

郭克悌 -- 國際扶輪 345 地區第一任總監

Kwo Keh-Ti – The First Governor of District 345 Rotary International

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

10 October 2014



Kwo Keh-Ti (郭克悌), BSc (*Purdue*) (2 February 1893 – March 1971), President 1952-1953 of Taipei Rotary Club (臺北扶輪社), was the first Governor in 1960-1961 of Rotary International District 345, which was composed with Rotary Clubs located in 3 territories of 3 different countries: (1) Republic of China – Taiwan (中華民國-臺灣); (2) British Crown Colony Hong Kong (英國殖民地香港); (3) Portuguese Territory Macao (葡萄牙領土澳門). The District was newly established by Rotary International on 1 July 1960.

Kwo first joined Rotary as an Active Member of Shanghai Rotary Club (上海扶輪社) on 8 January 1935, nickname “Kay Tee” with classification “Railroad Equipment – Railroad Supplies Distributing”, when he was the manager of Chinese Engineering and Development Company (中國工程開發公司). Due to job relocations, Kwo has also briefly joined the Rotary clubs of Kunming (昆明), Peiping (北平), and Mukden (奉天) respectively. Kwo was also the Rotarian to reinstate in 1948 the Rotary Club in Shenyang (瀋陽), the capital city of Liaoning Province (遼寧省). He served as the Club President until 1949 prior to his governmental service appointment was relocated to Taiwan. In 1958-1959, Kwo was appointed by Rotary International to serve as Administrative Advisor to the Board responsible for the supervision of all non-districted Rotary clubs located in Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macao.

Reinstating the Rotary Club in Shenyang

During the era of Manchukuo (滿洲國), there was a Rotary Club of Mukden (奉天ロータリー倶楽部) formed in the city of today Shenyang on 11 April 1929 with Charter #3116, and was grouped in the 70th District which was the Rotary in the Japanese Empire. However, the Club was terminated on 31 December 1940 but reason was not disclosed.

The World War II was concluded in August 1945 upon the surrender of the Imperial Japan. The fall of the Japanese Empire brought also the dissolution of Manchukuo. The entire territory of the State was subsequently occupied by the Soviet Union military forces. Until March 1946, this vast piece of land was returned to the regime of the Republic of China.

On the other hand, according to the map of Rotary International, this piece of State of Manchuria was part of the 70th District which was dissolved and all Rotary clubs were terminated during the Pacific War (1941-1945). Practically speaking, it was not yet opened to Rotary at this moment until further decision by Rotary International.

The then national leader of Rotary in China was Dr. Chengting T. Wang (王正廷博士) (Rotary International Director 1944-1946; 2nd Vice President 1945-1946) who shouldered the mission to reinstate the 3 Rotary districts and the 2 dozens of terminated Chinese clubs during the War by serving as the District 96-97-98 Governor in 1946-1947. One of Wang's 3 successors was C. C. Lin (凌其峻) of Peiping Rotary Club (北平扶輪社). Lin was appointed to serve as Governor of the 98th District in 1947-1948. He initiated to reinstate Rotary in the city of Shenyang. So, on 20 February 1948, he wrote to Rotary International:

There was a Rotary Club in Mukden for years. But it was under the district of Japan. Since Pearl Harbor, that club stopped operation. With Manchuria recovered by the Chinese authorities after V-J Day, many Chinese, formerly members of Rotary clubs in other parts of China, were given responsible positions there. Messrs. K. T. Kwo and T. Y. Cheng, when they left Peiping for Mukden, were especially requested by the Peiping Rotary Club and myself to survey the community with a view to re-organizing a Rotary club at Mukden. Mr. Kwo was appointed to be my special representative, and the Peiping Rotary Club assured him of its support as a sponsor club. In the past two months, several luncheon meetings of ex-Rotarians were held in the Railway Hotel and private homes, at which the question of organizing a new club was discussed. In spite of Communist disturbances in the surrounding country, quite a number of ex-Rotarians and other public-spirited members of the community expressed the wish to organize a new club so as to extend the Rotary ideal of service and fellowship. An organization meeting was held on February 12 with 20 chartered members signed up. The Rotary Constitution and By-laws were adopted and a board of nine directors was elected.

