

Rotary in China as in the Year 1924

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1 October 2014



Today, 1 October 2014, is the 95th Year of Rotary in China. Since the inception of Shanghai Rotary Club (上海扶輪社) on 1 October 1919 sponsored by Seattle Rotary Club from Washington, U.S.A., China became the 9th nation (or territory) that commenced the Rotary movement.

There was steady Rotary growth in the Republic of China (中華民國) during the first 5 years. On 10 May 1923, Tientsin Rotary Club (天津扶輪社) was admitted to Rotary International. One year later, 30 August 1924, the 3rd Rotary Club---Peking Rotary Club (北京扶輪社)---was admitted. This new Club also marked a new page of Rotary China History (or even Rotary World History)---the first Chinese served as a Club President---Admiral Tsai Ting-Kan (蔡廷幹海軍中將). Admiral Tsai, ethnic Cantonese, was one of the Imperial China's warship captains participated in the First Sino-Japanese War (甲午戰爭) 1894-1895. So, as at 1 October 1924, 90 years ago, there were only 3 clubs in China, non-districted, and were supervised by an Honorary Commissioner (*today called Special Representative*) appointed by Rotary International.

How were the clubs looked like in 1924?

Here are some of the descriptions excerpt from the old manuals, and see how much differences and variation from those written in today's Manual of Procedure 2013:

Rotary

Fundamentally, Rotary is a philosophy of life that undertakes to reconcile the ever-present conflict between the desire to profit for one's self and the duty and consequent impulse to serve other. This philosophy is the philosophy of Service – "Service Above Self" – and is based on the practical ethical principle that "he profits most who serves best".

The Rotary Club

Primarily, a Rotary Club is a group of representative business and professional men who, without secret vow, dogma or creed, but each in his own way, have accepted the Rotary philosophy of service and are seeking: First, to study collectively theory of service as the true basis of success and happiness in business and in life; and, second, to give, collectively, practical demonstrations of it to themselves and their community; and, third, each as an individual, to translate its theory into practice in his business and in his everyday life; and fourth, individually

and collectively, by active precept and example, to stimulate its acceptance both in theory and practice by all non-Rotarians as well as by all Rotarians.

The Objects of Rotary

To encourage and foster:

- (1) The ideal of SERVICE as the basis of all worthy enterprises;
- (2) High ethical standards in business and professions;
- (3) The application of the ideal of service by every Rotarian to his personal business and community life;
- (4) The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;
- (5) The recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations and the dignifying by each Rotarians of his occupation as an opportunity to serve society;
- (6) The advancement of understanding, goodwill, and international peace through a world fellowship of business and professional men united in the Rotary ideal of service.

Rotary Membership – Men Only

The membership of each Rotary Club consists of but one man from each distinct line of business or profession in the community, and such business or professional activity, to which he must devote at least 60% of his working time, becomes his classification in Rotary. The intention of that each business and profession shall have one worthy and active exponent in the Rotary club and that the Rotary Club, through its members, may have one direct and responsible avenue of approach to all those engaged in each business and profession in the community.

Attendance at meetings of a Rotary Club is compulsory. Any member being absent from 4 successive meetings without excuse acceptable to the Club directors may suffer forfeiture of his membership. Attendance upon the meeting of any Rotary Club other than his own within the week of his own Club meeting, counts as attendance at his own Club, however, for any Rotarian.

Rotary in Action

Because he who serves must act, Rotary is not merely a state of mind, nor Rotary philosophy merely subjective, but must translate itself into objective activity; and the individual Rotarian and the Rotary Club must put the theory of service into practice.

Each individual Rotary Club has absolute autonomy in the selection of such objective activities as appeal to it and as are suited to its community; but no Club should allow any objective activity to obscure the objects of Rotary nor jeopardize the primary purpose for which a Rotary Club is organized; and Rotary International, although it may study, standardize and develop such activities as are general and make helpful suggestions regarding them, should never prescribe nor proscribe any objective activity for any Club.

A Rotary Club, therefore, is fundamentally an organization of men selected from the business and professions of a community. These men hold membership as Rotarians so long as they are truly representative of and can and will adequately express the best interests and highest ideals of their respective businesses and professions in the organization and so long as they are qualified to, and do, carry the spirit and practice of Rotary into their business and professions.

The Rotary World in 1924

Referring to the Rotary Countries Map 1924 in the next page which is taken from the front cover of 《The Rotarian》 magazine, the portions colored red indicate the nations and territories where Rotary clubs were operated. One can see from the map the territorial limits of China was much larger than today with the entire Mongolian region was included. In history, the nation of Mongolia (then called Outer Mongolia) was not independent yet as a protectorate territory of the Republican China prior to The Mongolian People's Republic was established in 1928.

The first Rotary Club in the world was formed in Chicago, U.S.A., on 23 February 1905, by Paul P. Harris, a lawyer, who suggested the form of organization to 3 friends and they instituted the first Club. Its progress had been steady since that time. Rotary International, the organization of which all Rotary clubs are members, on 1 January 1924, consisted of 1,592 clubs with an approximate membership of 97,000 Rotarians in 26 countries and territories.

