

周壽臣爵士--首位華裔爵士的香港扶輪人

Sir Shouson Chow – First Chinese Knight Rotarian in Hong Kong

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

15 October 2021



Dr. The Honourable Sir Shouson Chow (周壽臣爵士), Kt, *HonLLD (HKU)*, JP (13 March 1861 - 23 January 1959), was the first Chinese Knight Bachelor to join the Rotary Club of Hong Kong (香港扶輪社) as an Active Member with Classification “Business Service—Business Consulting” during the Club’s early 2 decades. When the Rotary Club was organized in 1930 and was admitted to Rotary International on 20 February 1931, Chow was already the most prominent and influential Chinese leader in the British Crown Colony Hong Kong (英國殖民地香港). Other than an unofficial member of the Sanitary Board (潔淨局) (forerunner of the Hong Kong Urban Council 市政局), he was concurrently an unofficial member of the Legislative Council (定例局) as well as the Executive Council (議政局).

Rotary service was carried on not merely throughout Chow’s own life, but also by his next 2 generations, at least. One of his sons-in-law was the eminent leader in the Rotary China History, Dr. Chengting Thomas Wang (王正廷博士), Rotary International Director in 1944-1946, concurrently 2nd Vice President in 1945-1946.

One of Chow’s grandsons, Wing Chow (周振榮) was a past president of the Rotary Club of Victoria (維多利亞扶輪社) in Hong Kong. Wing has once served as Rotary International District 345 Conference chairman.

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ROTARY CLUB OF HONGKONG



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CLUB 3413

DISTRICT 96

WEEKLY BULLETIN

November 19, 1948.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 23rd, 1948.

Speaker: Mr. M. Silas.

Subject: A Musical Treat.

Old Tientsin

Address by Major C. W. L. Way

At our last Tuesday meeting the whole atmosphere was excitingly historical in view of the fact that Major Way, an old Tientsinner, delighted the members with a talk on Old Tientsin, responded to by another old Tientsinner, Sir Shouson Chow.

The speaker said "Tientsin" was formerly known as Tze-chu-lin, meaning Purple Bamboo Grove. Its present name means "Heavenly Ford". It was until recently the very prosperous seaport for Peking and also for the enormous hinterland covering most of far Northern China and Mongolia. The temperature there is 110° in summer and 25° below zero in winter with glorious Springs and Autumns.

The city lies 40 miles up the "Sea River" from Taku, the word Taku meaning Big Fort. The many forts at the river mouth served as defences in the old days against sea-rovers, including Koreans and even Japanese. During winter-frozen days the railway was the only means of communication. Mail by Pony Express prevailed in olden days during winter. As soon as the little Mongol ponies could be seen in a cloud of dust, a signal would be raised on the Custom House flagpole when news-hungry ice-bound residents would crowd for their mail.

During these 3 to 4 months, business came to a standstill. People passed their time in skating, ice-hockey, ice-yachting, cross-country riding and hunting, and visits to peaceful Peking, only 90 miles away.

The speaker then traced the various heroes during the Boxer Uprising, who defended and saved Tientsin and Peking. The most unforgettable character was Charles Gordon with an unbeaten record of victories with the Chinese Ever-Victorious Army. The Town Hall in Tientsin is named after him. Among those who remembered Gordon Hall are Sir Shouson Chow and his family, all of whom were in Tientsin during the Boxer Trouble of 1900. Shouson was then exactly 40 and the speaker was 37 years younger. In those days Rtn. Chow was an executive in the China Merchants with their godowns full of fine Tribute rice from South China for the Imperial Court in Peking. In spite of having a direct shell-hit in his house and with fears for his wife and young family (including Rtn. Y. K. Chow) he organized the distribution of rice under severe fire.

The word "Boxer" came from the name "I Ho Chuan" or Society of Heavenly Fists. 20,000 International Troops were despatched to raise the siege of first Tientsin and then Peking. The jealousy among the Armed Force Commanders was such that this large force finally marched to Peking in alphabetical order and only after tragic delays.

A world figure, who resided in Tientsin in the early 1900's was Herbert Hoover, an engineer. He later became President of the United States. James Watts, known as the Saviour of Tientsin, displayed courage almost without parallel in the history of deeds of brave men.

Relating his father's Company, the Taku Tug & Lighter Co. Ltd., the speaker said that his father served in this firm for 46 years, from 1886 until his death. On the 1900 trouble, this firm reaped a good income from transporting Armed Forces and materials, declaring a dividend of 127% four months after the Boxer Uprising and 45% the following year.

Being a rider himself, the speaker said that racing in Tientsin was always delightful. Having 3 courses in Tientsin and 2 in Peking, continual racing could be enjoyed except on frozen ground or short rainy season. Many noted riders are now participating in Hongkong racing and are known to people here.

In the sport annual of Tientsin, she produced many stars in Rugby Football, track and interport hockey, tennis, badminton and polo.

The old Tientsinner concluded his talk by declaring that he hoped that listening to vagrant memories would be as enjoyable as telling about them.

In thanking the speaker Rtn. Shouson declared that although he was old in age, his heart was as young as ever, and the memories of Old Tientsin as described by Major Way

seemed to be only yesterday's happenings. He said that the Boxers were "fakes", and could be killed by bullets as any other human. Tientsin would have been in very bad shape and the residents' lives in imminent danger, if the Boxers had not been routed. He described the character of the Empress Dowager, and Emperor Kwang Hsu, whom he knew personally.

There was present at the meeting Mr. David M. Maynard, who was 15 years ago a member of our Club, and is now serving as Economic Adviser to General MacArthur in Tokyo.

Rotary International Monthly - "The Rotarian"

We have just received 30 copies of the July issue, 28 copies of the August issue, 39 copies of the September issue and 50 copies of the October issue of this publication. These will be placed on the table at our next meeting, and those who have subscribed for it beginning July please collect their 4 copies each. Those members who wish to buy a copy, but have not subscribed for them, may buy the latest two issues, September and October, at \$1.00 each.

Gift of \$1,000 to Hongkong School For the Deaf

Secretary John has received the following acknowledgment from Miss Li Luk Wa, Principal of the above School: "Thank you very much for the cheque for \$1,000.00 from the Rotary Club of Hongkong. We are very grateful to you for this most generous gift. Will you convey our sincere thanks to the members of your Club."

