

周竣年爵士 -- 育有三個扶輪社長兒子的扶輪社員

Sir Tsun-Nin Chau

A Rotarian Father of Three Sons of Rotary Club Presidents

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

15 September 2015



Dr. The Honourable Sir Tsun-Nin Chau, Kt, CBE, OStJ, *HonLLD (HKU)*, MA (*Oxon*), LLB (*Oxon*), JP (周竣年爵士) (22 December 1893 – 27 January 1971), ethnic Cantonese, son of a former Unofficial Member of the Hong Kong Legislative Council (香港定例局) from 1921 to 1924---The Honourable Chau Siu-Ki, JP (周少岐議員), was a prominent Hong Kong barrister-at-law, businessman and politician.

T. N. was a charter member of the Rotary Club of Hong Kong (香港扶輪社) in 1930 and served as Club Director. Though he had maintained the membership for merely three or four years, he had raised 3 sons who were several decades later Rotary Club presidents:

(1) Dr. Chau Cham-Son (周湛燊博士), OBE, CStJ, *HonLLD (Liverpool)*, BA(AS) (*HKU*), JP, President 1991-1992 of The Rotary Club of Hong Kong; Chief Commissioner of the Hong Kong Scouts from 1985 to 1996; (2) Peter Chau Cham-Chiu (周湛樵), BBS, MBE, QPM, CPM, FIMGT, President 1994-1995 of The Rotary Club of Hong Kong Island West (香港西區扶輪社); Commandant of the Hong Kong Auxiliary Police Force from 1996 to 2001; and (3) Patrick Chau Cham-Wong (周湛煌), President 1988-1989 of The Rotary Club of Hong Kong Northwest (香港西北扶輪社).

T. N., the call name in the Rotary Club, was a graduate of St. Stephen's College (聖士提反書院) in Stanley (赤柱), Hong Kong Island. At age 17 he continued in 1911 his education at Queen's College, Oxford University, in England. Graduating in jurisprudence in 1915, and being called to the bar at The Honourable Society of the Middle Temple, London, T. N. was then qualified as a barrister-at-law. He later obtained a Master of Arts degree from Oxford.

T. N. was active in Public Service:

(1) He was appointed Justice of the Peace for Hong Kong in 1923 by Hong Kong Governor Sir Reginald Edward Stubbs (香港總督司徒拔爵士).

(2) Sanitary Board (潔淨局) – He was appointed Unofficial Member from 1929 to 1932 by Hong Kong Governor Sir Cecil Clementi (香港總督金文泰爵士).

(3) Legislative Council (立法局) – He was appointed by Hong Kong Governor Sir William Peel (香港總督貝璐爵士) Unofficial Member from 1931 to 1939. After the Pacific War, He was appointed by Hong Kong Governor Sir Mark Aitchison Young (香港總督楊慕琦爵士) Unofficial Member from 1946 to 1953.

(4) Executive Council (行政局) -- He was appointed Senior Chinese Unofficial Member from 1946 to 1959 by Hong Kong Governor Sir Mark Aitchison Young.

T. N. had been honoured in many ways in recognition to his prominent contributions to the community, including some remarkable honours as follows:

(1) 1938 – Decorated Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (CBE) by King George VI, United Kingdom.

(2) June 1956 – Invested Knight Bachelor by Queen Elizabeth II, United Kingdom

(3) 1961 -- Conferred Doctor of Laws *honoris causa* by the University of Hong Kong

(4) 1969 -- Order of the Sacred Treasure, 3rd Class, by Emperor Showa of Japan

(5) Officer of the Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem (OStJ).



Excerpt from the minutes of Hong Kong Legislative Council on 5 September 1946



PRESENT

His Excellency The Governor (Sir Mark Aitchison Young, GCMG)

The Honourable The Officer Commanding the Troops (Brigadier P. L. Lindsay)

The Colonial Secretary (Hon. Mr. R. R. Todd, *Acting*)

The Attorney General (Mr. G. E. Strickland, *Acting*)

The Secretary for Chinese Affairs (Hon. Mr. T. Megarry, *Acting*)

The Financial Secretary (Hon. Mr. C. G. S. Follows, CMG, *Acting*)

