

香港扶輪社員普樂爵士 -- 香港大學共同創辦人

Hong Kong Rotarian Sir Henry Edward Pollock

Co-founder of the University of Hong Kong

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Dr. The Honourable Sir Henry Edward Pollock (普樂爵士), Kt, *HonLLD (HKU)*, KC, QC, JP (16 December 1864 - 2 February 1953) was an English barrister who became a prominent politician in the British Crown Colony Hong Kong. He joined the Rotary Club of Hong Kong (香港扶輪社) during its early years with the Classification “Law Practice—Barrister”.

He acted as Attorney General in Hong Kong on several occasions, and was once appointed to the same post in Fiji. He also served as Senior Unofficial Member of both the Legislative Council and Executive Council for many years in pre-Pacific War Hong Kong. Along with Sir Paul Chater (遮打爵士), then Governor Sir Frederick Lugard (盧吉爵士) and others, Sir Henry was one of the founders of the University of Hong Kong (香港大學).

Family background

Pollock was born to a well-known family in the law. His grandfather, Sir Frederick Pollock, 1st Baronet served as Attorney General for England and Wales between 1834 and 1835 and 1841 and 1844 in the Tory administrations of Sir Robert Peel; one of his many cousins, Sir Frederick Pollock, 3rd Baronet was a renowned professor of jurisprudence in the University of Oxford; another cousin of Pollock, Ernest Pollock, 1st Viscount Hanworth, served as the Master of the Rolls from 1925 to 1935.

Pollock's father was Dr. Arthur Julius Pollock. He was the eldest son in the second marriage of Sir Frederick Pollock, though he ranked thirteenth among the twenty-four children that Sir Frederick had. Dr. Pollock was a physician and lecturer in the Foundling Hospital and Charing Cross Hospital. He was also a Council member of the Royal College of Physicians.

Early years

Pollock was born in London, England, on 16 December 1864. Pollock was the third child of his mother, Ellen Bailey. He had an elder sister, Caroline, an elder brother, Arthur Julius, and a younger brother, Charles Frederick.

He spent his early childhood in London and was later admitted to the Charterhouse School. He quit the school in 1882 at the age of 18, and was promptly employed by a bank in Drury Lane. After one year of working, Pollock earned 50 pounds in total, and opted for continuing his study. He was successfully enrolled by the Inner Temple in 1883 and was called to the bar upon graduation in 1887.

In April 1888, seeking for new opportunities elsewhere, Pollock left his family and departed England for the British Crown Colony Hong Kong. He was soon qualified as a barrister in Hong Kong, and set up his career in the legal profession.

Colonial life

Pollock was substantially valued by the local society not long after his arrival to the Colony. For six months from September 1888 to March 1889, he had been appointed by the Government as acting Police Magistrate. On 24 April 1891, he was appointed Unofficial Justice of the Peace by Hong Kong Governor Sir George William Des Vœux (德輔爵士), and later in 1892, he had served as Acting Puisne Judge for the Government for half a year. In 1894, Hong Kong was suffered from a severe plague which caused thousands of deaths. Pollock was noted for his work on relief during the plague and was awarded a gold medal by the Government afterwards.

From 1896 to 1901, Pollock was appointed by the Government as acting Attorney General, and thus became an Ex-officio member of both the Legislative Council and Executive Council. During his tenure as both an Attorney General and a councillor, his performance was highly regarded by his colleagues, and he was appointed Queen's Counsel as a reward in 1900. In 1902, Pollock was posted to Fiji and served as Attorney General in there. Nevertheless, he did not stay long in Fiji and returned to Hong Kong a year later. A year in Fiji did not weaken his influence in Hong Kong: he went on to serve as a member of the Sanitary Board (潔淨局) from March 1903 to February 1906.

Life as councillor

In 1903, under the promotion of the Chamber of Commerce, Pollock had briefly served as Acting Unofficial Member of the Legislative Council for around a year. Soon afterwards, he was again nominated by the Unofficial Justices of Peace and became a full Unofficial Member of the Council in December 1905. For nearly forty years, Pollock would continuously represent the Unofficial Justices of Peace constituency in the Council.

In his long tenure in the Legislative Council, Pollock was active in public service and served in a number of committees as member or chairman, including the Peace Celebration and War Memorial Finance Committee, Housing Commission and the Standing Law

Committee. During the First World War, Pollock also sat as a Judge in the Appeal Tribunal; he was later re-appointed for the same post on the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939. As early as 1911 and 1912, Pollock was provisionally appointed twice as unofficial member of the Executive Council. However, he lost the chance to be appointed a full unofficial member in November 1915 when he unsuccessfully pressured the then Governor, Sir Henry May (梅含理爵士) in a Legislative Council meeting for replacing a vacancy for an unofficial member in the Executive Council through limited election.