Appeal to Rotary-Anns from Medical Department

The Director of Medical Services has addressed the following appeal to Rotary Ladies: "An appeal for books and periodicals for the Mental Hospital was made recently and I should be grateful if you could bring the appeal to the notice of your members. It is scarcely necessary to emphasize the value of books and magazines to patients in hospital especially those suffering from mental illness. Any kind of reading matter whether new or old, in English or in Chinese, is acceptable. Gifts should be sent to the Medical Officer in charge, Mental Hospital, High Street, Sai Ying Pun. I also wonder whether any of your members would care to visit the female inmates of the hospital from time to time. The patients, particularly the English speaking ones, get very lonely and long for some contact with the outside world."

Deadline for Contribution of Articles in 1949 Hongkong Rotarian

In spite of repeated reminders, contribution of articles has been very scarce and a number of Committee Chairmen have not handed their Committee report. A last warning is now being given that articles and reports must be handed in to the Secretary before November 25, otherwise they will not arrive in time to be published. Our youngest member, V. C. Labrum, has been asked to assist in its publication.

Acknowledgment from Rotary Club of Falkirk

The Secretary has received the following letter from the above Club: "It was very pleasant to have another visit from Rtn. Neill Garland at our Club today. The occasion was an outstanding one when he presented to our President the Banner sent from the Club of Hongkong. Our President accepted this most generous gift with pleasure and expressed thanks to Rtn. Garland, but I have been asked to write this note of formal thanks to yourself and all your Members for a gift which will always find a place of honour at our Luncheon Table. It is a most beautiful Banner. (From Robert Wilson, Hon. Secretary.)"

Club News & Notices

The application of the following new members have been approved:

Harry A. Ayres - General Agent, United States Lines.	
Major Class. - Transportation.	Minor Class. - Ocean Shipping.
Robert Bruce - Representative of The British Council.	
Major Class. - Government.	Minor Class. - Culture Promotion Service.
John William Harper - Owners Representative of Pacific Far East Lines Inc.	
Major Class. - Transportation.	Minor Class. - Refrigeration Freight Shipping.
Alim P. Jagtiani - Partner in the Hongkong United Trading Company.	
Major Class. - General Merchandise.	Minor Class. - General Exporting.
S. H. Pang - General Secretary of the Chinese Y. M. C. A.	
Major Class. - Associations.	Minor Class. - Y. M. C. A.

These proposals are before the members for a period of 10 days during which any member objecting to the election should write to the Secretary stating the reason for his objection.

Attendance, November 16, 1948. 64 members out of 76, 85%.

Visiting Rotarians. A. P. Jagtiani (Hyderabad), V.K. Bashi, H. Kadoorie and P. Pearson (Shanghai).

Guests. F. F. Booth, H.W. Hume, J.W. Harper, D. Maynard, Kartar Chand, C.G. McNab, F.J. Alexander, C. D. Slade, C.H. Koo and C.A. Koo.

Birthday. Best Wishes and Many Happy Returns to Rtn. P. K. (Kwok) on Nov. 29.

The Story of Sir Shouson Chow

A director of many Hong Kong firms and corporations

Chow Shouson (周壽臣) was originally named Chow Chang-Ling (周長齡) who was born on 13 March 1861 at Wong Chuk Hang (黃竹坑), southern coast of the Hong Kong Island. Chow came from an old family that had originally settled in Kowloon (九龍) some 200 years before the British Empire occupied Hong Kong. His grandfather had helped the British post Charles Elliot's famous proclamation that Hong Kong would be a free port and its Chinese residents would be allowed to retain their customs and religious beliefs. Admiral Charles Elliot (義律) was a British Royal Navy officer, diplomat, and colonial administrator. He became the first Administrator of Hong Kong in 1841 while serving as both Plenipotentiary and Chief Superintendent of British Trade in China. He was a key founder in the establishment of Hong Kong as a British colony.

His father was compradore to The Hongkong Canton & Macao Steamboat Company (省港澳輪船公司), based in Canton (*Guangzhou*) (廣州). In his later years Chow, an affable man with a good sense of humour, frequently joked that his ancestors had been pirates in Hong Kong well before the British arrived and that, unlike the Eurasian Robert Ho Tung (何啟東) and his brother Ho Fook (何啟福), he was full-blooded Chinese.

Overseas Education

Chow received his early education at the Central School (中央書院) (later Queen's College 皇仁書院). In 1873 he was selected by the Imperial Ch'ing (大清國) government as one of the first Chinese pupils to study in the U.S.A. As a member of the Chinese Educational Mission, he was educated at Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts, and then at Columbia University, New York, until the government recalled the Mission in 1881.

High ranking official in the Ch'ing Empire

Like many members of the aborted study mission, Chow went on to distinguish himself in various diplomatic and commercial positions: Chinese Consul in Inchon, Korea; managing director of the China Merchants Steamship Navigation Company (輪船招商局) in Tientsin (*Tianjin*) (天津), and then commissioner of the Peking-Mukden Railway (京奉鐵路); customs superintendent of Niuzhuang (牛莊港) (now Yingkou 營口); and secretary in the Board of Foreign Affairs. Chow returned to Hong Kong after the Hsin-hai Republican Revolution (辛亥革命) in 1911.

A businessman of multi-trades

Although he was already over 50 years old after the establishment of the Republic of China (中華民國) in 1912, Chow quickly immersed himself in local commercial and industrial affairs. In 1918 he helped found the Bank of East Asia (東亞銀行) of which he became the second chairman from 1925 to 1929. He was director of many firms and corporations, among them Hongkong Electric Company (香港電燈公司), Hongkong Telephone Company

(香港電話公司), Hongkong Tramways (香港電車公司), A. S. Watson's (屈臣氏藥房), Hongkong and Yaumati Ferry Company (香港油蔴地小輪船公司), China Entertainment and Land Investment Company (中華娛樂置業公司), China Emporium (中華百貨公司), International Assurance, Hong Kong China Realty and Trust (香港置地信託公司), and Nanyang Brothers Tobacco Company (南洋兄弟烟草公司), and many others.

Community concern and services in Hong Kong

A respected leader of Hong Kong's Chinese elite, Chow served as a member of the Court of Hong Kong University (香港大學校董) since 1921. In 1928 Chow supported the founding of the School of Chinese Studies (中文學院) in the University, partly in an attempt to save Hong Kong from the radical anti-Confucianism that had engulfed China since the May Fourth Movement (五四運動) in 1919. Chow was permanent advisor to the Tung Wah Hospital (東華醫院), Po Leung Kuk (保良局), District Watch, and Public Dispensaries committees, also was involved in organizations such as the Hong Kong Society for the Protection of Children (香港保護兒童會), and the Chinese Mission to Lepers (中華痲瘋救濟會). He was also a member of the League of Fellowship, founded in 1921 by leaders of Hong Kong's foreign and Chinese communities to "Promote good fellowship within the Colony, irrespective of race, class and creed". Chow was also advisor of the Chinese General Chamber of Commerce (香港中華總商會) and Honorary President of the South China Athletic Association (南華體育會) as well as the Chinese Recreation Club (香港中華游樂會).

