

## 75 Years of Rotary in China:

From the days of Shanghai to the 1994 convention in Taipei

by Robert T. Yin

When Rotary was first established in China in 1919, the seaport of Shanghai, on the mouth of the Yangtze River, was the country's main window to the world.

In the tumultuous years after World War I, Shanghai offered many opportunities for new industries and businesses. China had experienced the end of the Ch'ing dynasty and the successful revolution of 1911, and was beginning a resolute process of change. In addition to Chinese nationals, the business community of Shanghai included a large group of Anglo-Americans, Japanese, and Europeans who established their businesses at the ancient port. From the beginning, the Rotary Club of Shanghai was destined to play a decisive role in the history of Rotary in China.

Early on, the Shanghai club started to develop service projects. Some of these projects, aimed at improving the health of young people, received official encouragement.

One of the earliest recorded Rotary projects in China was an educational program to encourage young peasants to learn modern, more efficient agricultural systems. In 1926 the Rotary Club of Peking was chartered, and an article in *THE ROTARIAN* on Rotary in China recorded the teaching of better techniques for animal husbandry and farming.

Through its international links and its spirit of fellowship, Rotary provided a worthy forum for all those who were interested in China during the first decades of the century. In April 1931, for instance, Henry K. Chang, consul general of the Republic of China at San Francisco, California, U.S.A., commented in the pages of *THE ROTARIAN* on the profound societal changes then being experienced by the Chinese. He emphasized one point: the country's enormous concern with the preservation of the traditional family.

In "The Golden Wheel" (a history of Rotary published in 1984), author David Shelley Nicholl offers his perspective on this last point: "Chinese Rotarians took the view that, where youth was concerned, safety lay in numbers—the Hangchow club presented a silver spoon to each new child born to one of its members, while the Tientsin club placed a flag by the lunchplate of each proud father and demanded a donation to club funds for each pound the baby gained in weight."

Also according to the same author, the first clubs of Taiwan owed much to "an enthusiastic, child-like, physically gigantic Rotarian, by the name of James ('Jim') W. Davidson, one of the biggest dealers in farming real estate in the Canadian West, an author, travel writer, foreign correspondent, Far East expert, and also a one-time roving diplomatic trouble shooter in the early years of the century."



*The Rotary Club of Shanghai prepared a translation of the Rotary Code of Ethics into Chinese, circa 1926. A copy, done on a silken scroll with a colorful design of dragons, storks, and clouds, was sent to the Chinese Rotarians, as well as to the Rotary Club of Chicago.*

Jim Davidson, dubbed "Rotary's Marco Polo," was appointed Rotary Honorary General Commissioner as he traveled from 1928 to 1931, helping to establish several Rotary clubs throughout the Orient. He helped start the first Rotary Club of Formosa (the name then preferred to describe Taiwan) in 1929.

One of the Chinese who achieved Rotary prominence was Chengting T. Wang, a member of the Rotary Club of Chungking. Rotarian Wang, minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of China, was elected a director of R.I. in 1944-45. In 1945-46 he was R.I.'s second vice president. (Two other Chinese have been members of R.I.'s board of directors: Yen Te-Ching

[1941-42] of Nanking, and Fong Foo Sec [1936-37] of Shanghai.)

Writing in 1934, Rotarian Wang commented on the general progress of his country: "Air lines are now maintained between Shanghai, Nanking, Hankow, Ichang, and Chungking, along the Yangtze river, and between Shanghai, Tsingtao, Tientsin, and Peking along the coast." Confidently, the writer declared also that "China has room for 2,000 Rotary clubs."

Rotarian Wang's list of cities coincided almost exactly with the list of the first Rotary clubs in China. By 1937, the country had 25 clubs and approximately 900 Rotarians.

Unfortunately, the disasters of war loomed in the horizon. In September 1931 a group of Japanese officers of the Kwantung Army set in motion a plot to compel their government to extend its power in Manchuria. On 7 July 1937, Japanese and Chinese troops finally clashed near Peking, and on 13 August fighting broke out in Shanghai.

A detailed history of the heroic actions of the Rotary clubs of China during the years 1937-1948 will be written some day. During the first part of that sad period, most clubs continued to meet and carry out their service programs. Thanks to the iron determination of committed members, Rotary did not die in China. During much of the conflict, only 12 clubs continued to meet in their original towns, while the others met as refugees at a site in Shanghai that came to be known

as the Outport Rotarian's Tiffin Club. In spite of the general chaos then devastating the country, the Chinese clubs continued to provide ambulances, medical equipment, and school books well after others would simply have given up.

