

拿督羅弼時爵士 -- 九龍扶輪社榮譽社員

The Honourable Dato' Seri Paduka Sir Denys Tudor Emil Roberts

Honorary Rotarian of the Rotary Club of Kowloon

By Herbert K. Lau (劉敬恒) (Rotary China Historian) 1 May 2015



The Honourable Dato' Seri Paduka Sir Denys Tudor Emil Roberts (拿督羅弼時爵士), KBE, SPMB, QC, MA (Oxon), BCL (Oxon), JP, (19 January 1923 – 20 May 2013) Honorary Member of the Rotary Club of Kowloon (九龍扶輪社) in the British Crown Colony Hong Kong (英國殖民地香港), was a prominent British colonial official and judge who served as Hong Kong's Attorney General (律政司) (1966–1973), Colonial Secretary/Chief Secretary (輔政司/布政司) (1973–1979), and Chief Justice (首席按察司) (1979–1988).

He was the first and only Attorney-General to become both Colonial Secretary (and Chief Secretary) in Hong Kong. Never having been a judge before, he was appointed as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court in 1979 and was the first and only Colonial Secretary (and Chief Secretary) of Hong Kong to receive such appointment.

He was the last non-Chinese Chief Justice and famously held all three major positions in the colonial Hong Kong history.

After retiring in 1988, Roberts had served as President of the Court of Appeal of Bermuda, Chief Justice and President of Court of Appeal of Brunei Darussalam before finally retiring from the judicial service in 2003.

Sir Denys Roberts became a Non-Permanent Judge of the Court of Final Appeal from 1997 until 2003 in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China (中國香港特別行政區終審法院非常任法官).

The Story of Sir Denys Tudor Emil Roberts

Early Life, Education, Family and Personal Life

Denys Tudor Emil Roberts was born on 19 January 1923 in London, England, to a barrister father. He received his early education at Aldenham School in Hertfordshire. Roberts proceeded to Wadham College, Oxford, to study law in 1942. His education was interrupted when he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Royal Artillery on 2 November 1943. During the Second World War, he served in France, Belgium, The Netherlands and Germany, and achieved the rank of captain. He was posted to India when the war ended in 1945.

After the war, Roberts retired from the army in 1946 and resumed his interrupted education in Oxford. He obtained his Master of Arts degree in 1948, Bachelor of Civil Law degree in 1949, and was made an honorary fellow of Wadham College in 1984.

Roberts married Brenda Marsh in 1949, with whom he had one son and one daughter; the marriage ended in divorce in 1973. In 1985, he wed Anna Fiona Dollar Alexander, a lawyer he met while she represented the Hong Kong government in appeal cases before him. The couple had a son, Henry, born in Hong Kong in 1986. Roberts and Fiona remained married until his death, and she later described him as a romantic, generous, kind, and wonderful husband. His daughter from the first marriage, Amanda Roberts, has written a biography of her father and pursued a career in health and justice advocacy.

Roberts was a keen cricketer. He took part in the Minor Counties Championship representing Hertfordshire in 1948. He was President of Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) from 1989 to 1990.

Roberts kept his personal life private amid his demanding public roles, residing primarily in Hong Kong during his career before retiring to the United Kingdom, where he died peacefully at home on 20 May 2013, at age 90, with Fiona and Henry at his bedside.

Colonial Administrative Career

Service in Nyasaland

Roberts was called to the bar by Lincoln's Inn. In 1950, he began his career as a barrister-at-law based in London, but it was discontinued when he joined the colonial civil service in 1953 as a Crown Counsel in Nyasaland (now Malawi), where he handled prosecutions and legal advisory duties for the administration. His role involved representing the government in criminal cases amid rising political tensions, including the activities of the Nyasaland African Congress led by Dr. Hastings Banda.

During the 1959 state of emergency, declared after widespread disturbances involving attacks on officials and European settlers, Roberts acted as Solicitor-General and prosecuted detainees accused of terrorism and murder. He appeared for the government in key hearings, including those before Justice Patrick, but several trials resulted unfavorably for

the administration, contributing to perceptions of mishandling. Roberts also assisted the Devlin Commission of Inquiry, established by the British government to investigate the emergency's causes and response. The Commission's 1959 report criticized Nyasaland's governance as resembling a "police state" due to mass detentions without sufficient evidence of a coordinated uprising, though it acknowledged underlying violence including over 30 murders.

Roberts departed Nyasaland in 1960 for the position of Attorney General in Gibraltar, following a tenure marked by the Colony's transition toward self-rule under Banda. His service highlighted the challenges of maintaining legal order in a federation (Central African Federation) facing African nationalist pressures, with the Devlin findings prompting policy shifts in London toward decolonization.

In 1960, Roberts was promoted to Attorney-General of Gibraltar and became an Ex-officio Member of both Executive and Legislative Councils of Gibraltar. In the same year, he was made a Queen's Counsel of Gibraltar on 20 June. Roberts served for only two years, which was much shorter than his predecessors, and was posted out of Gibraltar in 1962. According to his memoir, he reckoned that the reason was probably because he offended the Governor in a military parade where he shouted openly at the Governor's aide-de-camp for the poor arrangement of the event.

Solicitor General and Attorney General in Hong Kong

In 1962, Roberts was sent to Hong Kong as Solicitor General and was made a Queen's Counsel of Hong Kong on 8 September 1964. He was appointed Attorney-General by then Governor Sir David Trench (香港總督戴麟趾爵士) in 1966 and became Ex-officio Member of both Executive and Legislative Councils of Hong Kong.

In this role, he assisted the Attorney General in advising the colonial government on legal matters, drafting legislation, and handling civil litigation on behalf of the Crown, contributing to the administration's legal framework during a period of post-War economic growth and social change in the Colony. Roberts advanced to Attorney General in 1966, serving until 1973. As head of the Department of Justice, he supervised prosecutions, legal policy, and legislative reforms, earning recognition as a reforming figure who modernized aspects of Hong Kong's legal system inherited from British common law traditions.

A key achievement was his oversight of the Marriage Reform Ordinance enacted in 1971, which abolished the practice of concubinage---previously tolerated under customary Chinese law---and standardized marriage registration and dissolution procedures to prohibit polygamy and recognize only monogamous unions, aligning colonial law with evolving social norms while respecting local customs through transitional provisions. The reform addressed long-standing disparities between traditional practices and statutory requirements, reducing legal ambiguities in family law that had persisted since the Colony's cession in 1842.

During the 1967 Riots---sparked by labor disputes and inflamed by pro-Communist elements influenced by China's Cultural Revolution (無產階級文化大革命)---Roberts, as Attorney General, advised on the deployment of emergency powers, including the drafting and implementation of the Emergency (Public Safety and Public Order) Regulations, which facilitated over 5,000 arrests, the suppression of bombings and violence, and the restoration of order by late 1967. These measures, upheld in subsequent legal challenges, prioritized causal containment of unrest amid threats from triad-linked agitators and Maoist sympathizers, though they drew criticism for temporary suspensions of habeas corpus and expanded police authority.

Roberts also advanced early anti-corruption initiatives by advocating for structural separation of investigative functions from the police, laying groundwork for later institutions like the Independent Commission Against Corruption (總督特派廉政專員公署) established in 1974, though his tenure focused on prosecutorial oversight rather than standalone enforcement bodies. His pragmatic approach emphasized empirical enforcement over ideological concessions, reflecting the colonial administration's commitment to rule of law amid geopolitical pressures from Beijing (北京). In 1973, he was promoted to Colonial Secretary, marking the culmination of his prosecutorial career.

Chief Secretary and Crisis Management

Roberts was appointed Colonial Secretary, succeeding Sir Hugh Selby Norman-Walker (羅樂民爵士), by Governor Sir Murray MacLehose (香港總督麥理浩爵士) on 1 September 1973. Roberts was the first and only Attorney-General to become Colonial Secretary in the history of Hong Kong. He continued to hold the position when Colonial Secretary was later re-designated as Chief Secretary, succeeding Sir Jack Cater (姬達爵士) and serving until 30 September 1976. In this role, he acted as the Governor's principal deputy, overseeing administrative coordination and policy implementation amid ongoing challenges from the Colony's rapid urbanization and social strains.

A primary crisis during his tenure was systemic corruption, which eroded public trust, particularly following high-profile scandals involving police complicity in organized crime and extortion, such as the 1973 Peter Godber case where a senior superintendent fled after amassing unexplained wealth. Under Governor Sir Murray MacLehose, the Government responded by establishing the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) on 15 February 1974, an independent body to investigate and prosecute graft across sectors. Roberts, leveraging his prior experience as Attorney General, contributed to the administrative framework for the ICAC's launch, including legislative support and coordination with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on its development.

As Chief Secretary, Roberts managed the ensuing backlash, including resistance from police unions and initial public skepticism, by facilitating the ICAC's operational independence while ensuring governmental oversight to prevent overreach. This reform

marked a turning point, reducing corruption indices and restoring confidence, though it involved arresting over 140 officers in the first year and sparked short-term unrest. His handling emphasized legal rigor over political expediency, aligning with colonial priorities of stability and rule of law.

Additionally, during his tenure as Colonial Secretary and Chief Secretary, Roberts assisted MacLehose to implement a wide range of policies from political reform to housing development. He paid particular attention to trade development and visited a number of places, including the United States and Latin America, to promote trade relations. Roberts navigated economic pressures from the 1973 oil crisis, which spiked inflation to 30% and strained Hong Kong's export-dependent economy, through coordinated fiscal measures that maintained growth without major austerity. These efforts underscored his focus on pragmatic crisis response, prioritizing empirical governance over ideological constraints.

In 1979, Roberts chaired an investigation to look into the aftermath of the fraud scandal of [Precious Blood Golden Jubilee Secondary School 寶血會金禧中學]. Roberts was acting Governor for a number of occasions when the Governor was absent.