Political and public services to the Colony

Chow was appointed in 1917 Unofficial Justice of the Peace for Hong Kong by Hong Kong Governor Sir Francis Henry May (香港總督梅含理爵士). He was subsequently elected to membership of the North British Academy of Arts. When in 1918 the Secretary for Chinese Affairs (華民政務司), Edwin Richard Hallifax (夏理德), proposed to ban *mah-jong*, Chow and several other Chinese justices of the peace disagreed on the grounds that *mah-jong* was the most popular leisure activity among the Chinese and that a ban would fail to differentiate between legitimate social clubs and dens of iniquity.

In 1922 he was appointed by Hong Kong Governor Sir Reginald Edward Stubbs (香港總督司徒拔爵士) a member of the Sanitary Board (潔淨局), the precursor of the Urban Council (市政局), and the Legislative Council (立法局) on 8 December 1921, where he served until 22 October 1931. An unofficial member of the Legislative Council, Chow was known for trying to protect Chinese customs and traditions and for urging the Colonial Government not to tolerate strikes and boycotts. He opposed the Government's attempts to end child labour in factories and the *mui tsai* (妹仔) system of female bond-servitude (though in 1923 he voted in favour of a bill restricting the system). During the Seamen's Strike of 1922, he and Lau Chu-Pak (劉鑄伯), the other Chinese unofficial member of the Legislative Council, insisted that the strike was politically inspired by Bolshevism rather than economic in origin. Chow urged the government to stand firm.

During the General Strike and Boycott of 1925-1926, Chow and Robert Hormus Kotewall (羅旭龢) played a critical role in helping the Colonial Government combat the strike by leading an intensive counter-propaganda campaign. They set up the Counter-Propaganda Bureau, making use the Kung Sheung Yat Po (工商日報) (Commercial and Industrial Daily News), and the Labour Protection Bureau, a secret organization aimed at protecting labourers from intimidation. Chow recommended a range of possibilities for ending the strike, from using military force against the revolutionary government in Canton (*Guangzhou*) (廣州) to recognizing the Canton regime. Although Chow and Kotewall were frequently branded in Hong Kong and Canton as “running dogs” of the British imperialists, they considered working with the Colonial Government against the leftist Canton government as a sign both of their loyalty to Hong Kong and of their patriotism to China.

On 9 July 1926 Hong Kong Governor Sir Cecil Clementi (香港總督金文泰爵士) nominated Chow as the first Chinese member of the Executive Council. Chow’s appointment, which represented a major shift in local colonial policy and was approved only with great reluctance by the Colonial Office was designed to dampen anti-British feelings and to encourage continued loyalty among the Chinese who had supported the Hong Kong government during the General Strike.

Honours and Decorations

For his services in the Legislative Council, Chow was appointed Knight Bachelor in January 1926 by King George V (King of the United Kingdom and the British Dominions, and Emperor of India), on the same honours list as Hong Kong Governor and Commander-in-Chief Sir Cecil Clementi---Knight Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George (KCMG). Conducted in Government House by Prince George, the investiture was the first in Hong Kong to be made by a member of the British Royal Family.

Chow retired from the Executive Council on 8 July 1936. In 1937 King George V granted him the privilege of retaining the title “Honourable” for the rest of his life; he was the first person in Hong Kong to receive this distinction. In the same year he also received honours from the Chinese leader, Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek (蔣中正特級上將).

Protect Chinese rights during Japanese Occupation

During the Pacific War (1941-1945), Hong Kong was captured and occupied by the Imperial Japan’s military forces. Chow was requested to serve on the Chinese Representative Council and the Chinese Cooperative Council, the two organizations established by the Japanese to control the Chinese population. He was also head of the Police Affairs Committee. Chow was one of the two main guests of honour (the other was Kotewall) at a lunch held by Japanese Governor of Hong Kong (香港軍政廳最高長官) Lieutenant General Sakai Takashi (酒井隆陸軍中將) at the Peninsula Hotel (半島酒店) in January 1942, where he endorsed Kotewall’s pro-Japanese sentiments. Although Chow and other local leaders came under attack after the war for collaborating with the Japanese,

perhaps because of his age Chow was not criticized as much as Kotewall. Colonial officials later testified that they met secretly with Chow and Kotewall shortly before the fall of Hong Kong in December 1941, requesting that the two cooperate with the Japanese to protect the interests of the Chinese community.

Honours from a range of governments

As Chow's obituary in the 《South China Morning Post》 noted: "Sir Shouson had the distinction of serving under three Manchu emperors and five British sovereigns." His long life saw a distinguished political and commercial career that earned him honours and awards from a range of governments.

After the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-1905, Chow was conferred the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette Fourth Class (勳四等旭日小綬章) by Meiji Emperor of Japan (日本明治天皇), in appreciation for maintaining neutral status during the war.

Chow was heavily decorated by the Imperial Ch'ing government and continued to receive honours from the successive Republican China's governments after the Ch'ing Dynasty fell. He was awarded in 1913 Order of Golden Grain Third Class (三等嘉禾勳章) by Grand President Yuan Shih-Kai (中華民國大總統袁世凱), and in 1918 he was awarded Second Class of the same Order. In 1919, Chow was conferred Order of Precious Brilliant Golden Grain Grand Cordon Second Class (二等大綬寶光嘉禾勳章) by Grand President Hsu Shih-Chang (中華民國大總統徐世昌).

From the British Empire, Chow was awarded the King George V Silver Jubilee Medal in 1935 and the King George VI Coronation Medal in 1937.

In 1933, Chow was conferred the degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*, by the University of Hong Kong (香港大學).

As unofficial member of the Legislative and Executive Councils, Chow served eight colonial governors. He was also honorary advisor to several Republican China's leaders, including Hu Han-Min (胡漢民), Chiang Kai-Shek (蔣中正), and Wu Te-Chen (吳鐵城). In May 1949 he received an autographed photograph of the Communist Chairman Mao Tse-Tung (毛澤東), apparently in honour of his service to Hong Kong and China.