Pollock was one of the most prominent activists on constitutional reform in pre-war Hong Kong. He did not give up after his request was abruptly turned down by Sir Henry. In January 1916, he sent a petition compiled with a few hundred signatures to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, Bonar Law, and called for reform in both the Legislative and Executive Council. According to his proposal, he suggested that more unofficial seats should be created on the two councils. These new seats should be elected by members of the Chamber of Commerce and the unofficial Justices of Peace to let them be more fully represented. Also, Pollock supported the appointment of more Chinese to the two councils.

Pollock's proposal was also rejected by Bonar Law with no reason given. The relationship between Pollock and Sir Henry, was so badly damaged that Pollock was never again chosen to sit on the Executive Council during the governorship of Sir Henry. Pollock only became an unofficial member of the Executive Council after the retirement of Sir Henry, when his successor, Sir Reginald Stubbs (司徒拔爵士), appointed him in 1921. Three years later, Pollock was appointed a Knight Bachelor in the King's Birthday Honours in 1924.

Pollock was appointed acting Attorney-General for three times in 1919, 1925 and 1928 respectively. In his capacity as acting Attorney-General, he sat in the two councils as ex officio member rather than unofficial member, and his unofficial seats in the Legislative Council was provisionally elected by his fellow Justices of Peace. In 1917, he succeeded Sir Boshan Wei Yuk (韋寶珊爵士) as Senior Unofficial Member of the Legislative Council; later in 1926, he also became Senior Unofficial Member of the Executive Council after the death Sir Paul Chater (遮打爵士), and therefore became the Senior Member of both two councils. Nevertheless, on 16 September 1928, Pollock had an accidental fall in his home at No. 367, the Peak. He broke his thigh heavily and could not assume his duties in the councils. As a result, another member of the Legislative and the Executive Council, Sir Shouson Chow (周壽臣爵士), temporarily replaced him as Senior Member during his incapacity. Pollock recovered from the fall in December and reassumed his duties again.

Besides his duties in the two councils, Pollock had served as chairman of the Hong Kong Branch of the Navy League, the Chess Club, the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and the Constitutional Reform Association. He had also served as Commodore of the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club, Secretary of the Odd Volumes Society and corresponding secretary to the Royal Colonial Institute.

Founding the University of Hong Kong

Pollock was instrumental to the establishment of the University of Hong Kong (香港大學) as he was one of the founders of the University. Pollock was originally a member of the Council of the Hong Kong College of Medicine for Chinese (香港華人西醫書院). In March 1908, along with Sir Paul Chater, Sir Kai Ho-Kai (何啟爵士) and a few other people, Pollock was appointed to the newly founded organizing committee of the University of Hong Kong which was chaired by Sir Paul Chater by then Governor Sir Frederick Lugard (盧吉爵士). When the University of Hong Kong was officially founded in 1911, Pollock was appointed a life member of the University Court. Pollock was said to be an active member who frequently attend the Court's meetings, and was noted for his enthusiasm towards the development of the University. In acknowledging his contribution, he received Honorary Doctorates of Law from the University on 5 January 1925.

Pollock had close ties with St. Stephen's College (聖士提反書院) as he was one of the guests invited to the foundation stone-laying ceremony of the College's new school site in Stanley (赤柱) in 1928. Furthermore, in 1933, under the assistance from him and fellow Rotarian Sir Robert Kotewall (羅旭龢爵士), the student-actors and student-actresses of the College were allowed to play on the same stage in a fundraising drama event regardless the opposition from the conservative Chinese community.

Final years

On 17 January 1940 and in the beginning of 1941, Pollock was appointed unofficial member of the Legislative and the Executive Council respectively for a further period of four years and five years. However, in December 1941, the Pacific War broke out suddenly and Hong Kong fell into Imperial Japan's hands after a month of resistance. Fortunately, Pollock and his wife were in Australia for health reason at the outbreak of the war, thus they were not in Hong Kong during the Japanese invasion and did not end up in Hong Kong as prisoners of war.

Although the colonial Legislative Council and Executive Council ceased to operate during the Japanese occupation of Hong Kong, Pollock was still nominally the Senior Member of the Legislative and Executive Council until the expiration of his terms in 1944 and on 8 March 1946. Pollock's final term as Senior Unofficial Member of the Executive Council traversed the Japanese occupation of Hong Kong and ended after the Liberation of Hong Kong in 1945, but in reality, he never attended any meeting of the two councils after the fall of Hong Kong. The Hong Kong Government later issued a notice in the Hong Kong Gazette in May 1946, thanking Pollock for his contribution to the Colony.