In 1941, three Rotarians from China attended the R.I. Convention in Denver, Colorado, U.S.A. One of them, Yen te Ching, was elected to the R.I. Board.

The core of the clubs survived the end of World War II, but the authorities of the People's Republic disbanded the Rotary clubs of China in 1948, the same year the government of the Republic of China moved to Taiwan.

**O**n the island of Formosa, as Taiwan was commonly described in those years, three Rotary clubs (Taihoku, Keelung and Takao) had flourished under the Japanese occupation of the island, which lasted until 1945. Membership in these clubs, however, was almost entirely limited to Japanese citizens. As the Imperial Army capitulated in 1945, the three clubs were disbanded.

Rotary was started anew in Taipei around the nucleus of the former mainland Rotary Club of Kunming. The club members, who had found refuge from the civil war in Taiwan, began meeting again in February 1948, and encouraged new men to join their group. On 9 October 1948, their efforts were crowned with success, when the Rotary Club of Taipei was chartered. The president of the international group was C. K. Yen, a former president of the Republic of China.

In its early years, the Taipei Club was forced to devote much of its efforts to the task of internal extension. Its membership grew from 26 to 90 members. Simultaneously, the club began a series of community service activities, ranging from the support of a medical clinic at Matsu all the way to the sponsorship of a yearly English oratory contest among university and college students throughout Taiwan.

The Rotary Club of Taipei also embarked on a vigorous extension drive. Three primary targets — establishing clubs in Keelung, Tainan, and Kaohsiung — were reached in December 1953, and in January and July 1954 respectively. The Rotary Club of Taipei was no longer the only one in Taiwan.

When the Taipei Club President-Elect E. T. Chu visited R.I. headquarters in Chicago after the 1954 R.I. Convention in Seattle, Washington, U.S.A., he had an official talk with then General Secretary George Means. Rotarian Chu wanted to know how the Taiwan-Hong Kong-Macau area could regain its district status. He learned that it would take a minimum of 15 clubs to form a district. Taiwan already had four, and between Hong Kong and Macau there were another five. Boldly, E. T. Chu declared he would endeavor to organize six more clubs in Taiwan. The six new clubs came one after the other: Hsinchu was chartered on 14 December 1954, Pingtung on 26 February 1955, Chiayi on 14 March, Taipei West on 18 March, Ilan on 16 March, and Taichung on 21 May. With Changhua chartered on 31 March, 1956, the area had a total of 16 clubs.

Petitioned to proceed to the reinstatement of the district status formerly enjoyed by the Chinese clubs,

the R.I. Board decided in 1956 that in view of geographical and financial considerations, "the Rotary Clubs of Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau shall not be constituted into a Rotary district at this time".

The 16 clubs reiterated their petition to be constituted into a Rotary district in 1957, 1958, and 1959. In the meantime, Taipei North became the 17th club in the area, and was soon followed by Fengshan and Taipei Northwest. In January 1960, R.I. granted district status to the Rotary clubs of Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Macau.

After 1960, Rotary grew in Taiwan at amazing speed. Rotary's vigor was a match only to the island's spectacular economic development. Presently, there are four Rotary districts within Taiwan: District 3460, Central Taiwan, with 65 clubs and 2,619 members; District 3470, South Taiwan, with 77 clubs and 3,065 members; District 4380, Taipei, 55 clubs and 2,863 members, and District 3490, North Taiwan, with 55 clubs and 2,129 Rotarians.

In terms of service programs, the Rotary clubs of Taiwan offer a very diversified selection. Rotarians sponsor such projects as the Rotary Park of the city of Hualien, or the Children's Park, in Taipei. Houses for the aged, free medical services for mountain residents, scholarships for university students, and vocational tours for high school graduates are only a sample of the service projects being offered by the Rotarians in Taiwan, where over 1,000 Paul Harris Fellows are added every year to the list of contributors to The Rotary Foundation of R.I.

Our clubs are fully prepared to meet our guests from overseas in 1994. As we ready ourselves for the big occasion of the first R.I. convention ever to be held in China, we envision an even brighter future for Rotary in Taiwan. Nobody forgets, however, the noble efforts of the founders of Rotary in China, almost 75 years ago, in the busy seaport of Shanghai.

