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福州扶輪社員高智主教 -- 在華發展基督教循道衛理公會貢獻非凡

Foochow Rotarian Bishop John Wesley Gowdy
Key role in the development of Christian Methodism in China

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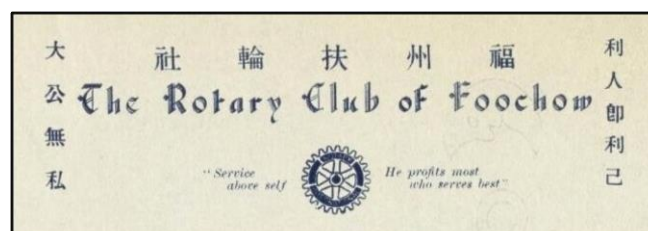
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The Right Reverend Bishop John Wesley Gowdy (高智主教), *HonDDiv (Wesleyan)*, *HonDDiv (Baker)*, MA (*Columbia*), BDiv (*Drew*), AB (*Wesleyan*) (1869–1963) was a Scottish-American missionary, educator, and Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church (美以美會會督), primarily known for his extensive work in Foochow (*Fuzhou*) (福州), Republic of China (中華民國). Though of different church, Gowdy was the second Christian bishop to join the Rotary Club of Foochow (福州扶輪社), in the capital city of Fukien (*Fujian*) Province (福建省), as Active Member holding the Classification “Religion – Protestant”. However, his membership as a Rotarian was quite briefly for only 1-2 years.

The Rotary Club of Foochow was organized on 21 June 1933, and was admitted to Rotary International on 31 July 1933 with Charter #1913(b). The Charter Presentation was held in the evening of 23 September 1933. Douglas C. Howland, Asiatic Secretary of Rotary International, officiated at the ceremony.

In 1930, Gowdy was elected as a bishop by the China Central Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, the first person to hold this position. He served as a bishop in the Central Conference of East Asia until his retirement in 1941. He played a key role in the development of Christian education in China and was involved in significant Methodist conferences, including the 1939 Uniting Conference of Methodism. In early 1944 he received the Order of Brilliant Star (景星勳章) from Chairman Chiang Kai-Shek, National Government of the Republic of China (國民政府委員會主席蔣中正).



The Story of John Wesley Gowdy

John Wesley Gowdy was a Scottish-American bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church and The Methodist Church, best known for his pioneering missionary and educational work in the Republic of China over nearly three decades.

Born in Glasgow, Scotland, he was orphaned at age sixteen, immigrated to the United States and pursued higher education, graduating with honors from Wesleyan University in 1897, where he was a member of Psi Upsilon and Phi Beta Kappa. He earned a Bachelor of Divinity from Drew Theological Seminary in 1902 and later received honorary Doctor of Divinity degrees from Baker University in 1909 and Wesleyan University in 1914, as well as a Master of Arts from Columbia University in 1915.

In 1902, shortly after marrying Elizabeth Thompson, a fellow Wesleyan graduate, Gowdy sailed to China as a Methodist missionary, where he taught at the Anglo-Chinese College (鶴齡英華書院/英華齋/鶴齡英華中學) in Foochow from 1902 to 1904 before becoming its president, a role he held until 1923. He then served as the first president of the newly formed Fukien Christian University (私立福建協和大學) from 1923 to 1927, returning to teach at the Anglo-Chinese College until 1930. During this period, his wife co-authored a highly successful English-language textbook for Chinese students, contributing significantly to educational resources in the region. In 1930, he was elected one of the first bishops by the Central Conference of East Asia---the first such election by a conference outside the United States---with ordination as an elder traced to the Cranston lineage.

After retiring, Gowdy settled in Winter Park, Florida, where he passed away in 1963.