Hon. Dr. P. S. Selwyn-Clarke, CMG, MC (Director of Medical Services)
Hon. Mr. C. H. Sansom, CMG, CBE (Acting Commissioner of Police)
Hon. Mr. V. Kenniff (Director of Public Works)
Hon. Dr. J. P. Fehily, OBE (Acting Chairman, Urban Council)
Hon. Mr. D. F. Landale
Hon. Mr. Chau Tsun-Nin, CBE
Hon. Mr. Lo Man-Kam, CBE
Hon. Mr. Leo D'Almada E Castro
Hon. Mr. R. D. Gillespie
Hon. Dr. Chau Sik-Nin
Mr. D. R. Holmes, MBE, MC (Deputy Clerk of Councils)

BUDGET for 1946-1947

The Financial Secretary moved the Second Reading of a Bill instituted "An Ordinance to apply a sum not exceeding one hundred and sixty million seven hundred and fifty-one thousand six hundred and sixty-five dollars to the Public Service of the financial year ending 31st March, 1947."

The Colonial Secretary seconded.

The Hon. Mr. Chau Tsun-Nin:--

Before I proceed with my comments I would like to congratulate the Hon. Financial Secretary on his able performance of a decidedly difficult task. The community owes him a debt of gratitude for having brought out a budget that is much less drastic than some people had feared. Though it cannot be said to be one that has aroused our enthusiasm, it is not one that should cause general despondency. In short, it is a practical and business-like budget.

The first point I wish to deal with is the proposal to substitute a normal form of general income tax for the taxes now levied under the War Revenue Ordinance. I am afraid that this method of taxation, though almost universal in Western countries, is hardly applicable here, and will certainly find little public support, especially among the Chinese who constitute the majority of the taxpayers.

The reason for this dislike is that it would involve inquisitorial enquires into people's private affairs. This, I admit, is not a very cogent argument. But a much stranger reason

against the imposition of this form of taxation is that it is easy to evade and would require the employment of a large staff to deal with collection and checking; and I very much fear that the result will be far from justifying the energy and expenditure involved.

I have no hesitation in expressing the firm conviction that conditions in this Colony are now even less favourable to the successful imposition of a general tax on income than they were towards the end of 1939. May I remind you, Sir, that in November of that year the proposal to introduce this tax was very fully debated in this Council and the Government felt obliged to discard it.

For this reason, Sir, I would urge the abandonment of this proposal.

Some people are also opposed to the salaries tax, as it is felt that while professional men and people in responsible positions in reputable firms, whose records can always be checked, would have to pay the tax, numerous others---and they form by far the majority---could easily evade payment, because there is no possible means of checking up on their salaries or emoluments. It seems to be a case of getting the honest to pay and allowing the dishonest to get off.

I would advocate an increased levy on business profits tax on a sliding scale, according to the amount of profit made; and I think that, if properly and efficiently administered, it should bring in a substantial amount to the Treasury.

There are other directions in which revenue can be increased; for instance, luxuries and amusements could, in my view, well afford to bear a heavier burden.

Consideration might also be usefully be given to the following:--

- (a) A Sale Tax, either general or on certain selected articles.
- (b) A tax on the increment values disclosed on the sale of leasehold properties when compared with their 1941 values.
- (c) A tax on hotel and restaurant bills.
- (d) A tax on mortgage interest.

There is, also, heavy black-marketing going in theatre tickets, and if people can afford to pay more to the racketeers, there is no reason why a heavier tax should not be imposed, so that the money which people will in any case be paying, may flow into the public offers for the Colony's benefit.

Turning to the expenditure side of the Budget, I wish to make a few remarks in regard to the Police Department.

Heavy as the appropriation is for meeting the commitments of this Department, I think that there are few who do not agree with me that more encouragement should be given our police force in the way of better emoluments and rewards for meritorious services, if we are to expect them to discharge their duties whole-heartedly and efficiently under present abnormal conditions with crime so rampant.

Their task is an unenviable one, often involving the task of loss of limbs and even life, and the salaries they are receiving will not compensate them for the danger to which they are exposed in the discharge of their duties. I therefore advocate a revision of emoluments for the Police, commensurate with the risks they incur, and the responsibilities they are expected to shoulder; and I would also urge that a better scale of awards should be laid down for injury sustained in the performance of duty, as well as for capture of armed robbers and other services of outstanding merits.

More liberal compensation should also be given to the dependents of those who have lost their lives in the execution of their duties. After all, if the community expect the Police to do their job well, they should be prepared to pay them well.

