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譚雅士大律師 -- 首位香港扶輪人執掌保良局

William Ngartse Thomas Tam

The First Rotarian Chairman of Po Leung Kuk

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

1 February 2016



The Honourable William Ngartse Thomas Tam (譚雅士), OBE, LLB (UCL), BA (HKU), JP, was a charter member 1930 of The Rotary Club of Hong Kong (香港扶輪社), and later served Club President in 1936-1937. During the same year, concurrently, Tam was elected to serve as Chairman of Po Leung Kuk (保良局丙子年董事會主席). Literally, the name “Po Leung Kuk” in Chinese means “the Society for the Protection of Women and Children”. Simultaneously, Tam was also appointed one of the first Unofficial Members of the Urban Council (市政局非官守議員) by the Hong Kong Governor Sir Andrew Caldecott (香港總督郝德傑爵士). Sitting in the same Council was another Rotarian colleague, Benjamin Wong-Tape (黃炳耀), OBE, JP, Charter Secretary of Hong Kong Rotary Club 1930-1932.

It is interesting to know that, Sir Andrew Caldecott, GCMG, CBE, KStJ, FRAS, FRSA, MA, BA, was also a former Rotarian---the Charter President 1929-1930 of The Rotary Club of Kuala Lumpur (*known nowadays as Kuala Lumpur DiRaja Rotary Club*), when he was a British colonial administrator of the Federated Malay States.

On the other hand, Tam was the father-in-law of another eminent Rotarian--- Dr. The Honourable Dato Seri Paduka Sir Ti-Liang Yang (楊鐵樑爵士), Kt, GBM, SPMB, HonLLD (PolyHK), HonDLitt (HKU), HonLLD (CUHK), FCIArb, LLB (UCL), JP, President 1983-1984 of the Rotary Club of Hong Kong. Sir T. L. was the Chief Justice of Hong Kong (香港首席按察司/首席大法官) in 1988-1996. Concurrently, Sir T. L. was also appointed as President of the Court of Appeal of Brunei Darussalam from 24 May 1988 until 16 May 1993, according to the customary practice of the British Commonwealth. Lady Yang (譚愛蓮) was Tam’s second child and the only daughter.

Chairman of Po Leung Kuk

Tam served as the Chairman of Po Leung Kuk in 1936-1937 during the same year when he was the President of The Rotary Club of Hong Kong. Prior to that, he had served Po Leung Kuk as a director for several years as well as the Deputy Chairman. He was also previously the Principal Director of the Tung Wah Hospital (東華醫院首總理) immediately before the establishment of the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals (東華三院).

Po Leung Kuk, a non-government organization, was set up in 1878. “Po Leung”, translating literally as “protection of the young and the innocent”, represents the core vision of the organization formally established as the “society for the protection of women and children” in 1880. The founders of the Po Leung Kuk were a group of board members from the Tung Wah Hospital. There were three major reasons for setting up this non-governmental organization. First, since there were serious crimes, especially kidnapping cases in the late 19th century, the Po Leung Kuk was set up to rescue and protect the kidnapped victims. In the 1870’s, the kidnapping and selling of humans was very popular in Hong Kong. The kidnappers made use of Hong Kong’s characteristic as a trading port, using stick-and-carrot means to sell women and children overseas. These victims were sold as prostitutes, slaves or child servants and were forced to be separated from their families. Besides, the alternate flood and drought in China at that time had led to poverty and crime, as well as an increase in the number of kidnapping cases. Therefore, on 8 November 1878, a group of local Chinese leaders presented a petition to the Hong Kong Governor, Sir John Pope Hennessy (香港總督軒尼詩爵士), for permission to set up a society, later known as the Po Leung Kuk, to rescue and protect the kidnapped victims. They asked for authority to employ detectives, offer rewards for arrests, and returned the victims to their homes.

Second, due to the criticism against the Tung Wah Hospital’s engagement in non-medical functions, the Po Leung Kuk was established to sustain those functions. At the time, Tung Wah was already performing those functions. However, Tung Wah had been criticized in the English-language press for engaging in non-medical functions, and its “true nature” had been doubted, so the Po Leung Kuk was set up in an effort to carry on those functions.