Judicial Career

Appointment and Tenure as Chief Justice

Roberts was appointed Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Hong Kong in 1979, transitioning directly from his role as Chief Secretary (1973–1979) without prior judicial experience---a rare occurrence in colonial administration. This appointment, the only instance of a Chief Secretary ascending to the Colony's highest judicial office, reflected Roberts' extensive administrative background in Hong Kong, including prior service as Attorney General (1966–1973), which was the Government's justification for his suitability.

Roberts served as Chief Justice until his retirement on 30 September 1988, overseeing the judiciary during a period of Hong Kong's rapid economic expansion under British colonial rule. Concurrently, from 1979 to 2001, he held the position of Chief Justice of Negara Brunei Darussalam, managing dual high-level judicial responsibilities across jurisdictions. In 1980, he revived the Ceremonial Opening of the Legal Year, a tradition emphasizing the rule-of-law's continuity, which he justified as reinforcing public confidence in the judiciary amid social changes.

Roberts was the last non-Chinese individual to serve as Chief Justice of Hong Kong, a role he fulfilled amid preparations for the Colony's 1997 handover to China, though his tenure predated formal negotiations. His leadership maintained judicial independence in a colonial context, prioritizing legal formalism over executive influence despite his own prior governmental roles.

Key Judicial Contributions and Decisions

During his tenure as Chief Justice of Hong Kong from 1979 to 1988, Sir Denys Roberts prioritized administrative enhancements to the judiciary to cope with surging caseloads

driven by the Colony's economic expansion. He directed the construction and opening of new district courts in Wan Chai (灣仔) (1981), Sha Tin (沙田) (1983), Kwun Tong (觀塘) (1982), and Tuen Mun (屯門) (1985), which decentralized judicial services and improved access for residents in outlying areas. These initiatives marked a substantial infrastructural upgrade, enabling the judiciary to process an increasing volume of civil and criminal matters without proportional delays. Roberts also addressed perceived deficiencies in handling intricate civil disputes by innovating the *ad hoc* appointment of Queen's Counsel from England for high-stakes cases, importing around half a dozen such barristers during his term to bolster local benches lacking equivalent specialist experience. This practice enhanced the quality of adjudication in commercial litigation, aligning Hong Kong's courts more closely with international standards amid rising foreign investment.

In January 1980, shortly after assuming office, Roberts revived the Ceremonial Opening of the Legal Year, a tradition dormant since the 1967 Riots, to draw public focus to the judiciary's role and foster greater societal understanding of legal processes. He articulated that one core purpose was to spotlight the courts and profession, promoting transparency and public confidence in the rule of law---a stance that underscored his commitment to judicial visibility during colonial governance.

As head of the Court of Appeal and President of the Court of Appeal for Brunei Darussalam concurrently from 1979, Roberts adjudicated appeals across common law jurisdictions but is not linked to singular transformative decisions in Hong Kong jurisprudence. His influence lay predominantly in systemic fortification rather than doctrinal precedents. This approach sustained judicial independence amid executive pressures, including his own prior roles in administration, though critics noted potential separation-of-powers tensions from his career trajectory.

Besides becoming Chief Justice of Hong Kong, Roberts was appointed honorary bencher of Lincoln's Inn in 1978. In his capacity as Chief Justice of Hong Kong, Roberts paid visits to the Chinese mainland. He was the first Chief Justice to visit the People's Republic of China (中華人民共和國) when he visited Guangzhou (廣州), Shanghai (上海) and Beijing (北京) in 1983 under an individual invitation by the Chinese Government. In 1985, he visited China again along with other Hong Kong judges and toured Beijing and Xi'an (西安). Roberts witnessed the opening of the new Supreme Court Building (now High Court Building) at No.38 Queensway, Admiralty, in 1984.

Post-Retirement Activities

Continued Judicial Roles

Following his retirement as Chief Justice of Hong Kong in 1988, Roberts extended his judicial service abroad while retaining prior appointments. He assumed the position of President of the Court of Appeal of Bermuda, serving from 1988 to 1994.

Roberts continued as Chief Justice of Brunei Darussalam, a role he had held since 1979

through 2001, with increased focus after departing Hong Kong to pursue opportunities in warmer climates. In this capacity, he also presided over Brunei's Court of Appeal.

In 1997, Roberts was appointed a Non-Permanent Judge of the Court of Final Appeal in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China, contributing to its deliberations until 2003. This marked the conclusion of his active judicial tenure, after which he ceased all such roles.

Writing and Publications

Roberts lived in retirement in Norfolk, England, where he spent his time writing. Roberts was also a member of the Royal Commonwealth Society and wrote a number of books and stories on law and colonial life. He authored several memoirs in retirement, drawing on his extensive experience in colonial administration and the Hong Kong judiciary. His first post-retirement publication, 《I'll Do Better Next Time》(1995, Barry Rose Law Publishers), provided personal reflections on his career challenges and decisions.

This was succeeded by 《Yes, Sir, But...》(2000), subtitled “The Continued Memoirs of Sir Denys Roberts”, which extended his autobiographical accounts of administrative and judicial life in the final decades of British Hong Kong.

Roberts's most detailed retrospective, 《Another Disaster: Hong Kong Sketches》(2006, I.B. Tauris), chronicled his arrival in Hong Kong in 1962 as Solicitor General through his tenure as Chief Justice until 1988, offering an amusing portrayal of the Colony's social fusion of British officials and local commerce, as well as its governmental structure amid impending handover to China.

Earlier in his career, he had published non-fiction works on legal practice, including 《How to Dispense with Lawyers》(1964) and 《Doing Them Justice》(1986), the latter exploring judicial principles during his active service. Prior to his colonial postings, Roberts wrote adventure novels such as 《Smuggler's Circuit》(1954, adapted into the film Law and Disorder in 1958).

Sir Denys Tudor Emil Roberts, aged 90, passed away on 20 May 2013. A memorial service was held for him at the Lincoln's Inn Chapel on 12 November that year. The Lord Wilson of Tillyorn (衛奕信勳爵), the Governor of Hong Kong when Roberts was Chief Justice, delivered an address.

Awards and Recognitions

Roberts had received various honours including:

- (1) 1960 -- Appointed Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE) by Queen Elizabeth II, United Kingdom, in recognition for his services as Crown Counsel in Nyasaland.
- (2) January 1970 – Appointed Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (CBE) by Queen Elizabeth II, United Kingdom
- (3) June 1975 – Appointed Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British

Empire (KBE) by Queen Elizabeth II, United Kingdom, for public services as Colonial Secretary of Hong Kong

- (4) December 1979 -- The Sir Denys Roberts Squash Courts (羅弼時爵士壁球場) located at Yuen Long, New Territories, Hong Kong, were named in his honour. The Squash Courts were donated by Dr. The Honourable Sir Shiu-Kin Tang (鄧肇堅爵士), Kt, CBE, KStJ, HonLLD (HKU), JP, who was an Active Member of the Rotary Club of Hong Kong (香港扶輪社).
- (5) 1984 -- Conferred The Most Honourable Order of the Crown of Brunei (SPMB), First Class, by Sultan of Negara Brunei Darussalam
- (6) 1984 – Conferred Honorary Fellowship by Wadham College, Oxford University, United Kingdom

Service record in the Colonial Hong Kong Legislative Council

- 6 July 1978 - 16 August 1978 Appointed (Official - Acting the Governor)
- 26 April 1978 - 26 April 1978 Appointed (Official - Acting the Governor)
- 11 January 1978 - 13 April 1978 Appointed (Ex officio - Chief Secretary)
- 23 November 1977 - 21 December 1977 Appointed (Official - Acting the Governor)
- 22 December 1976 - 10 November 1977 Appointed (Ex officio - Chief Secretary)
- 24 November 1976 - 8 December 1976 Appointed (Official - Acting the Governor)
- 6 October 1976 - 11 November 1976 Appointed (Ex officio - Chief Secretary)
- 21 July 1976 - 21 July 1976 Appointed (Official - Acting the Governor)
- 21 January 1976 - 7 July 1976 Appointed (Ex officio - Colonial Secretary)
- 19 November 1975 - 7 January 1976 Appointed (Official - Acting the Governor)
- 8 January 1975 - 6 November 1975 Appointed (Ex officio - Colonial Secretary)
- 18 December 1974 - 18 December 1974 Appointed (Official - Acting the Governor)
- 14 August 1974 - 27 November 1974 Appointed (Ex officio - Colonial Secretary)
- 31 July 1974 - 31 July 1974 Appointed (Official - Acting the Governor)
- 3 July 1974 - 17 July 1974 Appointed (Ex officio - Colonial Secretary)
- 19 June 1974 - 19 June 1974 Appointed (Official - Acting the Governor)
- 17 October 1973 - 5 June 1974 Appointed (Ex officio - Colonial Secretary)
- 7 September 1966 - 25 April 1973 Appointed (Ex officio - Attorney General)
- 25 August 1965 - 25 August 1965 Appointed (Ex officio - Acting Attorney General)
- 31 July 1963 - 22 January 1964 Appointed (Ex officio - Acting Attorney General)
- 8 May 1963 - 8 May 1963 Appointed (Ex officio - Acting Attorney General)

Sir Denys Tudor Emil Roberts 1923-2013

Biography by daughter Amanda Roberts

Sir Denys Tudor Emil Roberts KBE SPMB QC (Traditional Chinese: 羅弼時爵士, 19 January 1923 – 19 May 2013) was a British colonial official and judge. Joining the colonial civil service as a Crown Counsel in Nyasaland (now Malawi) in 1953, he became Attorney General of Gibraltar in 1960. In 1962, he was posted to Hong Kong as Solicitor-General, and was successively promoted to Attorney-General in 1966, Colonial Secretary/Chief Secretary in 1973 and Chief Justice in 1979. He was the first and only Attorney-General to become both Colonial Secretary (and Chief Secretary) in Hong Kong. Never having been a judge before, he was appointed as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court in 1979 and was the first and only Colonial Secretary (and Chief Secretary) of Hong Kong to receive such an appointment. He was the author of several successful comic legal novels, one of which was made into a movie in the 1950s, and several volumes of autobiography, in the form of whimsical recollections of his various career debacles and missteps --- more a testament to his self-deprecating humor and abiding sense of the absurd than to strict fact.

