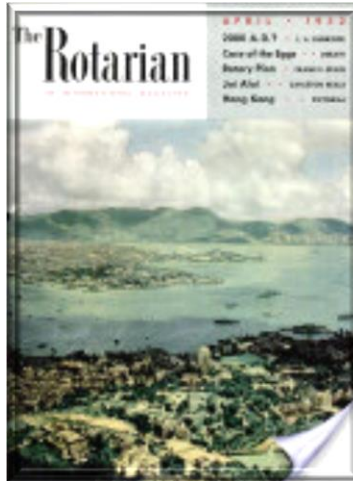


Rotary in Hong Kong and Kowloon in 1952

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

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This is the cover of the April 1952 Issue of *《The Rotarian》* magazine, and this was the first time the beautiful Victoria Harbour scene used on the cover of this global magazine with pictorial story telling Rotarians world-wide how the then British Crown Colony Hong Kong was recovering from the hard time of 3 years and 8 months during the Pacific War (1941-1945). The story also tells the effort and leadership of Dr. Arthur W. Woo (胡惠德醫生), O.B.E., J.P., on leading the Rotary Club of Hong Kong (香港扶輪社) to be re-admitted in 1946 to the membership of Rotary International (R.I.); the development of Rotary in Kowloon Peninsular and their service projects. The entire article is affixed herewith on Pages 3-6.

Some vital information about the Rotary World in that month: There were 7,447 clubs and an estimated 353,000 Rotarians. New and re-admitted clubs since 1 July 1951 was total 114. Rotary Clubs in the British Crown Colony Hong Kong, Portuguese Territory Macao, and the Republic of China (in Taiwan) were non-districted. These clubs were supervised alternatively until 1960 by R.I. Administrative Advisor(s) for China, Dr. Chengting T. Wang (王正廷博士), former R.I. 2nd Vice President, and George E. Marden (馬頓), Past R.I. Director. Both of these two former Shanghai Rotarians were Active Members of Hong Kong Rotary Club then.

In the last page of the story, there mentioned the Hong Kong Rotary Club proposed to establish a permanent camp for poor children on Ma Wan Island (馬灣島). The project was actualized by the Club in acquiring a piece of land at the Silvermine Bay of the Lantau Island (大嶼山銀礦灣), and built in 1953 a permanent holiday camp for refugee kids. The camp is still existing, but is currently run by the Hong Kong Playground Association and is named Silvermine Bay Outdoor Recreation Camp (香港遊樂場協會銀礦灣戶外康樂營) with the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust (香港賽馬會慈善信託基金) funded a major refurbishment of the facilities in 2014/15.

About Dr. Arthur W. Woo



Dr. Arthur W. Woo (胡惠德醫生), OBE, CStJ, FRCS, MBBS, MRCS, LRCP, JP (1888-1964) was a medical missionary of obstetrician and gynecologist. He was a charter member in 1930 of the Hong Kong Rotary Club and served as its President in 1940-1941, and who rejuvenated the broken Club after the victory of the Pacific War (a chapter of the World War II) in 1945.

Woo was an ethnic Cantonese born in the British Crown Colony Hong Kong. His father was Dr. U I-Kai (胡爾楷醫生), and his younger sister was Catherine F. Woo (胡素貞博士), MBE, PhD, JP, principal in 1916-1952 of St. Paul's Girls' School (聖保羅女書院).

Following graduation from Diocesan Boys' School (拔萃男書院), Woo studied Latin and French in England. He was trained and qualified at Middlesex Hospital in 1913, and obtained Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians (LRCP), Membership of the Royal College of Surgeons, Great Britain (MRCS) in the same year. In 1916, Woo was conferred double Bachelor's degrees in Medicine and Surgery (M.B., B.S.) by the University of London. He was Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons (FRCS) (England) in 1949, and Honorary Fellow of the International College of Surgeons (FICS).

During the First World War (1914-1918), Woo served at The Military Hospital and several other hospitals in Great Britain, followed by studies in New York and Baltimore under a Rockefeller Foundation scholarship, including training at the Johns Hopkins University Hospital in the United States. Then he returned to China and became the First Assistant to Professor J. Preston Maxwell, Department of Gynecology & Obstetrics, Peking Union Medical College (北京協和醫學院) in 1923; Medical Advisor to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Transportation, Republic of China; Personal physician to the Republican China's Grand President Li Yuan-Hong (中華民國大總統黎元洪). Woo was decorated the Order of Golden Grain, 5th Class (五等嘉禾勳章).

Woo registered to practice in Hong Kong since May 1919. He returned from Peking in 1925. Other than private practice, he was Lecturer and Internal Examiner of Hong Kong University (香港大學); Medical Superintendent (and owner) of Babington Hospital (惠德頤養院); President 1924-1925 Hong Kong Chinese Medical Association (香港中華醫學會); President 1928, China Medical Association (中國博醫會); Y's Men's Club (香港國際聯青社) President 1935-1936, and Governor 1936 of South China District; Founder & Chairman 1937, The Hong Kong International Medical Relief Society; Director since 1952, Hong Kong St. John's Ambulance Association (香港聖約翰救傷會).

