



Pagoda



Service Above Self

One Profits Most Who Serves Best

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The First Chinese Rotarian in the Rotary World History

Herbert K. Lau

Rotarian Y. C. Tong (TONG Yuen-Cham = 唐元湛 [1861-1921], 號露園, 廣東香山人) was the first Chinese member of the Shanghai Rotary Club in 1920 and with no doubt the first native Chinese Rotarian in the Rotary world history. Tong was a man whose name was known from one end of China to the other, in industrial, commercial, banking (上海商業銀行董事), political, philanthropic and social circles. Shanghai Rotary Club was the last social service organization he joined in his life, but for less than 2 years after joining he passed away on 10th November 1921 at the age of 60.

Tong, together with Tsai Ting-Kan (蔡廷幹) (later Admiral and Charter President 1924 of the Peking Rotary Club), a compatriot from the same birthplace in Guangdong, studied from 1873 until 1881 in Columbia University. On being recalled to his native country (and after brief imprisonment for his 'foreign ways') Tong entered the then newly

Inaugurated Telegraph Service of Imperial China, in which he remained for 33 years, reaching the highest position it was possible to attain - Director-General of National Telegraph Bureau. In 1905 he was appointed Chief Superintendent and Acting General Manager of the Imperial Chinese

Telegraph Association and in this capacity accompanied 5 ministers visiting America, Germany, Scandinavia, Russia, Italy, Austria and England, returning to China in 1906. In 1909 Tong was appointed by the Office for Selection of Students to America as its Commissioner at Shanghai. He was then made representative in Shanghai of the Imperial Government which brought him into intimate contact with the Americans and Europeans of the port - till the revolution in 1911 which resulted in the downfall of the Manchu Empire.

In foreign business circles, Tong was equally well-known especially in connection with disputes between Chinese and foreigners in which it was his frequent office to act as mediator, in most cases, with great success.

During his last ten years Tong had lived in busy "retirement". Tong was officer or member of practically all the welfare, charitable and improvement organizations throughout China. Tong was a founder of more than 10 schools including for the deaf-mute; a founder of The Shanghai Boy Scouts Association of China (上海中華童子軍協會) in 1913; Acting President of Fu Dan University (復旦大學代理校長) in 1918; Chairman of China Red Cross Society (中國紅十字會理事長) in 1919. Tong was also active in struggling for sovereignty, anti-opium, and sports activities. Tong had a perfect command of the English language and also spoke "American", which fact was much in evidence during the baseball session, for he was an ardent "fan".

Tong's greatest fame rested upon his service to Chinese students abroad for which service he was affectionately given the title of [Father of Go West Students]. While in jail he decided to be a father to all students going abroad and, true to his word, not a single Chinese student left for America

without Tong supervising the arrangements. He was the fountain-head of information and the supreme advisor to both boy and girl students.

Tong's deep interest in Rotary was manifested in the following excerpt made from an article written by him:

"I consider my membership in Rotary as the only Chinese representative one of the greatest honors that I have ever received, and I am truly grateful that I have the good fortune to be a member of an organization where such a spirit of good fellowship prevails. There is that atmosphere push and jovial intimacy which cannot but make for the best in the movement for internationalism which is now fast growing in all countries.

"In no other city in the world as such a field for the interpersonal aims and ambitions of Rotary as in Shanghai, and no other country offers greater possibilities for the expression of the true Rotary spirit than China. China is standing on the threshold of internationalism, and looking out for the first time in her history for the better things of the other nations to be made a part of her own life. It is for this reason that I express the hope that more Chinese be brought into the circle of Rotary so that they may absorb that atmosphere of virile progressiveness which is expressed at each weekly meeting."

The Four-Way Test
四大考驗
Sì Dà Kǎo Yàn

Of the things we think, say or do:

我们说的做的要符合: Wǒ men Shuō de Zuò de Yào Fú Hé:

1. Is it the truth?
是真的吗? Shì Zhēn de ma?
2. Is it Fair to all Concerned?
是公平的吗? Shì Gōng Píng de ma?
3. Will it build Goodwill and better Friendships?
是善意的并促进友谊吗? Shì Shàn Yì de - Bìng Cù Jìn Yǒu Yí ma?
4. Will it be Beneficial to all Concerned?
是对大家有利吗? Shì Duì Dà Jiā Yǒu Lì ma?

Date	Topic/Speaker	Venue/Time
April 26 th	Fellowship	皇朝会, 上海市黄浦区广东路20号, 外滩5号3楼。Royal China Club, 3/F Bund 5, No.20 GuangDong Road, Tel: 021-6333 2981
May 3 rd	Interact Day	Marriott City Center, 19:00
May 10 th	Club Assembly	Marriott City Center, 19:00
May 17 th	Mark Zober	Promoting Peace through Rotary Service

April 19th, 2016

Full Name	Club Name	District
Bastien Droz	RC Neuchâtel	Switzerland
Beverly Refugio	RC Red Deer Sunrise	Canada
Jeffrey Dawson	RC Red Deer Sunrise	Canada
Audrey Wang		RCS
Richard Fang		RCS

