

Rotary



Rotary in China A look back

Rtn Gilbert – Rotary Club of Beijing

Beijing – 10 March 2018

Acknowledgments

- Herbert K. Lau
- Hermann G. Heid
- And all who provided the pieces of the history puzzle

Remark: this is only a glimpse of the many historical records we have.

The first Rotary sponsorship of a Chinese student: 1983

In December 1980 I met Mr. Yen Wen Hu (Robert Yen). I soon met his father Louis J. Yen who was the last president of the Rotary Club of Tianjin before it was closed in 1952

Louis Yen was a graduate of Cornell University, Ithaca, New York. He was also vice president and honorary treasurer. He was also a Free Mason. He passed away on 19 October 1986. He was about 85 years old



The first Rotary sponsorship of a Chinese student: 1983

Through the Belgian company ACEC (I was the Regional Director China) I contacted the Rotary Club of Nivelles. On 5 July 1981 Louis Yen wrote to Mr. J.P. Michez of the Club.

He requested a one year sponsorship for his granddaughter Annabel, then 18 years old, to study in Belgium



The first Rotary sponsorship of a Chinese student: 1983

On 30 September 1982 the Rotary Club of Nivelles officially invited Ms. Annabel TZE-SHUANG YEN to study in Belgium for 12 months. The Rotary District 217 agreed to pay for the air fare and several Rotary families will host Annabel and cover most of her expenses.

The Rotary Club decided to support her as part of the promotion of international friendship and article 4. of “Goal of Rotary”: “To encourage and cultivate mutual international understanding, love for peace, to build and maintain cordial relations around the world between representatives of diverse professions, united in the sprit of service.”

Letter signed by J.C. Michez (Action Internationale) and G. Libotte (Club President).

The first Rotary sponsorship of a Chinese student: 1983

On 11 May 1983 I visited the “Country Club” where the Rotary Club of Tientsin was holding meetings after 1923.

Meeting former Rtn Louis J. Yen, Tianjin Academy of Literature & History, and Annabel Yen, Robert’s daughter, dinner in Tianjin



A scary return to Beijing



17 August 1983: meeting Annabel at the home of Rtn Michez

Rue Cheval Godet, Nivelles, Belgium

