



In Memoriam - Mr Andrew Lim Hoy-Lan

林海瀾校長

(1897-May 4, 1967)

Headmaster, Wah Yan College, Kowloon, 1925-1927; 1933-1952



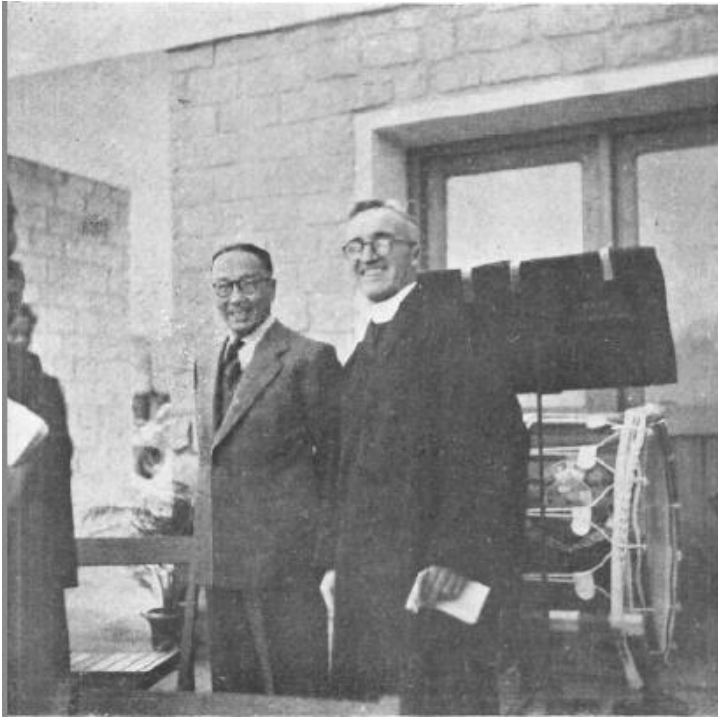
Plaque in Wah Yan College, Kowloon – List of Principals

Bust



德仁書院創辦人林海瀾先生銅像

A. Photographs, 1952-1961



Mr. Lim Hoy Lan
with
Fr. Rector.

1952-1953, Open Day



*The Hon. D. J. Crozier and Mrs. Crozier with V. Rev. T. Byrne, S.J.
and Mr. Lim Hoy Lan before the ceremony.*

1958-1959, Prize Distribution Day

C. RIP – 1967, extracted from *The Shield* 15 (1967)



MR. ANDREW LIM HOY LAN

The news of Mr. Lim's sudden death on Ascension Thursday, May 4 this year, struck his family and his host of friends and acquaintances with a dreadful shock. He had a heart-attack some years ago, but he weathered it well and continued as the active headmaster of his school, Tak Yan, Nelson Street. When visiting Shanghai about two years ago, he fell seriously ill and it was some time before he was on his feet again. He handed over the headmastership of Tak Yan to his son, Mr. Henry Lim, though he continued to take an interest in the school — but then he went on 'active retirement', living quietly at home though always much up and about in his domestic interests, meetings with friends outside, and gardening. He had been somewhat off form some time before his death and spent a short while in hospital. The night before he died, he had been at a dinner with friends and was discussing his 70th birthday, to be celebrated two days later. The end came swiftly; he collapsed soon after a spell at gardening, and when the doctor arrived he was beyond human aid. Very big crowds of friends paid their last respects to him

during the two days when the body lay in the Funeral Parlour; and a large number attended the funeral in Happy Valley. The obsequies were performed by Fr. McAsey, who had been greatly indebted to Mr. Lim for putting his house at his disposal for Sunday Mass for the Catholics living in the district. In the school here, we had a Requiem Mass, and the chapel was packed with teachers and boys who prayed for the repose of the soul of one to whom Wah Yan owes such a great debt. Later his family had a Requiem Mass said here, and this was attended by many friends also — and the teachers organised a third Mass in the school to be offered by themselves and Past Students.

For the following biography of Mr. Lim as the educationist we must express our thanks to Mr. Pun Yau Pang, now teaching here. He had been teaching for many years under Mr. Lim in the Nelson Street Wah Yan — but his first meeting with Mr. Lim was in 1921 when, as a little boy, he sat in Mr. Lim's class in the newly opened Wah Yan College, Robinson Road. Mr. Lim was co-partner with Mr. Peter

Tsui who had transferred his 96 students from his Hollywood Road school and his 200 students from his second school in Peel Street, and amalgamated both in his Wah Yan, Robinson Road, venture. Mr. Tsui looked after the administration, and Mr. Lim threw himself wholeheartedly into the educational work. Mr. Pun still remembers Mr. Lim's drive and the demands he made on the boys. School ended at 4 p.m. — but Mr. Lim kept them working till 5.30. This 'mill' paid dividends, because the final examination results were so excellent, so rich in Distinctions, that the school was approved as a Grant-in-aid Institution. In later years in Wah Yan, Nelson Street, Mr. Lim, recounting these early years, used to say with a smile and a chuckle, "It was then the boys gave me my nickname, 'Tiger Lim' ". In 1925 Mr. Tsui retired, and Mr. Lim became Headmaster. In 1932 the school was handed over to the Jesuits — and thus Mr. Tsui and Mr. Lim became our very great benefactors — they were asking us to take over an excellently-run and highly esteemed institution.

