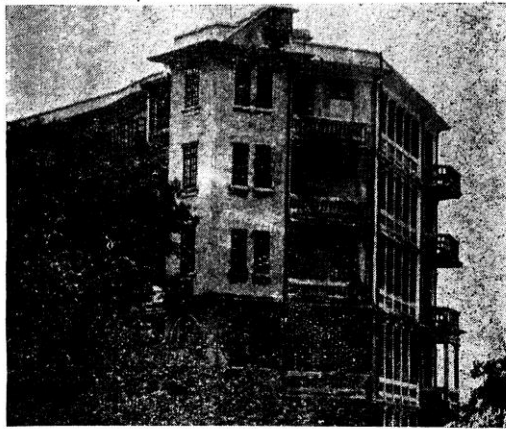


Wah Yan College— Hong Kong

By JAMES SZETO AND THOMAS FAN

The history of Wah Yan has been remarkable. It started from a very small beginning. On December 16th, 1919, thirty one years ago, a teacher with four boys sat round a table in a dingy flat in No. 6 Hollywood Road. That was the beginning of Wah Yan. The headmaster was Mr. Peter Tsui. But by the following year the number of pupils had increased to nearly 200 and new premises were hunted in Peel Street and Mosque Street. January 1921 brought stability, and No. 8 Robinson Road became Wah Yan College and it has remained ever since. From then on the school continued to develop under the able direction of its Headmaster, Mr. Tsui and with the energetic assistance of Mr. Lim Hoy Lan, who was associated with the work from the beginning. In 1924 a branch was opened in Kowloon and Wah Yanites could be seen peeping out the windows of their new school in Portland Street.



In December, 1926, two Irish Jesuits gazed with admiration at the High Building stabbing the sky. Little did they think that one day it would be under their charge. In September 1932, five Jesuit Fathers formed part of the teaching staff. Wah Yan was taken over by the Society of Jesus in December in the same year. The name Wah Yan was retained, but in the records of the Jesuit Order a new name was added; "College of Christ the King." Mr. Lim Hoy Lan took over the management of the Kowloon Branch.

With the coming of the Jesuit Fathers, certain features of the school life were more developed. Religious Instruction was given regularly; house competitions gave an opportunity to all the boys in the school to share in games and athletics. By leaps and bounds Wah Yan won its position among the leading schools in the Colony and just before the Japanese came, another new Kowloon Branch was established at Austin Road.

During the Japanese Occupation, Wah Yan though labouring under critical financial and many other difficulties, like other Catholic schools, still tried bravely to carry on the holy duty of education.

In 1948, Very Rev. Fr. Bourke resigned and Rev. Fr. A. Cooney came in as Rector. Under his outstanding direction, the school has grown in strength and influence. For many years Wah Yan won and is still holding the Senior Basketball Championship in the Colony. Last year, Wah Yan came first in the postwar Inter-School Aquatic Sports sponsored by the Education Department. On the intellectual

side, the school has a Music Society, a Debating Society, a Camera Club, a successful Dramatic Society, a very active Scout Group while examination results show the high standard maintained in studies.

Owing to the increasing demand for admission, the School authorities were stirred to make even greater efforts on behalf of education. From September of last year, Wah Yan was divided into two sections, the morning and the afternoon schools. Besides this, at the present time, a new and most up-to-date Wah Yan College building is being built on Waterloo Road, Kowloon.

Wah Yan is thirty-one years old. It has grown from the little room with one teacher and four pupils into a great institution embracing in its various sections a total of 80 teachers and more than two thousand boys.