



In Memoriam - Mr Eugene Li Yiu-Bor
李耀波老師
(?-1977)
Taught at Wah Yan College, Kowloon, 1945-1963

A. From Student to Form-Master

Wah Yan Graduate, 1929

He was one of eight students that made up the first graduating cohort of Wah Yan College in 1929.

1929	First graduating class with 8 students, among them were The Hon. Mr. Eugene Li Yiu-Bor and Mr. Tso Kwok-Cheung who is still residing in Toronto as of 2002
------	--

<http://jesuitas.org.hk/contact/wyck-timeline.htm>

Timeline of Wah Yan College

Urban Councilor, 1956

We are proud also to put on record Mr. Li Yiu Bor's election to the Urban Council. We congratulate him on this great honour and we are sure that he will continue for many years to give his valued assistance and advice in the conduct of public affairs.

Extracted from The Shield 4 (1956) editorial

Left Wah Yan College, Kowloon, 1963

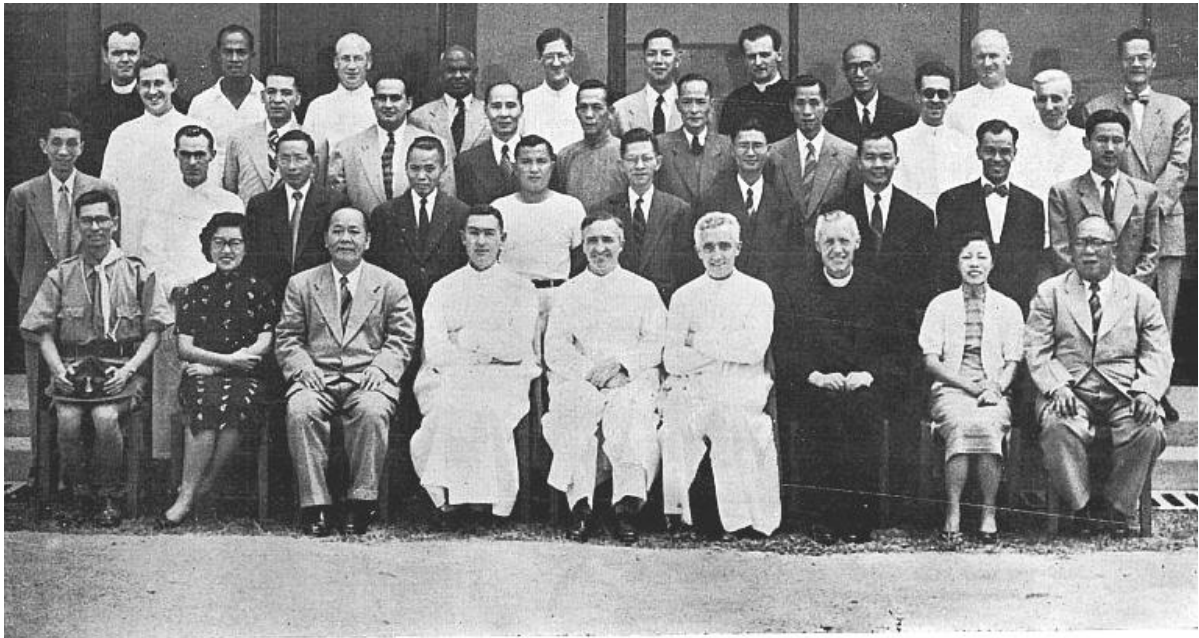
But other giants have also left. Mr. Li Yiu Bor has been one of the foundations of Wah Yan College Kowloon, having been with us for nearly thirty years. We very much regret his departure and wish him success in the new undertakings he has launched for the advancement of learning in Hong Kong, particularly as the first Headmaster of Pui Shing Chinese School. Another very great loss to the scholastic and cultural life of the college is the depar-

Extracted from The Shield 12 (1964) editorial

Form-Master at Wah Yan College, Kowloon, 1952-1963

He was form-master of F2A throughout his entire stay at Wah Yan. No other Father or teacher was the form-master/form-mistress throughout his/her stay at Wah Yan 10 years or more.