Rotary International as in 1924

When Rotary clubs were formed only within the United States, 《National Association》 (美國全國扶輪社協會) formed by convention of the first 16 clubs in August 1910, at Chicago, general officers elected and a constitution adopted.

Second Convention held at Portland, Oregon, August 1911. Platform adopted; motto chosen; monthly magazine established.

《International Association of Rotary Clubs》 (扶輪社國際協會) was formed in August 1912, at Duluth, Minnesota, U.S.A., to provide for charters to Winnipeg of Canada, and London of England.

《Rotary International》 (國際扶輪) became the name by adoption of revised Constitution at Los Angeles Convention, 6 June 1922.

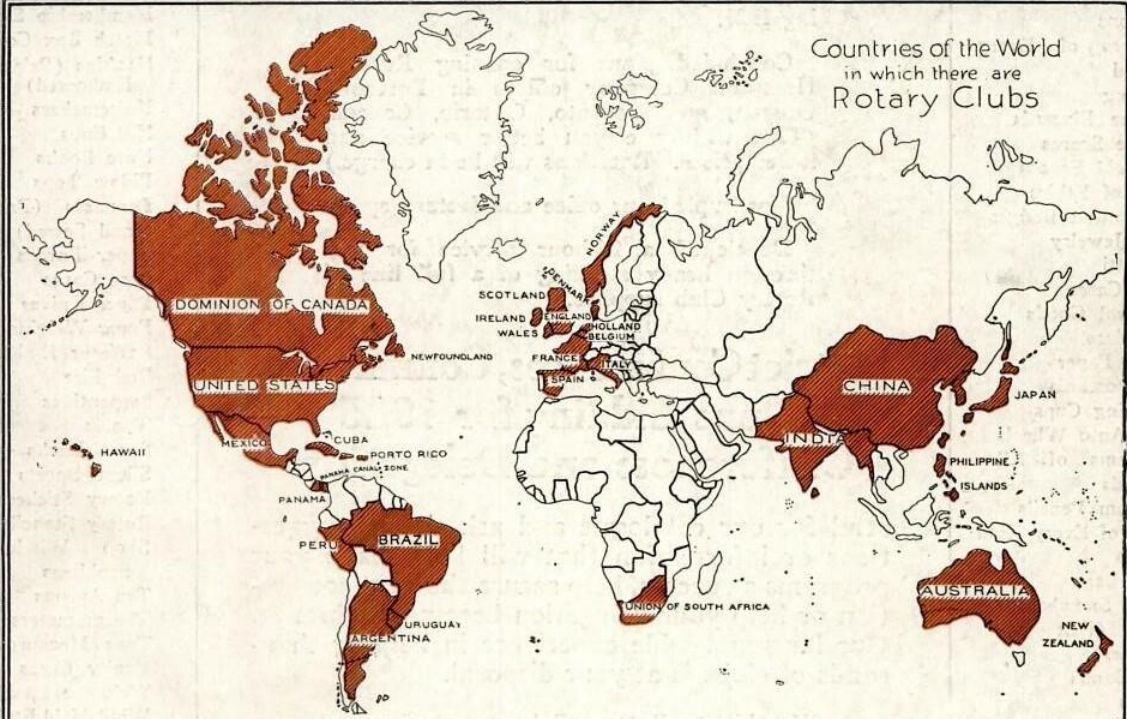
ROTARY had a definite program. Each year after the International Convention 5 international committees, each charged with a phase of Rotary activity and composed of men from all over the world, met in Chicago for a week and formulated a program for the year's work. The following week the chairmen of these committees presented their report to the International Board of Directors for co-ordination and adoption. The week thereafter 41 District Governors, in charge of the 41 Rotary districts, the general officers, the President of the Association for Great Britain & Ireland, and the Honorary Commissioners met with the Board and were advised as to the program for the year. Each Governor then assembled the executives of all the clubs in his District and conferred with them as to the program adopted by Rotary International for the year and its development in the clubs. The executives, in turn, passed the program on to their respective clubs.

Rotary International published pamphlets on each Rotary activity outlining in detail, for the benefit of the executives of the individual Club, how that activity might be conducted as the result of the experience of the clubs generally with any particular activity. Since 1923, there was Chinese language version translated and published in Shanghai, supervised by Dr. Fong Foo-Sec (鄭富灼博士) and Dr. Chengting Thomas Wang (王正廷博士).

ENGLAND - FRANCE - HOLLAND - INDIA - IRELAND - ITALY - JAPAN - MEXICO - NEWFOUNDLAND

ARGENTINA - AUSTRALIA - BELGIUM - BRAZIL - CANADA - CHINA - CUBA - DENMARK

NEW ZEALAND - NORWAY - PANAMA - PERU - PHILIPPINE ISLANDS - PORTO RICO



Rotary's Sixth Object

To encourage and foster the advancement of understanding, goodwill, and international peace through a world fellowship of business and professional men united in the Rotary ideal of service."



SCOTLAND - SOUTH AFRICA - SPAIN

UNITED STATES - URUGUAY - WALES



FEBRUARY
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