Hong Kong owes a large degree of its tremendous success as a major global financial hub to his modernization of the legal code in the 1960s and 1970s while he was Solicitor-General and then Attorney-General; this served as a major inducement for international investors to establish themselves in the colony. He also wrote the enabling legislation for Hong Kong's Independent Commission Against Corruption, ICAC, which is still seen as a model for dealing with institutional corruption. During the Cultural Revolution in the mid-1960s, he played a significant role as Attorney General in the prosecution of violent agitators, and thereby in helping maintain law, order and prosperity in Hong Kong. He was closely involved with the handover of Hong Kong to the Chinese under the Thatcher Administration and assisted Hong Kong in navigating through the Cultural Revolution led by the late Mao Tze Tung in the 1960s.

His resilience was in part forged out of his experience in World War II as part of the Allied invasion forces that landed on the beaches of Normandy on D-Day on June 6, 1944 as part of Operation Overlord. He learned persistence and grit and the courage to keep going in the face of mortal peril. His war-time experiences stayed with him and produced a man of great determination and a fundamental sense of right and wrong. Compassionate as he was, he also knew a rogue when he met one, and he dealt with them without regret as a judge in his own court. I believe that this clarity came from the combination of solid British middle-class values and perhaps the wartime experience of his generation. He was forced to confront evil of a kind that his children have been spared from seeing first hand too much of. He dedicated his life to retributive justice, that is, how should one deal and mete out punishment to those that have violated others and the rule of law.

He was about retributive justice but would nevertheless take time to get to know some of the prisoners in person once a sentence was passed. He would ask, “What are you in here for and how long have you been behind bars?” He seemed to take a personal interest in their plight, an extraordinary sentiment from any judge, much less a Chief Justice who typically remains remote from those behind bars. It seems fitting that as one who was compassionate enough to tour the prisons and speak to those incarcerated, that PRISE should find itself being used in prisons around the world as a method of addressing the trauma that underlies so much of the crime that landed these individuals behind bars.

My father was remarkable. For all of his illustrious career achievements he was a humble, self-effacing, kind man who taught his children the value of service to others less fortunate. As a child I was taken on tours of a leper colony, a Vietnamese refugee camp and joined him to raise money for charities through a variety of public engagements. Although he did not know it at the time, he was molding me into a staunch humanitarian and I learned that the function of being blessed is to give back to the world. “What can you give away out of your toys and clothing to the children who have none? Smile at the stranger on the street you have no idea what burdens he/she is carrying.” Such words instilled a sense of restorative justice and an awareness of how random both life’s gifts and misfortunes can be.

We live in a world of injustice, racism, intractable violence and hatred. Wars and conflict are the legacy of these evils and at the root of all of them lays trauma. Greed for resources and a lust for glory often coexist alongside untreated trauma as the drivers of war atrocities. As the daughter of a former Chief Justice, I have dedicated my life to a particular kind of justice. Distributive justice, which concerns itself with the equitable and fair distribution of resources, healthcare, clean water and all that is good in our human global village. My humanitarian efforts revolve around this very goal of access to mental health care, resiliency, and wellness education.

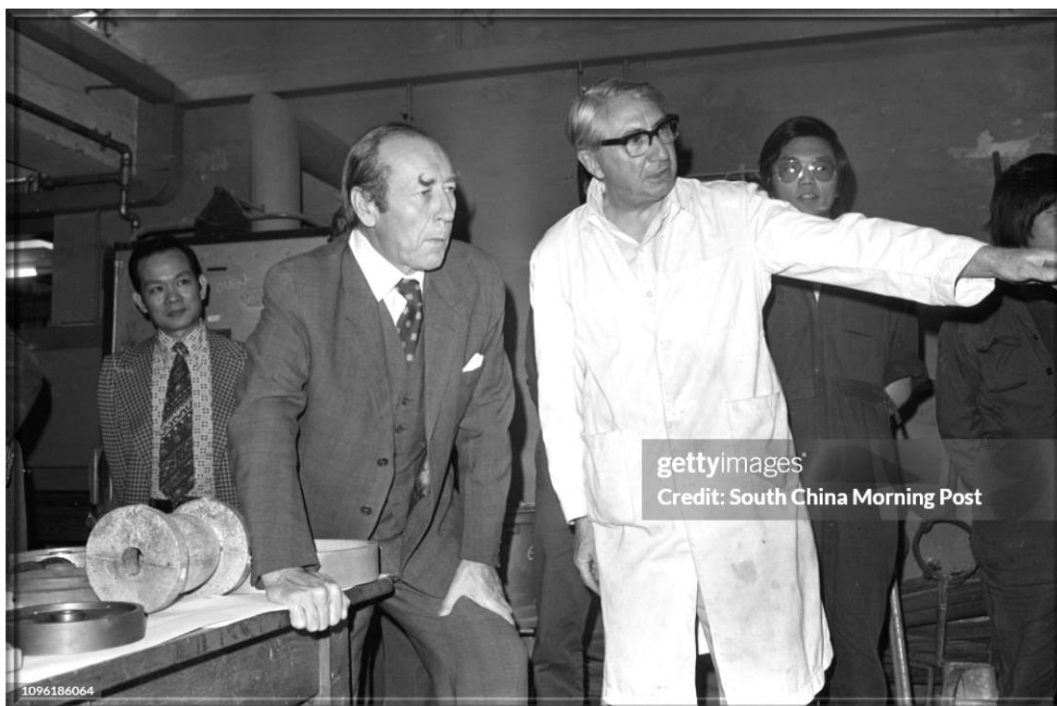
PRISE attempts to answer a call for justice. We view access to quality, effective and cost-effective trauma treatment as a basic human right. Our dream is to bring evidence-based trauma treatment to many who would otherwise never have hope for relief from their suffering.

My father died before PRISE was conceived, but if he were alive now, I do believe he would be well pleased. If only he had lived long enough to witness PRISE and its fruits. Sadly, often one’s parents do not live long enough to see their children reach their full potential.

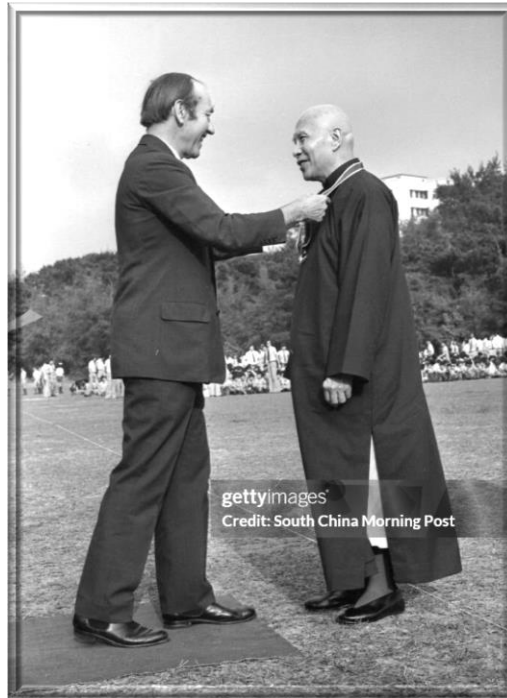
Those that were close to him knew him as an immensely funny man with a wit that could stall any room of people. He was a consummate speaker and was known for his signature after-dinner speeches. For all his success he was remarkably humble and never took himself too seriously. He never forgot about the values in life that mattered most. Not status and success but compassion, caring, generosity of spirit, humor and of course, justice. He is sorely missed by the many that were blessed to know him well.



1977年11月24日－布政司羅弼時爵士（左）在參觀香港理工學院工業中心時查看一件設備。
 24 November 1977 -- Chief Secretary Sir Denys Roberts (left) looks at a piece of equipment during his visit to the Hong Kong Polytechnic's Industrial Centre.



1977年11月24日－布政司羅弼時爵士（左）在參觀香港理工學院工業中心時，聆聽倫道爾先生的簡介。
 24 November 1977 -- Chief Secretary Sir Denys Roberts (left) is briefed by Mr. Norman Langdale of the Hong Kong Polytechnic's Industrial Centre during Sir Denys' visit to the Centre.



1978 年 4 月 22 日－香港童軍總會假座拔萃男書院校園舉行聖佐治日大會操，署理總督羅弼時爵士（左）向前扶輪社員鄧肇堅爵士頒授金龍勳章，以表彰他對香港童軍運動的貢獻。

22 April 1978 -- Sir Denys Roberts (left), the Acting Governor, presenting Gold Dragon Award to former Rotarian Sir Shiu-Kin Tang for his support to the Hong Kong Scouting at the St. George's Day Rally of the Scout Association of Hong Kong held at Diocesan Boys' School campus.



1979 年 12 月 — 位於香港新界元朗的羅弼時爵士壁球場，建築成本超過 170 萬港元由香港扶輪社前社員鄧肇堅爵士捐贈，命名以誌紀念羅弼時爵士這位傑出人士。

December 1979 -- The Sir Denys Roberts Squash Courts located at Yuen Long, New Territories, Hong Kong, were named in honour of Sir Denys. The Squash Courts construction cost over HK\$1.7 million was donated by Sir Shiu-Kin Tang who was a former Rotarian of the Rotary Club of Hong Kong.