Third, another reason for setting up Po Leung Kuk was that there was an outcry among the Chinese after the introduction of Ordinance 2 of 1875. At that time, having *Mui Tsai* (妹仔), concubine and prostitute was very common in the Hong Kong society as women had low social status. Women’s rights and freedom were not respected. Later, the government had the introduction of Ordinance 2 of 1875, which made any sale of human beings criminal. It was directed not only at kidnapping and the sale of “*Zhū huā*” (*young women*) (猪花) as overseas brides for Chinese labours or for prostitution, but at the buying and selling of human beings in every form. This law, however, had brought about an outcry among the Chinese, since the sale of persons had been a traditional custom and social practice in the Chinese society, most people were not supporting this Ordinance. Therefore, the Po Leung Kuk was set up to protect and help those women who were being sale and maltreated.

In this regard, Governor Hennessy played an important role in making the formation of Po Leung Kuk possible. He granted permission to the promoters to organize and carry out their plans provisionally even before he wrote to London for approval. Due to Hennessy’s lavish recommendation, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, the Earl of Kimberley, finally approved

of the Kuk (*society*) though he remained cautious. Because of his fear that the Kuk might become too powerful, he suggested that it did not need to be constituted by special ordinance. Hence, the Po Leung Kuk failed to gain the legal status as its promoters had hoped for, and remained a junior associate of the Tung Wah Hospital.

When Po Leung Kuk was set up, in the early days, it usually helped to solve the problem of abduction and maltreatment of women and children. It included arresting abductors, arranging marriage for the maltreated women and settling family disputes as to maintain its aim of “protecting the young and the innocent”, as well as providing shelters and education for such victims.

Over time, it became apparent that greater demands were required of the Kuk. After several reviews by the Government, the Po Leung Kuk Incorporation Ordinance (保良局立案法團條例), comprising 35 clauses, was enacted in 1893, creating a more efficient system for the Kuk to operate under.

There were some difficulties with the colonial government, as a result of cultural differences, but the overall intention of improving the lot of unfortunates was earnestly pursued. However, it has been suggested that the arrangements the Kuk provided had the convenient effect of maintaining a supply of servants and potential concubines for the wealthy Chinese families of Hong Kong, in a “peculiarly Chinese form of patriarchy”.

By the end of the 1930’s, the Government outlawed prostitution and the keeping of “*Mui Tsai*”, and consequently the incidence of kidnapping fell. With the outbreak of the Second Sino-Japanese War in 1937, new social problems -- such as the influx of refugees -- had arisen, which brought along child abuse and abandonment. The Kuk expanded its service to provide vocational training and education to refugee women.

After the Pacific War ended in 1945, the problem of abduction and maltreatment of woman and children had basically improved. Po Leung Kuk then noticed the importance of education for those children. Therefore, Po Leung Kuk adjusted its service to focus on educational development and sustained its goal in a different way from before. Adapting to the changing needs of the growing society of Hong Kong, the original and primary aim underwent gradual transformation. It became the pursuit of the mission of “protecting the young and the innocent”. This mission has been upheld for more than 100 years, and implemented persistently under modern and highly cost-effective management. Nowadays, Po Leung Kuk is still providing professional, quality and multi-facet social services to the changing society of Hong Kong, under the 《Po Leung Kuk Ordinance》 commenced on 14 December 1973.

Life of a Barrister

William Ngartse Thomas Tam (譚雅士) (21 July 1900 - 8 April 1976) was a barrister, a judge, and an Unofficial Member of the Legislative Council of Hong Kong (香港立法局非官守議員).

The third son of Lung Foo Thomas (*alias* Tam Ha-Si) (譚夏士) and a Eurasian reputed to have Toisan (台山) roots in Guangdong Province, Tam was born in Hong Kong on 21 July 1900. In his early years he was known as “William Ngartse Thomas”, and his close friends called him “Willie”. He had his secondary education in the Anglican Church Diocesan Boys’ School (拔萃男書室) in Bonham Road (般咸道), followed by graduation from the University of Hong Kong

(香港大學) with Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in 1920, and University College London with Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) in 1923. Tam was admitted in 1920 to Inner Temple before being called to the Hong Kong Bar. He also received a Diploma in Economics and Political Science from Oxford University in 1922. It was only at Oxford and subsequently that he used “Tam” as his surname, whereas his adopted brother George and his descendants have retained “Thomas” as theirs.

On 28 April 1933, Tam was appointed by Hong Kong Governor Sir William Peel (香港總督貝璐爵士) an Unofficial Justice of Peace for Hong Kong (J.P.).