In 1947, the political environment was in its unstable status. The Chinese Communist Party (中國共產黨) had practically controlled the surrounding countryside, though Shenyang was upgraded as one of the 12 cities directly under the jurisdiction of the Executive Yuan (行政院) (i.e. Prime Minister's Office). By February 1948 Shenyang was suffering from drastic shortages, and by the summer 140,000 refugees per month were fleeing. Rotary International was quite concern about this situation. Therefore Assistant General Secretary Lester B. Struthers replied on 17 February 1948:

It is particularly pleasing to note the extension efforts now under way in China and we

hope that by the end of your term of office Rotary clubs will be established in several new centres.

With regard to Mukden, before approving an application for membership in R.I., the Board would need to have definite assurance that the situation there would permit a Rotary Club to function in accordance with the requirements of the Constitution and By-laws. It would want to know whether that territory is under the control of a stable civil government or a military government. The Board has consistently refused to admit clubs in areas under military government control.

As for payment of a charter fee, this would depend more or less upon whether there will be within the membership of the club some members of the former club or it will be comprised of an entirely new group. If the plan is to have the former club of Mukden re-established with the original charter and charter number, it is altogether likely that the Board will waive the charter fee if the District Governor so recommends.

At the present time Mukden is in non-districted territory and is, in fact, in territory not yet approved by the Board for Rotary extension purposes. Therefore the Board would want your recommendation regarding re-opening this area for extension and placing it in the 98th District.

We shall very much appreciate having from you as soon as possible complete information regarding present conditions at Mukden. Is the territory under the control of a stable civil government? Is there good reason to believe that a Rotary club will be able to operate freely and uninterruptedly in the same manner as other clubs in your district? Will there be many former Rotarians in the re-established club? All such details will be most helpful to the Board when it is asked to approve the application of the club.

Separately we are sending you several sets of organisation and application papers and pamphlets for use in connection with new clubs.

Congratulations on the excellent program outlined for your district conference. I am sure that Dr. Wang will make an outstanding contribution to its success, and that Dr. Leighton Stuart's address will be very interesting.

With no hesitation, Governor C. C. Lin replied on 15 March 1948, from Peiping:

Upon receipt of your letter, I have made some investigation through different channels. I am glad to report that for more than a year since the Chinese Government took over the city of Mukden, it has been and still is under the civil administration of a mayor and other civilian commissioners. The Municipal Government is continued along the same lines as the cities of Peiping, Tientsin, Shanghai and Canton. It is true that the military situation there is of a serious nature, but that is also true at Sian which is now under siege by Communist troops. Even Tientsin was at one time or another under the threats of Communist attack, and the danger of further attack is by no means all over. Yet in the latter city has not only the Rotary Club prospered, but a district conference was held there successfully a week ago.

As you know, Manchuria was an integral part of China. Its restoration to Chinese sovereignty answered the prayer of all the Chinese people, although it was marred by destruction of the Communist forces. Now that more than a score public-spirited men in the city of Mukden have re-organized the Rotary Club with weekly meetings regularly attended ever since its organization meeting on February 12, 1948, I would highly recommend for Rotary International to admit it to membership and to place it in the 98th District which is nearest to it.

Your attention is invited to the representative cross-section of the community enrolled among the charter members of the provisional Rotary Club of Mukden. The membership is also international, comprising Chinese, Americans, British, Irish and French. Of the charter members, K. T. Kwo was a member of the Mukden Rotary Club up to 1934, while T. M. Barker and Tom Blakely were members until a much later date. On this basis, I should like to recommend that the Mukden Rotary Club be re-admitted with the waiving of charter fee.

Subsequently, Past R.I. Vice-President Dr. Chengting T. Wang gave his endorsement, from Shanghai, on 19 March 1948. Rotary International Secretariat had been holding the application of the re-organized club at Mukden, Manchuria, and pending receipt of information from Governor Lin as to the political status of Manchuria and on some other points. After having the letter from Governor Lin, strongly recommending the re-admission of Mukden, plus the supporting letter from Past R. I. Vice-President Wang, and on the basis that Manchuria was then part of China and that the district in which Manchuria was once included (70th) no longer exist, Rotary International President Ken Guernsey and the Board of Directors approved, on 29 March 1948, the re-admission of the Rotary Club of Mukden (奉天扶輪社), and waived the charter fee.