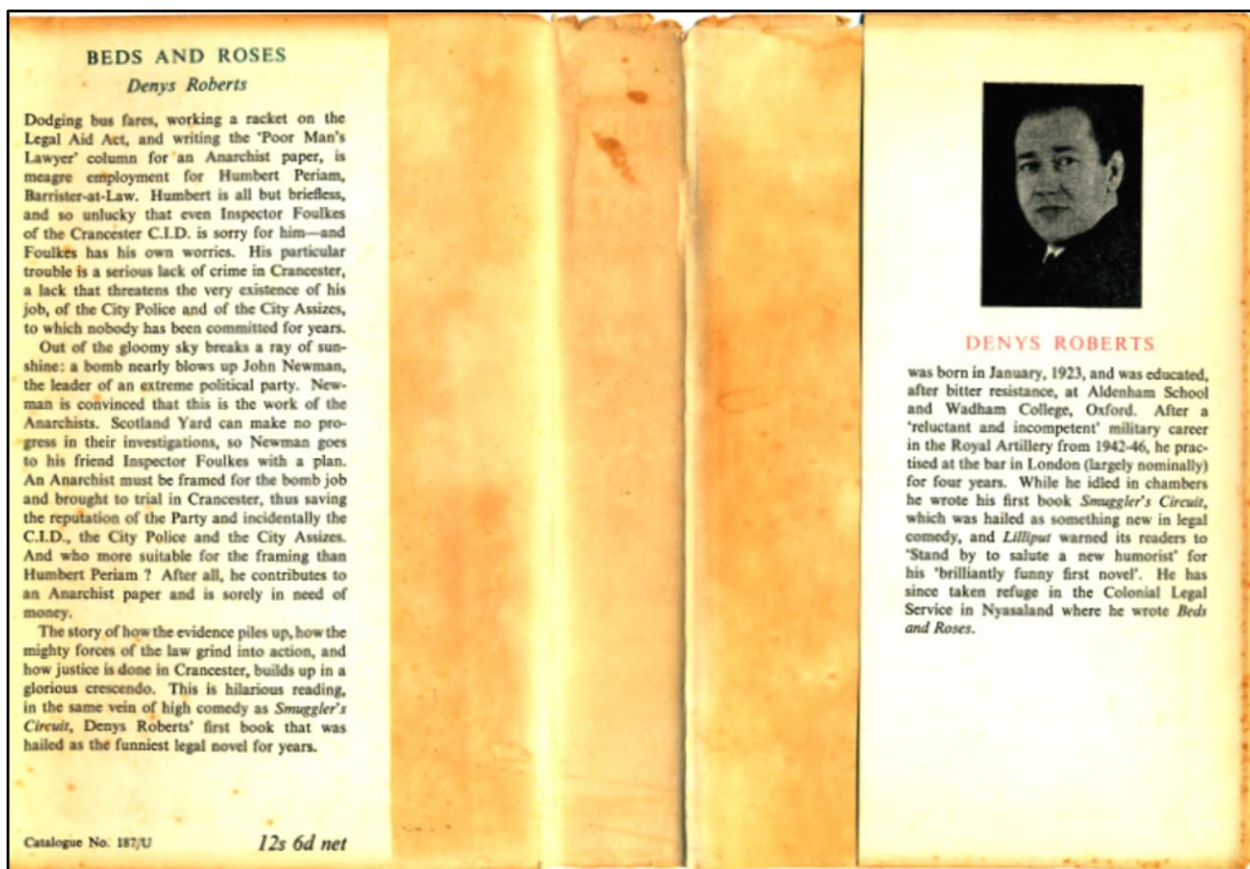
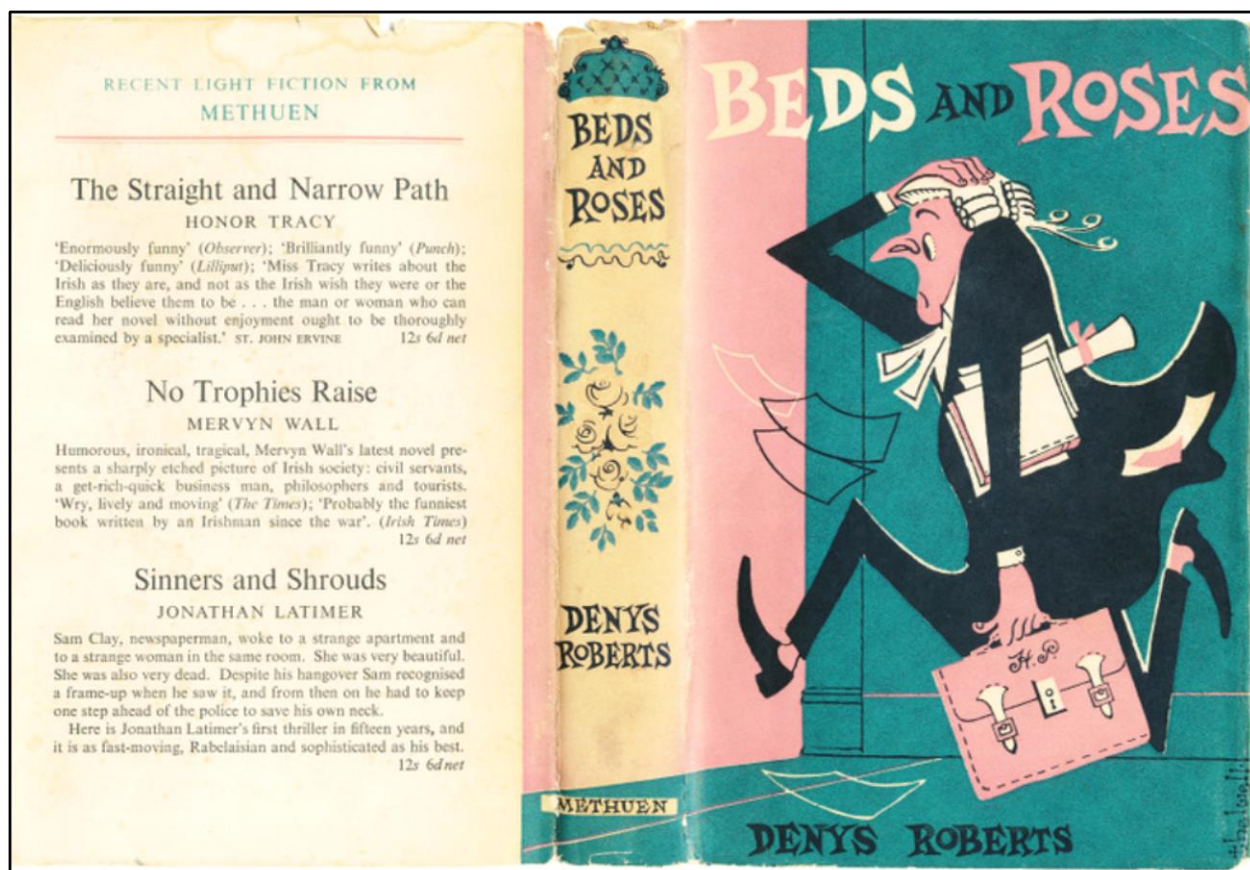


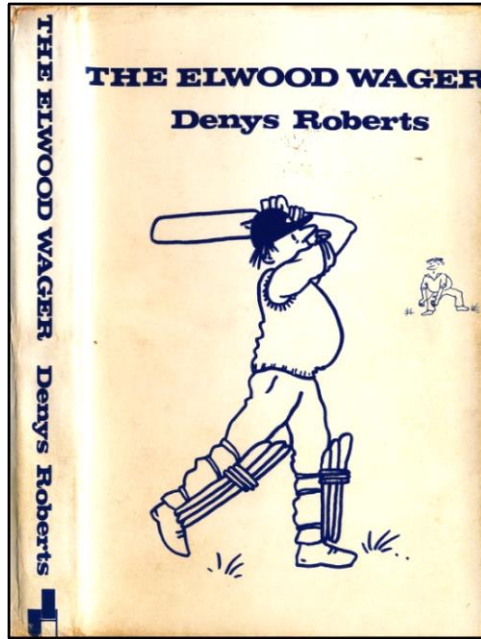
1978 年 4 月 23 日－署理總督羅弼時爵士在西貢北泥涌海灘舉行的「清潔香港運動」中笑容滿面。

此次清潔行動由大埔理民府和市政事務署聯合組織。

23 April 1978 -- The Acting Governor Sir Denys Roberts is all smiles during the five-hour Keep Hong Kong Clean Campaign in Nai Chung Beach in Sai Kung North. The clean-up operation was jointly organised by the Tai Po District Office and the Urban Services Department.





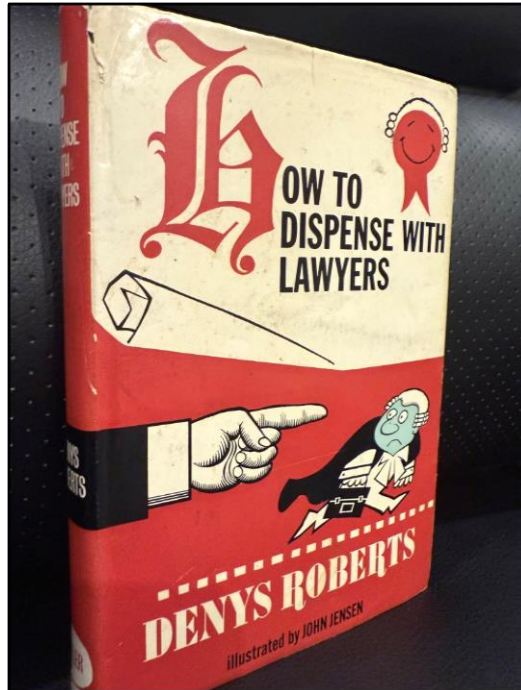


《The Elwood Wager》是羅弼時於 1957 年至 1958 年間出版的一部圍繞著板球運動的幽默小說。劇情講述鄰近村莊之間每年一度的板球對抗賽，因為一場「賭局」而變得異常激烈，進而打破了傳統並引發了一連串笑料與混亂。《The Elwood Wager》is a humorous novel about cricket published by Denys Roberts between 1957 and 1958. The plot tells the story of an annual cricket match between neighboring villages that becomes unusually intense due to a “wager”, which breaks with tradition and triggers a series of laughs and chaos.