As a lawmaker, Tam was appointed by Hong Kong Governor Sir Geoffrey Alexander Stafford Northcote (香港總督羅富國爵士) an Unofficial Member of the Legislative Council of Hong Kong from 17 March 1939 until 13 November 1941. Coincidentally, in the year of 1940, the only 3 ethnic Chinese lawmakers sitting in the same Council were all past presidents of Hong Kong Rotary Club: Lo Man-Kam (羅文錦) (Senior), Li Shu-Fan (李樹芬), and Tam. During the Pacific War (1941-1945) when Hong Kong fell under the Japanese Occupation, he was appointed to the Chinese Cooperative Council set up by the Japanese Military Authority. During the War and shortly after, he had had a law practice chamber jointly with Kan Yuet-Keung (簡悅強) and George Samuel Zimmern (*aka* George She) (施玉麒). In 1947, Tam was appointed by Hong Kong Governor Sir Alexander William George Herder Grantham (香港總督葛量洪爵士) to preside at the Central Magistracy until 1951. Then, Tam returned to private practice in his own chamber in Holland House, Central District, until retirement in 1960.

In 1951, Tam was decorated by King George VI of the United Kingdom and the Dominions of the British Commonwealth, Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (O.B.E.).

Tam married Jessie To Pui-Chun (杜佩珍), daughter of Dr. To Ying-Kwan (杜應坤醫生), on 2 November 1929, at St. John’s Cathedral. They lived at “Jessville”, which was named after his wife, on the hillside of Pok Fu Lam (薄扶林) (*see photo on Page 6*). Tam Passed away on 8 April 1976 at the Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital (養和醫院) at aged 75.

Legacy

The Jessie and Thomas Tam Charitable Foundation (譚雅士與杜佩珍慈善基金) has made significant donations to worthwhile causes including HK\$5 million to the Hong Kong Anti-Cancer Society (香港防癌會). Towards the Hong Kong Society for the Protection of Children (香港保護兒童會), there was donations on the establishment of (1) Jessie Tam Day Creche (譚杜佩珍日託嬰兒園); (2) Thomas Tam Nursery School (譚雅士幼兒學校); (3) Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Tam Nursery School (譚雅士伉儷幼兒學校). To the Society for the Promotion of Hospice Care (善寧會), there is Jessie and Thomas Tam Centre (譚雅士杜佩珍安家舍服務中心). To the Heep Hong Society (協康會), there is Jessie & Thomas Tam Early Education and Training Centre (譚杜早期教育及訓練中心) located in Tai Po (大埔).

In the United Kingdom, the Foundation supported £1 million for the 2012 NHS project, “Inflammatory Bowel Disease Registries in the United Kingdom and Hong Kong. A Comparative Study of Disease Pathogenesis in the Far East and West”, and through the W. N. Thomas Tam Fund for Chinese Studies at Oxford University to support Chinese education at its Faculty of Oriental Studies.



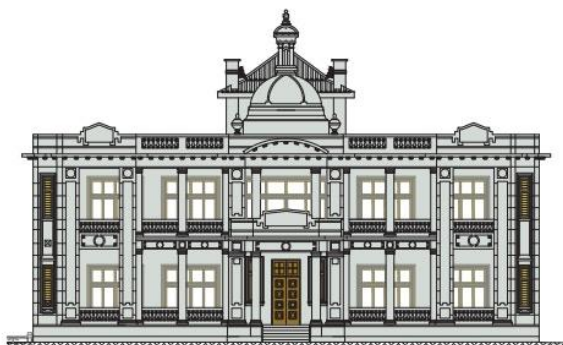
保良局於 1932 年落成 Po Leung Kuk built in 1932



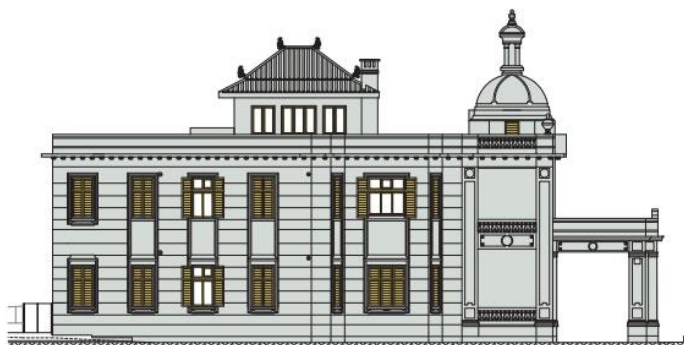
香港中央裁判司署於 1914 年落成 Hong Kong Central Magistracy built in 1914