My next point is in regard to the Medical Department.

I am glad that my honourable friend, Dr. Selwyn-Clarke, is once more at the helm of the Medical Department. All old timers know what Dr. Selwyn-Clarke has done for the Colony and particularly in the dark days for those in and out of internment. His good work, often done at great risk to himself, will always be remembered.

The Colony is at present suffering from an acute shortage of the free medical service and hospital accommodation and many people are unable to get the treatment or accommodation they need. I refer in particular to the poor who have to be turned away daily from the free out-patients department of the Government hospitals and I hope that the Hon. Dr. Selwyn-Clarke will find means of extending these free medical services so that a large number of the poor people may benefit. It seems to me to be just a case of putting more doctors on the job and allocating more medicine for these unfortunate people, many of whom are without the means of consulting a private physician.

In conclusion I would make one general observation.

In making the necessary financial provision for the rehabilitation of this Colony, I feel that we must try, by every means possible, to avoid the burden falling too heavily on those who have suffered financially or otherwise from the disasters of the last few years. While as a general principle, discrimination is to be avoided, it behoves us to devise methods by which relief and encouragement can be extended to those who after grievous losses are struggling to re-establish their business and their homes, often in competition with those whose losses have been negligible or have possibly profited by the years of war and the peculiar conditions resulting from the war.



香 港 大 學

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

55th Congregation 1961

The Honourable Sir CHAU Tsun Nin

Doctor of Laws *honoris causa*

Sir Chau Tsun Nin has the distinction of having served as an Unofficial Member of the Legislative and Executive Councils of the Hong Kong Government for longer than anyone else, his total service amounting to three decades. On his retirement from the Executive Council in 1959, Her Majesty the Queen was pleased to permit him to continue using the title "Honourable" for the rest of his life, a distinction which he shares with only one other ex-Councillor, the late Sir Shouson Chow.

He was educated at St. Stephen's College, Hong Kong, and Queen's College, Oxford, which he entered in 1911, graduating in jurisprudence in 1915, and being called to the bar at the Middle Temple, London. His undergraduate days at Oxford coincided for one year with those of one of the earliest Honorary Doctor of Laws of this University, the Duke of Windsor, at that time up at Magdalen College as His Royal Highness Edward, Prince of Wales.

He returned to Hong Kong in 1915 to join his father's business, and soon established himself as a leading member of the community. He was appointed an Unofficial Justice of the Peace in 1922, and served for three years from 1929 as an Unofficial Member of the

Sanitary Board. He has been a member of the University Court since 1931, and for ten years, before the war, he served on the University Council, numbering among his colleagues at that time three Chancellors, Sir William Peel, Sir Andrew Caldecott, and Sir Geoffrey Northcote; our present Vice-Chancellor, then Dean of Medicine; and other eminent figures such as Sir Robert Kotewall, Dr. Ts'o Seen Wan, and Emeritus Professor Simpson.

Sir Chau Tsun Nin is a director of a number of leading business concerns in Hong Kong, but the benefit of his wisdom and advice is not restricted to the field of commerce. He is a Permanent Adviser to the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals and the Po Leung Kuk, and has served for over thirty-five years on the Executive Committee of the Nethersole Hospital where a ward is named after him. His figure is familiar on the Councils and Committees of the Hong Kong Society for the Protection of Children; the St. John Ambulance Association and Brigade; the Pok Oi Hospital, Yuen Long; the British Red Cross Society; and St. Stephen's College. He is also an Honorary Vice-President of the Boy Scout Association.

He was designated a Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (CBE) in 1938, and was knighted in 1956. He is also an Associate Officer of the Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem. The Cantonese "Tsun Nin" may be translated as "distinguished years", and in honouring him today, Your Excellency, the University hopes that he may enjoy many more.

Citation written and delivered by Professor D. Barker, MA, DPhil, the Public Orator of the University.



周竣年大律師

The Barrister-at-Law Chau Tsun-Nin



1959 年 3 月 -- 英國愛丁堡公爵菲臘親王(右 1)訪問香港，
 行政局首席非官守議員周竣年爵士(右 2)介紹認識香港社會各界領袖。

March 1959 – During the Royal Visit of Duke of Edinburgh Prince Philip of the United Kingdom (R1)
 to Hong Kong, Sir Tsun-Nin Chau, Senior Unofficial Member of the Executive Council (R2),
 introduces to meet community leaders of Hong Kong.



