

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL
Secretariat Field Service

Copy for:
R.L.
Fong Sec
Hon Com Harris.

12 JAN 1934

Douglas C. Howland

REPORT on HANGCHOW, CHINA.

INDEX?

FILE WHERE?

from DECEMBER 13th 1933 to DECEMBER 15 1933

Altho I had previously visited this club I was anxious to make a return visit to see how the club was operating since they decided to change the language of the meeting from English to Chinese.

On my previous visit this was discussed and I urged them to try and effect the change for many reasons. Firstly, altho it is a place of roughly half a million people, it only has a comparatively small foreign population. Secondly by conducting their meetings in English it excluded the possibility of getting several worthy Chinese who only had a small knowledge of English. Thirdly by making a start with some club I hoped that it would lead them to translate some of the desirable Rotary literature into Chinese.

On my previous visit I had established very warm friendships with some of the Chinese members notably their President and Secretary and by correspondence this had been maintained. It would have been impossible for these people to have shown me greater kindness on my second visit.

I was anxious to find if there was any material in the club from which one could hope to find anyone who would accept such a position as Honorary Commissioner, if it was felt advisable. Here I found Y.P. Wang, formerly a member of the Shanghai club for eight years under the Newspaper classification. At that time he was Assistant Manager of the China Times and a director and until a few months ago retained that position. Altho he now lives at Hangchow he is still a director of that paper. He is a man of 36 years of age. He graduated from Missouri University at Columbia, Missouri in 1921 and afterwards graduated in Journalism at Columbia N.Y. and received his Master of Science degree and returned to China in 1925. He has the reputation for being an energetic type of person, has a fair knowledge of Rotary, and is in line for the next presidency of the Hangchow club. At the present time he is in Government Construction Service.

The entire business of the meeting was conducted in Chinese and I learn that they find it more interesting and naturally a much easier way of expressing themselves. One amusing incident occurred. One of the Brazilian clubs had written to them in Portugese and they had found one member of their club who was able to translate it. The reply was decided on and it was agreed that it should be sent in Chinese altho I believe an English translation will accompany it. I imagine that it might be difficult for this Brazilian club to find anyone capable of translating their reply.

With one exception all the foreign members understand Chinese and seem to enjoy the meetings. Up till now the club have not undertaken much in the way of community service activities but now that they feel that they are all well known to each other they intend to make a start. They have already assisted the Boys Camp and are planning a treat for the newspaper boys at Christmas time.

They have completed and are having printed for circulation among the other Chinese clubs, a charge to new members translated into Chinese. This charge I believe was originally prepared by Carlo Bos. They are also anxious to co operate with Dr Fong Sec in helping with translation of other Rotary literature.

*Copied for
Hangchow
1/30/34*

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REPORT on HANGCHOW. CHINA continued.

from DECEMBER 13 1933 to DECEMBER 15 1933

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This club has a membership now of 32 with some additional names that are being acted on by the membership committee. Nine of these are foreign members. I visited the Christian College which has about 600 resident students and has for its President B.E.Lee. In talking with him I hope I persuaded him to write an article to be submitted to the Rotarian on Hangchow. Its a place of wonderful beauty and historical interest. Further more, to me it is a place of added interest because I hope it will be the pioneer club which will show the way for the introduction of Rotary to a large number of Chinese cities to which Rotary cannot be taken now on account of the fact that no one is sufficiently trained for that work and because there is not a sufficient amount of Rotary literature in Chinese to accomplish this work.

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At some future time when the clubs in China decide to hold a conference, I can think of no more suitable place. It has a good modern hotel, it is a place that attracts the Chinese, many delightful trips could be made to places of interest while at the same time it does not possess the distracting attractions such as golf courses and various forms of evening entertainment that might lure people away from sessions.

The development of this club is to me a very interesting event. If it succeeds in turning out real Rotarians it will be an experiment that will go far to advance Rotary in China. Every encouragement should be given them.

phoned
Harris
1/30/34

The official directory shows their meeting day as Friday 12 15. Y.M.C.A and the Secretary's name as Y.K.Show. This should be changed. The meeting day is Thursday at the same time and place and the Secretary's name is Y.K.Chow - the address is as you have it.

The club presented me with souvenir that I shall always prize very highly. It is a wheel carved in jade and mounted on a carved black wood stand. Its about 2 1/2 inches in diameter and is at first glance almost exactly a replica of a Rotary wheel. I am told that it belongs to the Han Dynasty which was from 206 B.C to 263 A.D. So far as I can ascertain it has no particular significance and was not used in those days as a club button. It has no characters engraved on it altho it has some engraving which was probably added at a later date. If I can get it photographed I will send it to you as it might make an interesting feature for the Rotarian and might re awaken the old argument as to where the Rotary idea first started. I believe 206 B.C almost holds the record.

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D.C. Howland.