

Newsletter

MACAU CULTURAL ASSOCIATION (CASA DE MACAU) OF WESTERN CANADA

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595 Burrard Street
Vancouver, B.C. CANADA V7X 1A2
(Incorporated under the Society Act of B.C. on July 31, 1990)

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EDITORIAL

The coming months are going to be momentous ones for the Association and, after this coming weekend, the newly elected Executive Council must set their goals on Association priorities for the next twelve months. There are lots of hard work ahead for members of the 1998 Executive Council and we sincerely hope that they will face their immediate tasks and responsibilities with vigour and determination.

JANUARY 1998 MEETING

94 members and three guests attended our monthly meeting on Sunday, January 18, 1998. Topics discussed at this meeting included the forthcoming AGM & Elections scheduled for February 15, 1998; eligibility to vote in the elections, the appointment of a member of the Executive Council to head a committee to deal with the new club premises, and a financial report by the Hon. Treasurer. Tony da Costa was referred to by several members as our Association's best Hon. Treasurer as well as Party Organizer. The opening of the nomination forms revealed the names of those nominated to run in the elections on February 15, 1998. The names of those individuals have been published as an Addendum to last month's issue of the Newsletter. A brief report on Association activities during 1997 was delivered by Luiz Souza who thanked all those who had helped in so many ways to make the year one of our most successful to date. Finally, members were informed briefly of the contents of a letter received by our Association from Casa de Macau Club (Vancouver) just before Christmas in which the Club threatened to take legal proceedings against our Association over the use of the words " A Casa de Macau em Vancouver" on our Web Page.

MEMBERSHIP DUES - 1998

This is another reminder to members that the annual

membership dues in respect of 1998 are now payable. The fee structure remains the same as follows:-

Member (19 years +) \$20
Spouse \$5
Each child (13-18 years) \$5

Members are hereby reminded that once a child becomes a teen at the age of thirteen, he or she will be required to pay membership dues at \$5 per year or part thereof. Similarly, on attaining the age of nineteen, in the last year of their teens, they will be required to join up as a fully fledged member of our Association in their own right.

The Hon. Treasurer, Tony da Costa has requested that, if possible, all payments for dues and for the newsletter postal charges be paid by cheque payable to the Macau Cultural Association and these payments may be sent by post to him at 857 Runnymede Avenue, Coquitlam, B.C. V3J 2V3.

MAILING OF NEWSLETTERS

This is also another reminder to those members residing within the Lower Mainland that the mailing of copies of our newsletters to them will cease with this month's issue unless they pay their \$5 for postage for the current year. Those members residing outside the Lower Mainland and in other provinces and elsewhere will continue to receive, free of charge, their copies of our newsletters by post.

Those of our members and friends who are on the Internet may view our monthly newsletters by accessing into our Web Page. Meanwhile a member has sent the following by e-mail to the Editor: "Just a few lines to let you know that we really enjoy reading your monthly newsletter. The recipes are great too!! Hope all is well and that the Year of the Tiger is going to be good for you all".

CHINESE NEW YEAR

Our Chinese New Year Banquet was held at the Maple Garden Restaurant on Friday, February 6, 1998 when over ninety members and friends joined together to welcome the Year of the Tiger. During the evening nearly twenty individuals were made even happier when their raffle ticket numbers were drawn for door prizes.

For those who are not sure whether they were born under the influence of the Tiger, here are the specific years and dates:-

08 Feb 1902 - 28 Jan 1903
26 Jan 1914 - 13 Feb 1915
13 Feb 1926 - 01 Feb 1927
31 Jan 1938 - 18 Feb 1939
17 Feb 1950 - 05 Feb 1951
23 Jan 1974 - 10 Feb 1975
05 Feb 1962 - 24 Jan 1963
09 Feb 1986 - 28 Jan 1987
28 Jan 1998 - 15 Feb 1999

MARCH 1998 MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the next monthly meeting will be held on March 15, 1998 at the Eaton Centre Community Room commencing at 2.00 p.m. SHARP. This will be the first meeting to be chaired by the new 1998 Executive Council.