Jessville Manor Elevation
Jessville 大宅立面圖

Key Plan
索引圖



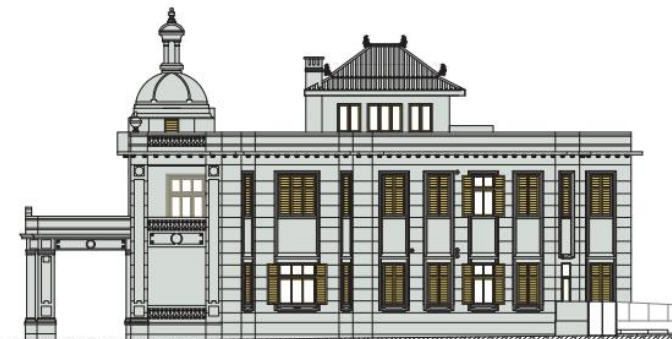
⑦ FRONT ELEVATION (SOUTH-WEST)
前立面 (西南立面)



⑧ LEFT ELEVATION (NORTH-WEST)
左立面 (西北立面)



⑨ BACK ELEVATION (NORTH-EAST)
後立面 (東北立面)



⑩ RIGHT ELEVATION (SOUTH-EAST)
右立面 (東南立面)



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譚雅士大律師 -- 首位香港扶輪人執掌保良局

議員譚雅士太平紳士 (William Ngartse Thomas Tam, OBE, LLB (UCL), BA (HKU), JP) 是 1930 年香港扶輪社 (Rotary Club of Hong Kong) 的創社社員，後來在 1936-1937 年度擔任該社社長。同年，譚雅士被選為保良局丙子年主席——保良局是「保護婦女兒童」的慈善組織。同時，譚雅士也被香港總督郝德傑爵士 (Sir Andrew Caldecott, GCMG, CBE, KStJ, FRAS, FRSA, MA, BA) 任命為市政局非官守議員。市政局內另有一位扶輪社員同事，那是香港扶輪社 1930-1932 年度的創社秘書黃炳耀太平紳士 (Benjamin Wong-Tape, OBE, JP)。

有趣的是，香港總督郝德傑爵士也是扶輪社的前社長。1929-1930 年，他是馬來亞聯邦首都吉隆坡扶輪社 (Rotary Club of Kuala Lumpur) 的創社社長，當時他是英國派駐馬來亞聯邦的殖民地政務官。

另一方面，譚雅士的女婿是另一位傑出扶輪社員，就是香港扶輪社 1983-1984 年社長楊鐵樑爵士 (Dr. The Honourable Dato Seri Paduka Sir Ti-Liang Yang, Kt, GBM, SPMB, HonLLD (PolyHK), HonDLitt (HKU), HonLLD (CUHK), FCIArb, LLB (UCL), JP)。1988-1996 年，楊鐵樑成為首位擔任香港首席按察司/首席大法官的華人。同時，根據英國聯邦的慣例，還於 1988 年 5 月 24 日至 1993 年 5 月 16 日被任命為汶萊達魯薩蘭國 (Negara Brunei Darussalam) 上訴法院院長。楊夫人譚愛蓮女士是譚雅士的第二個孩子，也是唯一的女兒。

保良局丙子年主席

1936 年，譚雅士接受推選為保良局丙子年董事會主席。在此之前，他在保良局已擔任多年總理和副主席。同年 7 月 1 日，擔任香港扶輪社社長。同期同時擔任兩個公益組織的領導職務，「首位現職香港扶輪社社長執掌保良局」，成為香港扶輪歷史的一項紀錄。

保良局是香港百多年歷史的慈善團體，秉承着「保赤安良」宗旨。初期主要是遏止誘拐婦孺，為受害者提供庇護及教養。隨着香港社會的轉變，現在已成為全港歷史悠久及具規模的慈善機構之一。提供優質多元服務，包括學校、老人院、青年中心的運營等等。目前共辦有超過 300 個服務單位，遍佈香港九龍新界。

在 19 世紀末，香港拐賣人口，逼良為娼等案件日增。東莞縣駐香港客商盧賡揚、馮普熙、施笙階、謝達盛等於 1878 年 11 月 8 日聯名上書香港總督軒尼詩爵士 (Sir John Pope Hennessy)，請准集資懸賞，懲查拐帶，以除拐匪而安善良。所以，每年 11 月 8 日便成為創局紀念日。

