

Rotary Club Charter Number

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Several thousand Rotary clubs state that they have the Club Number on their charters, while more than twenty thousand clubs claim that there is no such number shown.

Which is the TRUTH?

The Charter Number Yesterday

Hanging on the wall in the office of The Rotary Club of Chicago, United States, is a framed document. It has an historical significance in Rotary akin to the person of our Paul P. Harris, the founder of this great movement of Rotary International. It is the Charter of The Rotary Club of Chicago. This charter bears on its face the designation of club “Number 1” in Rotary. Although it was not issued until sometime after the founding of The International Association of Rotary Clubs along in 1913 – eight years after the club really originated – its number and the historic facts behind it make it one of the historic documents of Rotary.

For many years the charter number assigned to the latest club admitted to membership in Rotary International was the same number as the total number of Rotary clubs. Then for time, as the memberships of clubs were terminated, these vacated numbers were reassigned to new clubs as they were admitted to membership in Rotary International. Then the procedure was again changed and numbers were not re-assigned except in cases where clubs were reorganized in the same cities and admitted to membership in Rotary International.

Over the years the procedure with regard to the assignment and re-assignment of charter numbers has changed several times that at the present time the number assigned to a new club has no significance – it does not indicate the number of Rotary clubs nor does it indicate the total number of clubs which have ever been admitted to membership in Rotary International since for a few years numbers were re-assigned to new clubs with a letter “b” following the number.

In view of this situation, the Rotary International Board of Directors agreed that effective 1 July 1951, the procedure of assigning charter numbers to clubs as they are admitted to membership in Rotary International shall be discontinued. Clubs which have charter numbers may retain them but no club charter numbers will be published in the Official Directory beginning with the 1951-1952 Issue.

The Club ID Number Today

The ID numbers assigned to clubs today are for computerized accounting purposes and the old charter numbers are now obsolete. Even Chicago “Number 1” has been assigned a new ID number. The current numbering system has nothing whatsoever to do with the order in which a club entered Rotary. Numbers are assigned by the automation software as clubs are entered into the system. When the membership database was created in the 1980s, clubs were not entered in chronological order, so their ID numbers have no inherent meaning.