NEWS FROM MACAU

(Source: MTT - January & February 1998)

Chinese New Year in Macau

Macau launched itself into the Year of the Tiger when tradition held sway with family reunions. January 28-30 were public holidays and many shops and offices were even closed for a whole week. Largo Senado, the picturesque square lined with fine old colonial-style buildings, was the scene of colourful festivities including a dragon parade, lion dancing and a thundering performance by drummers. The eyes of the lions were ceremonially dotted by local officials. Many of the activities were organized by the Macau Government Tourist Office.

Golf Tournament

Macau's first Open Golf Tournament will be held over four days from April 29 to May 3, 1998. Sponsored by the MGTO, the US\$500,000 event will be the biggest ever staged in the four-year history of the Macau Golf and Country Club on Coloane Island.

The Macau Open will be part of the prestigious 1998 Omega Tour that will attract leading professionals from Asia and some of the biggest international names in golf.

Chinese Deities

Two new and prominent monuments of impressive size are soon to grace the Macau scenery. Both pay tribute to Chinese deities. One will go up on Macau's highest mountain, the 170-metre peak on Coloane. The world's tallest statue (18 metres) of the goddess "A-MA", venerated by sea faring people of the region, and of particular significance to Macau, will be erected on that location.

Another 20-metre statue of "KUN IAM", God of Mercy, will be erected on an artificial island to be built in the Outer Harbour. A 72-metre walkway will link it to the shore and it is to become a meeting place for the study of Taoism. The statue, designed by Cristina Leira, is being constructed in Nanjing, China.

Wine Museum Anniversary

Over 160,000 people have visited the Macau Wine Museum since its opening in December 1995. The museum has also proved its value as a meeting place for promotional activities, buffets for incentive groups and wine tasting parties.

Macau at EXPO 98 in Lisbon

Macau will be represented at EXPO 98 which will be held from

May 22 to September 30, 1998 in Lisbon, Portugal. Heading the Macau delegation will be Ms Julie Senna Fernandes and Mr. Carlos Coelho. Visitors will be treated to a flavour of Macau when they visit the spectacular 2,000-metre Macau Pavilion. Everything from Macanese cuisine, musical performances, Chinese martial arts, a full-scale facade of the 16th century St. Paul's Church will be featured. The cost of mounting the Macau Pavilion is estimated to cost about 100 million patacas (US\$12.5 million). On June 24, the Macau Pavilion will put on a spectacular show to celebrate the day of its patron saint, St. John the Baptist. It is the day when Macau celebrates the victory over the Dutch in 1622, when they tried to invade the Portuguese-controlled peninsula. This is a very good reason indeed for individuals to visit Portugal and attend EXPO-98 in Lisbon between May and September of this year.

Launching of Advantage Card

Macau's first tourist discount card (the Macau Advantage Card) has been launched offering a wide range of savings to visitors.

The MAC can be presented at over 250 establishments, including 50 restaurants, four hotels and scores of shops. The card also allows free admission to the Grand Prix, Wine and Maritime Museums, a free ride on the Guia cable car and a sampling of four locally brewed beers. This idea is the brainchild of Celio Ferreira Mendes and Armino Sá Silva. The card, costing 80 patacas (U.S.\$10) and valid for three days, comes with a map of Macau showing suggested routes around town. Macau residents can buy a card valid for one year for 350 patacas.

Ninth Macau Arts Festival

Artists from Austria, Portugal, China and Taiwan will be among those entertaining the public during the Ninth Macau Arts Festival which runs from February 21 to March 8, 1998. Four male singers and four female, form the Portuguese group "Canto Nono" due to perform on February 22 at Largo do Senado and on February 23 at the Dom Pedro V Theatre. Their programme covers a wide range of music - from Bach and Lennon and McCartney to Spanish pasodobles and Gershwin. From Portugal also comes the Companhia Dança Contemporânea (CeDeCe), an innovative group founded in 1992 in the city of Sebutal by Maria Bessa and António Rodrigues. The group's performance will take place at the University of Macau on February 24, 1998. This company has gained critical acclaim and has performed in many European countries, including England, Germany, Ireland, Scotland and Switzerland.