同時全港紳商再行集議，促請香港政府順應民情，批准設立「保良公局」，專責防止誘拐，保護婦孺。得軒尼詩爵士應允，轉詳英國藩政院 (Colonial Office) 核辦。同年 11 月 12 日，軒尼詩爵士又札諭巡理府 (Police Magistrates)、巡捕廳 (Captain Superintendent of Police) 及漢務參贊 (Chinese Secretary) 歐德理牧師 (Rev. Ernest John Eitel) 等組成委員會，與請願華商領袖合作，商議查禁拐帶及設法委辦保良公局；並起草方案，由軒尼詩爵士本人核閱。

公局籌組初期，由馮明珊等暫充值理。當時經費不足，又無固定局址。幸獲東華醫院紳商大力襄助，借出該院的「平安」、「福壽」兩樓上層，作為辦公及收容婦孺之所。1879 年 5 月，

紳商為建「保良公局」而集會研討，議決先行擬定開捐值事 22 位，以為倡辦捐簽。如捐助有成效，則另舉辦事 7 位。1880 年 5 月 20 日，藩政院大臣金巴利伯爵（Earl of Kimberley）覆函軒尼詩爵士，感謝華人士紳的幫助，並准設立保良公局，任由樂辦。1880 年 6 月保良公局的章程與組織制度草擬，由定例局（Legislative Council）議員伍敘負責。擬定後提交律政司柯馬理（Edward Loughlin O'Malley）修訂及確認後，再上呈金巴利伯爵。

倡設保良公局的 20 位紳董接奉擬就之章程制度後，經商議決定，通請闔港街坊於 1880 年 8 月 15 日（農曆庚辰年七月初十）星期日齊集商設公局事宜。將章程當眾宣讀，眾感合意。凡當日與會簽名者，便為勸捐值事，合共 88 位紳商。日後再從眾值事中公舉值理（即今日的總理）10 名。與會紳商均為一時俊傑，當中包括盧禮屏（前開設儀安金山莊）、馮明珊（有利銀行買辦）、施笙階三位創辦人。其他社會名流則有梁鶴巢（仁記洋行）、李玉衡（前開設和興金山莊）、招雨田（廣茂泰南北行）、曹雨亭（慎安號）、馮華川（後任職於中華匯理銀行）、黃筠堂（廣記南北行）、葉藹山（裕德盛南北行）、韋寶珊（韋敦善堂，日後韋寶珊爵士）、許蔚臣（怡泰南北行）、伍秩庸（大狀師）等。保良局初期的創辦人，多為東華醫院的總理；保良局亦曾借用東華醫院作為辦公場所，所以在早期有「東保一家」的說法。後期隨着保良局事業的擴大，以及獨立辦公地點的建成，兩家機構逐漸分離。

1881 年 8 月 2 日，經伍敘及柯馬理修訂完成的保良局規章共 16 款，送與局董察閱。新訂章程書明「保良局之設原係禁除拐帶及拯救被拐之婦女幼童」；並訂定其組織制度，如值理人數、任期、選舉等。1882 年 8 月 5 日修訂後的保良局規章 17 款終獲批准，刊於憲報，名為「保良局條例」《Rules for the Society for the Protection of Women and Children》。後因收容人數漸增，上環普仁街原址不敷應用；保良局遂於 1932 年遷往銅鑼灣禮頓道 66 號（66 Leighton Road, Causeway Bay）現址迄今（圖見第 5 頁）。之後，由於種種原因被送進局受保護的婦孺，都獲得免費的衣、食、住、醫藥保健，以及正規的學校教育和職業培訓。今天，保良局事務是由董事會根據 1973 年 12 月 14 日定立的《保良局條例》（香港法例第 1040 章）（Po Leung Kuk Ordinance, Chapter 1040）全權負責。另設顧問局，就該局重要事務提供意見。

大律師

譚雅士，1900 年 7 月 21 日生於香港。先祖是歐亞混血，當中有廣東台山宗族血緣，父親是譚夏士（Lung Foo Thomas Tam）。譚雅士有兩名胞妹，分別名譚安妮（Anna Thomas Tam）和譚綺華（Eva Thomas Tam）。前者畢業於聖士提反女子中學（St. Stephen's Girls' College），1937 年 12 月 8 日嫁給怡和洋行天津分行買辦梁炎卿之幼子梁文奎；後者同樣畢業於聖士提反女子中學，並於該校附設之幼稚園任教。惟於 1937 年 10 月 31 日深夜，乘坐由外籍副警司畢明達（Ken Bidmead）駕駛的跑車期間遇上嚴重車禍。跑車駛至薄扶林道（Pokfulam Road）與沙宣道（Sassoon Road）交界時失事翻側，畢明達僅受輕傷。但譚綺華卻因重傷延至翌日凌晨不治，終年僅 23 歲。