Birth and Family Background

John W. Gowdy was born on 7 December 1869, in Glasgow, Scotland. Orphaned at the age of sixteen, he immigrated to the United States shortly thereafter, establishing his Scottish-American heritage that would influence his later international missionary work. On 1 July 1902, Gowdy married Elizabeth Thompson, who was born on 15 May 1874, in West Pittston, Pennsylvania, and had graduated from Wesleyan University in 1898 as a member of Phi Sigma sorority and Phi Beta Kappa. The couple's life together began in the context of Gowdy's early career pursuits, with Elizabeth joining him in China for missionary endeavors. Little is known of Gowdy's immediate family or siblings, though his early experiences in Scotland and subsequent move to America exposed him to Methodist influences that shaped his vocational path.

Academic Preparation

Gowdy prepared for college at Tilton Seminary in Tilton, New Hampshire, graduating in 1893. Gowdy earned Bachelor of Arts degree from Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut, in 1897, graduating with honors and as a member of the Psi Upsilon fraternity

and Phi Beta Kappa. Following his undergraduate studies, he served as a teacher at Tilton Seminary from 1897 to 1899, an experience that bridged his academic preparation and theological training.

In 1902, Gowdy received Bachelor of Divinity degree from Drew Theological Seminary in Madison, New Jersey, after which he entered the New Hampshire Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He later obtained Master of Arts degree from Columbia University in 1915. Gowdy was awarded honorary Doctor of Divinity degrees from Baker University in 1909 and from Wesleyan University in 1914, recognizing his emerging contributions to Methodist education and ministry.

Missionary and Educational Career

Initial Missionary Work in China

Following his ordination to the Methodist Episcopal ministry in 1902 and marriage to Elizabeth Thompson Gowdy, John W. Gowdy was appointed as a missionary teacher at the Anglo-Chinese College Foochow, Ch'ing Empire (大清國) (Imperial China), where he served from 1902 to 1904. This appointment marked his entry into international missionary service, leveraging his recent academic preparation in theology and education to instruct Chinese students in Western subjects and English at the Methodist-founded institution, established in 1881 to promote modern education alongside Christian principles.

Gowdy and his wife arrived in China in September 1902 under the auspices of the Methodist Episcopal Church's Foochow Mission. During his initial tenure, he focused on classroom instruction at the College, adapting to the cultural and linguistic demands of teaching in a treaty port city amid the Ch'ing Empire's final years, a period of growing Western missionary influence in Fukien Province. Gowdy's early efforts contributed to the College's role in training local leaders, though specific personal challenges such as language acquisition and community integration are noted in broader Methodist mission records of the era as common hurdles for new arrivals.

In addition to his educational duties, Gowdy engaged in local church leadership within the Foochow Annual Conference, supporting evangelistic activities that aimed to expand Methodist outreach among the urban Chinese population. These initial years laid the foundation for his deeper involvement in Chinese Christian education and ministry.

Leadership in Chinese Institutions

John W. Gowdy assumed the presidency of the Anglo-Chinese College (ACC) in Foochow in 1904, a position he held until 1923, during which the institution founded by Methodist missionaries in 1881 grew into Ch'ing Empire's largest mission school and Fukien Province's premier educational center. Under his leadership, the ACC expanded enrollment significantly, attracting students from elite Protestant, political, and commercial families, while emphasizing infrastructure growth to support a burgeoning student body focused on societal service and patriotism. Gowdy oversaw curriculum developments that integrated

Western sciences and English-language instruction with Chinese classics and Christian ethics, fostering a Sino-Western educational model that prepared graduates for roles in business, medicine, civil service, and church leadership. This approach not only promoted modern academic standards but also instilled Methodist values of moral development and national loyalty, positioning the ACC as a key bridge between Western missionary efforts and China's evolving educational needs.

In 1923, Gowdy became president of Fukien Christian University (FCU) in Foochow, an institution founded in 1915 through the union of the ACC and other mission schools including the Women's College of Fukien (華南女子大學) and the Theological School of the Methodist Episcopal Church (美以美會神學院), serving until 1927 amid the challenges of political instability in Republican China, including rising anti-foreign sentiments and civil unrest. During Gowdy's tenure, the University advanced campus development, notably laying the cornerstone for the Gardiner Hall, Jr. Memorial Dormitory in 1923---a ceremony attended by regional bishops and governors that symbolized institutional progress despite rudimentary facilities like temporary mud buildings for classrooms and laboratories. Gowdy navigated these formative years by prioritizing practical curricula in mountain agriculture and science, while addressing infrastructural vulnerabilities, such as the 1928 fire that destroyed early buildings shortly after his departure, to build a resilient foundation for Christian higher education.