B. Photographs, 1952-1967



THE STAFF (1952-1953)

1952-1953, Staff – top row – 1st right

FORM II A

**Form-master:
Mr. Li Yiu Bor.**



F2A, 1952-1953



1952-1953, in the staff room, smiling



The Hon. D.J.S. Crozier, O.B.E. with Mr. Li Yiu Bor, at the opening of the Summer School for Catholic student-teachers of Northcote and Grantham Training Colleges, July 1956.

1956-1957, with Northcote and Grantham Training College students – second row from bottom (seated) - 1st left



FORM II A.

F2A, 1957-1958



After a staff dinner . . . hence the happy smiles!

1959-1960, Staff Dinner – 3rd row from top – 2nd right



THE SCHOOL STAFF, 1960-1961

1960-1961, Staff – bottom row – 3rd left

*Taken
by
surprise*



1957-1958, Sports Day



"Wilt thou be baptized?"

1958-1959, at the baptism ceremony



His Excellency Bishop Bianchi confers on Mr. Li Yiu Bor the Papal Decoration "Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice" in recognition of his outstanding service to the Pope and the Church.

1962-1963, with Bishop Bianchi (see note below)

Extracted from the Editorial from The Shield 11 (1963)

One of our most senior teachers and one heldest in the highest respect and reverence by several generations of Wah Yan students, Mr. Eugene Li Yiu Bor, was honoured by his late Holiness Pope John XXIII by a special decorating 'Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice'. This is in recognition of very splendid work for education and for his service to the Church and to the Pope. We wish to add our formal congratulations upon this great and singular honour.

C. 1967, Honoured Guest on Prize Distribution Day, from The Shield (1967) – 3 Photos



本校頒獎日市政局議員李耀波先生伉儷蒞校時攝



*Fr. Reid (Headmaster) escorts
Mrs. Li to the hall.*



Fr. Cunningham accompanying Mr. Li and Mr. J. G. Lowe.

Mr Li's Speech

This Mrs. Li did with an easy grace and with a warm smile of welcome for every student.

This mounting of the stage was, of course, each boy's 'big moment'. Behind it lay for him the very purpose of the ceremony — the receiving, in the presence of his happy parents and to the applause of his schoolmates and of the gathering, of that certificate he had studied so hard and so long to gain: — the quick assault on to the stage, the receiving of the certificate, the congratulatory shake-hands, the bow by bob or nervous jerk to the audience, and the hasty disappearance back to his place — all spoke eloquently the happy excitement and joyful gratification of the certificate winners. When the last shake-hands, plain and scout, had been given, Mr. Li Yiu Bor rose to speak:

'My wife and I feel much honoured in being invited to address the school and to present the certificates and prizes at your Speech Day this evening.

'Having been educated in the two Wah Yans myself, having had all my boys educated here, and having had the pleasure of working here for more than thirty years, I feel that I am a part of the large family of Wah Yan, and to me, this happy occasion is an occasion of home coming — the home coming of a prodigal son.

'Since I left Wah Yan, I have been a regular visitor of the school, and on every visit I have invariably detected some improvement: the boys are generally better behaved; the paintings of the boys and the photographs of the teachers attain greater artistic heights; the flowers are more beautiful; and even the lawns are greener. In this connection, I am glad to hear that the school is planning another improvement for the benefit of the boys — a new wing to the main building to house more laboratories and a library worthy of the name of the school, and that the only obstacle which stands in the way is a sum of a quarter of a million dollars. I hope I shall not be accused of digressing if I take this opportunity to appeal to all parents and friends of the school for their generous assistance to make this project a reality.

Friendly atmosphere of the school

'Apart from its long and fine tradition and the fact that the school keeps on improving, what qualities characterise Wah

Yan, Kowloon, as one of the outstanding educational institutions of Hong Kong, one may ask? To my mind, the most important quality is the friendly atmosphere pervading all the activities of the school. This friendly spirit is a symbol of love and Christian charity which characterise the work of the dedicated Fathers of the Society of Jesus as well as the lay teaching staff of the school.