Lisbon Trade Fair

The Macau Government Tourist Office made its voice heard last month at the Bolsa de Turismo de Lisboa (BTL) in Lisbon where Macau had a 81 square metre booth. The Macau team was

lead by Dr. António Salavessa da Costa, Secretary for Communications, Tourism and Culture, and Engineer João Costa Antunes, Director of Tourism. From Macau's private sector there were representatives from nine hotels, the Grandeur, Grandview, New World Emperor, Mandarin Oriental, Holiday Inn, Lisboa, New Century, Hyatt Regency, and the Pousada de Coloane. Macau hosted a special lunch for leading figures in the tourism industry and in Portuguese society.

Procession of Our Lord of Passos

The procession of Our Lord of Passos, in which an ancient image of Christ is carried through the streets, marks the beginning of Lent. This year it will take place on February 28/March 1, 1998.

Legend has it that the image is said to have been washed up on the Macau waterfront. Spanish Augustine missionaries installed it in their church, but city officials ordered it moved to the Cathedral. But the next morning it was found back in St. Augustine's Church. Every time the stature was moved the same thing happened and eventually it was permitted to remain at St. Augustine's. Every year however the Christ image has been brought to the Cathedral and then paraded back to its preferred resting place.

This tradition was reinforced when in 1711 the Augustines were expelled from Macau and the procession lapsed. This coincided with a famine which struck Macau and which prompted Chinese residents to petition the authorities to restore the ritual. Finally the Bishop of Macau agreed to the resumption of the procession - and the food problem was resolved..

Nowadays, on the first day of Lent, a large crowd follows the statue as it is carried through the streets by robed acolytes. Along the way between the Cathedral and St. Augustine's the procession halts at Stations of the Cross and amid great emotion a girl would sing of the suffering of Christ on the Cross.

Flora Garden

His Excellency the Governor of Macau, General Vasco Rocha Vieira unveiled a plaque recently at the formal re-opening of Flora Garden. The Garden now includes a mini-zoo and within the Garden is sited the lower station of a cable car which was installed last year. The cable car, claimed to be one of the shortest in the world, rises 42 metres up to Guia Hill.

VISIT PORTUGAL IN 1998

One of the 'must-see' events in Europe in 1998 will be the EXPO-98 which will be held in Lisbon, Portugal from May 22 to September 30, 1998. One can join a two-week package which will include four nights at EXPO-98 in Lisbon and nine nights on the Algarve. The package includes a 3-day EXPO-98 Admission Pass good for admission 18-hours per day; a Lisboa

Card valid for unlimited public transit transportation and admissions or reduced admission costs to most museums and other sightseeing venues in Lisbon and environs. The cost for this package tour is about \$3,400 per person. A less expensive alternative would be to spend one night in London; ten nights on the Algarve and your last two nights in Lisbon for approximately \$1,700 per person. Our Association has no plans to organize any such package trip in 1998 but if any members are interested we suggest that they contact their own travel agents.

PORTUGUESE/MACANESE RECIPES

Custard Tartlets (Pasteis de Natal)

(Source: MGTO)

Ingredients

PUFF PASTRY: 500g Flour; 500g Butter; 2.5 dl Water; salt
CUSTARD: 5dl Double Cream; 8 Egg yolks; 2 tbs Flour; 200g Sugar; lemon rind.

Method

Pour flour on stone table and make well in centre; dissolve salt in water and pour into flour well; knead mixture until smooth and leave for 20 minutes; roll dough into rectangle; knead a little of butter to same consistency as pastry. (*) Spread 1/3 butter evenly over pastry leaving a bare strip of 1 cm around the edges; fold pastry over from bottom to top, left to right; making sure sides and corners are perfectly aligned; roll pastry out again into a rectangle; repeat step (*) until all the butter has been used; roll our pastry and cut into strips; roll strip up and cut into pieces of 2-3 cm; place each pastry upright in a tartlet tin, dip thumb into water and slowly press pastry down. Prepare custard by mixing and boiling all ingredients listed; remove from heat and when cooled down a little, pour into the tartlet tins. Bake in oven (250o - 300oC). Can be served sprinkled with cinnamon and/or icing sugar. Yields about 15 tartlets.