By presidential decision, the Rotary Club of Mukden was attached to the 98th District. The reason was the City of Mukden had not been added to District 98 (nor had any portion of Manchuria) rather R.I. was following a precedent established pre 1939, when the Rotary Club of Mukden was made a part of the then 70th District, but it was not the city nor any portion of Manchukuo that was added to the 70th District. It might be that at a later date a portion of Manchuria would be added to the 98th District.

The Charter No.3116 was granted on 31 March 1948. There were 20 multi-national charter members of this “second time” Mukden Rotary Club of which 5 of them were former Rotarians of various clubs. The regular weekly meetings were held on every Thursday at 12:30 p.m. at the Railway Hotel, Mukden (鐵路賓館-前稱南滿洲鐵道株式會社奉天大和旅館).

Officers of the Club were:

- (1) President – Kwo Keh-Ti (郭克悌) (*Public Utility - Electrical Engineering*)
- (2) Vice-President – Hubert Francis Phillips (*Banking – Foreign Exchange*)
- (3) Secretary – Lee Yun-Chien (*Hotel Management*)

(4) Treasurer – Cheng Ta-Yung (*Public Finance – Investment Banking*)

(5) Sergeant-at-Arms – John Kirk Singlaub (*U.S. Army Officer*)

Other clubs in the same District were: Tientsin (天津); Peiping (北平); Tsingtao (青島); Tsinan (濟南); Kaifeng (開封); Sian (西安); Lanchow (蘭州).

In accordance with the official city name be “Shenyang” as decided by the municipal government, the Club changed its name as [Shen-Yang Rotary Club (瀋陽扶輪社)] commencing on 1 July 1948. However, the Club enjoyed very brief Rotary life. On 10 November 1948, Rotary International Secretariat circulate this note to all staff: “The city of Mukden has fallen to the communists, and the Rotary Club has ceased operating.”



The Story of Kwo

A career engineer

Kwo Keh-Ti was born on 2 February 1893 in Honan Province of the Ch'ing Empire (大清國河南省), first son of Mr. and Mrs. Kwo Chuan-Sen (郭全森).

By sponsorship of a government scholarship, Kwo was sent to Purdue University in the United States, where he graduated in 1924 as a Bachelor of Science.

Following his graduation from Purdue University, Kwo served for two years with the General Electric Company at Schenectady.

On his return to the newly established Republic of China, he served as Chief Engineer for the First Special Area of Tientsin Municipal Government, followed by a term of some years as Manager of the Chinese Engineering and Development Co. in Mukden and Shanghai respectively. In 1933 he was made Vice President of the Yao Ling Electric Power and Light Co., Kunming, Yunnan, in which capacity he served for seven years.

In 1945 Kwo was called by the Central Government to take over the North China Electric Power Company, and to serve as its first President. In 1945 he was appointed as Director General of the Manchurian Electric Power Administration, and concurrently, he was made a member of the Liaoning Provincial Government, and, Commissioner of Reconstruction. For the past seven years he has served as a member of the Mainland Recovery Planning Commission of the Central Government.

In recognizing the distinguished services to his country, Kwo was conferred in January 1948 by the Office of the President, Republic of China (中華民國總統府), the “Order of the Brilliant Star Class 4” (特種領綬景星勳章).

The year 1949 found Kwo in Taiwan where he was appointed to serve as the Board Chairman of the state-owned Taiwan Industrial and Mining Corporation, at which post, he served for five years.

Kwo believed in Christianity and was enthusiastic about education. In 1953, together with foreign and local people in Chungli District (中壢鎮), Taoyuan County (桃園縣), he planned to establish an agricultural and industrial college, hoping to cultivate scientific, technological and engineering talents for the country in the spirit of Christ's salvation and love for mankind. After many preparations for name change, in October 1955, it was approved by the Ministry of Education as "Chung Yuan Christian College of Science and Engineering" (私立中原理工學院) (forerunner of Chung Yuan Christian University 中原大學), with four departments: physics, chemistry, chemical engineering, and civil engineering. Kwo was appointed to serve as Acting Chairman (1953-1956) and concurrently the first President (1955-1956). In 1955, he concurrently served as a professor in the Department of Hydropower Engineering of National Taiwan University (國立臺灣大學), and later served as the first Provost (1962-1972) of Ming Chuan Women's Business School (銘傳女子商業專科學校) (forerunner of Ming Chuan University 銘傳大學), and also taught business management at the College of Chinese Culture (中國文化學院) (forerunner of Chinese Culture University 中國文化大學) and Tamkang College of Arts and Sciences (淡江文理學院) (forerunner of Tamkang University 淡江大學).