Charter No. 217 shown on top -- Dated 1 May 1916

The International Association of Rotary Clubs

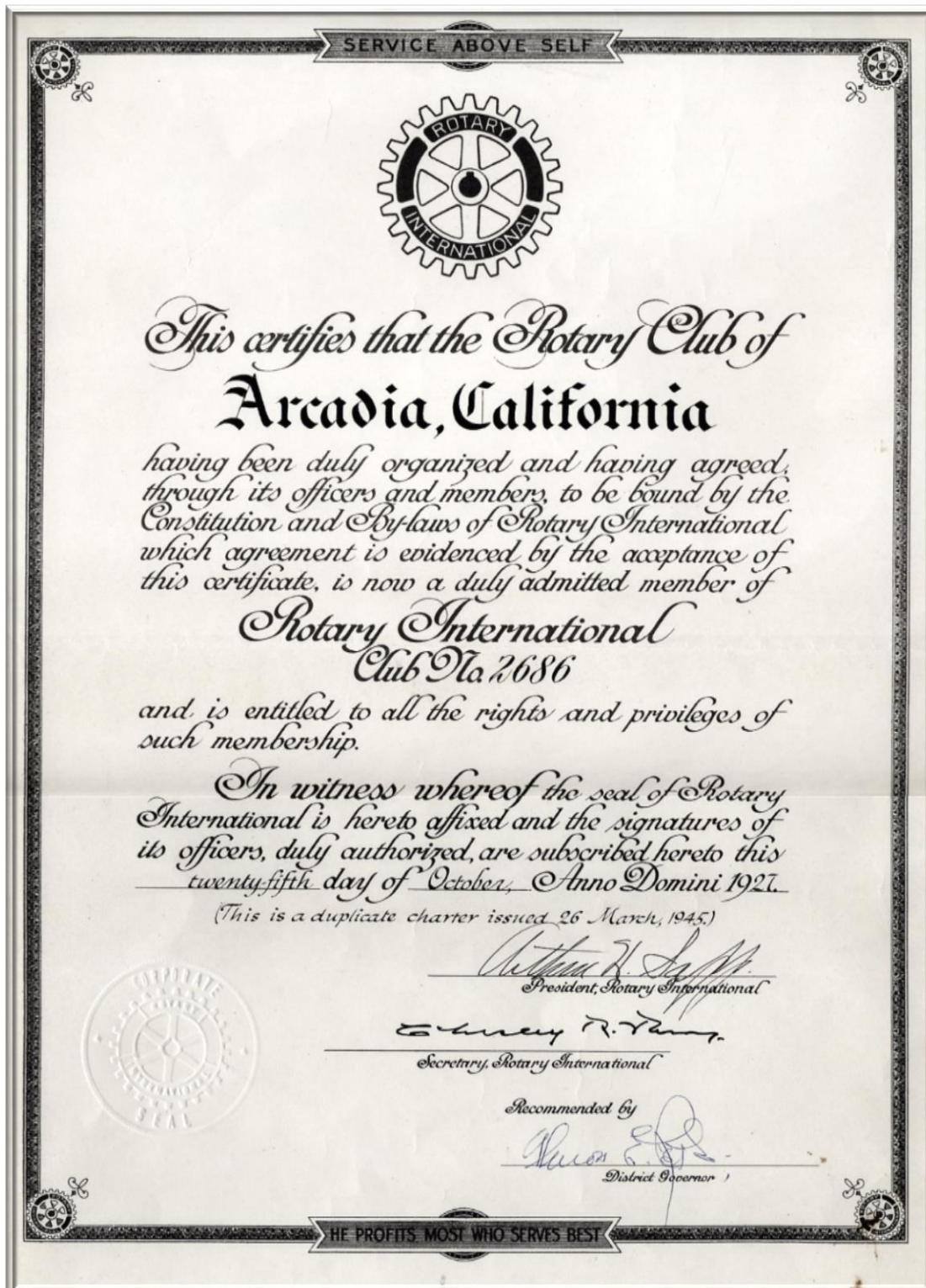
Rotary Club of Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, United States.



Charter No. 545 shown on top -- Dated 1 October 1919

The International Association of Rotary Clubs

Rotary Club of Shanghai, Republic of China (中華民國 - 上海扶輪社)



Charter No. 2686 shown in the center -- Dated 25 October 1927

Rotary International

Rotary Club of Arcadia, California, United States.



No Charter Number

Rotary International -- Dated 8 February 2006

Rotary Club of Shanghai, People's Republic of China (中华人民共和国 - 上海扶轮社)

(Appendix)

Rotary Clubs with Charter Numbers in the Republic of China 1919-1952

<u>Club Name</u>	<u>Charter No.</u>	<u>Charter/Re-admitted Date</u>	<u>Termination Date</u>
1. Shanghai 上海扶輪社	545	1919-10-01	1943-12-31
		1946-03-27	1951-10-16
2. Tientsin 天津扶輪社	1444	1923-05-10	1943-12-31
		1946-09-17	1952-01-24
3. Peking # 北京扶輪社	1814	1924-08-30	
Peiping # 北平扶輪社		(1928)	1943-12-31
		1946-08-14	1951-06-26
4. Canton 廣州扶輪社	3509	1932-04-25	1943-12-31
		1946-12-27	1950-12-21
5. Hangchow 杭州扶輪社	3525	1932-06-23	1943-12-31
		1947-06-30	1950-12-21
6. Tsingtao 青島扶輪社	3563	1932-12-05	1943-12-31
		1946-12-27	1950-12-21
7. Tsinan 濟南扶輪社	2158 b	1932-12-09	1943-12-31
		1947-05-24	1950-12-21
8. Foochow 福州扶輪社	1913 b	1933-07-31	1950-12-21
9. Amoy 廈門扶輪社	3627	1933-10-23	1943-12-21
		1948-06-02	1950-12-21
10. Hankow 漢口扶輪社	2276 b	1933-12-20	1943-12-31
		1946-05-25	1950-12-21
11. Nanking 南京扶輪社	3642	1934-01-19	1943-12-31
		1946-12-24	1952-01-24
12. Wuhu 蕪湖扶輪社	3915	1936-02-06	1943-12-31
13. Kaifeng 開封扶輪社	3971	1936-05-13	1943-12-31