Seafood Soup (Sopa de Marisco)

(Source: MGTO)

Ingredients

400g shrimps, mussels, clams, squid and fish; 250g Tomatoes; 50g Parsley; 50g coriander; 3dl olive oil; 80g flour; 1dl Brandy 4 cloves of garlic; 80g Onions; 1 lt cream; 1 tsp chile (or less); 1 bay leaf; 1dl White wine; 2 lt Water.

Method

Clean and dice shrimps, mussels, clams, squid and fish; heat olive oil gently in pot; chop garlic, onions, tomatoes, chile, half of the parsley and coriander and add to the olive oil. Then add brandy, wine, seafood and bay leaf; fill the pot with water and bring it to boil for a few minutes; mix the flour well with cold water and pour slowly into pot;

stir well for a while; add the cream and the rest of the parsley and coriander. (Serves about six).

FUNDAÇÃO ORIENTE
NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER 1997

Fundação Oriente at
Frankfurt Book Fair

The Fundação Oriente participated in 1997 at the Frankfurt Book Fair for the very first time with a display of twenty titles from its vast catalogue. The central subject of this year's fair was Portugal, which was represented by about 130 publishers. The Fair is the oldest fair of its kind and annually brings together some 9,000 publishers from approximately 100 countries.

Historians discuss the Jesuits in the Orient

At the invitation of Fundação Oriente over 30 academics and researchers came from Europe, Asia and America for a three-day meeting in Lisbon entitled "The Jesuits and Missionary Work in the Orient". A report on this meeting is expected to be published by Fundação Oriente in 1998

Fundação Oriente International Prize for Young Conductors
Cezário Alberto Ferreira Barbosa da Costa was the winner of this year's competition. The jury, lead by Miguel GraGraça a Moura and comprising conductors and artistic directors of various world wide orchestras and conservatories, awarded the 27-year old from Matosinhos second prize in the competition. The jury, who decided not to award the first prize this year, gave the third prize to Masakazu Natsuda from Japan and a Honourable Mention to Carmen Koon from Hong Kong. Seven candidates from China, Korea, Japan, Hong Kong and Portugal took part in the competition.

Portuguese frigate from India Ready for EXPO 98

The Portuguese frigate "D. Fernando II e Glória" is in dry dock at the Arsenal de Alfeite, where she will receive new masts, artillery and other equipment before going on to act as the pavilion of the Portuguese communities at EXPO 98. According to José Lello, Secretary of State for Portuguese Communities, the frigate is the best possible symbol "to represent the Portuguese people who, like the navigators of yesteryears, left for other countries in search for a better life".

Rebuilding this last ship from India, which was destroyed by fire in 1963, has taken nearly four years, with the cost being shared by the State and several patrons including Fundação Oriente who was responsible for a substantial contribution.

Macau Centre of Contemporary Art.

In July 1997 the Fundação Oriente opened the Macau Centre of Contemporary Art. Located in a listed building in Avenida

Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida which was restored specifically to house the Centre which is the first of its kind in this part of Asia. Currently the Centre displays pieces belonging to the Fundação Oriente's art collection.

ICE STORM

The Portuguese Government in a communication dated January 16, 1998, addressed to His Excellency Dr. José Manuel Duarte de Jesus, Portuguese Ambassador in Ottawa, and which was copied to our Association, expressed its sentiments and conveyed its warm regards and best wishes to all Canadians and in particular to our compatriots in Ontario, Quebec and the Atlantic Provinces who were devastated by the ice storm which swept through Eastern Canada in early January and who, in many parts of the country, are still suffering from the effects of that storm.. We would like to take this opportunity to endorse and share those very same sentiments as expressed by the Portuguese Government.

