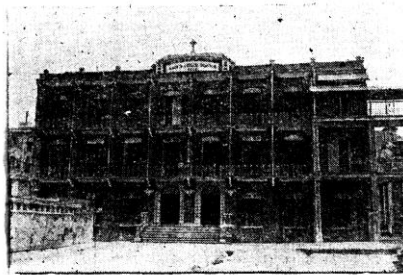


History of the French Convent

By Lydia Xavier
and
Otilia Marques

In the year 1848, four sisters of St. Paul of Charters, arrived Hong Kong to fulfill the plan of Bishop Forcade to establish a hospital, a boarding-school, novitiate and other necessary buildings.

Our School

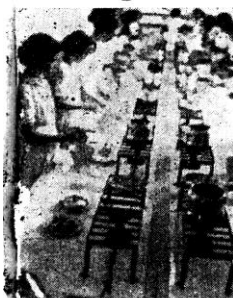


The main building of the Anglo-French School at Causeway Bay

After hard labour, the Sisters had a suitable building at Causeway Bay. But soon it became too limited and it was decided that they transfer to the Hong Kong Cotton Mill which was situated between the Race Course and the Pole ground at Causeway Bay. This was done in 1854.

When it became necessary to transform this factory into establishments capable of accommodating an Orphanage, the Sisters' Convent, an Anglo-French School and a hospital, its transformation began on the 17th December 1914 and was completed on the 17th May. In 1916, the foundation stone of the new buildings was laid by His Excellency Sir Francis Henry Roberts, at that time the governor of Hong Kong.

Cooking Class



The cost of erecting these new buildings and the land was \$5,000. But the transformation was a success and the Anglo-French School was able to take day-boarders.

At that time, the school could only have 200 pupils but, as the years went by, they were increased to 800. In order that the pupils should have a complete education, a new "Lecture Hall" and a "Cinema" was built in 1922.

From 1922 to 1940, the school prospered rapidly until the end of the war when war broke out.

Building Damaged by War

The "Lecture Hall" which was built in front of the present school building was demolished.

The school chapel, which is the pride and joy of every Paulinian, was also badly damaged. But in the later years when peace was declared, the school once more resumed its usual activities. Funds were raised to repair the buildings which had been damaged. Both teachers and pupils, with their fine co-operation, have helped to raise the necessary funds for the erecting of new buildings which now form the Orphanage. The old "Lecture Hall" was pulled down in 1946, and the ground on which it stood has been converted into a playground and basket-ball court.

The New Site

The tuckshop which is the favourite spot of all the students is going to be replaced by a canteen and a soda fountain. The school will be extended with more classes. The "old hall" is now being pulled down, and a new theatre which can accommodate 900 people will stand in its place. This new building will also have a bigger library for all the students who want to pass their leisure time browsing through well-known authors' books. The present "room of knowledge" has over 1,500 books including volumes on adventure, history, religion, science, philosophy and fiction. The last has proved to be the most popular reading material with the students.

VICTORIOUS HURDLES TEAM



Otilia Marques, at extreme right, is a member of the Press Group.