Permanent Memorial Shouson Hill

Dr. The Honourable Sir Shouson Chow passed away on 23 January 1959 at his age of 98, and was buried in Aberdeen Chinese Permanent Cemetery of the Hong Kong Island.

In 1937, after Chow announced his retirement as a member of the Legislative Council, the Hong Kong Government decided to name the hill where Chow's residence was located "Shouson Hill 壽臣山"; and the road around the hill was named "Shoushan Village Road 壽山村道" to reward Sir Shouson for his years of dedicated service to the Government and the community. Shouson Hill is a hill in the southern part of Hong Kong Island, located between Wong Chuk Hang and Deep Water Bay. The mountain is surrounded by one of Hong Kong's most upscale residential areas, known as Shou Shan Village (壽山村).



PRESENT

His Excellency The Governor (Sir William Peel, KCMG, KBE)

His Excellency The General Officer Commanding the Troop (Major-General J. W. Sandilands, CB, CMG, DSO)

The Colonial Secretary (Hon. Mr. W. T. Shouton, CMG)

The Attorney General (Hon. Mr. C. G. Alabaster, KC, OBE)

The Secretary for Chinese Affairs (Hon. Mr. E. R. Hallifax, CMG, CBE)

The Colonial Treasurer (Hon. Mr. E. Taylor)

Hon. Mr. H. T. Creasy, CBE (Director of Public Works)

Hon. Mr. E. D. C. Wolfe, CMG (Inspector General of Police)

Hon. Commander G. F. Hole, RN (Retired) (Harbour Master)

Hon. Sir Henry Pollock, Kt, KC

Hon. Mr. W. E. L. Shenton

Hon. Mr. R. H. Kotewall, CMG, LLD

Hon. Mr. S. W. Ts'o, OBE, LLD

Hon. Mr. C. G. S. Mackie

Hon. Mr. J. J. Paterson

Hon. Mr. T. N. Chau

Mr. R. A. C. North (Deputy Clerk of Councils)

ABSENT

Hon. Dr. W. B. A. Moore (Director of Medical and Sanitary Services)

Hon. Mr. J. P. Braga

RETIREMENT OF SIR SHOU-SON CHOW

H. E. The Governor –

Since we last met in this Chamber, this Council has sustained a serious loss, Sir Shou-son Chow had been a member for a period of ten years, having been appointed originally on the 2nd December, 1921, for six years, and re-appointed on the 2nd December, 1927, for four years. The Secretary of State has ruled that, except in special circumstances, a member shall not serve more than two terms. I should, however, have been ready to submit Sir Shou-son's name for re-appointment, had he not expressed a wish, on account of age, not to seek

re-appointment. His ripe wisdom, sage counsel and his consistent loyalty at once to my predecessors and myself, the Government, and the Colony, have been of immense value, and it is somewhat difficult to envisage this Council without him.

The loss, however, is somewhat tempered by the fact that he still remains a member of the Executive Council, having been re-appointed last July for a second period of five years. His advice and counsel will therefore, I am glad to say, still be available to the Government. Speaking personally, although we have not known one another for a very long period, a strong bond of personal friendship has been established between us, for which I need hardly say I have the greatest regard, and I am happy to think that I shall continue to have the benefit of his advice and help.

I take this opportunity of welcoming Sir Henry Pollock back to the Council, and also tendering a hearty welcome to the new member.

Hon. Sir Henry Pollock –

Sir, I must begin by thanking you personally for welcoming me here to-day.

As Senior Unofficial Member I desire to express my great regret, which I am sure is shared all my unofficial colleagues, at the retirement of Sir Shou-son Chow from this Council.

The ten years during which my honourable friend has sat in this Council have included periods of considerable anxiety and even difficulty, and I consider that not only this Council but the Colony are to be congratulated upon having the benefit during those troublesome times of the ripe experience and sound judgment of Sir Shou-son Chow.

Personally, I shall very much miss the assistance which has been freely given to me at all times, of such an able, cheerful and loyal colleague, and I rejoice to think that the Colony and the Government will still retain the benefit of Sir Shou-son Chow's services upon the Executive Council.

I shall take this opportunity of cordially welcoming the co-operation of the new unofficial member, the Honourable Mr. T. N. Chau, whose father, the late Mr. Chau Siu Ki, was for a time a valued colleague of mine on this Council.

Hon. Mr. Kotewall –

Sir, with the exception of the honourable senior unofficial member, I have served with the Hon. Sir Shou-son Chow on this Council for a longer period than has any other unofficial member. For the last eight years I have, I believe, associated with him in public work more closely and intimately than has any other individual in the Colony.

Not long after we began this happy collaboration, Sir Shou-son humorously dubbed ourselves 'The Twins'. Although there is a gulf of about twenty years between us, I think that we are twins---in thought, purpose and ideal, in our endeavor to discharge the duties committed to us by the Government.

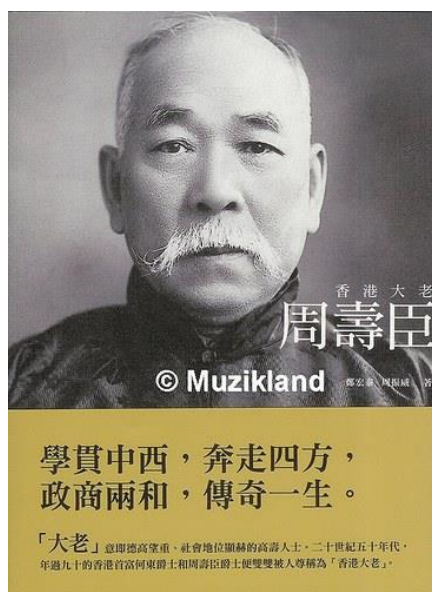
There have, inevitably, been divergences of opinion during such a long association in work of such a varied nature; but we have, in most cases, been able to reach conclusions which seemed to both of us to be best for the cause we served. For this successful teamwork, by far the greater share of the credit must go to the older and senior man.

A more loyal colleague, and a wiser and pleasanter, it has not been my lot to work with. His unrivalled experience of large affairs and his sagacity and good sense have been of immense assistance to the Hon. Dr. Ts'o and myself in the consideration of the many difficult and intricate problems that have confronted us in recent years; while his refreshing humour and unfailing optimism have been, to many, a source of encouragement and stimulation.

Sir Shou-son's retirement from this Council is therefore, a grievous loss to us. Fortunately, Your Excellency in your wisdom, has retained his service on the Executive Council, where his ripe experience will still be available for the benefit of the Colony which he serves so unostentatiously and so well.