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*During the catastrophic years of the war against Japan, Rotarians in China turned to the rescue of thousands of helpless victims. Maintenance of a mobile clinic was but one of the many services of Rotarians in Shanghai.*

# 扶輪在中國 75 年：

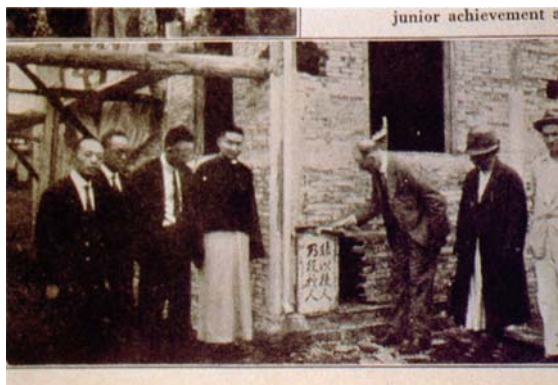
## 從 1919 年在上海創社至 1994 年台北國際年會

尹彤

### 上海扶輪社創立與初期服務計畫

當 1919 年扶輪在上海創立，那時，上海是中國揚子江口最大港埠，也是這個國家向世界開放的主要窗口。

在第一次世界大戰後的混亂歲月裡，上海曾為新的工業與事業提供許多發展的機會。中國已經經驗過滿清王朝的結束及 1911 年革命的成功，並已步上改革的果敢過程。在上海的商業社會中除了中國本國人外尚有一大群英、美、日及歐洲各國人士均在這個古老的港埠設立商務。上海扶輪社從開始便已注定要在中國扶輪歷史上扮演決定性的角色。



1926 年上海社同時為基督教青年會 Y.M.C.A 在上海附近的工廠地區蒲東興建的第一個模範村莊捐贈 60 個小屋。在村莊主要建築安放基石的是美國之友服務委員會 American Friend's Service Committee 主委魯福斯·鐘士博士 Dr. Rufus Jones.



上海扶輪社大約在 1926 年將扶輪道德規則 Rotary Code of Ethics 譯成中文，並且將此一規則做成絲製的卷軸，週圍飾以彩色雲龍及仙鶴，送給中國社友及美國芝加哥扶輪社

在早期，上海扶輪社便開始發展各種服務計畫。有些服務計畫旨在改善青年人的健康，頗受官方的鼓勵。

依據記載，在中國最早辦理的扶輪計畫便是一種教育計畫，鼓勵年輕農民學習現代，更具效率的農業制度。北平扶輪社創立於 1926 年，當時的『英文扶輪月刊』便曾刊載一篇文章記載在中國的扶輪社指導農民畜牧與耕耘的改良技術。

### 中國式服務特別強調傳統家庭之保持

在本世紀初期，中國的扶輪社曾透過其國際連繫及其聯誼精神為凡對於中國有興趣的人士提供有意義的討論會議。例如，於 1931 年 4 月，當時中華民國駐美國，加州，舊金山總領事 Henry K. Chang 曾在『英文扶輪月刊』THE ROTARIAN 發表文章說明中國人所親身體驗到的重大社會變遷。他特別強調一點，中國人大部份關切傳統家庭的保持。

『金車輪』The Golden Wheel（於1984年出版的扶輪歷史）的作者尼可 David Shelley Nicholl 關於中國人對於家庭的保持曾這樣寫著：『中國扶輪社員認為對於青少年的關懷以安全為重——杭州扶輪社的慣例，對社員新生嬰孩概贈送銀匙一支，天津扶輪社規定對做爸爸的社員在餐盤邊外放置一面旗，每逢嬰兒加重一磅時應對該社經費有所捐獻。』

## 『扶輪馬可波羅』—— 戴維生與中國扶輪

尼可同時認為在台灣創立第一個扶輪社應深深感謝『一位熱誠、天真無邪、體形碩大的扶輪社員，戴維生 James（“Jim”）W. Davidson，他是加拿大西部一位最大的農地交易商，也是一位作家、旅遊作者、外國記者、遠東專家，同時，他在這個世紀早期也曾是一位飄忽不定的手腕靈巧解決紛爭的高人。』

