

## Newsletter

### MACAU CULTURAL ASSOCIATION (CASA DE MACAU) OF WESTERN CANADA

Box 48390, Bentall Centre  
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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Editor: Mr. Luiz M. Souza

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#### DEDICATION

We would like to dedicate the following in honour and commemoration of the forthcoming 3<sup>o</sup> Encontro of Macanese Communities scheduled to be held in Macau on March 22-26, 1999:-

#### HUGGING

**Hugging is healthy; it helps the body's immune system; keeps you healthier; it cures depression; it rejuvenates. It has no unpleasant side effects; and hugging is nothing less than a miracle drug**  
**Hugging is all natural; it is organic; naturally sweet and contains no pesticides, no preservatives, and no artificial ingredients, and it is 100% wholesome**  
**Hugging is practically perfect; there are no movable parts; no batteries to wear out; no periodic checkups; no monthly payments; and no insurance requirements, and it offers low energy consumption and high energy yield whilst being inflation-proof, non-fattening; and of course, fully returnable.**  
**When practised regularly, hugging pays high dividends.**  
**Author: Unknown**

#### FEBRUARY 1999 MEETING

Sixty eight members and one guest attended the meeting on February 21, 1999. The main items for discussion included an update on all the activities related to the forthcoming Encontro in Macau; the visit to Vancouver from Ottawa by His Excellency The Portuguese Ambassador, Dr. Duarte Jesus when a "Jantar de Honra" and a cocktail reception were held in his honour. On both occasions our Association President and the Ambassador had an interesting exchange of views and discussions on matters of mutual interest. Members also approved the Annual Accounts for the year ending December 31, 1998 which, for the very first time, was drawn up in a quasi-professional format. The President welcomed back Helen Xavier after a long absence and alluded also to the health of Maggie da Costa and Helen Silva and the unhappy and traumatic experience suffered by both Cynthia Vieira and Marizinha Duguay at the Metrotown parking lot recently. He expressed best wishes to all concerned for a quick and full recovery.

The present Council members then stood down and handed over the Chair to the Chairman of the Nominations & Elections Committee, Mr. Virgílio Rosario who announced that since there were only five nominations the following have been elected by acclamation:-

President: Mr. Luiz M. Souza  
1st Vice President: Mr. António Amante  
2nd Vice President: Ms Isabel Jorge Ma  
Hon. Treasurer: Mr. Sérgio Rui de Pina  
Hon. Secretary: Ms Natércia da Rosa

The re-elected President then took over the Chair once more along with the rest of the newly elected Council members. The President confirmed that Ms Isabel Jorge Ma had resigned from the Casa de Macau Club before assuming the position of 2nd Vice President. Before the meeting was adjourned the President

thanked Mr. Virgílio Rosario for his role as Chairman of the Nomination & Election Committee and the many members who contributed victuals to help celebrate the Chinese New Year ushering in the Year of the Rabbit.

#### MEMBERSHIP DUES

This is the final call for the payment of 1999 Membership Dues. Members who fail to pay their 1999 membership dues by April 15, 1999 will be regarded as delinquent. After all, they have had over three months to pay up their dues for 1999.

#### MAILING OF NEWSLETTERS

This is the final call for the payment of postage expenses for those members who have in the past requested that a copy of our newsletter be mailed to them. Members who fail to pay for the postage (\$6.00) by April 15, 1999 will no longer have their copies of our newsletters sent to them by mail.

#### ENCONTRO NEWS

We wish first of all to take this opportunity to wish each and every Association member going to Macau for the 3º Encontro of Macanese Communities a safe and happy journey to Macau and that they will come back safely with many happy memories of our Macau. These wishes are sincerely extended to each and every member of ALL the Casas who are making this historical and memorable trip to Macau.

This Encontro is significant from our Association's point of view in that, for the first time ever, all five members of our new Executive Council will be going to Macau to attend the Encontro. Our Association's projected attendance at the 3º Encontro in Macau stands at a modest 77 whilst we have made reservations for 21 rooms at the Grandeur Hotel to accommodate 42 of our members.

Information about Encontro Secretariat

Commencing from Monday, March 15, 1999 the Secretariat for the Macau Organising Committee will be located at the Centro de Actividades Turisticas (CAT). The hours of operation will be 09.00 - 13.00 hours and 14.30 - 18.00 hours. Telephone numbers are (853) 7984190; 7984191 and 7984192; fax (853) 727310.