周竣年爵士的第三子周湛樵，香港西區扶輪社 1994-1995 年度社長，
 1996 年至 2001 年任香港輔助警察隊總監。

Peter Chau, President 1994-1995 of Hong Kong Island West Rotary Club, the 3rd son of Sir Tsun-Nin Chau,
 was Commandant of the Hong Kong Auxiliary Police Force from 1996 to 2001.

周竣年爵士 -- 育有三個扶輪社長兒子的扶輪社員



周竣年爵士(Dr. The Honourable Sir Tsun-Nin Chau, Kt, CBE, OStJ, *HonLLD (HKU)*, MA (*Oxon*), LLB (*Oxon*), JP) (1893 年 12 月 22 日-1971 年 1 月 27 日)，香港執業大律師、商人及華人領袖。父親周少岐太平紳士，1921 年至 1924 年任香港定例局(立法局)非官守議員。

周竣年於 1930 年成為香港扶輪社(Rotary Club of Hong Kong)創始社員，並擔任理事。雖然他只當了三、四年的社員，但他養育了三個兒子，幾十年後都成為了扶輪社的社長：

- (1) 周湛榮博士(Dr. Chau Cham-Son, OBE, CStJ, *HonLLD (Liverpool)*, BA(AS) (*HKU*), JP)，1991-1992 年度香港扶輪社社長；1985 年至 1996 年任香港童軍總監。
- (2) 周湛樵(Peter Chau Cham-Chiu, BBS, MBE, QPM, CPM, FIMGT)，香港西區扶輪社(Rotary Club of Hong Kong Island West) 1994-1995 年度社長；1996 年至 2001 年任香港輔助警察隊總監。
- (3) 周湛煌(Patrick Chau Cham-Wong) 香港西北扶輪社(Rotary Club of Hong Kong Northwest) 1988-1989 年度社長。



生平略傳

學習法律 華人社會領袖

周竣年祖籍廣東東莞，1893 年 10 月 22 日出生於英國殖民地香港，乃曾任定例局非官守議員的富商周少岐太平紳士與庶室葉氏所出。周竣年雖然為周少岐的第七子，並有「七哥」之稱，但事實上他的六名長兄皆夭折。

周竣年早年入讀聖士提反書院(St. Stephen's College)，1911 年畢業後，前往英國牛津大學王后學院(Queen's College, Oxford University)修讀法律，終在 1914 年畢業，並且在英國中殿律師學院(The Honourable Society of the Middle Temple)考取得執業大律師資格，及後又在牛津大學取得文學碩士學位。

在牛津大學的本科學習期間，恰逢英國溫莎公爵(Duke of Windsor)在瑪格達倫學院(Magdalen College)學習一年，當時他是以威爾斯親王愛德華殿下(His Royal Highness Edward, Prince of Wales)的名義就讀。(1922年香港大學授予威爾斯親王名譽法學博士學位)

在1915年返香港後，周竣年曾經執業數月，但不久就放棄大律師的工作，改為打理家族業務。開始從事金融及保險工作，很快就成為了華人社會的領袖之一。周竣年初年出任過安全火燭保險公司、香港九龍置業按揭公司的總經理、以及裕安輪船公司監督；後來又出任油蔴地小輪公司(The Hongkong and Yaumati Ferry)、中華娛樂置業公司、第一人壽保險公司、廣東信託銀行(Canton Trust and Commercial Bank)等等的董事長；另外也是香港電燈公司(The Hongkong Electric Co., Ltd.)、香港電話公司(Hong Kong Telephone Company)、中華百貨公司(China Emporium)、香港船廠公司等公司的董事。

參政議政 服務社會

周竣年積極參與公共服務：

- (1) 1923年獲香港總督司徒拔爵士(Sir Reginald Edward Stubbs)委任為香港非官守太平紳士。
- (2) 1929年至1932年獲香港總督金文泰爵士(Sir Cecil Clementi)委任為潔淨局(Sanitary Board)局紳。
- (3) 1931年至1939年獲香港總督貝璐爵士(Sir William Peel)委任為立法局非官守議員。太平洋戰爭結束後，他於1946年至1953年獲香港總督楊慕琦爵士(Sir Mark Aitchison Young)委任為首席華人非官守議員。
- (4) 1946年至1959年獲香港總督楊慕琦爵士委任為行政局首席華人非官守議員。