The Second World War made a sudden ending to Pollock's life and public service in Hong Kong. Although he paid several visits to Hong Kong after the war, he and his wife settled permanently in Sydney, Australia, after the outbreak of the Pacific War. Pollock died in Sydney on 2 February 1953, aged 88.

Honours

- (1) 24 April 1891 – Appointed Unofficial Justice of the Peace for Hong Kong by Governor Sir George William Des Vœux
- (2) 1894 -- Gold Medal for Plague Services
- (3) 1900 – Queen's Counsel
- (4) 1924 – Appointed Knight Bachelor by George V, King of the United Kingdom and the British Dominions, and Emperor of India
- (5) 5 January 1925 – Conferred the degree of Doctor of Laws honoris causa by The University of Hong Kong
- (6) Place named after him -- Pollock Path: a cul-de-sac on the top of Mount Gough, Hong Kong Island.

Family

Pollock married his wife, Pauline Oakley in Hong Kong in 1906 when he was 42. They had no children. Pauline Oakley was a long-time resident in Hong Kong and was noted for her active participation in local public services, especially in the Street Sleepers' Society, St. John's Cathedral Women's Guild and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Since the outbreak of the Second Sino-Japanese War in 1937, the refugee camps in Hong Kong had also become a chief interest to Lady Pollock. In 1940, Lady Pollock, Soong Ai-Ling (宋靄齡) and others initiated a campaign in Hong Kong and Canton (*Guangzhou*) (廣州) to set up cooperatives which could accommodate 6,000 refugees to restore production. Lady Pollock was subsequently appointed an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE) in the New Year Honours of 1941 for her eminent contribution.



香港大學於1911年3月30日註冊為學者自治團體，並於1912年3月11日舉行正式開學典禮。

The University of Hong Kong was incorporated as a self-governing body of scholars on 30 March 1911, and its official opening ceremony took place on 11 March 1912.

香港扶輪社員普樂爵士 -- 香港大學共同創辦人



普樂爵士(Dr. The Honourable Sir Henry Edward Pollock, Kt, *HonLLD (HKU)*, KC, QC, JP)(1864 年 12 月 16 日—1953 年 2 月 2 日)，是一位英國及香港御用大律師，後來成為英國殖民地香港的傑出政治家。他於香港扶輪社(Hong Kong Rotary Club)成立初期加入該社為現職社員，職業分類「法律執業—大律師」。

普樂曾分別在斐濟(Fiji)和香港出任及署任律政司。在第二次世界大戰前，曾長年擔任香港立法局及行政局首席非官守議員。普樂亦有份參與遮打爵士(Sir Paul Chater)及香港總督盧吉爵士(Sir Frederick Lugard)等人籌備創立香港大學。

法律家族

普樂可謂生於一個法律家族，除了祖父曾任英格蘭(England)及威爾斯(Wales)檢察總長外，其中一位堂兄曾任牛津大學(Oxford University)法學教授，另一位堂兄則出任過英格蘭上訴法院主事官。

早年學業

普樂在 1864 年 12 月 16 日生於英國倫敦(London)，在家中排行第三的，有一名胞姐及胞兄，另有一名胞弟。他幼年在倫敦渡過，後來入讀查特豪斯公學(Charterhouse School)。但 1882 年 18 歲的時候就提早停止學業，旋即加入倫敦特魯里街(Drury Lane)的一所銀行工作。工作一年後，普樂共賺得 50 英鎊，而且還重新繼續學業。並於 1883 年進入倫敦內院(Inner Temple)讀法律，1887 年在該處取得執業大律師資格。翌年 1888 年 4 月前往英國殖民地香港尋找發展機會，很快就取得執業資格，隨即在港執業。

殖民地生涯

來香港不久以後，普樂就漸受到殖民地外籍圈子的重視。在 1888 年 9 月至 1889 年 3 月，他曾經有六個月的時間被政府委任為署巡理府；1891 年 4 月 24 日總督德輔爵士(Sir George William Des Vœux)委任為非官守太平紳士；後再於 1892 年被政府委任為署理副按察司，為期半年。1894 年香港爆發嚴重鼠疫，由於防疫抗災有功，普樂獲英廷頒授抗疫紀念金章。

在 1896 年至 1901 年，普樂復獲政府委任為署理律政司，同時因律政司身份而成為行政局及立法局當然議員。在任律政司期間，普樂表現令人滿意，結果在 1900 年獲授女皇御用大律師名銜。卸任署理律政司後，普樂曾於 1902 年轉到斐濟正任律政司，但一年後返回香港，並自 1903 年 3 月至 1906 年 2 月出任潔淨局紳。