I cordially join the honourable senior unofficial member in this expression of welcome to the Hon. Mr. T. N. Chau, to whom the Hon. Dr. Ts'o and I pledge close and loyal co-operation.

(Note) In this piece of Council minutes, there have been 7 Rotarians, of the Rotary Club of Hong Kong, mentioned: (A) Charter Members – (1) Sir Henry Pollock (普樂爵士); (2) William Edward Leonard Shenton; (3) Dr. Robert Hormus Kotewall (羅旭蘇博士); (4) Dr. Ts'o Seen-Wan (曹善允博士); (5) Chau Tsun-Nin (周竣年); (6) Sir Shouson Chow (周壽臣爵士); and (B) Honorary Member – Wilfrid Thomas Shouton (修頓).





1881 年 -- 周壽臣於美國菲利普斯學院畢業時攝

1881 – Shouson Chow was graduated from Phillips Academy, Massachusetts, USA



1903 年周壽臣任關內外鐵路總辦

1903 – Shouson Chow, Commissioner of the Peking-Mukden Railway



1930 年香港大學中文學會成立，馮秉芬任主席，師生合影。

前排左五馮平山(馮秉芬父親)，左七馮秉芬，左八周壽臣爵士，中為校長康寧(香港扶輪社創社社長)。

A group photo of teachers and students in 1930 when the Chinese Studies Society of the Hong Kong University was inaugurated. Front row from the left, (L5) Fung Ping-Shan (Kenneth's father), (L7) Kenneth Fung Ping-Fan, (L8) Sir Shouson Chow, (center) William Hornell, University Vice-Chancellor (Charter President of Hong Kong Rotary Club).



壽臣山今日的景色 View of Shouson Hill today



1952 年—周壽臣爵士與香港總督葛量洪爵士合影

1952 -- Sir Shouson Chow with Sir Alexander Grantham, the Governor of Hong Kong (Courtesy: Revolvvy)



「松壽居」 周壽臣爵士大宅

Pine Villa – The Residence of Sir Shouson Chow (Photo by Richard Wong)



周壽臣爵士墓園

The graveyard of Sir Shouson Chow (Photo by Mark Wan)

周壽臣爵士--首位華裔爵士的香港扶輪人



周壽臣爵士(Dr. The Honourable Sir Shouson Chow, Kt, HonLLD (HKU), JP) (1861 年 3 月 13 日-1959 年 1 月 23 日) 是香港扶輪社(Rotary Club of Hong Kong)成立初期二十年間第一位華裔爵士加入該社成為現職社員，職業分類「商業諮詢服務」。當香港扶輪社於 1930 年成立，並於 1931 年 2 月 20 日加入國際扶輪時，周壽臣已是英國殖民地香港最傑出、最具影響力的華人領袖。除擔任香港市政局(Urban Council)前身潔淨局(潔淨局)非官守議員外，他亦同時擔任定例局(Legislative Council)及議政局(Executive Council)的非官守議員。

周壽臣不僅一生致力於扶輪服務，而且至少在家族的後兩代人，也繼續致力於扶輪服務。他的女婿之一是中華扶輪史上的傑出領導者王正廷博士，他於 1944 年至 1946 年擔任國際扶輪理事，並於 1945-1946 年度兼任第二副社長。

周壽臣的孫子之一周振榮，曾任香港維多利亞扶輪社(Victoria Rotary Club)社長。周振榮曾擔任國際扶輪 345 地區年會主席。



周壽臣爵士的故事

政府肯發包船票學費食宿生活費的全額獎學金，竟然無人問津呢！大清國幼童留美計劃並不成功。朝廷中有人對幼童剪辮，只習西學不及中學，行為舉止日漸洋化不滿，反對和批評者眾。最後連鼓吹洋務運動至力，支持幼童留美計劃的洋務大臣李鴻章也頂不住壓力而放棄。朝廷遂終止留學計劃，把幼童撤回大清國。留學美國的幼童回國後有何貢獻呢？其中最為人熟知的，是清末民初辦外交最出色的唐紹儀，及負責建築鐵路的詹天佑等寥寥幾個。

這批留美幼童之中，原來有一個地道的香港人---周壽臣。他是世居港島的香港原居民，被徵召加入留美幼童時，已在香港中央書院（即皇仁書院前身）上學。一如其他留美幼童，周壽臣並沒有完成學業，回國後先在天津海關出任閒職，後調任朝鮮海關。也曾出任天津招商局職位，仕途最後是升任關內外鐵路（京奉鐵路）總辦。

周壽臣辭官後回到英國殖民地香港，反而能成一番事業。他在香港經商，是當時不少華資大行的董事，協助成立純華資的東亞銀行。他在香港先被委任為政府的定例局（即今立法會）議員，後再進一步，成為首位議政局（即今行政會議）華人議員。周壽臣為英屬香港第一名華裔議政局成員，作為政府及民間華人的溝通橋梁。

另外，周壽臣亦熱心公益，積極參與慈善活動。曾經於 1929 年創立香港保護兒童會，又先後擔任保良局及東華醫院顧問。由於周壽臣對早期香港貢獻甚多，社會地位崇高，他與何東爵士在 20 世紀 50 年代，被並稱為「香港大老」（Grand Old Men of Hong Kong）。

留學生涯

周壽臣，譜名周長齡，字壽臣，1861 年於香港島黃竹坑新圍出生。11 歲便由父母送往中央書院，接受西方教育。當時大清國積弱不振，並剛剛於英法聯軍之役中慘敗，清廷由南洋大臣曾國藩、北洋大臣李鴻章等人推動下，開始了洋務運動。洋務運動期間，清廷亦決定「官費派童赴美」，到美國吸收西洋知識。於是，清政府代表容闈便來香港訪尋學童。由於周壽臣在香港已經接觸西學，因此被容闈選為第三批大清留美幼童之一，同時被選中的還有唐紹儀、詹天佑、梁如浩等人。1874 年，周壽臣等人便到達美國並獲安排進入溫斯第小學（Winsted Local Grammar School）唸書。一年後，周壽臣從溫斯第小學畢業，並於同年 9 月入讀菲利普斯學院（Phillips Academy）。留美幼童由於已經融入當地社會，開始剪去辮子，部分更信奉基督教。這令當時清廷保守勢力怒不可遏，並不斷上書李鴻章，要求召回留美學童。雖然容闈力排眾議，可是後來李鴻章仍然決定召回留美學童。對於當時以優異成績於菲利普斯學院畢業的周壽臣而言，這絕對不是一個好消息。因為周壽臣當時已得到美國著名大學哥倫比亞大學（Columbia University）取錄，準備入學。最後，周壽臣只能無奈地放棄入學機會，回到大清國。