After leaving FCU in 1927, Gowdy returned to the presidency of the Anglo-Chinese College, where he served until 1930.

Beyond presidencies, Gowdy held trustee positions at the Anglo-Chinese College, the Union Normal School in Foochow (福州協和師範學校), and the Tilton School in New Hampshire, influencing educational policies across Methodist networks. He also served on the Boards of Managers for both the ACC and FCU, where he contributed to fundraising efforts in the United States and policy decisions promoting Chinese administrative involvement, such as supporting the 1927 reorganization of FCU under Chinese leadership like President Dr. C. J. Lin (林景潤博士 also a Foochow Rotarian). These roles underscored Gowdy's broader impact on Methodist education in China, where he advocated for blending Christian values with modern academics to cultivate indigenous leaders capable of addressing national challenges, ensuring the longevity of these institutions amid political turbulence.

Episcopal Ministry

Election and Service as Bishop

John W. Gowdy was elected as a bishop by the China Central Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, meeting in Nanking (*Nanjing*) (南京), China, on 1 March 1930. This election was historic, as it represented the first instance in which a Methodist conference outside the United States was empowered to choose its own bishops. Gowdy was selected

alongside Dr. Wang Chih-P'ing (王治平博士), the first Chinese national to attain the episcopacy in the denomination, reflecting efforts to indigenize Methodist leadership in China.

As Bishop of the China Central Conference from 1930 to 1941, Gowdy oversaw Methodist missions across the region, including the appointment of clergy and the administration of church institutions. His responsibilities encompassed unifying scattered mission efforts under centralized episcopal authority and guiding educational policies for Methodist schools and universities, building on his prior experience in higher education leadership in China.

During the Sino-Japanese War, which escalated in 1937, Gowdy, as head of Methodists in the Foochow district, was involved in efforts to protect mission properties from wartime repurposing for anti-Japanese activities and military use. He retired in early 1941, departing Foochow by boat for the United States with his wife amid ongoing conflict.

Following the 1939 Uniting Conference in Kansas City, Missouri, which merged the Methodist Episcopal Church with the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and the Methodist Protestant Church to form The Methodist Church, Gowdy's episcopal oversight in China transitioned seamlessly to the new denomination, continuing until his retirement.

Participation in Methodist Conferences

As a bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church, John W. Gowdy actively participated in the denomination's General Conferences, leveraging his experience in Chinese missions to inform discussions on global outreach. At the 1932 General Conference held in Atlantic City, New Jersey, Gowdy reported on the progress and challenges of Methodist work in the Foochow area of China, highlighting the needs of missionary efforts amid regional instability. His address underscored the importance of continued support from the American church, contributing to deliberations on foreign missions policy. Similarly, Gowdy attended the 1936 General Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio, where bishops like him played key roles in shaping doctrinal and organizational matters, though specific contributions from his involvement remain documented primarily through his episcopal status.

Gowdy's influence extended to the pivotal 1939 Uniting Conference in Kansas City, Missouri, from April 26 to May 10, which merged the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and the Methodist Protestant Church into The Methodist Church. As a delegate and bishop with overseas expertise, he attended the proceedings, aiding efforts toward denominational unity and the integration of mission structures. His presence helped bridge perspectives on international work, particularly in Asia, during a time of global tension.