#### Arrivals & Departures

In order to avoid any confusion, the Macau Organising Committee has announced that assistance will only be provided in the transfers in Macau. To enable them to do so, please provide information concerning arrivals and departures, detailing name of airlines, flight numbers; and time of arrival. Information concerning arrivals and departures via Hong Kong is also required, particularly the arrival time in Macau. Without this information the Organising Committee may not be possible to assist participants upon their arrival in Macau.

The Macau Organising Committee will only be responsible for transfers up to and including Sunday, March 28, 1999.

#### Information Desk

An Information Desk will operate at Grandeur Hotel from March 19 - March 28, 1999. Upon arrival and after checking into the hotel, participants are requested to pick up a program of functions and events at the Information Desk.

#### Hotel Tags

Hotel tags should only be used by those participants who will be staying at the Grandeur Hotel.

#### Personal Identification Tags (PIT)

Personal Identification Tags have already been distributed but there are still a few that have still to be issued. Please try and get your PIT from Luiz Souza as soon as possible as they should be worn throughout the week of the Encontro.

#### Dress Code

The dress code has been relaxed and for men, a jacket and tie is deemed appropriate for the meeting with His Excellency the Governor of Macau, General Vasco Rocha Vieira at Government House and for all other events, "Smart Casual" is acceptable BUT no "jeans" please.

Information for those participants who are staying with family, relatives & friends

In order that they may follow the revised program of functions and events, each participant staying with family, relatives and friends should drop by and pick up a copy of the program from the Secretariat at CAT as soon as they are able to do so. Their pick-up point for all the functions and events will be the Grandeur Hotel if they wish to take advantage of the transfer service provided at the Hotel and at the times as stated in the program.

Information for those individuals wishing to participate in the 3<sup>o</sup> Encontro by themselves.

Individuals who wish to participate in this 3<sup>o</sup> Encontro and are unable to do so through a "CASA", should contact the Secretariat at CAT (Telephone 7984190/191/192 or fax 706965) or come personally to register and enrol at the Secretariat.

Inauguration of 3<sup>o</sup> Encontro of Macanese Communities

His Excellency Jorge Sampaio, President of Portugal will visit Macau to open the new Macau Cultural Centre on March 19, 1999. He will also inaugurate the 3<sup>o</sup> Encontro of Macanese Communities on Monday, March 22, 1999 and meet with representatives from various associations. Over 1,500 persons are expected to attend the 3<sup>o</sup> Encontro which will undoubtedly be an emotional one for many of those returning to Macau, their birthplace and to visit family, relatives and friends for the first time in decades. The participants are hopeful that such reunions will continue even after 1999. There will be people coming from Australia (Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane), Brazil (Rio de Janeiro and San Paulo); Canada (Toronto and Vancouver); Hong Kong; Portugal and the United States of America (California).

March 24 Optional Tours to China & Hong Kong.

Details of the optional day trips to China (MOP 200-250 per person) and Hong Kong (MOP590 per person) were outlined in some detail in last month's newsletter. For registration and payment of these two tours, you must contact the travel agencies at CAT, Shop 4 (just next door to the Secretariat) on March 21 and March 22 from 10.00 - 13.00 hours and from 15.00 - 17.00 hours. You must bring along your passport to get the visa to China. The cost of a group visa is MOP70.00 each person.

March 24, 1999 Opera Performance

It has now been confirmed that the performance, at the Macau Cultural Centre on March 24, 1999, will be the opera "The Flying Dutchman" by Richard Wagner. In the legend of the Flying Dutchman we are told that a Dutch sea captain once tried to double the Cape of Good Hope in the teeth of a furious gale, and swore he would accomplish his purpose, even if he kept sailing on forever. The Devil heard the oath, and condemned the unhappy captain to sail the sea until Judgement Day, without aim and without hope of release, unless he could find a woman to love him faithfully until death. The Devil allows the Dutchman to go ashore once in seven years to find such a woman and the Opera opens on such a theme.

