

Golden Anniversary of Rotary International in 1955

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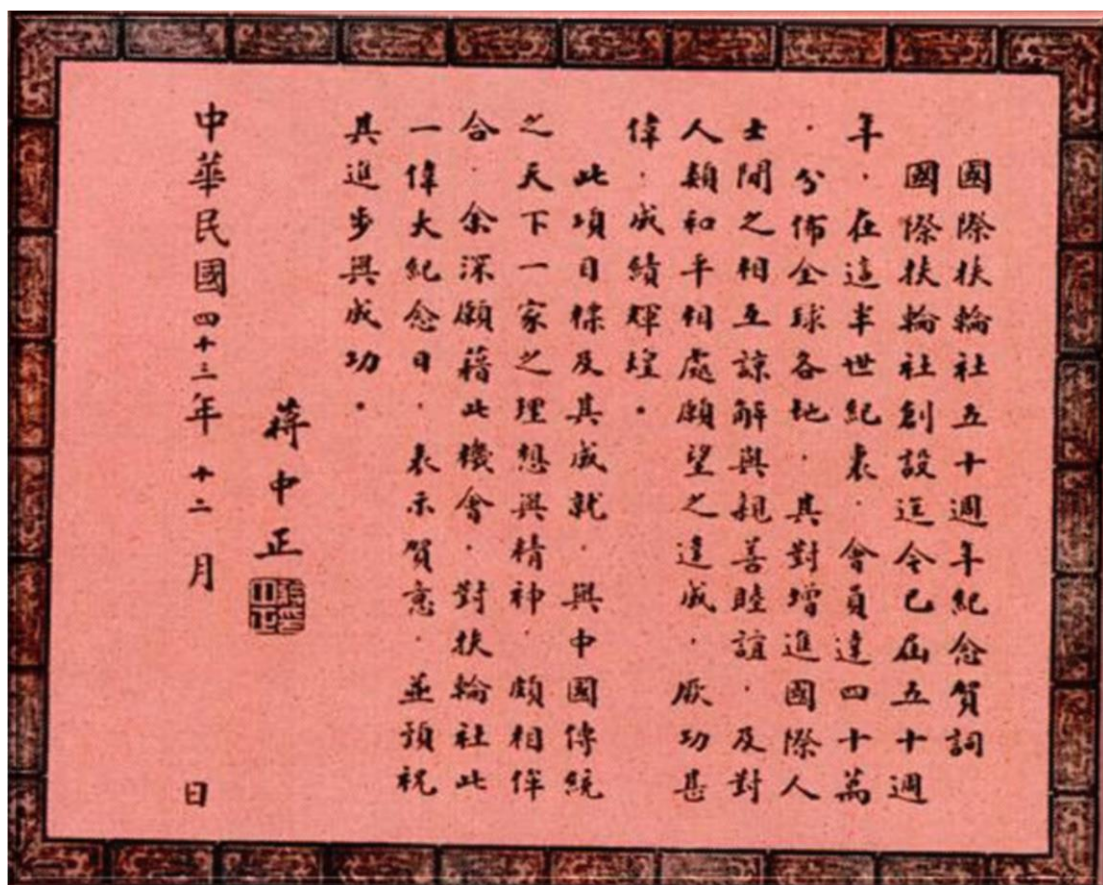
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Today is the 110th Anniversary of Rotary International since its inception in 1905. Certainly, 60 years ago today, there was the Golden Jubilee.

Commencing the year of 1954-1955, Golden Anniversary congratulatory messages from heads of State flew in Rotary International from all parts of the world. Excerpted here are some of the messages:

President Chiang Kai-Shek, Republic of China (中華民國蔣中正總統)



A handsome scroll from General Chiang Kai-Shek, President of the Republic of China, bears a message in brushed ideographs. It says the “objective of Rotary International may be likened to the ideal of universal brotherliness which has long been cherished by the Chinese people My best wishes.”

Winston Churchill, Prime Minister of The Great Britain

“All thinking men recognize the moral and spiritual value of Rotary. There is indeed a wealth of meaning in the motto ‘Service Above Self’. Few there are who do not recognize the good work which is done by Rotary clubs throughout the free world, and I send to you my best wishes on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of Rotary International.”