戴維生綽號『扶輪的馬可波羅』，曾受指派為『扶輪榮譽總監督』Rotary Honorary General Commissioner，當時他在東方各國旅遊（1928-31年）協助各地創設扶輪社。他於1929年便已到過台灣協助設立第一個台灣扶輪社（按當時名稱登記為The Rotary Club of Formosa）。

## 曾任國際扶輪副社長的王正廷

有一位中國人為扶輪達成重要的重任，他便是前中華民國的外交部長王正廷 Chengting T. Wang 及前重慶扶輪社社員，曾被選為國際扶輪1944-45年度理事並於1945-46年度被選為國際扶輪第二副社長（另有二人曾被選任國際扶輪理事會理事：南京的顏德慶 Yen Te-Ching〔1941-42年〕及上海鄭富灼 Fong Foo See〔1936-37年〕）。

在1934年，扶輪社員王正廷曾論及他的國家一般進步情形，『航空航線，現在已在上海、南京、漢口、宜昌及重慶等揚子江沿岸，

與上海、青島、天津及北平等沿海線均已暢通無阻。這位作者很有自信地聲稱，『中國尚有建立2,000個扶輪社的空間。』王正廷社員所提起的這些城市與最初在中國設立扶輪社的城市幾乎完全符合。迄1937年，這個國家已設有25個扶輪社，約有扶輪社員900名。



在對日抗戰的動盪歲月裡，中國的扶輪社員挽救成千上萬無助的受難民眾。維護一個機動診所只不過是上海社社友眾多服務項目之一而已

## 中國戰禍漫延—— 扶輪服務接續不停

很不幸地，戰爭的災禍終於在這一幅美麗的遠景罩上陰影。1931年9月間，一群屬於關東軍的日本軍官與兵挾迫日本政府將勢力伸展到中國東北（滿州）。於1937年7月7日終於誘發盧溝橋事變，使中、日兩軍在北平附近啟發戰端，並於當年8月13日在上海引發激烈戰事。

中國的扶輪社在1937-1948年戰禍漫延歲月裡許許多多英雄事蹟的歷史總有一天會被寫出來。在這段期間初期，大部份扶輪社仍然繼續集會，並施行他們的服務計畫。感謝這些守信諾的社員有如鋼鐵般的堅定，使扶輪未曾在中國死去。在戰爭期間中，僅有12個扶輪社仍能在他們原來的城市集會，其餘者則有如難民集在上海的一個處所被稱為『港外的扶輪社員』及『午餐的扶輪社』。不論當時國家遭受災難如何混亂，這些中國扶輪社仍然繼續提供

救護車、醫藥器材及學校的書本等服務，處此危境中，要是換成其他團體早就放棄了。

於 1941 年，3 位中國扶輪社員出席美國柯羅拉多州，丹佛國際扶輪年會，這 3 位當中的顏德慶 Yen Te-Ching 被選任國際扶輪理事會理事。

這些扶輪社雖然仍生存至第二次世界大戰結束，但是在大陸的中華人民共和國當局卻於 1948 年解散所有在中國的扶輪社，中華民國政府亦於同年遷移至台灣。

在台灣這個美麗島上，日據時代原設有台北 Taihoku，基隆 Keelung 與高雄 Takao 三個扶輪社亦於 1945 年宣告結束。然而，這三個社的社員幾乎全是日本人。由於台灣光復，全部日軍及日本人民均自台灣撤退，這三個扶輪社便自然解散。

## 台北扶輪社之成立與擴展基隆、台南、高雄三社

從大陸隨中華民國撤至台灣的部份扶輪社，主要以前昆明扶輪社社員為核心，開始在台北從事於扶輪活動，於 1948 年開始集會，並鼓勵新社員參加。他們的努力非常成功，台北扶輪社終於 1948 年 10 月 9 日獲得授證創立。這個國際團體的創社社長正是中華民國前總統嚴家淦 C.K. Yen。

初設立 5 年，台北扶輪社傾全力於內部之

擴展工作，其社員人數自 26 人增加為 90 人。同時，該社亦展開一系列的服務活動，從援助在馬祖的醫療診所至每年為全台灣大專學生舉辦英語演講比賽等。

台北扶輪社同時亦極力從事於設立新社的擴展工作，初步設定三個目標——在基隆、台南、高雄三地創立新社——終能於 1953 年 12 月及 1954 年元月及 7 月間分別達成任務。使『台北扶輪社』不再是台灣的唯一扶輪社。