出仕清廷二品大員

闊別十載後，周壽臣回到了大清國。一如所料，留學學童既得不到政府認同，又沒有得到應有的尊重。政府並沒有善用其專長，相反將他們投閒置散，薪酬及待遇極為差劣，使學童們感到非常徬徨。後來，周壽臣被調往天津海關工作了一段短時間後，於 1883 年跟隨德國前副領事穆麟德（Paul Georg von Möllendorff）前往朝鮮，處理稅務問題。可是 1885 年，穆麟德由於私通俄國，企圖引入俄國勢力而遭李鴻章革職。於是，便改由通商大臣袁世凱總管朝鮮問題，周壽臣輾轉亦轉到其麾下。周壽臣加入袁世凱陣營後，終於得到了充分的肯定和發揮，協助維護大清國在朝鮮的特殊地位。可是東學黨起義於 1894 年發生，日本政府藉故進攻朝鮮。周壽臣與唐紹儀、梁如浩等人留守至最後一刻，才在迫不得已的情況下全面撤退。周壽臣在朝鮮十五年間，由最初的一名翻譯員晉升成為署理仁川領事，事業上可算是平步青雲的。

回到大清國後，周壽臣被安排到天津輪船招商局中工作，職位為副幫辦。他上任後提出多項改善建議，深得當時總督盛宣懷的器重。列強在八國聯軍之役中，嚴重毀壞津局財產，周壽臣決定根據國際法向美國追討。就是由於周壽臣積極進取、全力以赴的作風，最終於 1903 年獲得提拔，出任關內外鐵路總辦，賞戴花翎、欽加二品頂戴。

1904-1905 年日本和俄羅斯交戰，在戰爭地區周壽臣領導的政府機構保持中立地位。因為處理得宜，周壽臣獲日本明治天皇授予「勳四等旭日小綬章」，表示感謝。

周壽臣亦協助籌辦鐵路學堂，以培訓國內鐵路專才。1908 年，欽命署理山海關道，並加按察使頭銜。後來在 1909 年，調任錦新營口分巡兵備道兼山海關監督，負責管理於英法聯軍之役後開埠的牛莊。因為籌餉出力，奏議加一級。也因為防疫出力，傳旨嘉獎。在四年任期內，督率所屬各府、州、縣，綜合管理刑事、外交、稅收、民政事務。勤政愛民，口碑載道。

辭官歸港

辛亥革命於 1911 年爆發，推翻大清帝國。1912 年 1 月 1 日中華民國成立，1913 年 10 月 10 日袁世凱出任中華民國大總統。而唐紹儀、梁如浩等人均獲得提拔，分別在新政府出任總理或部長等職位。可是，周壽臣此時卻選擇抽身而退，寧願同妻兒辭官返回香港。袁世凱為了表示對周壽臣的酬謝，特授予「三等嘉禾勳章」，以資嘉許。1918 年，大總統黎元洪更晉授「二等嘉禾勳章」。1918 年 10 月 10 日徐世昌出任中華民國大總統，1919 年授予周壽臣更高等級的「二等大綬寶光嘉禾勳章」。

投身商界

回香港不久後，由於周壽臣聲名顯赫，人際網絡廣闊，有很多中外企業主動向他接觸，希望加入他們的公司。周壽臣曾加入南洋兄弟烟草、油蔴地小輪、香港電話、香港電燈、屈臣氏藥房、中華娛樂置業、中華百貨、香港置地信託等公司董事局。

當中，以創立東亞銀行(The Bank of East Asia, Ltd.)一事最為人津津樂道。二十世紀二十年代前，香港銀行業大多以英資為主。周壽臣於 1918 年，與一群香港商業精英成立東亞銀行，為華資企業提供資金。周壽臣更於 1925 年成為董事局主席後，一直擔任該職至逝世(1959 年)，任期長達 34 年。

1918 年，周壽臣和簡東浦、李冠春、李子方、郭幼廷、馮平山等在香港註冊成立東亞銀行。一年後，總行於香港皇后大道中 2 號落成。1920 年，分別於中華民國上海及法國殖民地越南西貢開設分行，同年總行遷往香港德輔道中 10 號現址。1930 年代，東亞銀行的股份開始在香港股票市場買賣。東亞銀行憑藉廣泛的人脈網絡和市場的殷設需求，業務蒸蒸日上。開業十年間已分別於上海、西貢、廣州和九龍設立分行，而業務更是遍及中國大陸不少主要城市、日本、台灣、菲律賓、新加坡、馬來亞、印度、澳洲、英國、法國和美國等地，成為香港數一數二的華資銀行。

[附記：東亞銀行另外三位創辦人也是同期香港扶輪社現職社員，簡東浦-職業分類「金融業-華人信貸銀行」；李子方-職業分類「房地產-物業租賃」；郭幼廷-「金屬進口業」。多年後，兩位東亞高層參加了香港扶輪社為現職社員，職業分類「銀行業」：(1)馮秉芬；(2)彭玉榮。]

三局議員

1917 年，周壽臣獲香港總督梅含理爵士(Sir Francis Henry May)任命為香港非官守太平紳士，為日後從政鋪路。隨後，他被選為北英倫藝術學院院士(Members of the North British Academy of Arts)。1918 年，華民政務司夏理德(Edwin Richard Hallifax)提議禁止麻將，周壽臣和其他幾位華人太平紳士不同意。理由是麻將是華人中最受歡迎的休閒活動，禁令無法區分合法的社交俱樂部和邪惡的窩點。

周壽臣更於 1922 年被香港總督司徒拔爵士(Sir Reginald Edward Stubbs)任命為潔淨局(Sanitary Board)非官守議員(市政局 Urban Council 的前身)，任期至 1931 年。

在此之前，1921 年 12 月 8 日，總督司徒拔爵士任命周壽臣為定例局非官守議員，任期至 1931 年 10 月 22 日。身為華人議員，他因努力保護中國風俗和傳統，並敦促殖民政府不要容忍罷工和抵制而聞名。他反對政府試圖消除工廠童工和妹仔(女奴)制度(儘管在 1923 年他投票支持限制該制度的法案)。1922 年海員大罷工期間，他和另一位華人立法局非官守議員劉鑄伯堅稱，罷工是受布爾什維克主義的政治煽動，而非經濟原因。周壽臣敦促政府必須立場堅定。

