



THE EARLY DAYS OF HONG KONG SCOUTING—PART 6

ARCHIVES OF THE PAST – Part 2

The St. Joseph’s College Boy Scouts were found to be well organized and popular with the expatriate community in Hong Kong. In the Bulletin of the Catholic Ladies’ Union dated 10th October 1913 it was reported that

Boy Scouts

Another movement that should be of interest to all has been inaugurated at St. Joseph’s College. The new Director, Br. Adrian, has not allowed the grass to grow beneath his feet. He has started among the boys a Corps of Boy Scouts, and has secured the co-operation of four keen workers — Major Bowen; Mr. J. A. Edwards, late of the Royal Navy, a new-comer to Hongkong; Mr. Roylance, late of the West Kent Regiment, and Gunner Statter, of the Royal Garrison Artillery.

Over 60 boys having submitted applications to join the Corps, they were formally enrolled on the 11th inst. They have already set to work with the keenness of youth; and thus St. Joseph’s College has given one more proof of its determination not to be behindhand in all that appertains to the well-being of the Catholic youth of the Colony. Another Corps of Scouts is already in existence in Kowloon. It remains for the boys of St. Joseph’s College to prove themselves if not first in the field at least first in efficiency.

The present intention in St Joseph’s College is to divide the Corps into a number of patrols, each with its own distinguishing title, such as the “Wolf” Patrol, or the “Fox”, the “Boar”, or the “Tiger”. Boys only will be chosen who are keen and wide-awake. It will be an honour as well as a pleasure to be enrolled in the Corps of Scouts.

A small subscription will be required for uniform and necessary expenditure. The khaki uniform will be of the authorised pattern, and must be kept smart and clean.

The motto of the Scout is “Be prepared”. Two others also are used “Stick it” and “All Smiles”.

The scout must be loyal, obedient and kind to all — to his fellows, to the fair sex and to animals. Unkindness to anything great or small will be very severely dealt with.

In the school playground they will be taught the elements of drill and signalling. Indoors map-reading and drawing, and how to write a good and clear report. The proper work of the school will not, of course, be interfered with, but scouting will be supplementary and indeed a help to it.

The Corps will be under a Chief Scout Master, and each patrol will have its own Patrol Master. Boys can rise from the ranks to positions of trust and responsibility, and rewards will be given for good work done.

It is earnestly hoped that parents will encourage their sons, and sisters their brothers, in a work which should do much to make their after-life a success. In Major Bowen they have an officer of experience for chief scout master; but the main work of teaching will be done by Mr. Edwards (with Mr. Roylance and Gunner Statter under him); and these have brought to their task a spirit of enthusiasm which is the best and surest augury of success.