兩局議員

在 1903 年，普樂獲香港西商會(Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce)推薦，臨時出任立法局內的非官守西商會議席約一年。未幾，他在 1905 年 12 月獲非官守太平紳士推選，正式當選為立法局非官守議員，此後在立法局供職近四十年。在任立法局期間，普樂曾擔任不少政府公職，當中包括有房屋委員會主席及常務法律委員會委員等等。在第一次世界大戰期間，普樂亦曾獲委任為拒服兵役上訴審裁處法官。戰後曾任政府和平慶祝及戰爭紀念財政委員會主席，其後曾於 1939 年再任強制兵役服務審裁處法官。

普樂早於 1911 年及 1912 年已先後兩次獲政府委為行政局非官守臨時議員；但在 1915 年 11 月，適逢行政局有非官守議席出缺，普樂遂於立法局會議質詢總督梅合理爵士(Sir Henry May)，會否透過非委任的方法填補有關議席，惟梅合理爵士給予否定的答案。及後在 1916 年 1 月，普樂曾發起憲制改革運動，收集簽名。並去信殖民地大臣羅伯納(Bonar Law)，請願要求透過增加非官守議席的方法，由西商會及太平紳士互選產生兩局議員，讓他們有更多的代表聲音。此外，普樂亦支持增加兩局的華人議席，惟有關建議悉數被羅伯納反對。至於普樂在這次事件中，失卻成為行政局非官守議員的機會。而一直到梅合理爵士卸任後，普樂才於 1921 年獲另一總督司徒拔爵士(Sir Reginald Edward Stubbs)任命為行政局非官守議員，期後更於 1924 年的英皇壽辰榮譽名單中獲冊封下級勳位爵士(Knight Bachelor)。

在任兩局議員期間，普樂分別在 1919 年、1925 年及 1928 年三次署任律政司，以代替不在香港的金培源爵士(Sir Joseph Horsford Kemp)。而署任律政司期間，普樂都以當然官守議員的身份出席兩局會議，而他的非官守議席則由太平紳士臨時互選產生。早於 1917 年，普樂已接替退出立法局的韋玉爵士，成為立法局首席非官守議員；後在 1926 年，行政局首席非官守議員遮打爵士逝世，並由普樂接任，他遂成為了行政、立法兩局首席非官守議員。不過在 1928 年 9 月 16 日，普樂於山頂 367 號寓所中不慎絆倒，以致大腿骨折。因此無法出席兩局的會議，結果要由另一兩局議員周壽臣爵士臨時署任兩局首席非官守議員之位。普樂後來在同年 12 月康復，才重新復職。

香港大學的創校人

普樂原為香港華人西醫書院(Hong Kong College of Medicine for Chinese)的董事，也是香港大學(University of Hong Kong)的創校人之一。在 1908 年 3 月的時候，他與遮打爵士、何啟爵士等人，一同獲總督盧吉爵士委任到新成立的香港大學籌備委員會，並由遮打爵士出任主席。香港大學由兩所當時已存在的高等院校——香港華人西醫書院及香港工學院合併而成，並加設文學院。大學在 1911 年創立後，普樂即獲聘為終身董事。據了解，普樂十分熱心於香港大學的發展，而且也是最常出席校董會的董事之一。為答謝他對創校的貢獻，香港大學在 1925 年 1 月 5 日特地向他頒授名譽法學博士學位。

另一方面，值得一提的是，普樂與聖士提反書院(St. Stephen's College)也有淵源，因為他曾在 1928 年參與赤柱的新校舍動土儀式。後在 1933 年，在得到普樂和扶輪社友羅旭龢爵士(Sir Robert Hormus Kotewall)的協助下，聖士提反書院在籌款活動中，打破當時中國傳統的禁忌，成功爭取讓男、女同學在某話劇中同台演出。

除了扶輪社外，普樂亦曾是海軍聯盟香港分會(The Navy League Hong Kong Branch)、香港西洋棋會(The Chess Club)、香港愛護動物協會(Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals)及憲制改革協會(Constitutional Reform Association)的會長；另外還出任過皇家香港遊艇會會長(Commodore of the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club)、香港散本學會(Odd Volumes Society)秘書、以及皇家殖民地研究院(Royal Colonial Institute)之聯絡秘書等等。

晚年

在 1940 年 1 月 17 日及 1941 年年初，普樂曾先後獲香港政府續任立法及行政兩局議員，任期分別為四年及五年。但在 1941 年 12 月，太平洋戰爭突然爆發，香港遭日本帝國入侵後不久便告淪陷。普樂與夫人由於在戰爭爆發前到了澳洲休養身體，因此他們於日軍佔領時並不在香港，僥倖地沒有成為戰俘。

