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YEAR 1999-2000

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Our 46th Year of Rotary Service Chartered: 6th April, 1954 by Founding President, the late PDG (Uncle) John Yuen Our website address: http://www.rotary.org.hk/hongkong-island-east



What Happened Last Week

President Desmond opened this meeting by passing on some good advice he had received in an e-mail. It was all about how males and females might label the gender of the word "computer" as "la" or "le" if they were French. Amazing to see the differences in perception between males and females!

Rtn Danny lead the introductions. These included:
Dan Ford (West Richmond, Virginia, USA)
Teri Akita (Kawaguchi West)
Sandra Logan (Hong Kong)
PP Ram Tolani (Wanchai)
Anwer Islam (Kings Park) - Speaker
Eddy Wong (PP John)
Miriam Young (Sec. Ates)

Maybe not the highlight of the day, but definitely very important was Rtn Bill's birthday. He asked President Desmond to lead the singing before receiving his Wing On gift.

PDG Y.K. had some important information to announce: The Rotary Club of Ulan Bator in Mongolia is to be proposed for inclusion in our District 3450. At present it is administered directly from Evanston due to its isolation from any other Rotary District. However, it is now being proposed that it be included in our District and members were asked if they supported this proposal. There was unanimous agreement (... which raises the interesting spectre of District 3450 Governors making their annual visits to this remote locality).

PE Tajwar made the surprise announcement of the 40^{th} District Assembly to be held at the Miramar Hotel on Saturday, 6 May. He urged all incoming officers to attend as the registration fees will be covered by the Club.

Acting Sergeant C.Y. then reported that there were 19 (only) members present at this meeting and \$1,700 had been donated.

Definitely one of the highlights of the meeting was the induction of our newest member, Eddy Wong. Eddy has been a member of another noteworthy community organization, the JCs, since 1983, but has had to move on after attaining the age of 40 years. He held the distinguished position in that organization of National President.

Eddie graduated from Chinese University of Hong Kong in 1981, majoring in Marketing. He spent the next 10 years with Life Insurance Professionals and distinguished himself by qualifying for the Million Dollar Round Table for 9 consecutive years. In 1997, he qualified as a Chartered Life Underwriter and was awarded one of the Distinguished Agent Awards in 1995. He is now a member of the Long Range Planning Committee of the HKJC.

Eddy's non-professional interests include movies, travel, music and reading. Club members warmly welcome Eddy into the Club.

Finally, PP Hubert introduced the guest speaker, Rtn Anwer Islam, from the RC of Kings Park. Anwer is the founder and Director of Chine Gallery, having worked in the Chinese antique furniture field since 1984. His business supplies important furniture items to major antique dealers from Europe, America, Taiwan, Singapore, Japan, etc.

Anwer showed a number of slides to illustrate how Chinese furniture evolved from a mat culture to the use of seating platforms, then tables, chairs, screens, etc. This began during the period of Warring States and is evident in the paintings extant from that period. He showed slides of the structural complexity and ingenious joint work developed by the Chinese who did not use glues or nails.

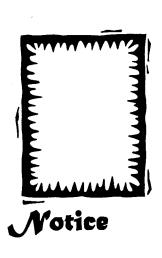
It was also of interest to find that much of the very ornate and carved furniture that is claimed to be Chinese, is in fact Manchurian, from the period 1644 - 1911. True Han Chinese furniture is better exemplified as Ming style - much more simple and elegant in form, and compatible with modern tastes.

Generally, the factors that determine values in Chinese furniture are its age, rarity, present condition, and significantly, the timber with which it is constructed. Pre-eminent among the timbers is Huang Huali, a very rare and hard wood.

To conclude his talk, Anwer displayed a slide of an intricately carved screen in Huang Huali timber and veined marble which he auctioned, beginning with a starting bid of US\$100,000. President Desmond raised his hand to scratch his head and inadvertently committed himself to a US\$1 million purchase. (Last seen, he was asking if he could have the Club's donations for the day as a deposit.)

To conclude, PE Tajwar thanked Anwer for his interesting information and presentation.

To close the meeting, President Desmond proposed a toast to the Rotary Club of West Richmond, Virginia.



We missed you on 3rd May 2000!!!

Team 1 Liu Stephen; Luk, John

Team 2 Chan, Kenny; Hall, Peter; Li, Francis Team 3 Fung, Lewis; Lai, Robert; Pang, K.T.

Team 4 Kuang, Peter; Li, David

Team 5 Loy, Tony; Luy, Henry; Narain, Kishu; Shek, Andrew;

Yao, John

Team 6 Chan, Joseph; Chan, Paul; Howe, Chris

18 members missing 46.1%!!! Missing

Please makeup!!!

COURTESY TO SPEAKERS

Due to an incident that occurred during the meeting last week, it has become necessary to remind members that they have an obligation to refrain from distracting or interrupting speakers, whether they be Club members or from outside. This refers particularly to members talking loudly among themselves while they are being addressed. At most, and if it is really necessary, members should only communicate in whispers. I'm sure all members understand and appreciate this basic courtesy that is an aspect of Rotary meetings and good fellowship.

Potary Information

Matching Grant illuminates lives of Agandan villagers

February 28 in Rukungiri, Uganda, was a day marked by joyous celebration. But it was not a local holiday. It was the day Nyakagyeme Secondary School got electricity.

"Students sang and danced," wrote Morrison Patrick Murindwa, president-elect of the Rotary Club of Rukungiri (District 9200). "The entire village is jubilant and thankful." His letter was to members of the Rotary Club of La Jolla Golden Triangle, California, USA, (District 5340), who partnered with the Ugandan club to equip the school with a solar energy system.



Jake was dying. His wife, Becky, was maintaining a candlelight vigil by his side. She held his fragile hand, tears running down her face. Her praying roused him from his slumber. He looked up and his pale lips began to move slightly.

"My darling Becky," he whispered.

"Hush, my love," she said. "Rest. Shhh, don't talk."

He was insistent. "Becky," he said in his tired voice. "I ... I have something I must confess to you.'

"There's nothing to confess," replied his weeping Becky. "Everything's okay; go to sleep."

"No, no. I must die in peace, Becky. I ...I slept with your sister, your best friend, her best friend, and your mother!"

I know, Becky whispered softly. "That's why I poisoned you."



THE EASTER BUNNY GETS A RUDE AWAKENING.

Club's postal address: P.O. Box 47064, Morrison Hill Post Office, HK Make-up cards to: Miss Elsa Li, Rm 1021 Sun Hung Kai Centre, 30 Harbour Road, Hong Kong. Fax: (852) 2827 5086 Bulletin Materials to Rtn Rob Fielding Fax (852) 2774 5067 Vol.47 No.44 10/5/2000

Rotary Club of Hong Kong Island East meet each Wednesday at 12:30 p.m. in Excelsior Hotel. Club 4350 - District 3450 of Rotary International



Speaker, Mr. Anwer Islam giving members some good advice on Chinese antiques.





Our newest member, Mr. Eddy Wong being inducted by Pres. Desmond.



PE Tajwar enjoying the company of visitor Teri Akita (Kawaguchi West).



Rtn. Rudy seated next to visiting Rotarian Dan Young (West Richmond, USA) & guest Miriam Young...







Rtn Dan Young (West Richmond) exchanging banners with President Desmond.

Rtn Bill receives his birthday gift from Pres. Desmond.



At the head table, Sec Ates entertains visitors, Rtn Sandra Logan & PP Ram Tolani.



Visitors & guests to the club, 3 May, 2000