譚雅士另有兩名義兄，分別是譚嘉士（George Harold Thomas）和譚權（Henry Thomas）。兩人都是分別領養回來，均為歐亞混血，但與譚雅士兄妹沒有直接的血緣關係。其中譚嘉士後來成為執業西醫，長年於東華醫院任職，二戰後成為首位署任醫務總監的華人。至於譚權則任職於中國海關，惟於 1922 年自殺身亡。譚雅士早年跟隨兩名義兄入讀般咸道（Bonham Road）拔萃男書室（Diocesan Boys' School）。其後升讀香港大學（University of Hong Kong），1920 年取得文學

士學位畢業。大學畢業後，他又前赴英國深造，1922年從牛津大學(Oxford University)畢業。翌年再從倫敦大學學院(University College London)獲得法學士學位，未幾取得當地的執業大律師資格。

直到牛津大學讀書時期，譚雅士才以Tam作為英文姓氏，而他的兄弟譚嘉士(George)和他的後代則保留了Thomas作為他們的姓氏。

社會公職

從英國返香港後，譚雅士旋即開展執業大律師業務。又因為當時甚少華裔執業大律師，他很快就得到香港政府注意，逐漸向他委以不同的公職。

其中，特別關注經濟議題的他早於1930年7月獲香港總督貝璐爵士(Sir William Peel)委任為政府節約委員會(Retrenchment Commission)委員，研究在全球經濟大蕭條下節約政府開支的方法。委員會於1931年5月向政府提交報告書，並由政府於翌年正式向外發表。當中除了建議精簡政府架構以外，又提出政府應該引入更多華籍公務員，以取代薪酬和福利相對較優厚的外籍公務員。

1933年4月，譚雅士接受貝璐爵士任命為香港非官守太平紳士(Unofficial Justice of Peace for Hong Kong)。其後於1934年7月再應貝璐爵士的邀請加入到政府經濟委員會(Economic Commission)供職，就當前的經濟和幣制問題作出分析。委員會隨後在1935年2月發表報告書，認為政府不宜放棄銀本位。但政府後因局勢逆轉，於同年11月9日召開的立法局特別會議上通過《貨幣條例》，決議港元放棄銀本位制度。

另一方面，只有31歲的譚雅士於1931年當選東華醫院辛未年董事局首總理，並在任內見證東華醫院、廣華醫院和東華東院合組成為「東華三院」。他隨後於1934年獲政府委任為考慮在新界飼養豬隻和家禽委員會委員，參與研究新界禽畜業的發展政策。到1936年更進一步當選為保良局丙子年董事會主席，同時兼任華人廟宇委員會委員及香港仔工業學校(Aberdeen Technical School)執行委員會委員。

市政局議員 立法局議員

參與公共事務多年以後，譚雅士在1936年3月30日獲香港總督郝德傑爵士(Sir Andrew Caldecott)委任為市政局非官守議員(Unofficial Member of Urban Council)。任內曾於1937-1938年以前任保良局主席的身份兼任團防局紳，至1939年再度獲得委任。在1939年3月17日，譚雅士獲香港總督羅富國爵士(Sir Geoffrey Alexander Stafford Northcote)指派接替離港的李樹芬醫生暫任立法局非官守議員(Unofficial Member of Hong Kong Legislative Council)，同日又接替辭職的羅文錦出任交通委員會(Traffic Board)委員，復於同年7月獲委任為城市設計委員會委員。同年12月7日，他正式宣誓接替周竣年為立法局非官守議員。於是，在1940年同期的三位立法局華裔議員都是香港扶輪社前社長：羅文錦律師(首席)、李樹芬醫生、譚雅士大律師。

(『注』羅文錦：香港扶輪社1934-1935年度社長 / 李樹芬：香港扶輪社1938-1939年度社長)

為了更專注立法局的工作，譚雅士於翌年3月辭任市政局議員的職務。在立法局內，譚雅士與另一位較資深、事務律師出身的羅文錦都是比較踴躍發言的華裔議員，並敢於批評政府政策。當中包括聯同其他非官守議員大力反對政府計劃開徵入息稅的建議；並在1939年10月至1940

年2月兼任戰時收益委員會（War Revenue Committee）委員期間，與其他委員透過委員會發表的報告書對建議提出重大保留。幾經商界和政府的討價還價，開徵入息稅的建議最終在1940年4月獲立法局三讀通過；但稅項只作為維持戰時收益的臨時手段，政府還承諾第二次世界大戰結束後廢除稅項。雖然政府在大戰過後的確廢除了入息稅，但卻旋於1947年重新開徵。