1969 年 11 月 23 日 -- 羅弼時（前排右 2）是香港木球會的球員。

23 November 1969 – Denys Roberts (front right 2) was a player of The Hong Kong Cricket Club.



《How to Dispense with Lawyers》是羅弼時的幽默法律諷刺著作。中文直譯：《如何與律師打交道》或《如何省去律師》。這並不是一本嚴肅的法律自學指南，而是一本以英國法律系統、法庭與民事訴訟為題材的幽默軼事與諷刺文集。

出版年份：1964 年 / 出版社：Frederick Muller Ltd / 插畫家：John Jensen

《How to Dispense with Lawyers》(1964) by Denys Roberts is a satirical and humorous book of legal anecdotes that explores, critiques, and gently mocks the British legal system. Written by a prominent real-life colonial judge and legal official (who later became the Chief Justice of Hong Kong), the book offers a lighthearted, tongue-in-cheek look at how the law operates and how one might navigate it without professional legal help. According to the catalog records of the Supreme Court Library Queensland, the book is 152 pages long and contains illustrations by John Jensen. It is divided into 10 primary chapters that walk the reader through different facets of the legal environment:

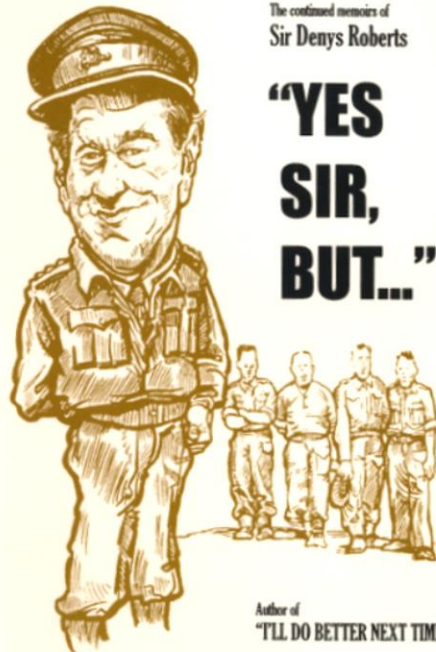
- The Machinery of Justice: It breaks down the foundations of the system, including Courts of Law, the civil court framework, and Criminal Courts.
- The Key Actors: The text analyzes the roles, quirks, and personas of both Judges and Lawyers.
- Tactics and Strategy: It covers the practicalities of a legal battle, from Civil Litigation Out of Courts to tactical decisions like Selecting Your Bench and Jury.
- Courtroom Trial: The final sections focus on the art of survival inside a trial, outlining general principles of Litigation, the nuances of Advocacy, and the handling of Evidence.

Rather than serving as a genuine, practical DIY guide for self-representation, the book functions as a witty commentary on the absurdities, complexities, and traditions of the legal profession from an insider's perspective.

"YES SIR, BUT..."

Army Stories by Denys Roberts

Ep



The continued memoirs of
Sir Denys Roberts

**"YES
SIR,
BUT..."**

Author of
"I'LL DO BETTER NEXT TIME"

Countrywise Press

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Some will remember with exquisite pleasure the series of novels written by Denys Roberts such as "Smugglers Circuit" "Beds and Roses", "Wager" and "How to Dispense with Lawyers". Denys Roberts was, then, a barrister and his novels very naturally reflected this. He then joined the Colonial Service and ultimately ended up in Hong Kong, before being appointed to the office of Chief Justice of Brunei. Somewhere along the line, he became President of the M.C.C. Later came the first part of his self-debunking autobiography - "I'll Do Better Next Time".

And now Sir Denys has written a second self-deprecating volume of autobiography entitled - "Yes Sir, But ...". Like "I'll Do Better Next Time", it is hilarious in parts - but underneath there is the story typical of the experience of every junior army officer who is involved in war and has to carry out incomprehensible orders and become involved in numerous bureaucratic adventures.

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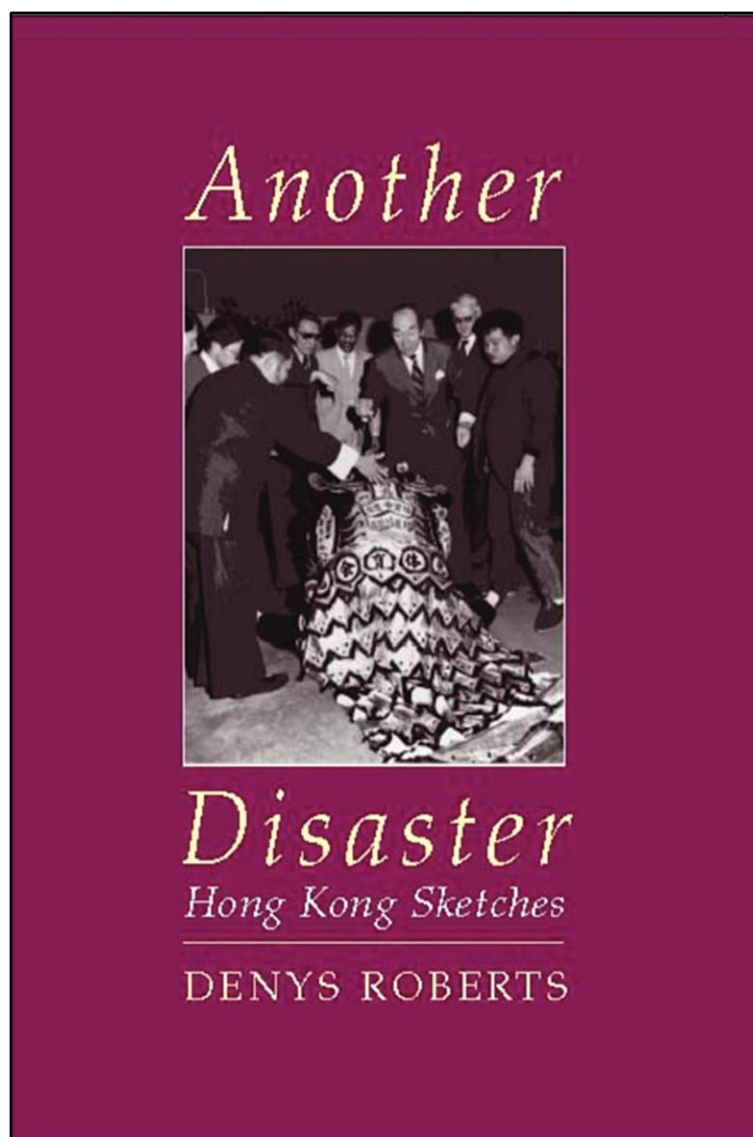
Sir Denys Roberts

Continued from inside front flap

In Sir Denys' hands, his adventures usually end in grief. To those who are devotees of Denys Roberts, this part of his autobiography will be a delight - to those who at present are unfamiliar with his earlier work, there is a treat in store.

"Yes Sir, But ..." is not the sort of book you will find in the High Street bookshops (and more's the pity!) but it is the sort of book a discriminating reader will enjoy. It describes - and this in frank detail - the amorous adventures which beset many another junior officer during the war, put in such a way as not to cause offence but general amusement.

If you do not know already the inimitable style of Sir Denys Roberts - here could be your splendid introduction to him.



香港是英國殖民帝國最後的幾個據點之一，直到 1997 年回歸中國之前，一直都是英國的直轄殖民地。在這部引人入勝、妙趣橫生的回憶錄中，羅弼時詳細記述了他從 1962 年以法律政策專員身份抵達香港，到最終晉升為首席按察司，直至 1988 年退休的歷程。他生動地描繪了香港獨特的社會生活——英國官員與當地工商業界人士的融合，並對典型的殖民地政府和行政機構的性質和結構，給予了細緻入微的刻畫。

《另一場災難》以輕鬆詼諧的筆觸，講述了帝國歷史最後篇章之一的精彩故事。

Hong Kong was one of the last outposts of Empire, remaining a Crown Colony until handover to the Chinese in 1997. In this engaging and amusing memoir, Denys Roberts chronicles his time there from his arrival in 1962 as Solicitor General to his rise to the office of Chief Justice, which he remained until his retirement in 1988. He paints a picture of the unique social life in Hong Kong -- a merger between British officials and local business and commercial communities and gives a very sharp and detailed picture of the nature and structure of classic Crown Colony government and administration. 《Another Disaster》is an entertaining account of life in one of the last chapters of imperial history.

