. With these achievements as evidence of his ability in diplomacy, he became, in October 1922, Minister of Foreign Affairs and the following December was appointed to act as Premier.

In the rapid shifts of government in the next four years he was sometimes in office and sometimes out. Always he was striving for a stable regime and for the increase of the prestige of China in international affairs. During part of the time he handled the delicate and highly important negotiations with Soviet Russia and in March 1924, signed the preliminary agreement with Karakhan. Other posts held during these troubled years were Minister of Justice; member of the Educational Sinking Funds Commission; and chairman of the Customs Conference which prepared the way for the full recovery by China of her control over her own foreign tariff duties.

In 1927 Wang became director-general of the Lung-Hai Railway. In 1926 and 1927 the forces of the Kuomintang (Nationalist Party), of which he had long been a member, were successfully proceeding with the program of the unification of China and were setting up the Nationalist Government at Nanking (*Nanjing*). In 1926 Wang became Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Finance concurrently and in these positions gave astute and vigorous leadership in the negotiations for a revision of the treaties for the recovery of customs autonomy and the end of extraterritoriality. In the student agitation fermented by the enemies of the Government during the Japanese operations in Manchuria in 1931, Wang was attacked by the mob and severely wounded. He resigned his post, but continued as a member of the Central Executive Committee of the Kuomintang and in January, 1932, became state councilor of the Nationalist Government.

Along with his many political duties, Wang had found time to engage in business. He was the organizer of an import and export company, also was the founder of the Hua Feng Cotton Mill Company at Woosung, Shanghai, and for a time was its managing director. Since 1926 he has been president, and beginning with 1932, general manager of the Liu Ho Kou Mining Company, Ltd. He has also taken an active part in many private or semi-public institutions and organizations of the assistance of China. He was president of China University (in Peiping) and a member of the boards of directors of St. John's University and Fudan University in Shanghai, as well as Nanking University in Nanking, respectively. He had also been a director of the China International Famine Relief Commission; a member of the National Flood Relief Commission; chairman of the finance committee of the United Philanthropic Associations of Shanghai; a member of the Standing Committee of the China Aviation League; and president of the China Good Roads Movement Association and the Pan-Pacific Association. Parallel to the above community services as well as Rotary in China, Wang was also the President of the National Red Cross Society of China. In 1922, Wang was elected as the first China's representative to the

International Olympic Committee, and served as its member until 1957, followed by the title of Honorary Member for life-long.

Wang was a Christian of the Chinese Episcopal Church. Wang was conferred Doctor Degree of Laws (LL.D.) (*honris causa*) in 1920 by St. John's University, Shanghai. Years later, Wang was conferred another Doctor Degree of Laws (LL.D.) (*honris causa*) by National Peking University.

(Remarks) Wang moved to Hong Kong in 1949 with second wife Dolly Chow (周德麗) who was daughter of Sir Shouson Chow (周壽臣爵士). He joined Hong Kong Rotary Club (香港扶輪社) until he passed away on 21 May 1961, in his final Rotary International position as 2nd Vice-President 1945-1946. Years later, his nephew-in-law Mr. Wing Chow (周振榮), grandson of Sir Shouson Chow, served as President of the Victoria Rotary Club (維多利亞扶輪社), Hong Kong, in the 1980's.

Brief Resume of the Convention

After 16 years the Rotarians of the world met again at Atlantic City for their annual convention, 21-26 June 1936, to enjoy in a favorite playground of the eastern seaboard of the United States 6 days of Rotary inspiration and entertainment and to “catch the vision” of the possibilities of Rotary's ideals so they might take that vision back home to their clubs, their communities, and their vocations. The total registration was 9,914 Rotarians and guests from 49 countries, and badges were also issued to 617 children of Rotarians under 16 years of age. This attendance made the Atlantic City Convention one of the largest in the history of Rotary conventions during the past 3 decades, and the program and splendid facilities helped to make it one of the most enjoyable and successful.

The hotels, the Boardwalk, and the Convention Hall, the chief feature of the city for the Rotarians, served to concentrate the convention visitors in a rather limited area and intensify the fellowship and development of acquaintance because of the absence of outside distraction. Among little bits of colour which, put together by the thousands, made up the great mosaic of the Convention and action, might be included these: Five Rotarians from China carried off the attendance trophy; Cecil Rae from Ipoh, Federated Malay States, asserted his claim to the longest trip, 13,000 miles; J. E. Fitzwilson of New Orleans, Louisiana, U.S.A., who was secretary of the first Rotary Convention in Chicago, 1910, was present at this 27th Convention; hundreds of the sons and daughters of Rotarians developed their own program of entertaining, setting a convention precedent.

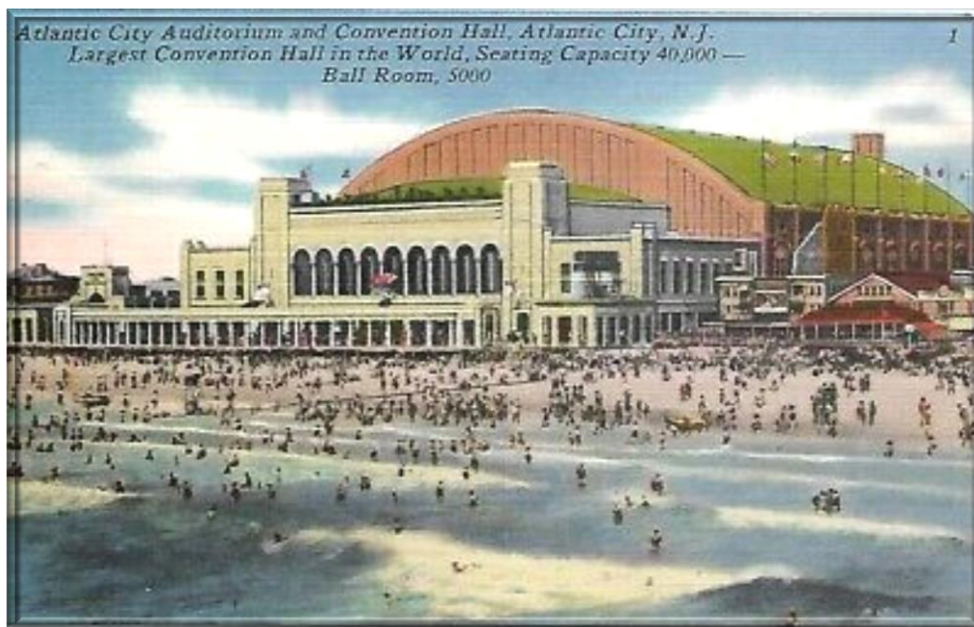
500 Hosts and Hostesses from Philadelphia