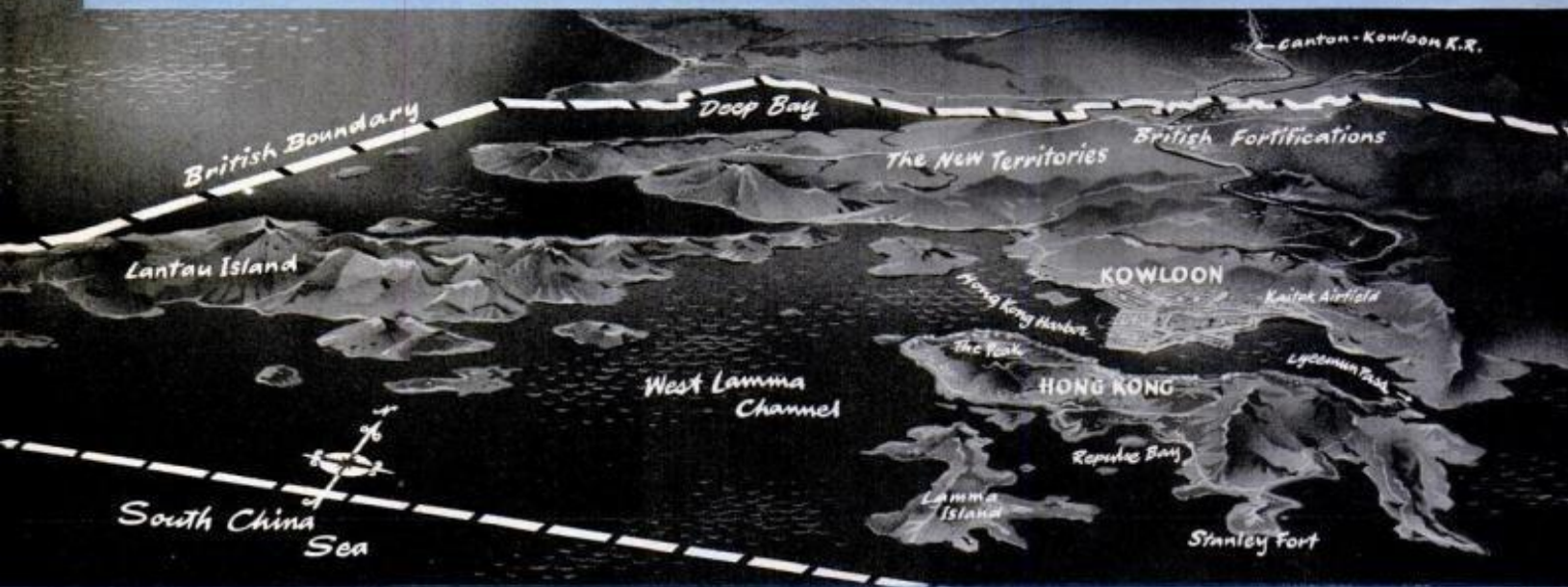
Woo was decorated by King George V, United Kingdom, the Silver Jubilee Medal in 1935; and was decorated again the British Realm of the Venerable Order of the Hospital of Saint John of Jerusalem, Associate Serving Brother in 1938 / Commander in 1949. He was appointed by the Hong Kong Governor an Unofficial Justice of Peace for Hong Kong (香港非官守太平紳士) in 1938. On 10 June 1954, Woo was decorated by Queen Elizabeth II, United Kingdom, Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (O.B.E.).

CANTON

Rice Paddies

SHEKLUNG

HONG KONG *East-West Tangent*



Map by Ernest...

The Crown Colony of Hong Kong includes far more than the island of that name—the broken line embracing almost all its 390 square miles of land and water. Canton (upper left) is 80 miles away.

MOTOR UP 2,000 steep feet from the tropical city—leaving teeming water-front streets and passing ornate colonial homes and multitiered pagodas—and at last you reach the granite top of the famous Peak.

If the day is clear, you will see below you one of the most beautiful of harbors and one of the most enigmatic of communities. This mountainous hump of earth on which you stand—this jade-green island studded with white buildings and rimmed by bright sand beaches—is Hong Kong. At your feet are the crowded streets of Victoria. East of you is the resort area along Repulse Bay. In the voluptuous harbor itself you see a flotilla of merchant ships riding at anchor amid a swarm of junks, and beyond them the mainland docks of Kowloon and the narrow wedge of air strip at Kaitak. Still farther away, behind steeper mountains, lies the Shumchun River, which separates this British Crown Colony of Hong Kong from China. You are surveying an area which, with its island-cluttered bay, measures 390 square miles—home to some 2 million Orientals and 10,000 Europeans. More important, you are looking at one of the few peaceful tangents between China and the West.