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

January 24 was the feast day of St. Francis de Sales from whom the Salesians are named. He is not only the Patron Saint of Writers and Journalists but also the patron of Lay Spirituality and the Lay Apostolate. The latter is evident in the great influence St. Francis de Sales has on the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. St. Francis de Sales died in December 1622, was declared a saint in 1675 and a Doctor of the Church in 1877.

NEWS FROM HONG KONG

Tourism Nose-dives

(Source: Province - January 25, 1998)

The first clue that something has changed since Hong Kong's return to Chinese rule on June 30, 1997 comes when one arrives at the Hong Kong International Airport. Gone are the line-ups at immigration and outside there is no need to wait and line-up for a taxi. At the hotels, staff jump to attention in eerily empty lobbies because there are now hardly any guests.

A steep nose-dive in the number of tourists visiting Hong Kong since China took back sovereignty from Great Britain is probably the most visible change in a territory typically and previously characterized in guide books as "bustling" or "teeming".

Tourist arrivals plunged about 35% immediately after June 1997 and have since been down on average about 25% from the previous year when 11.7 million visitors rubbed shoulders with the territory's six million plus inhabitants.

Hong Kong's airline, Cathay Pacific, is reporting its worst year in a decade, with profits down 35% for the six months to November 1997.

Hong Kong's Deepening Despair

(Source: Vancouver Sun- January 23, 1998)

Despair is deepening and confidence is cracking in Hong Kong with mounting layoffs, runs on brokerages, shops and eateries threatening to close down and a spate of suicides linked to financial mishaps.

Assurances from leaders have done little to dispel the gloom in the city of 6 _ million people, a bustling British colony only six months ago and now a special administrative region of China. Thousands of people have lost their jobs in Hong Kong in the past few months as investment banks, brokerages, airlines department stores, and restaurants reeled from the economic downturn.

Hong Kong's once buzzing "golden mile" Nathan Road shopping mecca is very quiet these days. Both locals and tourists are conspicuously absent in the malls and bazaars.

The confidence crisis was underlined even further by an opinion poll which showed that 62% of people think life has grown worse since the change of sovereignty. Stocks have lost one-half of their value, property values have slumped and mortgages have become more expensive in recent months as the regional economic crisis battered this Asian financial hub.

Despite all the above there are many who still believe that Hong Kong, as it did so many times in the past, will soon bounce back.

NEWS FROM PORTUGAL

(Source: "MUNDO PORTUGUES")

Portugal in Hot Water over its Law of Privatization

The European Commission has decided to take Portugal to the Tribunal of Justice of the European Union who will have to decide if the Portuguese Law of Privatization discriminates against investors from the European Commission and thus violates the rules of competition and free movement of capital within the European Community.

The present law restricts free participation of foreign investors, European and others, in the Portuguese public enterprises for sale in the stock market.

The disagreement between Brussels and Lisbon stretches back to 1992. The European Community has called upon the previous Government in Portugal several times in the past to remove the discriminating nature of that legislation. About a year ago the present Government in Portugal tried to change it but the amendments failed to get through the Assembly. The European Community is insisting that the law must be repealed or amended. It is widely believed that the Tribunal of Justice in Luxemburg may decide against Portugal. It is sincerely hoped that the court decision would come out fair to all parties concerned.

Portuguese Language Programs in Goa

On January 7, 1998 a Portuguese language program "Português sem Fronteiras" organized by Fundação de Amizade Indo-Portuguesa and in collaboration with Fundação Cidade de Lisboa and Fundação Oriente was attended by 60 residents from Goa. Twelve of those attending were also among the twenty four who had attended a similar program conducted in 1997. Senhora Isabel Vasconcelos was appointed as the Lecturer in Goa by the Portuguese Ministry of Education.

MCA WEB PAGE

Since its introduction just three months ago we are pleased to report that there has been well over 400 "hits" into our Web Page. However, our guest book feature has not been used to the extent we had expected. The next time you get into our Web Page we should be grateful if you would offer some comments onto our guest book.

SABIA QUE ?