拿督羅弼時爵士 -- 九龍扶輪社榮譽社員



拿督羅弼時爵士(The Honourable Dato' Seri Paduka Sir Denys Tudor Emil Roberts, KBE, SPMB, QC, MA (Oxon), BCL (Oxon), JP)(1923 年 1 月 19 日-2013 年 5 月 20 日)，九龍扶輪社(Rotary Club of Kowloon)榮譽社員，英國殖民地香港官員及法官，曾任香港律政司(1966-1973)、輔政司/布政司(1973-1979)、以及首席按察司(1979-1988)。期間，兼任行政立法兩局當然官守議員，多次署任香港總督暨三軍總司令。

羅弼時於 1953 年加入殖民地公務人員行列，歷任尼亞薩蘭檢察官(Crown Counsel, Protectorate of Nyasaland)、直布羅陀(Gibraltar)律政司和香港律政專員(法律政策)。在香港律政司任內，他協助政府制定多項涉及保障勞工權益、打擊貪污等各方面的法例。隨後在輔政司和布政司任內，他協助時任總督麥理浩爵士(Sir Crawford Murray MacLehose)推動多項新政，其中包括參與籌組總督特派廉政專員公署、以及處理金禧事件的善後工作等。

羅弼時是香港歷史上唯一一位分別擔任過香港律政司、輔政司(和布政司)、及首席按察司的人士。他是最後一位非華裔首席大法官，並曾擔任香港殖民地時期所有三個重要職位，名聲顯赫。他在首席按察司任內大幅擴充法院數目和法官編制，並關注香港前途問題。除了構思香港終審法院的設立，並且成為中華人民共和國建政後首位訪華的首席按察司。然而，他在任後期爆出多宗司法醜聞，為他的司法生涯蒙上污點。

1988 年卸任香港首席按察司後，羅弼時仍擔任百慕達(Bermuda)上訴庭庭長、汶萊達魯薩蘭國(Brunei Darussalam)首席按察司和上訴庭庭長等職務。

1997 年 7 月 1 日，羅弼時爵士擔任中華人民共和國香港特別行政區終審法院非常任法官，直至 2003 年卸任。

羅弼時有不少以司法和殖民地為題材的著作，也熱衷木球運動，嘗任英國倫敦瑪麗勒本木球會(Marylebone Cricket Club, London, England)主席。



生平

早年生涯

羅弼時 1923 年 1 月 19 日生於英國倫敦，父親羅伯斯（William David Roberts）任職執業大律師，母親名桃樂絲（Dorothy Elizabeth Roberts）。他早年入讀赫福郡（Hertfordshire）的奧登漢姆學校（Aldenham School），1942 年升讀牛津大學瓦德漢學院（Wadham College, Oxford University）。但未幾因第二次世界大戰中斷學業，並在 1943 年至 1946 年間服役於皇家砲兵。期間，先後於法國、比利時、荷蘭和德國等地服役。他在 1945 年以上尉身份被派往印度準備參與戰事，但同年 8 月大戰即宣告結束。

大戰結束後，羅弼時於 1946 年離開軍隊，返回牛津大學恢復學業。他本來有志成為牧師或醫生，並在印度服役時以函授方式攻讀醫科。但由於對數理缺乏興趣，他返回牛津後決定選讀法律。1948 年從該校取得文學碩士學位（Master of Arts），翌年又取得俗世法學士學位（Bachelor of Civil Law）正式畢業。1984 年，瓦德漢學院進一步向他授予榮譽院士銜。

殖民地司法官員

羅弼時從大學畢業後，於林肯律師學院（The Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn）考獲執業大律師資格，1950 年起在倫敦私人執業。但未幾於 1953 年投身殖民地部，前往尼亞薩蘭（Nyasaland）（馬拉威共和國 Republic of Malawi 前身）擔任檢察官（Crown Counsel）。任內除了曾經參與調查當地的暴動事件，又於 1956 年獲借調回倫敦殖民地本部，為期三個月。1960 年，他獲擢升調任直布羅陀（Gibraltar）律政司兼當地的行政立法兩局當然官守議員。同年取得直布羅陀御用大律師銜，並獲英國女王伊莉莎白二世頒授大英帝國最優秀官佐勳銜（OBE）。不過，羅弼時在任僅兩年就被調離直布羅陀。他後來在回憶錄中打趣地解釋，在一次軍隊巡遊慶典期間，他當眾責備總督副官安排不周。可能因此開罪軍方和總督，成為被撤換的伏筆。

香港律政司

羅弼時在 1962 年由直布羅陀調任香港出任法律政策專員，任內曾於 1963 年 5 月至 1964 年 1 月署任律政司一職，以及分別於 1963 年和 1964 年獲得官守太平紳士和香港御用大律師銜。1966 年 4 月，香港因天星小輪加價事件和中國大陸政治局勢不穩影響，引發九龍地區出現騷動。香港政府事後設立「九龍騷動調查委員會」，由首席按察司何瑾爵士（Sir Michael Joseph Patrick Hogan）擔任主席，並由香港童軍總會總監羅徵勤、香港大學前校長賴廉士爵士（Sir Lindsay Tasman Ride）和律師黃秉乾三人擔任委員，負責調查事件成因。羅弼時則以專家身份向委員會提供背景資料，協助委員會運作，促成委員會於 1966 年 12 月發表《九龍騷動調查委員會報告書》。

[注] 羅徵勤是香港扶輪社 1976-77 年度社長。

1966 年 9 月，羅弼時進一步獲總督戴麟趾爵士（Sir David Clive Crosbie Trench）委任為律政司，同時兼任行政立法兩局當然官守議員。當時中國大陸的「無產階級文化大革命」愈演愈烈，連帶香港局勢日益不穩。到 1967 年 5 月更因為一宗勞資糾紛，爆發由左派發動的六七暴

動，事件擾攘至同年12月才大致平息。暴動期間，左派滋事份子多次發動上街抗爭和罷工，並在全港各處放置土製炸彈，危及尋常市民的安全。迫使香港政府多次實施宵禁和派出防暴警察對峙，其後還大舉搜捕滋事份子，部份行動更得到駐港英軍配合。

暴動期間，羅弼時正好在1967年4月至9月返英國休假五個月，律政司一職由律政專員（法律政策）史禮夫（Graham Sneath）署任，因此羅弼時未有直接參與暴動期間的刑事檢控工作。雖然如此，截至1967年12月31日，仍有多達1,936名滋事者被法庭定罪，其中465人、40人和33人分別因為非法集會、管有炸彈和其他爆炸相關罪行而被判監。此外，律政司署在暴動高峰期還協助政府根據《緊急情況規例條例》頒佈多條緊急規例，當中包括在5月24日禁止非法廣播和在6月1日頒令禁止張貼煽動性傳單。7月28日，輔政司還根據條例獲得授權在無需審訊的情況下，拘留任何人不多於一年。不少被捕人士，更因此被拘禁於警隊政治部轄下的摩星嶺白屋。有關授權一度遭到法律界質疑違反人權，甚至是形同「極權」。後來羅弼時雖然於1968年1月承認條例賦予的權力的確「極端和危險」，但重申政府「極少運用」。

羅弼時在律政司任內，還協助推動多項重要的立法和條例草擬工作，當中包括不少涉及改善勞工待遇的立法。而其他較重要的立法工作，還包括在1972年制定《勞教中心條例》。透過設立勞教中心，安排一些干犯輕微罪行的年青男性犯人，在中心內接受短期的勞動工作和過著紀律嚴格的生活。從而提醒他們不可再次犯事，以取代傳統的監禁刑罰。同年，他又制定《意外死亡修訂條例》，禁止法庭對意外身亡的已婚男子裁定賠償額時，考慮死者遺孀再婚的可能性而調整賠償額。他在1972年制定的《勞資審裁處條例》，促成政府在1973年正式設立勞資審裁處，專門負責調解勞資糾紛。

香港輔政司/布政司

羅弼時在1973年9月30日接受香港總督麥理浩爵士委任輔政司，接替羅樂民爵士（Sir Hugh Selby Norman-Walker），是香港歷史上少有出任輔政司的律政司。[輔政司 Colonial Secretary]一職隨後於1976年易名[布政司 Chief Secretary]，繼續由羅弼時出任。事實上，英國政府在1973年3月公佈羅弼時的任命時，同時還宣佈任命按察司貝理士（Geoffrey Briggs）在同年5月出任首席按察司。據了解，首席按察司一職原本有機會由羅弼時出任。但在麥理浩要求下，羅弼時接受了輔政司的任命，並獲承諾將來會獲薦出任首席按察司。

在輔政司和布政司任內，羅弼時協助麥理浩施政，還多次署任總督。當中，他特別協助麥理浩厲行廉政。而早於律政司任內，他已多番提倡嚴懲貪污和受賄罪行。並在1971年協助制定《防止賄賂條例》，加重貪污罰則、擴大懲治範圍、以及賦予警方反貪污部更大的權力偵查貪污案件。上任輔政司後，他又於1973年參與把干犯貪污罪行的總警司葛柏（Peter Fitzroy Godber）由英國引渡回香港受審。並著手協助麥理浩籌組[總督特派廉政專員公署 Independent Commission Against Corruption]（廉政公署），主持肅貪倡廉的工作。翌年，他進一步協助廉政公署設立四個委員會：（1）貪污問題諮詢委員會、（2）審查貪污舉報委員會、（3）防止貪污委員會、（4）社區關係市民諮詢委員會，扶助廉政公署的執法工作。

1977年至1978年，香港爆發「金禧事件」。事件中的金禧中學管理層被指辦學不善和涉嫌斂財，引起師生不滿，舉行罷課和靜坐以示抗議。然而，當時的教育司署被指偏袒校方，而且在1977年5月宣佈「封校」，引起輿論激辯。事後，麥理浩成立[金禧中學事件調查委員會]，

由香港大學校長黃麗松出任主席，委員則包括理工學院助理院長盧景文和執業大律師黃陳善茹，負責對事件展開調查和提出善後方案。調查委員會在 1978 年 7 月發表中期報告，建議除了把[寶血會金禧中學 Precious Blood Golden Jubilee Secondary School]改組為[德蘭中學 St. Teresa Secondary School]外，另立一所全新的[五育中學 Ng Yuk Secondary School]，供原金禧師生選擇轉到新校任教或就讀。羅弼時一直關注事態發展，並參與了調查委員會的工作；調查委員會發表中期報告後，他受命處理「金禧事件」的善後事宜，當中包括協助籌設全新的五育中學，並物色合適的人選擔任新校校董。

羅弼時還協助麥理浩推動憲制改革，較重要的舉措包括在 1976 年大幅增加立法局非官守議席，使局內非官守議席數目首次超越官守議席數目。此外，他也關注商貿發展，曾多次率團訪問美國和拉丁美洲等地，以推廣貿易和促進交流。在任布政司後期，香港商界開始有聲音關注新界租約在 1997 年約滿的問題。憂慮政府批出的新界土地契約能否跨越 1997 年，以及政府涉及新界的土地契約在 1997 年以後仍否生效。不過，當時前途問題尚未正式浮面。而羅弼時在 1978 年的時候，則認為新界與割讓得來的香港島和九龍已連成一體，因此不應擔心新界地區獨自在 1997 年交還中國。但他未有正面回應，港九地區與新界會否在 1997 年一併移交中國。