In addition to the many demands of his vocational duties throughout the years, Kwo has still found time to serve as President 1951 of the Chinese Institute of Engineers--Taiwan Branch (中國工程師學會臺灣分會會長); Vice-President of The Red Cross Society of The Republic of China--Taiwan Branch (中華民國紅十字會臺灣省分會副會長) since 1953.

Kwo was married on 19 June 1926 to Miss Frances Mei-Deh Chang (張美德) of Tientsin (Tianjin) (天津). Frances was a graduate of Morningside College, U.S.A. She was an educator, a professor of foreign language at the National Taiwan University (國立臺灣大學); Past President of the Peiping and Mukden YMCA. She has also served as President of the Taipei YMCA, and board chairman of Hua Kwang Children Welfare Center (華光兒童福利中心). The Kwo couple has two sons. Eldest son William (郭大達博士) was a theoretical physicist who obtained his degrees from National Tsinghua University (國立清華大學), Harvard University, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (M.I.T.), U.S.A.

[The Sixth Grand Master of China Freemason](#)

Freemasonry or Masonry (美生會) consists of fraternal organizations that trace their origins to the local fraternities of stonemasons that from the end of the 14th Century in England regulated the qualifications of stonemasons and their interaction with authorities and clients. Freemasonry has been the subject of numerous conspiracy theories throughout the years.

The basic, local organizational unit of Freemasonry is the Lodge. These private Lodges are usually supervised at the regional level (usually coterminous with either a state, province, or national border) by a Grand Lodge or Grand Orient. There is no international, worldwide

Grand Lodge that supervises all of Freemasonry; each Grand Lodge is independent, and they do not necessarily recognize each other as being legitimate. The Grand Lodge in the Republic of China originally chartered on 26 January 1939 as Sun Lodge No.114 P. C. (The Philippines Constitution) in Shanghai. Many of the Shanghai Rotarians became brothers of this organization.

The creation of the Grand Lodge of China was achieved under the patronage of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines, being consecrated on 18 March 1949, in Shanghai. For the existence and operation of the Grand Lodge of China, six Lodges that until then were constituted and subordinate under the Grand Lodge of the Philippines were handed over and relocated under its jurisdiction.

With the formation of the Grand Lodge of China, Rotarian David W. K. Au (歐偉國) (Hong Kong Rotary Club 香港扶輪社) became its first Grand Master in 1949-1950. Sun Lodge (申廬) was one of the six lodges to establish the Grand Lodge of China in Shanghai on 16 January 1949. When the Communist Government came to power, the Grand Lodge of China had ceased to function in Shanghai by 1952, and decided to declare darkness had fallen upon the Grand Lodge of China. The Grand Lodge of China was re-activated in Taiwan (臺灣) in 1955, then Sun Lodge re-activated in Taipei (臺北) on 27 July 1956.

Kwo first joined the Freemason in Shanghai in 1936. Kwo's service to the Grand Lodge of China commenced in 1955 with his election to the office of Grand Treasurer. Each successive year found him a step higher in the Grand Lodge Line, and accepting the greater responsibilities of each station until, on 3 October 1959, his Brethren advanced him to the highest position and station of honor that a Mason can attain, "Grand Master of Masons", the 6th Grand Master in 1959-1960, Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of China (中國美生總會第六任總會長).