譚雅士在立法局供職期間，適值第二次世界大戰爆發。但事實上，自1937年7月7日爆發日本帝國全面侵華戰爭以後，遠東早已戰雲密布。而廣州在1938年10月陷落以後，日軍兵臨香港深圳河邊界以北。並於1940年6月開始大量集結，使香港局勢更形嚴峻。鑑於當時中國大陸大量難民湧入香港，造成糧食短缺和其他社會問題，政府在1940年即着手修例加強管制邊境。除了率先在1940年11月成立移民局外，又於1941年1月在立法局通過《入境管制條例》，首次對所有進入香港的華籍人士實施全面管制。而離港的華籍居民如欲返回香港，也須先到設於中環公主行（Marina House）的移民局辦理移民證，才可再次入境。在加強入境管制一事上，譚雅士曾公開批評政府辦理移民證的手續繁複，輪候時間冗長。導致移民局每天都人頭湧湧，局內局外均十分擠擁，對市民構成相當不便。此外，他還十分關注食品管制和物價上漲等議題，並多番要求政府着手調查米價暴漲和設法平抑物價。

在1941年9月3日，譚雅士獲政府委任到新成立的就業仲裁審裁處擔任委員，負責協助調解勞工糾紛。但不久以後，太平洋戰爭在12月7日爆發。日本翌日派兵入侵香港，香港保衛戰對抗了18天。同月25日，香港總督楊慕琦爵士（Sir Mark Aitchison Young）宣佈無條件投降。標誌着香港淪陷，開展為期三年零八個月的日本軍事管治時期。淪陷初期，譚雅士被中止大律師業務和原有的公職。並因其政界背景，被日本軍政府強迫出任香港善後處理委員會其中一名委員。及至1942年初，日本軍政府組織華民各界協議會，譚雅士和羅文錦再被迫出任協議會其中兩名委員。後來又獲准與簡悅強和施玉麒（George Samuel Zimmern）合組律師樓，恢復業務，一直到1945年8月日本戰敗無條件投降為止。

中央裁判司署裁判司

1945年8月第二次世界大戰結束了，香港重光。重歸英國管治後，政府旋即強調大部份華人代表出於捍衛香港華人利益，並在得到英方秘密許可下，才接受出任日治政府的公職，當中並不涉及通敵賣國的行為。因此譚雅士等沒有與日方過從甚密的人士，大多未有遭到政府深究。不過，根據在戰後曾先後擔任軍政府首席民政事務官和輔政司的麥道高（David Mercer MacDougall）後來在內部文件中指出：如果重新委任一些與日治政府合作的華人領袖到行政局或立法局供職，將有可能引起很大爭議。因此，政府盡可能都不應該再委任這類人士到兩局供職。

雖然譚雅士戰後未有重任立法局非官守議員，但他仍然得到政府重用。在他的提倡下，政府在戰後即設立兒童法庭、紳士法庭和交通法庭，並特別由他擔任三庭法官。在1947年，他進一步獲政府委任為中央裁判司署裁判司；1949年更與羅顯勝一同成為香港開埠以來首批擔任常任裁判司的華人。譚雅士終於在1951年辭任裁判司一職，重新開展私人執業；於中環荷蘭行（Holland House）自設辦公室，至1960年方告退休。

除了司法職務以外，譚雅士還自1947年起出任香港大學校董，繼後又任大學薪俸委員會委員；1953年獲委任為英國大學遴選委員會委員，以及分別榮任東華三院和保良局永遠總理。為表彰譚雅士多年來從事公職方面的貢獻，1951年1月英國國王佐治六世頒授大英帝國最優秀官

佐勳章(Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, O.B.E.)。此前，他早已在 1937 年 5 月 14 日獲英國國王頒授佐治六世加冕獎章。

晚年

退休後的譚雅士繼續留任香港大學校董會，並於 1965 年獲委任為終身校董。晚年的譚雅士甚少出席公開活動，而且還幾乎完全失明。他在 1976 年 4 月 8 日卒於香港跑馬地養和醫院(Hong Kong Sanatorium and Hospital)，終年 76 歲。譚雅士離世後，家屬在同月 12 日下午 2 時 30 分於中環聖約翰座堂(St. John's Cathedral)為他舉行安息禮拜。不少生前好友均有出席，香港總督麥理浩爵士(Sir Crawford Murray MacLehose)與首席按察司貝理士爵士(Sir Geoffrey Gould Briggs)也分別致送花圈致悼。由簡悅強爵士、利銘澤、李耀祥和李福和等八名好友扶靈，靈柩隨後移奉往歌連臣角火葬場(Cape Collinson Crematorium)火化。