台北社創社社長中華民國前總統嚴家淦



朱倚天

## 朱倚天 (E.T.) 與台灣扶輪擴展運動

當時台北扶輪社當選社長朱倚天 E.T. Chu 於出席在美國，華盛頓州，西雅圖舉行的 1954 年國際年會後，同時，前往芝加哥國際扶輪總部訪問，他曾與前秘書長敏恩斯 George Means 懇談。朱倚天社友需要知道如



台北社創社授證典禮全體社友與來賓合影

何使台灣、香港及澳門等地共同設立一個扶輪地區，他所獲得的答覆是最少應成立 15 個扶輪社。當時台灣已設有 4 個社，在香港與澳門另設有 5 個社。朱倚天社友很勇敢地宣稱，他要在台灣再設立 6 個新扶輪社。這 6 個新社經過社員的不斷努力乃先後分別設立：新竹社於 1954 年 12 月 14 日創立，屏東社 1955 年 2 月 26 日，嘉義社 3 月 14 日，台北西區社 3 月 18 日，宜蘭社 3 月 16 日，台中社 5 月 21 日，均在同一年內成立。接著，彰化扶輪社亦於翌年，1956 年 3 月 31 日創社，與港、澳的扶輪社合計已有 16 個扶輪社。

## 困難重重終於 1960 年獲准成立地區

當時曾向國際扶輪社申請恢復以前中國人設立扶輪社的扶輪地區地位，國際扶輪 1956 年開理事會議認為鑑於地理區域及財務之考量，『處於此時，在台灣、香港及澳門的扶輪社不宜構成一個扶輪地區』。

原有這 16 個扶輪社曾於 1957、1958，及 1959 年間分別向國際扶輪聯合申請設立扶輪地區。同時，在這段期間中已另再成立台北北區扶輪社成為本區域的第 17 個扶輪社，接著更設立豐原及台北西北區扶輪社，迄 1960 年，國際扶輪終於核准在台灣、香港，及澳門等地扶輪社聯合設立扶輪地區，定名為第 345 扶輪地區。

## 台灣扶輪的驚人發展

自 1960 年以後，扶輪在台灣以驚人的速度不斷成長。扶輪的壯健乃隨著島上經濟的巨幅發達而來。現在全台灣已擴展為 4 個扶輪地區：第 3460 地區，中部台灣 65 個社，2,619 名社員；第 3470 地區，南部台灣 77 個社，3,065 名社員；第 3480 地區，台北 55 個社，2,863 名社員，及第 3490 地區，北部台灣 55 個社，2,129 名社員。



1994 年台北國際年會籌備主委黃敬譽前總監

## 台灣扶輪服務計畫之擴展

以服務計畫而言，台灣的扶輪社提供非常廣泛的服務項目。如花蓮市的扶輪公園、台北的兒童公園均為扶輪社員所舉辦的服務計畫。其他如為高齡人提供住宅、為原住民免費提供醫療服務、為大專學生提供獎金、為中等學校畢業生提供職業參觀旅行……等，僅為一般在台灣扶輪社員所提供的服務計畫範例，在這裡被列為國際扶輪扶輪基金會『保羅·哈里斯之友』名單中者每年增加 1,000 名以上。

台灣的扶輪社員在他們的社區中素以慷慨捐輸與樂意助人而著稱，然而，他們的慷慨現在已不再侷限於台灣本島。從 1992 年開始，他們曾以巨額現金捐助孟加拉、菲律賓、印尼、波士尼亞及克羅埃西亞等國的貧窮地區。同時於 1992 年，台灣業已發動一項頗具雄心的計畫，為中國大陸的貧窮社區提供援助。把大量的醫院設備、衣服及醫藥供應中國大陸各不同區域。

我們的扶輪社正在為 1994 年與來自海外的所有貴賓會面預作一切準備。因為這是第一次在中國舉行國際扶輪年會，我們務必為此一盛大年會作妥切的安排，我們當可預想扶輪在台灣必有更輝煌的將來。無論如何，沒有人會忘記於 75 年前在繁華的港埠上海這些崇高、奮力的中國扶輪創始人。

本文作者尹彤 Robert T. Yin 現任『中文扶輪月刊』主編，該月刊是扶輪正式核定在台灣發行的地域雜誌。