Louis S. St. Laurent, Prime Minister of Canada

“ ... Rotarians are setting a fine example of good citizenship and are doing much to increase the understanding between peoples which is the essential basis of world peace.”

S. G. Holland, Prime Minister of New Zealand

“ ... I have a personal appreciation of Rotary’s beneficial influence ... It is my sincere wish that your institution may prosper and its good influence expand over a wider area ... “

Ramon Magsaysay, President of The Philippines

“ ... Rotary International ... may well rejoice over its many notable accomplishments throughout the world ... and effective medium of fostering international understanding and goodwill.....I wish it success in all its future activities.”



Rajendra Prasad, President of India

“The advancement of understanding between all the peoples of the world, which is the cherished goal of Rotarians, would, I have no doubt, bring about a world fellowship – a consummation to be devoutly wished for by everyone.”

R. G. Menzies, Prime Minister of Australia

“In this, its Golden Anniversary Year, Rotary can look back on its contribution to human and international relationships with a deep and abiding satisfaction. The principle of liberty of the individual on which Rotary is founded is also the basic concept of true democracy. And upon courageous democracy depends the future of mankind.”

Ichiro Hatoyama (鳩山一郎), Prime Minister of Japan

“Rotary International has played a great role in bringing about friendship and better understanding among the nations and, thereby, contributed to the cause of world peace. I wish to congratulate the Rotarians all over the world for the untiring and successful efforts they have made in this regard.”

Rene Coty, President of France

“In the name of French Republic and the French Union, I address to Rotary International at the dawn of the second half century my most cordial wishes that its beneficent work may continue, be amplified, and thus help people to understand each other better and to enjoy a more fruitful cooperation.”

Joao Café Filho, President of Brazil

“During the last 50 years the goal of brotherhood and peace among the peoples of the world which inspires the Rotary movement has had wide acceptance in Brazil, where there are today over 300 Rotary clubs ... I am sure I express this same feeling of brotherhood and peace on which is based the Brazilian nation.”

Gaetano Martino, Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs

“Only those who understand the meaning of the new forces which are appearing on the stage of history will be able to tie with indissoluble bonds the present to the past in the sign of the new ideals. The message of Paul Harris is therefore still acting and valid.”

I. Ben-Zvi, President of Israel

“From a modest start in Chicago the movement has reached nearly 90 countries, a sure proof of its noble achievements ... The people of Israel fully identify themselves with the ideals of Rotary.”

P. Pibulsonggram, President of the Council of Ministers of Thailand

“Surely there is something in Rotary which enables it to attain such a great expansion within a very limited period of time. The secret is that Rotary is built on service ... to your friends ... your business or profession ... to your community ... to the cause of peace and tranquility.”

W. Drees, Prime Minister of The Netherlands

“The significance of the Rotary movement in the world and its growth also in our small country proves how much its aims are appreciated. It is at the same time an expression of the growing feeling for the importance of international cooperation.”

Sir Donald MacGillivray, High Commissioner for Malaya

“In Malaya I believe that Rotary has played a significant part in helping to bring men and women of all communities together in friendship and in promoting greater understanding.”

Gustaf Adolf R., King of Sweden

“I congratulate Rotary International. I have followed its development and the good work achieved. Its principles and its aims are without doubt excellent and deserve every support and I am happy to know that in Sweden it has met with much interest ... Every success ... “

Golden Anniversary Celebration in Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macao

In this non-Districted region comprised of 11 Rotary clubs---6 in the Republic of China (Taiwan), 4 in the British Crown Colony Hong Kong and 1 in the Portuguese Territory Macao, a joint Golden Anniversary Committee coordinated an area-wide program that each Club would adapt to its own locality.

Suggested events were: a ladies' night on 23 February 1955 featuring The Great Adventure film; an Anniversary Week during April; an Anniversary Ball; the production of a booklet on the history of Rotary in Formosa; the writing of four articles on Rotary for distribution to Chinese newspapers; and the scheduling of three radio talks by Rotarians, etc.

In addition to this joint program, clubs have individual plans mapped out for celebrating Rotary's half century of service.