(MACAU - Janeiro 1998)

A área total de Macau é de 21.45 km².

Quase metade da área do território é constituída por terras reclamadas ao mar. Desde 1912 até hoje foram reclamados ao mar 9.85 km², dos quais 3.35 km² só na década de 90.

O ponto mais alto do território situa-se no Alto de Coloane, chama-se Coloane Alto e tem a cota de 172.41 metros (por determinação de 1994).

Existem em Macau treze colinas ou montes. Sete colinas só na península: Penha, Barra, Monte, Guia, D. Maria II, Mong-Há e Ilha Verde. Três na Taipa: Taipa Grande, Taipa Pequeno e Morro da Carreira de Tiro (Universidade de Macau), E três em Coloane: Alto de Coloane, Monte de Ká Hó e Morro da Artilharia.

As zona verdes e florestais abrangem uma área total de 6.26 km². Já não existem terrenos agrícolas em Macau, com alguma expressão.

O comprimento total de vias públicas destinadas ao trãnsito de automóvel é de 194,497 quilómetros, em todo o território .

Há em Macau

380 Ruas

215 Travessas

140 Pátios

118 Beços

51 Avenidas

49 Estradas

39 Calçadas

37 Largos
12 Rotundas
5 Praças
5 Portos
2 Alamedas
2 Azinhagas
2 Pontes
2 Provoações
7 Caminhos
1 Adro
1 Istmo
1 Ramal
25 Vias sem designação.

A via mais comprido de Macau (sem contarmos a Ponte da Amizade) é a Estrada da Ponta da Cabrita, na Taipa com 3.067 km.

A Av da Amizade, com 2.89 km, é a avenida mais comprida.

A R. de Francisco Xavier Pereira, com 1.26 km, é a rua mais comprida.

A rua mais curta é a R. de João Araújo: tem 25.94 metros.

A Ponte da Amizade mede 4.38 km, a Ponte de Governador Nobre de Carvalho .6km; e o Istmo Taipa-Coloane 2.11km.

A distância entre as duas pontes é, de lado de Macau, de dois quilómetros , é, do lado da Taipa, de 1.53km.

A maior distância entre dois pontos no território é a que vai das Portas de Cerco(Ponte Norte) a encosta sul do Morro da Artilharia (Ponto Sul do Complexo Habitacional do Morro da Artilharia) em Coloane: 11.88 km.

HEALTHWATCH

Each and every month we offer our regards and best wishes to all our members and friends who may be sick at home or are in the hospital. This month our very special "get-well" wishes go to Helen Xavier, Tommy Johnston, Leslie Fox and Hank Killeen.

YUPPIES' PRAYER

(Source: Unknown)

Now I lay me down to sleep
I pray my Cusinart to keep
I pray my stocks are on the rise
And that my analyst is wise
That all the wine I sip is white
And that my hot tub's watertight
That racquetball won't get too tough

That all my sushi is fresh enough
I pray my cordless phone still works
That my career won't lose its perks
My microwave won't radiate
My condo won't depreciate
I pray my health club doesn't close
And that my money market grows
If I go broke before I wake
I pray my Volvo they won't take.

CHILDREN'S VIEWS ON LOVE

Concerning how love happens

"One of the people has freckles and so he finds somebody else who has freckles too".

Andrew - aged 6

"No one is sure why it happens, but it might have something to do with how you smell ä

That is why perfumes and deodorants are so very popular."

Mae - aged 9

"I think you are supposed to get shot with an arrow or something, but the rest of it isn't supposed to be so painful".

Manuel - aged 8

On what falling in love is like

"It's like an avalanche where you have to run for your life".

John - aged 9

"If falling in love is anything like learning how to spell, I don't want to do it. It just takes too long".

Glenn - aged 7

Confidential opinions about Love

"I am in favour of love as long as it doesn't happen when "Dinosaurs" is on television".

Jill - aged 6

"I am not rushing into being in love. I am finding fourth grade hard enough already".

Regina -aged 9

Until next month,

Luiz M. Souza, MBE AE

Editor

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