

A Chronology of Lou Tseng-Tsiang

Tripod Staff

- 1871 June 12: Born to a Protestant family in Shanghai. His father Lou Yong-Fong had been a catechist for the London Missionary Society.
- 1879 His mother died.
- 1881 Studied at a private village school.
- 1883 Studied at a language school, specializing in French. His teacher was a Frenchman, Mr. Alphonse Bottu.
- 1890 Graduated from the language school, then entered *Tongwen guan*, the school for interpreters in Beijing.
- 1892 The Department of Foreign Affairs sent him to Russia, Germany, Austria, Holland, etc., working as interpreter under Shu Kingchen, whom he considered his master.
- 1893 Promoted to fourth-rank interpreter at the Chinese embassy in Russia.
- 1895 Promoted to third-rank interpreter at the Chinese embassy in Russia.
- 1896 Promoted to second-rank interpreter at the Chinese embassy in Russia.
- 1899 February 12: Married a Belgian lady Miss Berthe Bovy.
May: Attended the peace conference at The Hague.
- 1900 July 29: The Qing government beheaded Shu Kingchen in

Beijing during the Boxer Movement. Lou was deeply saddened.

- 1901 His father died. On November 14, 1920, he relocated the remains of his grandmother and his parents to a new graveyard not far from that of Matteo Ricci, outside Beijing city.
- 1902 Promoted to third-rank counselor of the embassy in Russia.
- 1905 November: Promoted to ambassador to Holland.
- 1907 June: Became the delegation chief at The Hague peace conference.
- 1908 February: Became the ambassador in Holland for the second time.
- 1911 October 23: Converted from Protestantism to Roman Catholicism.
- Appointed ambassador of the Chinese Qing government to Russia.
- December 31: Signed a joined petition pleading for the Qing emperor to abdicate.
- 1912 January 19: Telegraphed a second time pleading for the Qing emperor Pu Yi to abdicate the throne.
- March: Served as Foreign Minister for the “northern government” in Beijing.
- June 17: Became Prime Minister of the Provisional Government.
- July 1: Served concurrently as Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, but resigned from both posts in the middle of the year. He later became Foreign Minister again.

- 1913 September: Resigned from the post of Foreign Minister.
- 1915 January: Became Foreign Minister again, and was responsible for answering the Japanese Twenty-One Demands on China.
- October 27: Concurrently also acting Secretary of State.
- 1916 Resigned from the post of Secretary of State.
- April: Duan Qi Rui again appointed him Foreign Minister, but he resigned in May.
- 1917 February: Represented the Secretary of State to liaise with various countries on the terms for China to take part in World War I.
- December 1: Became Foreign Minister again.
- 1918 November 14: Headed the delegation of Chinese representatives to the Paris Peace Conference.
- 1919 May 6: Attended the peace conference, and protested against the unjust decision on the Shandong issue.
- June 28: Lu and the four other Chinese representatives were absent from the signing ceremony of the peace treaty with Germany.
- 1920 August 13: Successfully resigned from the post of Foreign Minister, and did not resume this post again.
- October 19: Took part in the nation's relief work for famine victims.
- 1922 His wife fell seriously ill, and he accompanied her to Switzerland for her health. Thus the Chinese government appointed him China's ambassador to Switzerland.
- October: Became China's envoy to the League of Nations conference.

1926 April 16: His wife passed away.

1927 Resigned as ambassador to Switzerland.

July 5: Joined the Abbey of St. André-Iez-Bruges in Belgium to become a Benedictine monk, taking the name Pierre Célestin.

October 4: Investiture ceremony.

1935 June 29: Ordained a priest on the feast day of Ss. Peter and Paul.

1943 Strong promoter of the establishment of Sino-Vatican diplomatic relations.

1946 June 2: Pope Pius XII appointed him titular abbot of the Abbey of St Peter's in Ghent. (Note: This abbey was a medieval relic with no monks living there.)

1949 January 15: He died in Brussels, Belgium, in a hospital run by the Franciscan nuns, at the age of 78.

January 19: His funeral was held in the Abbey of St. André-Iez-Bruges. Chinese envoy Jin Wen-Si and a representative of the Belgian king were present at his funeral. Archbishop Fernando Cento, Nuncio to Belgium, was the celebrant. In attendance were the Bishop of Ghent, Mgr. Callewaert; the Bishop of Brussels, Mgr. Lamiroy; four rectors of Benedictine monasteries in Belgium; the rector of Yangjiaping Our Lady of Consolation Monastery. Dom Theodore Neve of the Abbey of St. André-Iez-Bruges celebrated the requiem Mass. Lou was buried in the graveyard of the Abbey of St. André-Iez-Bruges