與總督麥理浩一樣，羅弼時在任內顯現親民作風。他除了曾經參與公益金百萬行和走畢全程以外，也曾參與到海灘執拾垃圾的活動，以響應麥理浩推出的[清潔香港運動]。1979 年，羅弼時獲麥理浩委任空降最高法院任首席按察司，成為首位出任首席按察司的香港布政司，也是香港歷史上唯一一位分別擔任過香港律政司、布政司和首席按察司的人士。然而，羅弼時曾任律政司，其布政司的身份又屬於直屬總督的副手。因此有輿論批評由他擔任首席按察司，有損害行政、立法、司法三權分立之虞。

首席按察司

鑑於香港人口急增，再加上法庭處理的案件數量不斷上升，羅弼時在首席按察司任內，除了大幅增加各級法院的法官編制，還在 1981 年為最高法院上訴庭增設第三庭。而觀塘法院、沙田法院和灣仔法院等新法院，也紛紛在他任內啟用。另外，位於中環、早自 1912 年啟用的香港最高法院大樓，也於 1978 年因地下鐵路興建工程被迫關閉。最高法院臨時遷往附近的維多利亞地方法院，繼續辦公。期間，羅弼時主持金鐘的香港最高法院新大樓興建計劃。該座樓高 22 層、耗資 1 億 9,100 萬港元的新大樓，在 1984 年落成啟用。規模比原來的最高法院大樓宏大得多，有效提昇最高法院的辦案效率。

踏入 1980 年代，英國和中國展開香港前途談判。於 1984 年 12 月簽訂《中英聯合聲明》[中華人民共和國政府和大不列顛及北愛爾蘭聯合王國政府關於香港問題的聯合聲明 Joint Declaration of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the People's Republic of China on the Question of Hong Kong]，確認香港主權在 1997 年 7 月 1 日移交中國。在前途談判前後，羅弼時兩度應邀出訪中國大陸。是中華人民共和國在 1949 年建政以來，首位到訪的香港首席按察司。1983 年 10 月，他應中國國際貿易促進會的邀請第一次訪華，先後訪問北京、上海和廣州；到 1985 年 10 月，他獲中國最高人民法院副院長任建新邀請第二度訪華，並與按察司李福善、楊鐵樑、賈施雅(Arthur

Garcia)和廖子明等組成代表團出訪北京和西安。兩次的訪華行程，都有助香港司法部了解中港兩地法制的差異。但羅弼時向外重申，訪華行程沒有討論《香港基本法》的草擬。

[注] 楊鐵樑是香港扶輪社 1983-84 年度社長。

隨著香港步入主權移交前的「過渡期」，羅弼時還提倡香港應該在 1997 年以前設立終審法院，取代原有上訴案件交付樞密院司法委員會終審的安排。以便終審法院在主權移交以前已經運作暢順，然後順利過渡。他構思的終審法院建議，由最少三名常任法官組成，並可輔以一些由海外法官組成的非常任法官。他指出，1997 年以後如果因為國籍限制而任命出「三流法官」，將危及公眾對司法制度的信心，因此有必要委任海外法官。雖然羅弼時提倡的終審法院，要到主權移交後的 1997 年 7 月 1 日才正式成立，但終審法院由最少三名常任法官組成、以及非常任法官當中應當包括海外法官等構思，均得以在新的終審法院中實踐。另外，羅弼時在「過渡期」內還鼓勵香港仲裁業務的發展，促成香港國際仲裁中心在 1985 年成立。

羅弼時在擔任首席按察司期間仍不減親民作風，經常參與公開活動，又曾到上海街垃圾黑點清掃街道。在 1982 年至 1988 年，他當選香港童軍總會會長。任內積極支持和參與童軍活動，1986 年更榮獲金龍勳章。羅弼時親民的作風，與其前任貝理士爵士(Sir Geoffrey Briggs)構成強烈對比。貝理士除了作風低調以外，還自 1974 年起取消法律界傳統上一年一度舉行的巡迴裁判典禮。羅弼時繼任後，認為有必要加深公眾對法律界的認識，並要維持法律界的傳統。上任後即恢復舉行[巡迴裁判典禮 Ceremonial Opening of the Assizes]，並把儀式修訂改名為[法律年度開幕儀式 Ceremonial Opening of the Legal Year]。一些例如閱兵和法官巡禮等沿襲自英國的傳統均得以保留，延續至今。

可是，羅弼時任內急促擴充司法界規模，衍生出法官質素參差問題，也為外界詬病。他在任後期爆出多宗涉及最高法院按察司的醜聞，更引起輿論關注。1987 年，高等法院按察司李栢儉(Miles Jackson-Lipkin)被揭發向一本名人錄虛報出生年份、在皇家海軍的服役年份和除役軍階，結果以健康理由在同年 7 月辭職。事實上，李栢儉在 1981 年獲提名出任高等法院按察司的時候，司法人員推薦委員會個別委員曾對有關提名表示保留觀點。但提名最後在身兼委員會主席的羅弼時堅持下，獲得批准。

繼李栢儉事件後，最高法院又爆出另一宗涉及[佳寧案]的司法醜聞。[佳寧案]源於商人陳松青(George Tan Soon-Gin)創辦的[佳寧集團 Carrian Group]，在 1983 年 9 月被揭發從事詐騙，並欠款超過 10 億美元。陳松青等六名佳寧集團高層隨後被警方拘捕，被控以串謀詐騙等罪名。案件後來在高等法院開審，而且在上訴庭按察司柏嘉(Dennis Barker)主動要求下主審。審訊歷時 18 個月，涉及高昂訟費。但當案件在 1987 年 9 月審結時，柏嘉卻突以控方「控罪重複」為理由撤銷控罪。並指示六名被告無須答辯，和引導陪審團作出控罪不成立的裁決，結果六名被告當庭獲釋。有關裁決在當時引起軒然大波，大律師公會前主席烈顯倫(Henry Denis Litton)更嚴厲批評事件損害香港和香港法制的形象，要求柏嘉辭職。羅弼時在同年 11 月發出的上訴庭指引中，也表示，柏嘉的裁決造成法律上的錯誤，但他拒絕再公開回應事件。事件擾攘多時後，柏嘉在 1988 年 3 月主動辭職。

[注] 烈顯倫(Henry Denis Litton)是香港扶輪社榮譽社員。

此外，羅弼時身為首席按察司，擁有任命最高法院經歷司的權力，這使他可透過經歷司對司法部的財政和資源分配施加很大的影響力。在這個背景下，他任內解散了負責監控公務員職

位增刪的部門編制委員會。使得控制司法部公務員編制的大權，落到首席按察司和經歷司身上。他另一方面又以提昇司法獨立為理由，不再於《香港政府職員名冊》刊登司法人員名單，被外界指摘他實際上是剝奪公眾知情權。雖然如此，他後來更進一步停止公開關係到司法人員任命、晉升和調任的調派令。而公眾人士也無法像以往一樣，輕易得知其他好像是司法人員的年資和薪酬等資料，使司法部的透明度比以往降低不少。

其他對於羅弼時任內司法部的批評和質疑，還包括部份法官傾向同情歐洲人和「白領」階層。一些下級法院法官，被指倦勤、才疏學淺和歧視本地人。司法體系內缺乏對課刑的深入和充分研究，導致不少案件的裁決結果，都使外界有商榷的餘地。此外，外界也有輿論批評律政司署的檢控官，為了希望成為法官而在檢控工作上取悅法庭。而部份法官，也因為合約制度傾向在審案時支持政府，尋求增加續約的機會。儘管這些指控大多都沒有真憑實據，但卻在法律界廣泛流傳。面對不少批評，羅弼時在 1988 年退任時也不諱言表示：「我在 1979 年接任時，司法部處於健康狀態；但到我在 1988 年卸任時，我實際上沒有成就任何事——除了把兩個網球場完全重新翻修。」繼任首席按察司楊鐵樑爵士在上任後，接受訪問時也直接指出，「法律界差不多所有人也深刻感受到，司法部的形象在香港以至是在國際商業社群中受損」。

羅弼時與他的繼任人楊鐵樑的關係，也不是太好。羅弼時曾主持一個委員會，議決反對英國以外的海外律師行，在香港開展業務。有關決定後來被政府推翻，但身為上訴庭副庭長的楊鐵樑卻全程被蒙在鼓裡，對羅弼時的決定全不知情。在 1988 年退休前夕，羅弼時接受訪問，相信政府會進一步推動法庭本地化。估計到 1997 年的時候，司法部將有一半法官由本地人擔任。不過，楊鐵樑後來以嚴辭批評他的說法「不負責任」。指出只要根據聘用條款以及司法獨立的原則，絕大部份的外籍法官，均可以在主權移交後留任，與羅弼時的說法有明顯出入。

晚年

不包括在 1996 年至 1997 年間以暫委形式委出的鮑偉華爵士(Sir Noel Plunkett Power)，羅弼時是香港歷史上最後一位擔任首席按察司的外籍人士。羅弼時在首席按察司任內一任九年，除了在 1987 年出席一場飲宴期間因輕微腦充血入院留醫以外，身體狀況一直良好。他在 1988 年 3 月卸任後，上訴庭副庭長楊鐵樑爵士遂成為殖民地歷史上唯一出任首席按察司的華人。

根據英聯邦慣例，香港首席按察司會兼任汶萊首席按察司一職。因此羅弼時在 1979 年出任香港首席按察司的同時，也一併兼任汶萊首席按察司，並於 1984 年獲獲汶萊皇室封為拿督斯里巴杜卡(Dato' Seri Paduka)。然而，楊鐵樑在 1988 年上任香港首席按察司時，卻只獲委任為汶萊上訴庭庭長，汶萊首席按察司一職繼續由羅弼時出任。而香港首席按察司兼任汶萊首席按察司的做法，則在 1993 年正式廢止。