The great hotels along Atlantic City's famous nine-mile Boardwalk were filled with a throng perhaps more international than this "world's playground" has ever seen at any one time. The municipal auditorium where the plenary sessions of the Convention and most of the principal entertainment features were held, contained on the main floor a vast lounge---the House of Friendship---where nearly 500 Philadelphia Rotarians and their ladies were on duty during the week as hosts and hostesses.

Never before has a Club outside the host city sent such a large delegation, certainly not such a group to be at the service of the Host Club and its guests. Another convention record was the size of the delegation from Britain and Ireland---218 Rotarians and their ladies, a high mark for such a group at a Rotary Convention in North America.

As a background for the hundreds of comfortable chairs in the lounge for moments of relaxation, a row of New Jersey pine trees stretched across the center of the main floor. In the middle was an enormous tapestry of the flags of all the countries in which there were Rotary clubs, hanging above a model of an ancient sailing vessel, apparently drifted ashore on the sandy beach of Atlantic City.

House of Friendship Bordered with Pines



Atlantic City Auditorium and Convention Hall, Atlantic City, New Jersey, U.S.A.

At the entrance of the House of Friendship and in either corner were miniature waterfalls illustrated with colored lights, created by a cascade of soap bubbles. Back of this row of pine trees was a sheet of ice on the auditorium floor on which, Thursday evening, a group of nearly

60 skaters from the New York Skating Club and from Toronto, Canada, gave a marvelous exhibition of fancy skating. The gay costumes and colored spotlights following the skaters darting over the ice made it seem like a scene from fairyland.

The stage of the main auditorium was furnished as a council chamber where some 125 members of the Council on Legislation met on Monday morning, with later sessions Tuesday and Wednesday, to discuss the enactments and resolutions proposed for the consideration of the Convention.

From the center of the House of Friendship a broad stairway led up to the convention hall which on Wednesday evening was also the scene of the reception and ball in honor of President and Mrs. Johnson and the other officers of Rotary International and their ladies.

Every seat was taken in the hall when the Convention was called to order Monday afternoon by Alfred H. McKeown, chairman of the Convention Committee. Wide doors along one side admitted the breeze from the ocean just a few feet away across the Boardwalk.

Entertainment Program Began Sunday Evening

The entertainment program began formally on Sunday evening with a delighted musical presented by a choral group from Philadelphia accompanied by a concert orchestra. This Sunday evening entertainment and the registration activities all day Sunday gave the convention visitors an opportunity to orient themselves in the auditorium, locate the committee rooms and service booths, and also visit *«The Rotarian»* and *«Revista Rotaria»* booths and the Rotary International Secretariat just inside the main entrance.

A large group than ever before was brought to the Convention from the central office of the Secretariat by direction of President Johnson so that Rotarians might have a more direct contact with members of the staff and gain a better idea of the many types of service available.

The entertainment program of Monday evening took the convention goers to the Steel Pier, a huge structure extending 2,500 feet out over the ocean. Movies, dancing, aquatic sports, fireworks, and exhibits of many different kinds were offered exclusively for the Rotary convention visitors, with members of the Host Club at hand to answer questions, suggest other points of interest and assist everyone to get acquainted.



The Steel Pier of Atlantic City, New Jersey, U.S.A.

34th-50th District Dinner Attended by 1,400

The seventeen district and reunion dinners Tuesday evening taxed to capacity the larger banquet halls, especially the joint dinner of the 50th (host) and 36th (Northern New Jersey) districts, which was attended by about 1,400 Rotarians and their ladies. After these dinners informal dancing attracted many to the dance floor which occupied one side of the House of Friendship, covered in the daytime with rugs and wicker furniture. This additional space for dancing was especially convenient on Wednesday evening when the throng at the President's Ball overtaxed the ballroom floor. Prior to the ball, the dinner of Rotarians and their ladies from the British Commonwealth of Nations was one of the largest in the history of that era annual convention social event, with nearly 700 in attendance. This year the Rotarians from South Africa had charge of the program.

Ladies Program

Thursday evening's ice carnival brought the entertainment program to a brilliant climax and many who came from parts of the world where such affairs were frequent declared they had never witnessed anything so colorful and entertaining.

The two events especially for the ladies proved to be very popular. The ladies of the Atlantic City Rotary Club modeled a gorgeous collection of dresses in one of the Boardwalk theatres Tuesday afternoon and there followed one of the more recent feature motion pictures. The convention hall was given over to the ladies on Thursday afternoon for a musical. A harp ensemble of 15 ladies opened the program, followed by dramatic sketches presented by Cornelia Otis Skinner. Edgar Allen, leading baritone of "The Great Waltz", sang several solos.



Boardwalk of Atlantic City, New Jersey, U.S.A. (1936)