儘管香港淪陷期間，殖民地的行政、立法兩局停止運作，但名義上，普樂仍然是立法及行政兩局首席非官守議員。因此他在立法及行政兩局的正式任期，分別到 1944 年及 1946 年 3 月 8 日才算正式結束。但實際上，儘管其行政局任期橫跨日治時期，至 1945 年香港重光後才告屆滿，但他自香港淪陷後已再沒有出席過兩局會議。而香港政府則在 1946 年 5 月才於《憲報》補發告示，對普樂的貢獻表示感謝。

第二次世界大戰的爆發，使普樂在香港的生活及公職服務劃上突然的休止符。雖然他在戰後曾經返回過香港，但事實上，自大戰爆發及完結後，普樂一家一直定居於澳洲雪梨(Sydney, Australia)。普樂在 1953 年 2 月 2 日於雪梨逝世，終年 88 歲。

家庭

普樂在 1906 年，即 42 歲時，於香港迎娶寶林(Pauline Oakley)為妻，兩人並沒有子女。普樂爵士夫人長年居於香港，以熱心公益著稱，主要活躍於露宿者之家、聖約翰座堂婦女互助協會、香港愛護動物協會等等。

自 1937 年中國八年抗戰以後，由於香港難民人數愈來愈多，故普樂爵士夫人亦十分關注香港的難民營情況。在 1940 年，她更與宋靄齡等人在香港發起「工合單位」，於港、粵兩地設立合作社，以便讓上 6,000 名難民可以恢復生產。為答謝其公益貢獻，普樂爵士夫人在 1941 獲英國國王佐治六世授予大英帝國最優秀官佐勳章(Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, OBE)。

主要公職

- (1) (1888 年—1889 年) 署巡理府 (Police Magistrate)
- (2) (1891 年—1953 年) 香港非官守太平紳士 (Unofficial Justice of the Peace for Hong Kong)
- (3) (1892 年) 署理副按察司 (Puisne Judge)

- (4) (1896 年—1901 年) 署理律政司(Acting Attorney General)
- (5) (1902 年) 斐濟律政司(Attorney General of Fiji)
- (6) (1903 年—1906 年) 潔淨局紳(Sanitary Board Member)
- (7) (1903 年) 立法局臨時非官守議員 (香港西商會代表) (Provisional Unofficial Member of Legislative Council – Representative of Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce)
- (8) (1905 年—1917 年) 立法局非官守議員(太平紳士代表)(Unofficial Member of Legislative Council – Representative of Unofficial Justice of the Peace)
- (9) (1911 年) 行政局臨時非官守議員(Provisional Unofficial Member of Executive Council)
- (10) (1911 年—1953 年) 香港大學終身校董(Life Member, Court of the University of Hong Kong)
- (11) (1912 年) 行政局臨時非官守議員(Provisional Unofficial Member of Executive Council)
- (12) (1914 年—1918 年) 拒服兵役上訴審裁處法官 (Judge of the Appellate Tribunal for Conscientious Objectors)
- (13) (1917 年—1944 年) 立法局首席非官守議員(太平紳士代表)(Senior Unofficial Member of Legislative Council – Representative of Unofficial Justice of the Peace)
- (14) (1919 年) 署理律政司(Acting Attorney General)
- (15) (1921 年—1926 年) 行政局非官守議員(Unofficial Member of Executive Council)
- (16) (1925 年) 署理律政司(Acting Attorney General)
- (17) (1926 年—1946 年) 行政局首席非官守議員(Senior Unofficial Member of Executive Council)
- (18) (1928 年) 署理律政司(Acting Attorney General)
- (19) (1939 年—1941 年) 強制兵役服務審裁處法官 (Judge of the Compulsory National Service Tribunal)

榮 譽

- (1) (1894 年) 抗疫紀念金章 (Gold Medal for Plague Services)
- (2) (1900 年—1901 年) 女王御用大律師 (Queen's Counsel)
- (3) (1901 年—1952 年) 國王御用大律師 (King's Counsel)
- (4) (1924 年) 英國國王佐治五世授予下級勳位爵士(Knight Bachelor)
- (5) (1925 年 1 月 5 日) 香港大學授予名譽法學博士學位
- (6) (1952 年—1953 年) 女王御用大律師 (Queen's Counsel)
- (7) 以他命名的事物：普樂道 (Pollock Path) --位於香港島歌賦山(Mount Gough)上的一條單程馬路。