後來，1925 年 6 月至 1926 年 10 月省港大罷工爆發，作為華人領袖的周壽臣穿梭省港兩地調停。在大罷工和抵制運動期間，周壽臣和羅旭龢議員(Robert Hormus Kotewall)領導了一場密集的反宣傳運動。在幫助殖民地政府打擊罷工方面，發揮了關鍵作用。他們成立了反宣傳局，利用《工商日報》鼓勵親政府的觀點。成立勞工保護局，一個旨在保護勞工免受恐嚇的秘密組織。周壽臣建議了一系列結束罷工的可能性，從使用軍事力量對抗廣州革命政府到承認廣州市政權等等。儘管周壽臣和羅旭龢在香港和廣州經常被打上英帝國主義「走狗」的標識，但他們卻認為與殖民地政府合作對抗左派的廣州政府，既是他們對香港的忠誠，也是對中國的愛國。

1926 年可說是周壽臣雙喜臨門的一年。首先於元旦獲英國皇帝佐治五世(George V, King of the United Kingdom and the British Dominions, and Emperor of India)授予下級勳位爵士(Knight Bachelor)，是繼何啟、韋玉、何東後成為第四名華人爵士。在同一授勳榜單中，香港總督金文泰爵士(Sir Cecil Clementi)榮獲「聖米迦勒及聖喬治爵級司令勳章」(Knight Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George, KCMG)。佐治王子(Prince George)(後晉為根德公爵 Duke of Kent)更成為英國史上，首名親臨香港授勳的皇室成員。

周壽臣的另一件喜事，是 1926 年 7 月 9 日，香港總督金文泰爵士提名為議政局(Executive Council)首位華人議員。周壽臣的任命代表著當地殖民政策的重大轉變，英國殖民地部極不情願地批准了這一任命。目的是抑制反英情緒，並鼓勵在大罷工期間支持香港政府的華人繼續保持忠誠。後來，年紀老邁的周壽臣決定於 1936 年退任兩局議員，並獲英皇賜予終生享有「閣下」(The Honourable)稱謂。

太平洋戰爭 香港淪陷

太平洋戰爭本身始於 1941 年 12 月 7 日(日本時間 12 月 8 日)，日本帝國同時襲擊了美國的夏威夷、威克島、關島和菲律賓的軍事基地，以及英國在馬來亞、新加坡和香港的殖民地。1941 年 12 月 8 日，日軍全面進攻香港。駐港英軍防守的醉酒灣/葵涌澳(Gin Drinkers Bay)防線失守後，餘下英軍開始撤回香港島防守至 12 日新界及九龍全部落入日軍手中。防衛香港島的英軍於 26 日向日軍投降，三年零八個月的日佔時期正式開始。戰時，東華三院派出了救護車接送周壽臣到東亞銀行地庫，逃避日軍飛機的轟炸。

日軍佔領香港後，便採用「以華制華」的策略，招撫當時仍留在香港的華人領袖，達至穩定人心。身為華人領袖的周壽臣別無他選的情況下，與羅旭龢、羅文錦、鄧肇堅等人(都是香港扶輪社員)在日軍指示下成立「香港善後處理委員會」，處理糧食、治安等問題。香港佔領地總督磯谷廉介於 1942 年上任後便解散了委員會，改為成立「香港華民代表會」及「香港華民各界協議會」，成為日方與華人的溝通橋梁，而周壽臣為「香港華民各界協議會主席」。

服務社會

1921 年周壽臣獲香港總督司徒拔爵士推薦入香港大學校董會後，積極推動創立中文系，建立中文學院，以照顧本地華人之需要。後來的馮秉芬爵士，是當年的第一期學生。

1933 年，香港大學舉行學位頒授典禮，由大學監督、香港總督貝璐爵士(Sir William Peel)主持，授予周壽臣名譽法學博士學位。在同一典禮上，有一名扶輪社員獲得相同的學位——康寧爵士(Sir William Woodward Hornell)——香港扶輪社創社社長、香港大學校長。

另外，周壽臣除了加入扶輪社，亦於 1935 年參與成立香港仔兒童工藝院（香港仔工業學校前身），並成為創校校董，為失學兒童能夠學得一技之長。周壽臣亦大力推動廢除婢制、拒吃狗肉等，影響深遠。除了成立香港保護兒童會外，還身兼數職，擔任數個社團組織的職位——東華醫院、保良局、中華痲瘋救濟會、香港中華總商會、南華體育會、香港中華游樂會——是熱心公益的有力證據。1950 年代，周壽臣創辦港島「壽山中學」及創辦九龍「壽山小學」。

逝世

第二次世界大戰後，香港經濟急速發展的同時，上一代人亦紛紛告老歸田，或與世長辭。周壽臣摯友羅旭龢、何甘棠先後逝世。1952 年，周壽臣次子周日昌因病厭世而自殺身亡，「白頭人送黑頭人」令周壽臣大受打擊。1956 年出席摯友何東的喪禮後，周壽臣的健康逐漸變差，不但行動不便，而且不能進食固體食物。1959 年 1 月 23 日晚，周壽臣逝世，享耆壽 98 歲。彌留時，由聖公會施玉麒法政牧師（Rev. Canon George Samuel Zimmern）施洗，信仰基督。

周壽臣安詳地離開人世，喪禮於周氏府第「松壽居」以基督教儀式舉行，執紼者人數高達二千人。除香港總督柏立基爵士(Sir Robert Brown Black)及一眾軍政高官外，參加者還包括前任香港總督葛量洪爵士(Sir Alexander Grantham)伉儷、各國使節、中外官紳名流，以及各社團領袖。遺體其後下葬離其出生地不遠的香港仔華人永遠墳場，為他傳奇的一生劃上句號。

壽臣山

壽臣山是香港南部的一個山丘，位於香港島黃竹坑與深水灣之間，海拔 148 米。壽臣山的北部為黃竹坑谷，是明清朝代香港村（又稱香港圍）的所在地。壽臣山原名鐵坑山，因昔日黃竹坑一帶被稱為「鐵坑」。至於壽臣山的名稱來由，因 1936 年英國皇帝佐治六世(George VI, King of the United Kingdom and the British Dominions, and Emperor of India)為表揚周壽臣對香港的貢獻，將「鐵坑山」命名為「壽臣山」(Shouson Hill)，並把他的府邸——松壽居——門前道路命名為「壽山村道」(Shoushan Village Road)。



香港仔周壽臣

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說周壽臣是「香港仔」，是因為他的家族在香港割讓前已世居香港仔黃竹坑新圍村，周壽臣晚年曾對港督葛量洪（Alexander Grantham）提及其祖輩活躍於香港仔水域一帶，乃徹頭徹尾的香港原居民。