Prior to Kwo's foot-steps, many of the former Rotarians from the Chinese Mainland had also joined the Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of China located in Taiwan. Several of them were later became Grand Masters, namely:

(1) 1950-1956 "Charlie" Wei Tsen-Fu (韋增復) (Shanghai Rotary Club President 1946-1947; Governor 1948-1949 of Rotary International 97th District);

(2) 1956-1957 Bishop Ralph Ansel Ward (黃安素主教) (former member of Nanking Rotary Club and Chengtu Rotary Club);

(3) 1958-1959 George Ashmore Fitch (費吳生) (Shanghai Rotary Club President 1930-1931 ; Chungking Rotary Club President 1942-1943).

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

Chicago I, Ill., U.S.A., 35 E. Wacker Drive
Zurich, Switzerland, Börsenstrasse 21
Bombay, India, Brabourne Stadium (North)

For

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL
CENTRAL OFFICE
RECEIVED Via Air Mail

FEB 27 1948

Re-admission

APPLICATION
For Membership In
Rotary International

The Provisional Rotary Club of Mukden, Liaoning Province, China.

hereby applies for membership in Rotary International.

INDEX 1

FILE WHERE

(State, Province, Etc.)

This club was duly organized by an authorized representative of Rotary International on Feb. 12th., 1948, with 20 charter members, each representing a different business or professional service.

This club hereby declares that it has adopted the Rotary club constitution and that it subscribes to the understandings and agreements printed on pages 2, 3 and 4 of this folder.

The following documents required to complete this application are attached hereto:

1. List of charter members—dated and certified to by signatures of the president and secretary of the club.
2. Check for \$100.00 U. S. Currency (or its equivalent)—covering the charter fee as provided in Article I, Section 2 of the by-laws of Rotary International. (Applies for Re-Admission).

Officers:

Pres. K.T. Kwo (Keh-Ti Kwo)
V. P. Hubert Francis Phillips
Sec'y Y.C. Lee (Yun-Chien Lee)
Treas. T.Y. Cheng (Ta-Yung Cheng)
S. at A. John K. Singlaub

Complete list of members of the
board of directors:

1. Keh-Ti Kwo
2. Hubert Francis Phillips
3. Yun-Chien Lee
4. Ta-Yung Cheng
5. John K. Cochran
6. T.M. Barker
7. Fenrie J. Wang
8. A .S. Abbott
9. Andri Dahoui

Regular weekly meetings are held:

Day Every Thursday
Hour 12:30 noon
Place Railway Hotel, Mukden

Provisional Rotary Club of Mukden

Dated 15th February 1948

Attest:

By

K.T. Kwo

Club President

NE Power Administration, Mukden
Postal Address

Club Secretary

Railway Hotel, Mukden.

Postal Address

1948年2月15日郭克悌社長簽署瀋陽扶輪社申請國際扶輪認證。

15 February 1948 – President K. T. Kwo signed Mukden Rotary Club application for R.I. membership.



SHEN-YANG ROTARY CLUB

Shen-yang (Mukden) China

September 9th, 1948.

Mr. Edward Ryan,
Head, Eastern Hemisphere Department,
Rotary International,
35 East Wacker Drive,
Chicago I, Ill. U.S.A.

Dear Mr. Ryan:

This is to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your letter dated September 1st. together with the official charter for the Rotary Club of Mukden. The arrival of this charter could be no more timely, as it will be presented to the club members on Saturday, Sept. 11th, at the first "Ladies Night" to be held by this Club. As it is, the evening will be also our "Charter Night" to celebrate the receipt of the Charter.

Acknowledgment of your letter of April 12th, together with pamphlets, has been delayed, but we have made good use of the various Rotary literatures, so far received. For your information, we wish to mention that this Club is at present having a major charity object to support, namely a local orphanage for which we have raised considerable fund to provide milk powder for infant feeding at this center. This Club also in late April had a music tea dance and raised over forty million dollars local currency (about US\$500) which amount was turned over to the International Relief Commission in Mukden to run soup kitchens for the poor.

We shall always be pleased to hear from you, and look forward for your assistance and cooperation.

With all best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

K.T. Kwo, President
Shenyang Rotary Club.