'A boy who has been educated in such a happy atmosphere is bound to be friendly to people with whom he comes in contact and is likely to be able to influence them, by his example, to be friendly to others as well. I have on many occasions watched Wah Yan boys at work in private firms and Government offices, and have always found them friendly and courteous in their dealings with members of the public. I do hope and believe that the school leavers who have received their certificates to-day will bring this friendly spirit with them into the community of which they form a part.

Courtesy: our duty

'Let us remember that in whatever stations of life we may find ourselves, we have our duty to perform. We shall feel much happier if in the execution of our daily duties we can bring a little sunshine into the life of other people. We may not notice it ourselves, but a little smile to a stranger, a kind word to your servant, a friendly greeting to your neighbour, or a little courtesy to your colleague, will make the day brighter for many people. Even in moments of stress it is better to avoid any expression of anger or annoyance, and you will probably succeed in doing so if you can remember the friendly atmosphere of your Alma Mater in which you have been so happily brought up.

The public's complaints

'If you read the correspondence columns of newspapers or periodicals, you will find that complaints and criticism appear to be the order of the day. There are complaints about the behaviour of civil servants, employees of public utilities and others as well as criticism directed against personalities and institutions. True, these columns are meant for readers to air their grievances, but quite a few of the complaints, justified or otherwise, are of a trivial nature while the criticism offered is usually not followed by a workable solution. Moreover, before

making a complaint, have we examined our own conduct to see that it was completely blameless in our dealing with the people about whom we wish to complain? If we do this, we shall probably discover that the aggrieved party is occasionally not ourselves, but the people about whom we desire to lodge a complaint.

Kindness to others

'A patient accuses his doctor of being taciturn or non-committal, and his doctor accuses him of asking stupid questions. We accuse the man at the counter of being rude to us, but he might with equal justification accuse us of expecting too much from him. Right or wrong, these accusations and counter-accusations, besides being the cause of ulcers and sleepless nights, do not contribute to our happiness or our friendly relations with others. When we have been unkind to others in word or deed, is it not better for us to apologise for our fault than to attempt to justify it; and when others hurt our pride or our feelings, is it not better for us to learn to forgive and forget than to say or do something which we shall probably live to regret? As we journey through life (which at best is but a short one), we shall make others happy, and we shall be happy ourselves, if we can practise Christian charity in our personal contacts with our brethren.

'Boys of Wah Yan, you have received a sound moral training in this school, and as I said earlier, you have been educated in a friendly atmosphere. Let this training be the foundation upon which you will build your future career, and I have no doubt that you will succeed in whatever you may undertake. See that you deal honestly and fairly with all, and that you always do your best in carrying out your duties, however humble they may be.

Selfless service

'Remember that we all owe the community a debt, and that we must repay part of this debt by doing some deed, however small, to assist the less fortunate members of the community. Do not say that you can ill afford the time or money in this work. You can always find the time if you really make an effort, and money is not the only means by which you can serve others. Remember also that any service worthy of the name demands some personal

sacrifice on your part, and see that you do make a sacrifice, in time or money, when you serve. Let your service be completely selfless and let it be offered willingly and without fanfare. Worldly honours and other forms of recognition are very good things themselves, but these are not lasting rewards. If you serve in the spirit of love, you will reap the rich rewards desired by and promised to every Christian. Finally, remember the good name of Wah Yan which it is the duty of every one of us to uphold.'

This speech, so simple, so sincere in its appeal for the exercise of 'the little virtues' in our daily lives, was received with warm applause.

Our school Captain, Kwong Hon Sing, spoke some words of thanks to those who had presided and to those other visitors who had honoured us by coming. His delivery was excellent, and his words very well chosen. He appealed to Mr. Li to add to his kindness in being present by performing one further act of kindness — the winning of a school holiday for us. Mr. Li needed no prompting; turning to Mr. Lowe, he put in a very kind word for us; and Mr. Lowe's smile and easy gesture of a waving hand were unerringly translated into a generous 'Of course' by the boys. Mr. Li's announcing of this good news was met with the thunder of applause it deserved.

Little Wong Kei On of Form 1 then mounted the stage to present a bouquet to Mrs. Li.

Our school choir, who had been practising for weeks under the skilled baton of Mr. Hsueh, our Music Teacher, then treated us to three excellently sung songs. The school hymn was then sung; and then happy groups of boys and parents, of boys and classmates and other friends then delivered themselves over to the flashes of the photographers.