作為華人領袖，在1931年，周竣年獲總督貝璐爵士委為立法局非官守議員，並在同年12月10日正式宣誓，以填補周壽臣爵士退休後遺下的空缺，成為香港歷史上首位繼父親（即周少岐）成為立法局議員的人士。及至1937年1月，周竣年進一步取代曹善允博士，累遷成為立法局首席華人非官守議員。

香港在第二次世界大戰期間曾經淪陷，並經歷了三年零八個月的日本統治時期。日治時間完結後，香港自1945年9月至1946年4月一度由英國的臨時軍政府管理。臨時軍政府由於人手短缺，以及為安撫華人，在1945年委任周竣年為副華民政務司，並在九龍辦公，以協助維持重光後的政治局勢。

在1946年5月1日民政恢復後，周竣年被總督楊慕琦爵士重新召到立法局供職，擔任首席華人非官守議員；同年還加入行政局成為首席華人非官守議員，使他一時成為戰後華人領袖之首。1953年周竣年再一次從立法局榮休，由堂弟周錫年醫生接任首席非官守議員之位。最後在1959年8月，他繼而退任行政局首席非官守議員之職。

周竣年的智慧和建樹並不限於行政/立法局和商業領域——當中包括擔任那打素醫院執行委員會委員逾三十五年，該院的一個病房以他的名字命名。此外，還有東華三院永遠顧問、保良局永遠總理；元朗博愛醫院、香港紅十字會和聖士提反書院等機構的常任委員會成員；香港童子軍總會義務司庫、副會長；香港聖約翰救傷會董事、保護兒童會值理、中華總商會名譽會長及顧問、香港工業出品展覽會名譽會長、南華體育會名譽會長、東莞工商總會主席等職。而早在戰前的時候，周竣年已自1931年起出任香港大學校董會成員和大學顧問委員會成員。

晚年

1965年2月6日，廣東信託銀行發生擠提事件。兩日後廣東信託銀行全線停業，並波及多間華資銀行爆發擠提，導致1965年香港股災。事件中，廣東信託銀行宣告倒閉，而恆生指數也因這次股災急挫四分之一。周竣年雖身為廣東信託銀行董事長，不過為了自己聲譽，他在股災爆發後立即發表聲明，指到該行一切業務皆由經理部管理。並澄清自己沒有動用銀行的分毫款項，因此並不涉及擠提事件。

周竣年在1968年突然因血栓塞性脈管炎，送院進行手術。但未幾因情況轉好而返家休養，此後亦減少出席公開場合。至1970年12月12日，周竣年因為舊病復發而送入養和醫院，病情每下愈況。最終在1971年1月27日中午12時05分逝世，終年77歲。在他過世那天，正是農曆大年初一。遺體在同年1月31日於香港殯儀館舉行大殮，由生前六位好友關祖堯爵士、羅理基爵士(Sir Albert Maria Rodrigues)、周錫年爵士、簡悅強議員、莫應基及盧義明扶靈，隨後安葬於香港仔華人永遠墳場。

家庭

周竣年有一元配蘇氏，後來又在1931年迎娶梁彥玲(Elaine Leung)為妻，梁彥玲婚後冠夫姓為周梁彥玲。周竣年與周梁彥玲共育有四子一女，四名兒子依次分別是長子周湛霖、次子周湛榮、三子周湛樵及幼子周湛煌。周梁彥玲曾在1947年12月11日獲香港總督葛量洪爵士(Sir Alexander William George Herder Grantham)委任為非官守太平紳士；她在1984年2月12日於養和醫院逝世，積閏享壽77歲。

榮譽

- (1) 1938年 -- 英國國王佐治六世授予大英帝國最優秀司令勳章
(Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, CBE)
- (2) 1956年 -- 英國女王伊莉莎白二世授予下級勳位爵士(Knight Bachelor)
- (3) 1961年 -- 香港大學授予名譽法學博士學位
- (4) 1969年 -- 日本昭和天皇授予勳三等瑞寶章
- (5) 耶路撒冷聖約翰醫院德望崇隆榮譽團官佐勳章
(Officer of the Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, OStJ)