1948年9月9日瀋陽扶輪社郭克悌社長去信國際扶輪秘書處確認收到扶輪社證書。

9 September 1948 – President K. T. Kwo of Shenyang Rotary Club acknowledged the receipt of the Charter.



臺北的扶輪鐘

這個扶輪鐘的捐贈日期是 1951 年 12 月 27 日，當時的臺北扶輪社社長是郭克悌。正面鐫刻的名字是集資購贈的 15 名社員：黃家德、程樹仁、牛天文、張少棠、黃在榮、霍思華、富綱侯、楊若安、白鐵珊、吳幼林、馮玉衡、錢琰、李頌陶、陳次平、姚守中。

The bell of Taipei Rotary Club which was jointly donated on 27 December 1951 by 15 Rotarians with their names engraved on. The then Club President was Kwo Keh-Ti.



中國美生總會第六任 1959-1960 年度總會長郭克悌的官方肖像

*The official portrait of Kwo Keh-Ti as the 6th Grand Master in 1959-1960,
Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of China*

郭克悌 -- 國際扶輪 345 地區第一任總監



郭克悌(Kwo Keh-Ti, BSc (*Purdue*)) (1893 年 2 月 2 日－1971 年 3 月)，1952-1953 年度臺北扶輪社(Taipei Rotary Club)社長，1960-1961 年度擔任國際扶輪 345 地區首任總監。國際扶輪 345 地區是 1960 年 7 月 1 日新成立的，地理區域包羅 3 個不同國家的 3 個地區：(1) 中華民國-臺灣；(2) 英國殖民地香港；(3) 葡萄牙領地澳門。

郭克悌於 1935 年 1 月 8 日首次加入扶輪，成為上海扶輪社(Shanghai Rotary Club)的現職社員。綽號“Kay Tee”，職業分類「鐵路設備-鐵路物資配送」，當時他擔任中國工程開發公司的經理。由於工作調動，郭克悌也分別短暫加入了昆明、北平和奉天的扶輪社。1948-1949 年度郭克悌在遼寧省省會創立瀋陽扶輪社(Shen-Yang Rotary Club)，任社長，職業分類「公用事業-電氣工程」。直至 1949 年之後，郭克悌的政府職務被調往臺灣。之後，參加了臺北扶輪社，1952-1953 年度任社長。1958-1959 年度，郭克悌獲國際扶輪任命為資政(R.I. Administrative Advisor to the Board)，負責督導臺灣、香港及澳門所有未編列地區的扶輪社。

1949 年 10 月 1 日中國共產黨建政中華人民共和國之後，社會主義制度改變了工商業所有的結構和勞資雙方的階層。此外，1950 年 6 月 25 日爆發朝鮮戰爭，中華人民共和國和美國變成敵對陣營。這使得中國大陸不再具有社會或政治上的條件，允許扶輪社有正常的活動功能(例如：職業分類；國際理解)，扶輪在中國大陸的發展環境並不理想。由於這些不利的情況，國際扶輪決定在 1951 年 7 月 1 日解散在中國大陸的三個扶輪地區。最後，在 1952 年 1 月終止所有中國大陸倖存的扶輪社。位於臺灣、香港和澳門非社會主義地區的所有正常功能扶輪社，視為無編列地區單位。既然沒有地區選任總監，國際扶輪社長遂任命一名資政來督導這些扶輪社，並在這三個地理區域擴展新社。最終，僅存臺灣一家扶輪社、香港兩家扶輪社、和澳門一家扶輪社，繼續發展。

到了 1956 年，臺灣已有 11 家扶輪社。另一方面，在海峽西岸，香港和澳門共有 5 家扶輪社。總共 16 家扶輪社，已經超過「15 社立區」的最低標準。於是，臺北扶輪社朱倚天前社長領頭發起請願，要求國際扶輪恢復以前中國所享有的地區地位。然而，國際扶輪理事會拖延決定，認為：「臺灣、香港和澳門的扶輪社，此時不適宜成立扶輪地區。」消息令人沮喪，但是大家沒有氣餒。16 家扶輪社繼續三年在 1957 年、1958 年和 1959 年重申了請願。終於，在 1960

年1月，國際扶輪理事會決定授予這16家扶輪社成立新的扶輪地區--345地區(地理區域包括中華民國臺灣省、英國殖民地香港、葡萄牙屬地澳門)。1960年7月1日之前，又增加了3社，共有19家扶輪社，郭克悌當選就任國際扶輪345地區第一任總監。其後，朱倚天在1964-1965年度當選就任第五任總監。