第一次鴉片戰爭後，香港割讓為英國殖民地，周壽臣則在香港開埠二十年後於新圍村出生，年紀稍長即在父母的安排下進入創校不久的大書院（Central School，即後來的皇仁書院 Queen's College）唸書，初步接觸西學。在那個封建的年代，十年寒窗只為金榜題名，接觸西學反而被視作奇技淫巧，遭士大夫階層所唾棄，周壽臣雙親像時下父母般將兒子安排到西式學校接受教育的原因，或者只想兒子將來可以在外資洋行中覓得一工半職，萬萬沒有想到這樣卻影響了周壽臣的一生。

歷史的發展既有一定的偶然性，亦有一定的必然性，連番遭遇外敵侵擾的滿清皇朝，最終同意「放下身段」，走上自強自救的道路，甚至接納美國哈佛大學首位華人畢業生容閔的建議，以官費支持派出年齡 10 至 14 歲「幼童」赴美，接觸西學，希望藉此提升洋務運動中「軟件」部分的建設，達至強國強兵，抵抗外敵的目的。

但是，哪怕是政府出錢支持留學海外，機會難得，但在那個華洋缺乏交往，文化嚴重隔閡的年代，招生反應欠佳。容閔迫於無奈跑到香港招收華人學生，因為雖然香港島已割讓，但在清政府及社會眼中，香港華人仍是大清子民。至於正在大書院唸書的周壽臣，便機緣巧合地成為容閔「大清留美幼童」一員，年僅 13 歲便登上了前往美國的遠洋輪船，負笈西洋，希望「讀書救國」。

可是，這次被李鴻章形容為「中國創始之舉、古來未有之事」的留學計劃，最後因保守勢力的諸多阻撓而「爛尾收場」，至於「深染洋習、舉止洋化」的「幼童」回國後又因「懂洋文、熟洋技」的緣故而先後被派到不同崗位上。主修「語言文字」的周壽臣在機緣巧合之下被調配到朝鮮，與其他「留美幼童」如唐紹儀、梁如浩、蔡紹基等人共謀共事，合力籌劃設立海關事務。

作為滿清藩屬，十九、二十世紀的朝鮮可謂「命途多舛」，既有西方列強的虎視眈眈，亦有島國日本的伺機吞併。在這樣一個風雲色變的環境下，周壽臣等「留美幼童」既要協助總管朝鮮事務的袁世凱約束日本的野心，亦要平衡列強的爭奪，彷彿置身於多股交侵競奪的政治漩渦之中。雖然朝鮮的內部事務可以安然撫服，但日本的侵略則無法抑制，最後甚至引發了中、日之間的甲午戰爭。

戰爭的結果震驚世界，全盤西化的「倭寇」擊敗了局部變革的「天朝大國」，令有識之士既悲且痛。部分人士認為由上而下的變革已經沒法引領中國走出任人魚肉的困境，部分則堅持仍然聽由上層領導，並提出全面變革的設想。大部分「留美幼童」選擇後者，亦有個別「幼童」選擇前者，至於一向堅持在體制內解決問題的周壽臣，似乎沒有投身革命洪流，並在不同的崗位上默默貢獻一己所能，希望力挽狂瀾於既倒。基於此，周壽臣既曾參與興辦鐵路，又協理輪

船招商局，最後甚至官至牛莊（實質是營口）道台。

到了1912年，革命黨人推翻滿清創立中華民國。當袁世凱上台後，周壽臣沒像其他「幼童」般捲入新舊政權、不同勢力的另一場糾纏不清政治鬥爭之中，而是選擇悄然而退，告老還鄉，回到自己的出生地——香港。

由於周壽臣既有放洋美國的留學背景，掌握粵語、國語及英語（兩文三語），又有豐富行政及管理經驗，更俱備穿梭不同政治勢力的人脈關係，他不但成為香港商界爭相招攬的生意合作伙伴，連港英殖民地政府也認定他是「精英吸納」的理想對象。正因如此，周壽臣在1919年與李冠春、李子芳及簡東浦等人創辦了東亞銀行。俟後，又先後出任南洋兄弟煙草公司、中華娛樂置業公司、中華百貨公司及香港電話等大型企業的主席或董事等職。

另一方面，周壽臣又得到港英政府的青睞，不但被委任為潔淨局（即後來的市政局）及定例局（即後來的立法局）議員，還與時任港督金文泰（Cecil Clementi）同時被英國皇室冊封為爵士，並在1926年被任命為殖民地政府權力核心——議政局（即後來的行政局）的議員，地位可謂一時無兩。

憑著個人卓越的才幹，周壽臣曾經在不同時期的不同層面上為滿清政府、港英政府及香港社會出謀獻策、奔走西東，並因貢獻卓著而贏得各方的認同和讚許。今日，周壽臣雖然離世已超一個甲子，但壽臣山、壽山村、壽臣劇院都以他的名字命名，其生前風趣幽默的舉止仍然經常被人們提及，體現了中國知識分子「人死留名」的理想。

壽臣山上的松壽居入口，即周壽臣大宅，其中松壽居三字由金文泰所寫，另有唐紹儀和梁士詒所寫的對聯。（鳴謝相片提供者——周壽臣之孫周振威醫生）

周壽臣生於中華大地偏南一隅，學的不是儒學正統，卻能在中華大地及香港發揮自己力量，貢獻所長，至於香港這個彈丸之地在中西交匯過程中發揮的樞紐作用，更是表露無遺。從周壽臣生於香港、留學美國、任職滿清、服務港英的事迹中，我們可以感受到他那種亦政亦商、宜中宜西的人脈關係和橋樑角色，讓人看到一個十分典型的「香港故事」。

從這個典型的「香港故事」中，我們想到今時今日的香港及香港人。與周壽臣的年代不同，香港已經回歸祖國，中國亦由滿清時任由列強魚肉，甚至民國時期內亂外敵交侵走向民族復興，香港的角色亦由過去幾乎獨一無二作連結西東樞紐變成需與周邊不同城市直接競爭，故產生不同層面壓力、滋生困擾，實在不難理解。但是，周壽臣的故事仍有很多地方值得現時的香港或香港人借鑑，其一是東西兼備的學識，其二是背靠祖國的優勢，其三是溝通國際的能力。所謂知己知彼，百戰不殆，香港及香港人實在不應妄自菲薄，失去往昔的積極進取，而應認清方向，裝備自己，重新上路。