家庭

譚雅士信奉基督教，1929 年 11 月 2 日於中環聖約翰座堂迎娶杜應坤醫生的女兒杜佩珍(Jessie To)為妻。當日出席嘉賓除了兩方家屬以外，還包括羅旭龢議員(Robert Hormus Kotewall, J.P.)等知名士紳。據聞譚雅士當年與杜佩珍結婚的時候，曾探問妻子希望環遊世界抑或是建一所大宅，結果譚雅士兩件禮物也送出了。譚雅士所指的大宅，即為香港島半山區薄扶林道 128 號的「Jessville」(圖見第 6 頁)。該西式宅第樓高兩層，於 1931 年建成，名稱取自其妻的洋名。當年楊鐵樑在英國迎娶譚愛蓮後回到香港，也是在大宅內首次拜見岳丈和岳母。譚雅士夫婦在 1970 年左右遷出後，大宅就一直空置。

譚雅士與杜佩珍夫婦共育有一子譚正(William Nixon Thomas Ching Tam)，香港建築師；一女譚愛蓮，為香港首位華人首席按察司楊鐵樑爵士的妻子。

譚雅士生前十分關注兒童福利，除了在戰後擔任兒童法庭法官以外，還分別在 1926 年和 1948 年參與創立香港保護兒童會(Hong Kong Society for the Protection of Children)和香港青少年培育會(Hong Kong Juvenile Care Centre)。此外，譚雅士除了長年參與扶輪社的活動以外，還是共濟會(Freemasonry)會員，生前活躍於該會的雍仁會館(Zetland Hall)。

遺愛人間

- (1) 譚雅士杜佩珍慈善基金會：由譚雅士創立的一個慈善基金會
- (2) 捐贈香港防癌會五百萬港元
- (3) 譚雅士中國研究基金(W. N. Thomas Tam Fund for Chinese Studies, Oxford University, England)：捐贈一百萬英鎊，設於英國牛津大學東方研究學院。
- (4) 善寧會---譚雅士杜佩珍安家舍：位於九龍長沙灣麗閣邨麗蘭樓 316 至 318 室，創於 1997 年
- (5) 香港保護兒童會---譚杜佩珍日託嬰兒園：位於香港島西營盤第三街 204 號毓明閣地下低層
- (6) 香港保護兒童會---譚雅士幼兒學校：位於香港島西營盤醫院道香港佐治五世紀念公園內，1963 年創校

(7) 香港保護兒童會——譚雅士伉儷幼兒學校：位於九龍觀塘茶果嶺道茜草灣鄰里社區中心 3 樓，1994 年創校

(8) 協康會——譚杜早期教育及訓練中心：位於大埔運頭塘邨運來樓地下 14 至 15 室

主要社會服務

(1) 政府節約委員會委員 (1930-1931 年)

(2) 東華醫院辛未年首總理 (1931-1932 年)

(3) 考慮在新界飼養豬隻和家禽委員會委員 (1934 年)；

(4) 經濟委員會委員 (1934-1935 年)

(5) 保良局丙子年董事會主席 (1936-1937 年)

(6) 華人廟宇委員會委員 (1936-1937 年)

(7) 香港仔工業學校執行委員會委員 (1936 年-1937 年)

(8) 香港扶輪社社長 (1936-1937 年)

(9) 市政局非官守議員 (1936 年 3 月-1940 年 3 月)

(10) 團防局紳 (1937-1938 年、1939-1941 年)

(11) 立法局非官守議員 (1939 年 3 月-1941 年 12 月)

(12) 交通委員會委員 (1939-1941 年)

(13) 城市設計委員會委員 (1939 年 7 月-1941 年 12 月)

(14) 戰時收益委員會委員 (1939 年 10 月-1940 年 2 月)

(15) 就業仲裁審裁處委員 (1941 年 9 月-12 月)

(16) 香港善後處理委員會委員 (日治政府) (1941-1942 年)

(17) 華民各界協議會委員 (日治政府) (1942-1945 年)

(18) 中央裁判司署裁判司 (1947-1951 年)

(19) 香港大學校董 (1947-1965 年)

(20) 香港大學終身校董 (1965-1976 年)