Members: 24, Visiting Rotarians: 5, Guests: 7, total : 36; Happy Money: 1.800RMB

Highlights from the last meeting

Our last meeting was presided over by Dean. A number of guests from around the world could be welcomed and there were also two banner exchanges. Rotarian Randal lead us into the Four-Way-Test. Given his 18 years experience in China and with Rotary, there surprisingly still seems to be room for improvement. Afterwards Andrew gave us an excellent overview over the Autism Month activities, including the Run-In-Blue, with many excellent and funny photos. Terri Lau exhorted us to join the RC Golf tournament on May 20th. Even non-Golfers can join for the exciting raffle prizes and to win as well as for the excellent dinner. This was followed by a new member induction. Welcome to Tiziana Richiardi (sponsored by Michel). Rita then took the saddle and, together with Dean, collected a generous amount of happy money. Despite the full program there remained still space for our speaker Danny Stoetzer and his colleague Daren Baiport to give their presentation about a new plastic additive their company is selling, which make any plastic biodegradable. The meeting was adjourned with a toast to our new member.

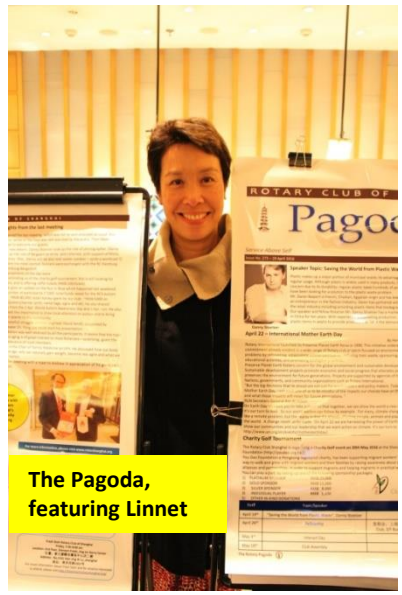
Banner exchange with the RC Neuchâtel



Randal and the Four-Way-Test



New member Tiziana and sponsor Michel



The Pagoda, featuring Linnet

Club Information

Officers & Boardmembers

- Dean Merritt – President
- Andrew Hill – President Elect/Club Admin
- Terri Lau – Vice President
- Linnet Kwok – Hon. Secretary
- Yvon Russon - Treasurer
- Tiffany Storey
- Alejandro Buriel Rocha
- Thilo Koepp
- Marjorie Woo
- Frank Yih (IPP)
- Michel de Vriendt
- Alexandra Taulin (Membership)

Basic Info of our Club

First chartered on 1 October 1919, re-chartered on 8 February 2006
 Number of active members – 77
 Number of honorary members – 6

Contacts

The club meeting is a dinner meeting every Tuesday at Marriott City Center Shanghai
 西藏中路555号No. 555 Middle Xizang Rd
 (18:30 cocktails, 19:00-20:30 dinner)
 Contact the club administrator Vivian Huang at RSPV@rotaryshanghai.org, +86 13501672753

Committees and Directors

- Club Administration Committee**
1st Tuesday of each month, 17:30
Chair: Andrew Hill rotary1617@hotmail.com
- Membership Committee / PR Committee**
2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month, 17:30, dining room
Chair: Alexandra Taulin alexandra.taulin@yahoo.fr
- Community and International Service Committee**
1st Tuesday of each month, 17:00
Chair: Alejandro Buriel Rocha alejandroburiel@smlchinaconsult.com
- Youth service committee**
Last Tuesday of each month, 17:00
Chair: Motohiro Yamane yamane@tmish.com
- Rotary Leadership Award**
Committee Chair: OPEN
- The Rotary Foundation Committee**
Chair: David Smith dave@smithorchards.com
- Percy Chu Awards**
Chair: Marjory Woo marjorie.woo@lmi-china.com

For more information, please visit www.rotarshanghai.org

Rotary Club of Shanghai West
 Wednesday ,18:30-20:30
 Location: Shanghai Pullman Hotel
 位置: 上海中星铂爾曼酒店
 Address: No. 1 Pubei Road, Xuhui District, Shanghai
 上海徐汇区浦北路1号
 For more information please contact President Richard Zi
 Email: zishanghai@hotmail.com

Rotary Club of Shanghai Pudong Lujiazui
 Thursday, 19:00-20:30
 Location: Radisson Blu Hotel (Pudong) in Thumb Plaza, Pudong, Shanghai, 位置: 浦东大拇指广场 证大丽笙酒店
 1199 Yingchun Rd. (close to Fangdian Rd.)
 地址: 迎春路1199号 (靠近芳甸路)
 If you would like to attend Rotary Pudong Meeting
 Please contact President Patrick Hopkins
 Email: pjhopki@gmail.com

Fresh Start Rotary Club of Shanghai
 Friday, 7:45-9:00 am
 Location: 2nd floor, Element Fresh, Jing An Kerry Center
 位置: 新元素静安嘉里中心店二楼
 Address : No.1551 Nan Jing Xi Lu ,shanghai
 地址: 南京西路1551号
 For more information about Fresh Start and for anyone interested to attend, please visit <http://freshstartrotaryshanghai.org/>