Wah Yan College in Portland Street, Kowloon, transferred to Nelson Street in post-war years and Mr. Lim followed Mr. Chow Cheng Lam as Headmaster. He invited our Fathers to teach there until the present Wah Yan, Kowloon, was opened in 1952. Mr. Lim continued to run the Nelson Street school and re-named it Tak Yan. He put no advertisement in the papers about the opening of 'Tak Yan' — he just let it be quietly known among those boys who were transferring to the new Wah Yan — and over 2,000 applied for entrance.

He was well-known as an organiser of schools and his advice was often sought. He helped to organise Shing Tak School. He co-operated lately with others to start Hoi Kiu School in Castle Peak Road, and

left many schools in the New Territories greatly in his debt for the help he rendered when they were being launched. Among these is Shung Ching of Yuen Long.

Mr. Lim was a first rate teacher and 'teacher of teachers'. His delivery was very impressive and thoroughness was his keynote. He was a very strict disciplinarian with a commanding personality. He was severe with offenders, and these would leave his office after their half-hour's being hauled over the coals feeling far more than singed. Yet, he was most considerate to good students. Many of his Past thronged his doors before Entrance Day to get their sons into the school, and when asked why they were so insistent on getting them into 'the mill', they said that they wished their sons to have the benefit of Mr. Lim's splendid discipline. They might have groaned under it in their schooldays; they appreciated it in later years. 'Tiger-trained' was 'top-trained'. This desire to have their children's names inscribed in the roll books was due not only to their esteem for his spirit of discipline but also to the high regard they held the teaching staff in — as Mr. Lim was an expert in training teachers. He took a personal interest in each and made great demands on them so that they would fit in with his system. When a new teacher was engaged, Mr. Lim instructed him as how he wished the teaching to be done; he sat in during classes and then saw the teacher privately, and pointed out any deviations from his 'system'. 'You may be using better systems than mine', he would say — 'but I wish you to use *mine*'. Thus he ensured uniformity in the teaching system all through the school. This insistence on 'my system' may have caused growing pains in the young teachers — but it produced its fruit — a series of excellent teachers and excellent results; and despite the resentment they may have felt at first

in being thus 'hobbled', they *did* realise that in insisting on their following his system, he was not 'pushing' his own interests; he wished that the boys would get beyond their money's worth in education. In this way he inspired the teachers with his own thoroughness, his service of the boys and his devotedness to the teaching profession.

Although invited to join many societies,

he declined all except **Rotary**; over the years he always made it a point to attend its weekly meetings. (He was President of the Teachers' Association for one term.) He had a great charm of manner and was a delightful host. The great numbers that attended the obsequies were a tribute to the esteem they had for him and to the warmth of friendship with him for so many years.

May he rest in peace.


D. Remembrance

Extracts from **The Shield 43 (1995)**

(Note: The years of Mr Lim's headmastership are slightly different from those in the plaque at the beginning of the file)

Reminiscences
The Principals

The Principals



Mr. Andrew Lim Hoy Lan

***Mr. Andrew Lim Hoy Lan 1926-28, 1932-52
& Mr. Chow Ching Lam 1929-31***

Mr. Lim was co-partner with the founder of Wah Yan, Mr. Peter Tsui, in his Wah Yan, Robinson Road venture. Mr. Tsui was responsible for the administration of the school and Mr. Lim, working wholeheartedly, was in charge of the educational work. Mr. Lim's demands on the students were very high, as he himself was very dedicated in his work. The school ended at four p.m., but Mr. Lim kept the boys working until five thirty! Mr. Lim was then given a nickname, "Tiger Lim". But the hard work of Mr. Lim and his students was given fruitful harvest, the final examination was so rich in Distinctions that the school was approved as a Grant-in-aid Institution.

In 1925, Mr. Tsui retired and Mr. Lim became the Principal on 1st January, 1926. The following years were a period of steady growth and success in examinations. More and more people applied for seats in the College. Wah Yan College, Kowloon moved from Portland Mansions to a specially newly built school in Nelson Street. In 1928, Mr. Lim resigned as the Principal and Mr. Chow Cheng Lam became the Principal.