從1991年7月1日開始，所有扶輪地區都採用4位數字代碼。自那以後，345地區變更為3450地區，直到今天。



職業工程師

郭克悌(1898-1971)，原名郭桂丹，字書堂，1898年(光緒二十四年)出生於大清國河南省孟津縣。是郭全森伉儷的長子。

1913年(民國二年)郭克悌入讀留學歐美預備學校英文班。留學歐美預備學校位於河南省開封縣河南貢院舊址，是中華民國北洋政府時期的一所培養留學生為目的之預備學校，教學內容以英文、德文、法文為主。

1918年畢業後，郭克悌留學美國，考入加州大學(University of California)。再轉讀普渡大學(Purdue University)，學習電機工程，獲工學士學位。畢業後，在奇異電氣公司(General Electric Company)又稱為[通用電氣])任職兩年。

1925年歸國，郭克悌任天津市政府第一特區(舊德國租界)公署總工程師。隨後分別在奉天和上海，擔任中國工程開發公司經理數年。

1935年在上海，1月8日加入上海扶輪社。

1937年抗日戰爭爆發，郭克悌參加上海扶輪社所組織的救護工作。南京淪陷前夕，經香港去西南，任雲南躍龍公司協理兼發電廠廠長。

1945年抗戰勝利，奉國民政府經濟部派為專門委員，任冀北電力公司第一任總裁，兼任北平分公司經理。1946年秋，派赴遼寧省瀋陽市，接管滿洲電業株式會社，並改組為行政院資源委員會東北電力局，任總局局長。

1948年1月1日中華民國總統府授予郭克悌「特種領銜景星勳章」。郭克悌當時擔任資源委員會東北電力總局局長，在國共內戰期間於東北地區負責電力搶修與維護(如利用小豐滿水力發電廠電力溶解松花江堅冰，以阻共軍渡江等重要戰功。)對國家做出傑出貢獻，因而於1948年元旦獲頒勳章，以資表揚。

1948年3月，郭克悌兼任東北行轅政務委員會工商處處長，任遼寧省政府委員兼建設廳廳長。

1948-1949年郭克悌創立瀋陽扶輪社，任社長。

1948年12月郭克悌派赴昆明，任行政院資源委員會西南辦事處處長，兼昆明湖電廠總經理。

不久移居臺灣，1949年4月，任臺灣省工礦公司董事長兼總經理。1951年當選中華民國工程師學會臺灣省分會會長，1953年選為總會常務理事。同年聘為光復大陸設計研究委員會委員，復兼任該會編纂委員；又被聘為中華民國紅十字會臺灣省分會副會長。

郭克悌曾三次接受政府任命出席國際勞工大會任中華民國資方代表，第三十四屆(1951 年 5 月 24 日)、第三十六屆(1953 年 5 月 29 日)、第三十七屆(1954 年 5 月 22 日)。

1952-1953 年度郭克悌擔任臺北扶輪社社長。

郭克悌篤信基督，熱心教育。1953 年會同國外及桃園縣中壢鎮地方人士籌設一所農工學院，期以基督救世愛人的精神，為國家造就科技與工程人才。歷經多次籌備更名，於 1955 年 10 月奉教育部核准定名為「私立中原理工學院」(中原大學前身)，設有物理、化學、化學工程、土木工程等 4 個學系。郭克悌被推為代理董事長 (1953-1956)，兼第一任校長 (1955-1956)。1955 年兼任國立臺灣大學水力發電工程系教授，旋又擔任銘傳女子商業專科學校(銘傳大學前身)第一任教務長 (1962-1972)，並在中國文化學院 (中國文化大學前身)、淡江文理學院 (淡江大學前身) 講授企業管理課程。1960 年 5 月初版《水力發電工程學》。