卸任香港首席按察司後，羅弼時定居英國諾福克郡(Norfolk)。但仍然擔任汶萊首席按察司的他，每年有四個月留在汶萊辦公。再加上他在 1988 年至 1994 年間兼任百慕達上訴庭庭長，因此也會花三個月留在百慕達。餘下留在英國的時間，則主要從事寫作，題材主要關於他在殖民地工作多年來的生活點滴。

2001 年卸任汶萊首席按察司後，他再於 2002 年改任汶萊上訴庭庭長。在汶萊任職期間，他積極推動法律改革，並為當地制定新的法律指引，具有一定的影響。

另外，香港特別行政區在 1997 年成立後，羅弼時成為首批香港終審法院非常任法官之一。任內曾於 2000 年與李國能、包致金(Syed Kemal Shah Bokhary)、李義(Roberto Alexandre Vieira Ribeiro)和李啟新勳爵(Lord Nicholls of Birkenhead)四名法官，審理謝偉俊控告鄭經翰和林旭華的誹謗案上訴。終審法院最後在同年 11 月裁定鄭經翰和林旭華上訴得值，並頒令謝偉俊要繳付雙方合共 1,300 萬港元的訟費。

羅弼時在 2003 年卸下香港終審法院非常任法官和汶萊上訴庭庭長的職務，正式從司法界引退。在香港終審法院供職期間，他曾讚揚香港在主權移交後維持司法獨立。又認為當時外界有關行政長官董建華和政務司司長陳方安生的不和傳聞，不足為奇。指出自己當年也與麥理浩常有意見不合的時候，沒有分歧才更令人奇怪。惟陳方安生未幾於 2001 年宣佈辭職。

羅弼時有一雙很有個性的眉毛，相貌雖然嚴肅，但事實上很平易近人，也有「笑面虎」的外號。法律界的御用大律師清洪、以及關祖堯爵士和簡悅強爵士等行政立法兩局議員，都是他在香港結識的好友。

他的另一好友殷商**鄧肇堅爵士**，甚至曾捐出百萬港元在元朗建成[羅弼時爵士壁球場 Sir Denys Roberts Squash Courts]，以示對其好友的敬意。

[注] **鄧肇堅爵士**是香港扶輪社前現職社員。

羅弼時也是一位退而不休的法官，1988 年退任香港首席按察司一職以後，仍然繼續在各地擔任不同的司法公職，到 2003 年才以 80 歲高齡退休。羅弼時熱衷於木球運動，1948 年代表赫福郡參與小型郡際木球錦標賽。後於 1989 年至 1990 年出任英國瑪麗勒本木球會主席。羅弼時也是皇家大英國協學會(Royal Commonwealth Society)會員，也熱衷寫作，著有不少與法律和殖民地有關的小品。

晚年的羅弼時繼續以寫作為樂，儘管後來患病，但思路依然清晰，直到去世。2013 年 5 月 20 日，羅弼時因為腎病在諾福克郡家中逝世，終年 90 歲。同年 5 月 28 日，家屬在當地聖瑪麗教堂(St. Mary's Church in Pulham St. Mary, Norfolk)為他舉行葬禮。羅弼時身故後，香港行政長官梁振英、終審法院署理首席法官陳兆愷、以及汶萊司法界和法律界均對其逝世致以軫悼。羅弼時的家屬也引述他生前指出，在香港擔任公職的 26 年是他的「黃金歲月」，感覺香港為他付出很多。

主要經歷

- (1)執業大律師 (1950 年—1953 年)
- (2)尼亞薩蘭檢察官 (1953 年—1959 年)
- (3)直布羅陀律政司 (1960 年—1962 年)
- (4)英女王御用大律師 (1960 年，直布羅陀)
- (5)直布羅陀行政立法兩局當然官守議員 (1960 年—1962 年)
- (6)香港律政專員 (法律政策) (1962 年—1966 年)
- (7)香港官守太平紳士 (1963 年 3 月 22 日)
- (8)英女王御用大律師 (1964 年，香港)
- (9)香港律政司 (1966 年—1973 年)
- (10)香港行政立法兩局當然官守議員 (1966 年—1978 年)

- (11)香港輔政司（1973 年—1976 年）
- (12)香港布政司（1976 年—1978 年）
- (13)香港首席按察司（1979 年—1988 年）
- (14)汶萊首席按察司（1979 年—2001 年）
- (15)百慕達上訴庭庭長（1988 年—1994 年）
- (16)英國瑪麗勒本木球會主席（1989 年—1990 年）
- (17)中華人民共和國香港特別行政區終審法院非常任法官（1997 年—2003 年）
- (18)汶萊上訴庭庭長（2002 年—2003 年）

香港立法局當然官守議員--服務記錄

1978 年 7 月 6 日 - 1978 年 8 月 16 日	委任（官守 - 代理總督）
1978 年 4 月 26 日 - 1978 年 4 月 26 日	委任（官守 - 代理總督）
1978 年 1 月 11 日 - 1978 年 4 月 13 日	委任（當然議員 - 布政司）
1977 年 11 月 23 日 - 1977 年 12 月 21 日	委任（官守 - 代理總督）
1976 年 12 月 22 日 - 1977 年 11 月 10 日	委任（當然議員 - 布政司）
1976 年 11 月 24 日 - 1976 年 12 月 8 日	委任（官守 - 代理總督）
1976 年 10 月 6 日 - 1976 年 11 月 11 日	委任（當然議員 - 布政司）
1976 年 7 月 21 日 - 1976 年 7 月 21 日	委任（官守 - 代理總督）
1976 年 1 月 21 日 - 1976 年 7 月 7 日	委任（當然議員 - 布政司）
1975 年 11 月 19 日 - 1976 年 1 月 7 日	委任（官守 - 代理總督）
1975 年 1 月 8 日 - 1975 年 11 月 6 日	委任（當然議員 - 布政司）
1974 年 12 月 18 日 - 1974 年 12 月 18 日	委任（官守 - 代理總督）
1974 年 8 月 14 日 - 1974 年 11 月 27 日	委任（當然議員 - 布政司）
1974 年 7 月 31 日 - 1974 年 7 月 31 日	委任（官守 - 代理總督）
1974 年 7 月 3 日 - 1974 年 7 月 17 日	委任（當然議員 - 布政司）
1974 年 6 月 19 日 - 1974 年 6 月 19 日	委任（官守 - 代理總督）
1973 年 10 月 17 日 - 1974 年 6 月 5 日	委任（當然議員 - 布政司）
1966 年 9 月 7 日 - 1973 年 4 月 25 日	委任（當然議員 - 律政司）
1965 年 8 月 25 日 - 1965 年 8 月 25 日	委任（當然議員 - 署理律政司）
1963 年 7 月 31 日 - 1964 年 1 月 22 日	委任（當然議員 - 署理律政司）
1963 年 5 月 8 日 - 1963 年 5 月 8 日	委任（當然議員 - 署理律政司）

榮譽

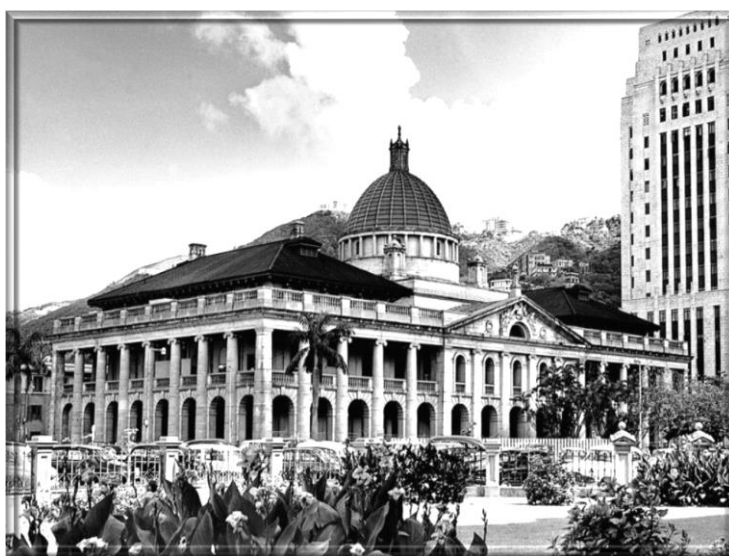
羅弼時曾獲多項榮譽，包括：

- (1) 1960 年 1 月—英國女王伊莉莎白二世授予大英帝國最優秀官佐勳章（Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, OBE）。
- (2) 1970 年 1 月—英國女王伊莉莎白二世授予大英帝國最優秀司令勳章（Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, CBE）。

- (3) 1975 年 6 月－英國女王伊莉莎白二世授予大英帝國最優秀爵級司令勳章（Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, KBE）。
- (4) 1979 年 12 月啟用－羅弼時爵士壁球場（Sir Denys Roberts Squash Courts），位於新界元朗屏會街屏輝徑一號，由殷商鄧肇堅爵士捐建，又因羅弼時乃鄧氏好友，遂以之命名。
- (5) 1984 年－汶萊達魯薩蘭國蘇丹授予最尊貴皇冠勳章第一等（The Most Honourable Order of the Crown of Brunei (SPMB), First Class, by Sultan of Negara Brunei Darussalam）。
- (6) 1984 年－英國牛津大學瓦德漢學院(Wadham College, Oxford University)授予榮譽大學院士。

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- 《Beds and Roses》（1956 年）（床與玫瑰）
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- 《Another Disaster》（2006 年）（又一場災難）



1978 年以前的英國殖民地香港最高法院大樓。

The Supreme Court Building of the British Crown Colony Hong Kong prior to 1978.