14. Swatow	汕頭扶輪社	3973	1936-05-21	1943-12-31
			1947-11-07	1950-12-21
15. Wuchow	梧州扶輪社	3977	1936-05-22	1950-12-21
16. Ningpo	寧波扶輪社	4015	1936-09-02	1943-12-31
			1946-10-21	1950-12-21
17. Soochow	吳縣扶輪社	4053	1936-11-11	1943-12-31
			1947-02-26	1950-12-21
18. Wuchang	武昌扶輪社	4146	1937-03-08	1943-12-31
19. Chinkiang	鎮江扶輪社	4217	1937-04-02	1943-12-31
			1947-03-28	1950-12-21
20. Kunming	昆明扶輪社	4298	1937-05-28	1950-12-21
21. Wusih	無錫扶輪社	4321	1937-06-16	1943-12-31
			1947-04-08	1950-12-21
22. Changsha	長沙扶輪社	4336	1937-06-28	1950-12-21
23. Sian	西安扶輪社	4382	1937-08-30	1950-12-21
24. Chungking	重慶扶輪社	4471	1937-11-18	1950-12-21
25. Chengtu	成都扶輪社	4916	1939-01-09	1950-12-21
26. Lanchow	蘭州扶輪社	5689	1943-11-11	1950-12-21
27. Kweilin	桂林扶輪社	5793	1944-06-16	1946-06-04
28. Kweiyang	貴陽扶輪社	5963	1945-04-23	1950-12-21
29. Nanchang	南昌扶輪社	6886	1948-03-29	1950-12-21
30. Mukden #	瀋陽扶輪社	3116	1948-03-31	1949-06-30
	Shen Yang #瀋陽扶輪社		1949-07-01	1950-12-21
31. Taipeh (Taipei) #	臺北扶輪社	6968	1948-06-11	(still active)
32. Shanghai West	滬西扶輪社	7097	1948-11-16	1952-01-24
33. Liuchow	柳州扶輪社	7126	1948-12-14	1950-12-21

(Remarks)

- (1) Clubs #3, #30 and #31 –
Club name changed due to the city name changed.
- (2) Club #3 – Peking (北京) / Peiping (北平)
“Peking” (北京) (literally meaning “northern capital”) is a spelling created by French missionaries of the 17th and 18th centuries. It was also the English name of the city until the adoption of *pinyin* “Beijing” in 1958. “Peiping” (北平) was restored as the city’s name in 1928 by the Republic of China following its capital was seated at Nanking (*Nanjing*) (南京) (literally meaning “southern capital”). In accordance with the rules of the government, “Peking Rotary Club” changed its name as “Peiping Rotary Club”. But when the Chinese Communist Party Administration was established on 1 October 1949, the Club’s name was restored back to “Peking Rotary Club” until its eventual termination.
- (3) Club #30 –
Mukden Rotary Club (瀋陽扶輪社), attaching the 98th District (northern China), was given the original charter number 3116 of the former Mukden Rotary Club (奉天ロータリークラブ) (established in 1929, terminated in 1940) which was located in the Japanese occupied territories of Manchuria, attaching the 70th District of Rotary International (Japan Proper and overseas territories).
“Shenyang (瀋陽)” is formerly known by its Manchu name “Mukden”, or in Chinese “奉天” during the Japanese occupation and Manchoukuo (滿洲國) era from 1895 to 1945. After the victory of the Pacific War, the entire Manchurian territory was recovered by the Republican China as portion of the state. The city name “Mukden” (奉天) was then changed back to “Shenyang” (瀋陽).
- (4) Termination in 1943 and re-admission in later years was due to war time condition.
- (5) The Civil War was at its peak in 1948-1949. Clubs were not functioned effectively, followed by the outbreak of the Korean War in June 1950 that made the United States plus 15 allied nations and the People’s Republic of China in the status of hostility. So, in 1951, Rotary International dissolved the 3 Districts in China. Clubs were terminated gradually. Hence, ultimately in January 1952, Rotary International terminated all clubs in China mainland. The decision on “People’s Republic of China as a non-Rotary country” was carried on until the end of the 20th century.