Following the unification, Gowdy continued his involvement in the new denomination's assemblies. At the 1940 General Conference in Atlantic City, he joined other bishops in addressing issues such as diplomatic protests affecting missions, including debates over U.S. foreign policy impacts on China. In 1944, serving as a delegate to the General Conference

in Kansas City, Missouri, Gowdy participated in committee work and votes related to postwar mission strategies, reflecting his ongoing commitment to educational and evangelistic initiatives abroad. After his 1941 retirement, he continued advocating for Methodist missions in China from the United States. Through these engagements, Gowdy advocated for robust support of China-related policies, emphasizing unity and resilience in Methodist global outreach amid World War II disruptions.

Later Years

Retirement Activities

Following his long career in missionary work and episcopal service, John W. Gowdy retired as a bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church and settled in 378 Victoria Avenue, Winter Park, Florida, with his wife Elizabeth.

The couple spent their retirement years together in Florida, where Gowdy was known as a retired missionary bishop. He enjoyed history as a hobby and golf as a sport. Available historical records provide limited details on specific post-retirement pursuits, such as potential advisory roles or writings related to China missions, though his enduring connection to Methodist work in Asia remained a key part of his legacy. He and his wife had served as missionaries in China for 40 years.

Death and Legacy

Rotarian Bishop John Wesley Gowdy died on 11 September 1963, in Winter Park, Florida, United States, at the age of 93.

Gowdy's legacy endures as a key figure in the advancement of Methodist education and missions in China, where he served for nearly four decades. As president of the Anglo-Chinese College in Foochow from 1904 to 1923, he oversaw its growth into a prominent institution fostering cross-cultural learning and Christian values among Chinese students. He later led the Fukien Christian University from 1923 to 1927, contributing to its establishment as a center for higher education that integrated Western academic methods with local needs, thereby strengthening Protestant influences in Fukien Province.

Elected bishop in 1930, Gowdy played a pivotal role in the Eastern Asia Central Conference, guiding Methodist activities in China until his retirement in 1940. These contributions enhanced global Methodist missions, leaving a lasting impact on U.S.-China religious and educational exchanges. No specific posthumous awards or memorials are documented in available records, though his pioneering work continues to be recognized in studies of early 20th-century Protestant missions in Asia. His papers are archived at Emory University's Libraries.



福州扶輪社員--高智主教

在華發展基督教循道衛理公會貢獻非凡



高智主教 (The Right Reverend Bishop John Wesley Gowdy, *HonDDiv (Wesleyan), HonDDiv (Baker), MA (Columbia), BDiv (Drew), AB (Wesleyan)*) (1869 年—1963 年) 是美國美以美會 (Methodist Episcopal Church) 著名的來華傳教士與教育家，長期服務於大清國/中華民國福建地區。以下是他的主要經歷：

- 來華初期：1902 年受派前往大清國福州，最初在福州鶴齡英華書院 (Anglo-Chinese College) 擔任教師。
- 英華書院主理：1904 年至 1923 年間擔任鶴齡英華書院校長，對該校的現代化發展有重要影響。
- 福建協和大學校長：1923 年接任中華民國福建協和大學 (Fukien Christian University) 校長，直至 1927 年。
- 當選會督 (主教)：1930 年在美以美會中華民國中央議會中被選為會督 (Bishop)。
- 教區服事：他主要負責福建地區的教務，並參與了 1939 年美以美會、監理會及美普會的合併過程 (合併後稱為「衛理公會」)。

高智曾任東亞中央會議主教，直至 1941 年退休。他在中國弘揚基督教的發展，發揮了關鍵作用。1944 年初，中華民國政府主席蔣中正授予景星勳章，以資表揚。

儘管教派不同，高智是第二位加入中華民國福建省省會福州扶輪社 (Foochow Rotary Club) 的基督教主教，職業分類「宗教信仰—基督教新教」的現職社員。然而，他的扶輪社員資格非常短暫，僅持續了一到兩年。

福州扶輪社成立於 1933 年 6 月 21 日，並於 1933 年 7 月 31 日取得國際扶輪證書編號 #1913(b)。證書頒發儀式於 1933 年 9 月 23 日晚間舉行，國際扶輪亞洲區秘書賀蘭 (Douglas C. Howland) 主持了儀式。