1960-1961 年度擔任國際扶輪 345 地區首任總監。

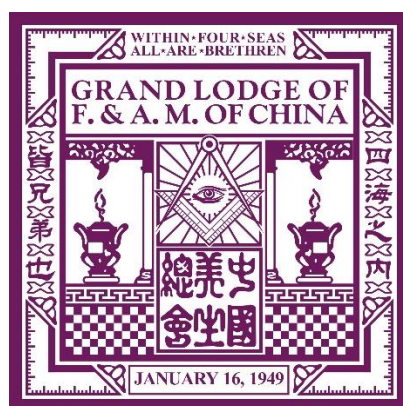
1968 年郭克悌受聘為中華民國中央設計考核委員會委員。

郭克悌與天津的張美德女士在 1926 年 6 月 19 日結婚。張美德女士畢業於美國 Morningside College，是一位教育家，國立臺灣大學外語系教授。曾任北平、奉天、臺北等地基督教青年會會長；華光兒童福利中心理事會主席。長子郭大達博士(Dr. William Ta Kwo)是理論物理學家，先後畢業於國立清華大學、美國哈佛大學(Harvard University)、麻省理工學院 (Massachusetts Institute of Technology, MIT)。

1971 年 3 月郭克悌病逝於臺北榮民總醫院，終年 73 歲。



中國美生總會第六屆總會長



郭克悌是中國美生總會第六屆總會長(Grand Master, Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of China)。

美生會（Freemasonry 意為自由石匠），亦稱共濟會、規矩會、福利美森會，是源於英國的一類兄弟會組織，最早可以追溯到十四世紀末的石匠行業協會。石匠工會為爭取石匠的權益付出了努力，並逐步規範了石匠行業與政府和客戶的關係。現存仍公開活動的美生會裏面最悠久的是 1717 年成立的英格蘭總會所，旗下還分英格蘭、愛爾蘭及蘇格蘭三大分會。

美生會是一種非宗教性質的兄弟會，基本宗旨為倡導博愛、自由、慈善，追求提升個人精神內在美德以促進人類社會完善（How to make a good man better）。美生會有獨特儀式和標誌，基本組織單位會所為「廬」（Lodge）。美生會的等級制度保留了中世紀手工藝公會的三個等級，即學徒、同伴和大師。會所目前遍佈全球，會員包括眾多名人和政治家，但拒絕接受女性入會。

至少於清代乾隆時期，美生會已隨歐洲來華商人進入廣州。晚清及民國時期，國際美生會在中國不同的城市設立多個「廬」。會員多為外國人，也有少數中國買辦如虞洽卿、宋子文等，皆隸屬於國際美生會。許多扶輪社員，也加入了美生會。

中華民國本土的美生會於 1949 年 1 月 16 日在上海市法租界巨福路 178 號美生堂正式成立，歐偉國（香港扶輪社社員）出任中國美生總會的首任總會長。但不久之後中華人民共和國在大陸建政，中國共產黨禁止美生會活動。1952 年，中國美生總會各分會陸續撤離大陸。於香港短暫停留後，最終遷至臺灣，於 1956 年 7 月 27 日在臺北正式復會。中國美生總會現在是位於中華民國臺灣臺北市，下轄 14 個分會，擁有會員大約七百多名，為英格蘭聯合總會所認可。

緊隨歐偉國，許多來自中國大陸的前扶輪社員也加入了位於臺灣的中國美生總會。其中幾位後來成為總會長，分別是：（1）1950-1956 年：韋增復（上海扶輪社 1946-1947 年度社長；國際扶輪第 97 地區 1948-1949 年度總監）；（2）1956-1957 年：黃安素主教（Bishop Ralph Ansel Ward）（原南京扶輪社、成都扶輪社社員）；（3）1958-1959 年：費吳生（George Ashmore Fitch）（上海扶輪社 1930-1931 年度社長；重慶扶輪社 1942-1943 年度社長）；（4）1959-1960 年：郭克悌（瀋陽扶輪社 1948-1950 年度社長；臺北扶輪社 1952-1953 年度社長；國際扶輪 345 地區 1960-1961 年度總監）。

郭克悌於 1936 年，在中國上海的菲律賓美生總會誼廬第 106 分會提升為工師美生，1949 年 3 月 18 日第 106 分會接受中國美生總會授證成為第 1 分會。郭克悌是自由廬第 7 分會前會長，也是慈修會的成員。

1955 年，他對中國美生總會的服務受到表彰，當選為總司庫。每一年，他都在總會職員排序上更上一層樓，並接受了每個總會職務更大的責任。

直到 1959 年 10 月 3 日，當選中國美生總會的總會長之職。