This is not a new rôle for Hong Kong. It has served as a meeting ground for East and West ever since its cession to Great Britain in 1842. Except for its eclipse under Japanese occupation during World War II, this port has remained for 110 years a showcase and warehouse for most of the goods entering and leaving Southeast Asia. Controversies today over Hong Kong's trade are, if anything, quieter than many a debate in the past. Through them all, and through many a troubled Eastern era, the trade has continued.

Following World War II, Hong Kong's merchants began

to diversify the port's commerce. The plan has largely succeeded. Even before the recent restrictions, trade with China represented only 20 percent of Hong Kong's total volume, compared to 40 percent before the war. More goods are now shipped to The Philippines, Korea, Japan, Indonesia, Macao, and Siam. Embargoes prohibit the shipment of oil, munitions, and similar supplies to Red China.

With the Chinese Civil War and the Korean campaign, residents of Hong Kong have felt the tension mount. But most of the Colony's businessmen do not fear a Communist move against their community. For today, they point out, Hong Kong is too valuable as a meeting ground for both sides.

Each day some 5,000 persons file past the frontier markers—or even swim across the Shumchun in full view of customs men. Several passenger trains run daily to and from Canton, 80 miles distant. Among these people are traders, missionaries, and refugees. Western observers have found these travellers their most important sources for Chinese information. Many organizations with personnel or investments inside China find Hong Kong their one "window" or escape hatch. Chinese Nationalists from Formosa (just 400 miles away) maintain ties with resistance leaders on the streets of Hong Kong. Similarly, Chinese Reds find the Hong Kong postal system useful as an international maildrop.

What with these problems, plus a population that has doubled since 1945, the Crown Colony has need for substantial Community Service work. And helping to do this job are the Rotary Clubs of Hong Kong, on the island, and Kowloon, on the mainland. For a photographic report of their work in this colorful, troubled corner of the world, turn the next page.



Swelling an already crowded Hong Kong, more Chinese refugees cross the Shumchun Railway Bridge into the Colony. . . . Each is inoculated (left).



Using a mine detector, a Hong Kong policeman checks for hidden weapons.



Authorities screen all crossing the border bridge into the British Crown Colony.

The face of a refugee mother betrays her long anxiety.



The clean commercial buildings of Victoria rise along the water front of Hong Kong Island, dominated by the granite Peak. (Note this month's cover photography, taken from the Peak looking down on Victoria and the harbor.)

Photos: (all above) Forman





A side street in Victoria where many a thoroughfare is a stairway.



A public scribe writes letters at his sunny sidewalk "office."



A street library (below) displays enticing titles.



Wiry stevedores unload boats from swaying gangways along the water front.



Silhouetted junks move under sail across the ample, island-protected bay. Including the harbor area, the Colony measures some 390 square miles.

Photos: (all except above) Wu



Terminus of the busy ferry connecting Victoria with Kowloon. . . (Below) The pagoda of a Chinese millionaire.



Rotary in HONG KONG

IN NOVEMBER, 1945, a newly freed Hong Kong was struggling back into operation. Every day ships brought repatriates back from prison camps, along with new cargoes to restart the port's flow of commerce. It was a period of shortages and dislocations. Even so, Dr. Arthur W. Woo invited a large group of his friends to lunch one day at the Gloucester Hotel. As the friends sat down together, one of them remarked, "This looks like Rotary." Rotarian Woo smiled and said, "Yes, we must find a good Secretary."

That was the way the Rotary Club of Hong Kong was reborn after the Japanese occupation. Though the Club was first formed in 1931, its postwar reincarnation has brought Rotarians their greatest challenge for service, for the Chinese Civil War and the Korean crisis have markedly increased the Colony's local problems.

At their Tuesday "tiffin" meetings in the Hong Kong Hotel, these cosmopolitan Rotarians (no one nationality makes up more than one-third of the members) tailor their community services to their crowded community's needs.

Since the war, the Club has built and maintains a free anti-trachoma clinic which treats some 800 patients a month. Now the Club is building a permanent camp for poor children on a site donated by the Colonial Government on Ma Wan Island. The cost—some \$25,000—has been raised by subscription and charity benefits.

The better to serve their community, Hong Kong Rotarians in 1948 helped organize a new Club on the mainland at Kowloon. Now Kowloon has its own trachoma clinic and a playground for children.

Adults and children—one riding on mother's back—queue up for treatment at the Hong Kong Club's clinic.

The patients (below) file into the clinic for registration first, then for modern treatment. . . . Outside the clinic (below, far right) stand the two Hong Kong Rotarians who serve the project free, Dr. Goh Kof Chuan and Dr. Goh Kok Aun, identical twins.



The Hong Kong Rotary Club "comes of age" amid flowers and flags in November. International Director G. E. Marden, Hong Kong, is speaking.



Members of the Kowloon Rotary Club stand before their trachoma clinic.

Photos: (all below)