The evening ended with a very happy meal for boys and teachers in the cafeteria. We were very happy to see so many of our former teachers, who had taught the certificate-winners, come back to share in the ceremony of the prize-giving and to join us at the dinner.

Then to bed — but not to dream, one can imagine — rather to *think* happily of this great day of success attained.

D. Extracted from The Shield 25 (1977)

OBITUARY



MR. EUGENE LI YIU BOR

When God took Mr. Li to Himself, He took a very dear and respected friend from us, his teaching colleagues, and from about five generations of Past Students.

After teaching in Wah Yan College, Hong Kong for ten years, Mr. Li joined the teaching staff of our college, in its Nelson Street premises in 1945, and stayed with us until 1963; that the Bishop Hsu invited him to be the first Headmaster of the new diocesan school, Pui Shing. We were very sorry to lose him.

During his eighteen years with us, he won the respect of his classes by his never-failing courteous manner, and he won their affection by his gentleness and kindness. He never scolded; he encouraged; indeed, the adage that 'A spoonful of honey is better than a barrellful of vinegar' was the basis of his relationship with his classes, and this is why they were so fond of him, and gave a readier response to his teaching. Nor was it only inside the classroom that he showed his kindness. He was always generous in responding to appeals from the boys to 'promote' some extra-curricular activity with a subscription or donation. When the altarboys wished to have a shield for their inter-group competition, it was to Mr. Li that they made their pleas; and he donated a very nice one — and presented it to the winners of the Final. This was not the only activity he set on its feet financially — but what made the recipients most happy was the evident pleasure Mr. Li showed in being able to 'help out'.

May he rest in peace.

E. Memories

Dear Hin Shing,

Memories of Mr Li

Reading what you have gathered up to now (Jan 27, 2012), I could perhaps add to it my memories of Mr Li, though they are neither numerous nor deep. He was my teacher for a short while in Form 7 Arts (1962), teaching both Biblical Knowledge and Translation (which formed a new section of the AL Chinese Language paper, for HKU started its translation option and the examination paper was accordingly modified.) He had been teaching in Wah Yan, both Hong Kong and Kowloon, for close to 28 years then and was about to leave in 1963. (We of course did not know about that.) He was always dressed in a suit, and with his bespectacled face, well-groomed hair, serious demeanor, tall stature, gaunt and gentlemanly gait, made an imposing figure. What impressed me most was his impeccable English, with its clear articulation and measured delivery, British in accent. His Chinese had to be good to teach translation at that level. I remember him showing us equivalent Chinese-English proverbs in a translation class. In addition, something very trivial remains in my memory, for he excused himself every now and then during teaching and left us, presumably to go to the toilet, to return a little later, which would indicate some illness, whether serious or not we had no idea. He taught us but for a short time, for he took leave of absence just months into the school year. I heard that he was to lead a delegation of Catholic lay persons to the Second Vatican Council, which was to set a new direction for the Church (though not to everyone's liking. Your file on Fr Toner showed that he was not altogether happy with it. But Fr O'Neill seemed to have found his calling in revising the liturgy, later in Singapore.) And one result of Vatican II was a greater role for the laity in the Church. From this, it is clear that Mr Li was a lay Catholic active in church affairs; indeed, he was decorated for his service to the Church by Pope John XXIII through Bishop Bianchi. He was a distinctive personality in many ways. He was a Wah Yan graduate of the first cohort as well as a long-serving teacher; this dual student-teacher identity is one of the distinguishing features of our school. You have noted that he was an exceptionally long-serving class master of Form 2 A. He was the one invited by Bishop Hsu, who became bishop after Bishop Bianchi, to be the first headmaster of the diocesan school Pui Shing Catholic Middle School. He was also a J.P. , like Mr Lee Hoi Chau who shared his immaculate way of dressing. His generosity and courtesy are qualities prominent in his obituary. I am reminded of the meaning of his name Eugene: "noble", "well-born," a name adopted by four popes.

Fong-ying
Jan. 27, 2012

END

Compiled by Wong Hin-Shing and Yu Fong-ying, February 11, 2012