Heading the cast, as the Dutchman, is German baritone Bernd Weikl who has sung with the Vienna State Opera since 1972. Elizabeth Connell, who takes the part of Senna, is a leading interpreter of the demanding dramatic soprano roles of Beethoven, Strauss and Wagner. Wolfgang Neumann, who sings the role of Erik, is a noted German tenor who has appeared in numerous European festivals and with the New York Metropolitan Opera. Zao Wen Long conducts the China National Symphony Orchestra whilst the National Opera and Ballet of China Chorus will be under resident conductor Yang Li.

#### POST ENCONTRO

(a) Members are reminded that Father Marciano Baptista, S.J. will officiate at a solemn Holy Mass at Wah Yan College Chapel, Waterloo Road, Kowloon on Sunday, March 28, 1999 at 10.15 a.m.

(b) Those of our members who have signed up to attend the Club Lusitano "Chá Gordo" Reception at Clube de Recreio on Sunday, March 28, 1999 commencing at 16.30 hours, are hereby reminded of the "not to be missed" event.

#### ASSOCIATION CRESTS/BADGES & BASEBALL CAPS

This is the last chance for those going to Macau to acquire Association crests/badges and baseball caps for their trip to Macau. We fully expect that sales of these items will be brisk and in a short time they may well

end up being a collectors' item. They are most suitable as an inexpensive gift to be handed out to relatives and friends as Encontro souvenirs. Please do not say that we did not warn you !!

#### TRAVEL BETWEEN HONG KONG & MACAU

Most Hong Kong departures for Macau are from the Ferry Terminal adjacent to the Shun Tak Centre at 200 Connaught Road, Central on Hong Kong Island. Other services operate from the China Ferry Terminal in Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon. For ferry services between Macau and Hong Kong's Shun Tak terminal, one-way fares start at HK\$137 (US\$17) during daylight hours. Fares for services between Macau and Kowloon are a little cheaper. Tickets for night services and weekend fares are more expensive.

#### APRIL 1999 MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the next Association Meeting will take place on Sunday, April 18, 1999. Members can expect a post-mortem report, from our Association's point of view, on the 3<sup>o</sup> Encontro of Macanese Communities which will have taken place in Macau on March 22-26, 1999. We would also welcome contributions from members of their experiences at the 3<sup>o</sup> Encontro during their stay in Macau.

#### MACAU NEWS

##### Inauguration of the new Macau Cultural Centre

This eye-catching new building, standing on the Outer Harbour waterfront, will be the venue for many future important cultural events, including some related to the 3<sup>o</sup> Encontro of Macanese Communities to be held in Macau on March 22-26, 1999. Any one arriving in Macau by ferry from Hong Kong cannot fail to notice this new spectacular waterfront structure, with its wing-like roof soaring skywards. With the exception of the Macau International Airport, the new Cultural Centre is the biggest single project to be constructed in Macau. It will be officially opened with great fanfare by His Excellency Jorge Sampaio, President of Portugal on March 19, 1999. The Centre's magnificent main auditorium, which seats 1,200 with a second auditorium seating 400 will be the venue for staging its gala opening on March 19, when pianist Antonio Rosado and soprano Elsa Saque are the soloists in works by Strauss, Lehar, von Suppe and Puccini. Manuel Ivo Cruz will conduct the National Opera and Ballet of China Orchestra. There will be a second performance on March 21. On March 20, 24 and 27 Wagner's opera "The Flying Dutchman" will be staged at 8.00 p.m. each night. Details of the Opera have been outlined briefly on page three of this newsletter.

##### Macau Museum of Art

The new Macau Museum of Art is housed in a five-storey wing of the new Macau Cultural Centre with an area of over 5,000 square metres. Pieces from a collection of more than 3,000 works of art will form part of a permanent exhibition. Many of the exhibits come from Leal Senado and the old Luis de Camoes Museum in Casa Garden which closed down in 1988. Works by such painters as George Chinnery, Thomas Watson, August Borget, George Smirnoff; and our own Macanese artist, Marciano Baptista, together with delicate porcelain made by Shi Wan are amongst the priceless exhibits. Macau artist, Ung Vai Meng, aged 40, is the new Museum's first Director.

##### New Macau Bank Notes

Macau's two leading banks - Portugal's Banco Nacional Ultramarino and China's Bank of China - will issue new pataca banknotes on December 20 to commemorate the first day of the establishment of the Macau Special Administrative Region of China. Macau reverts to Chinese administration at midnight on December 19, 1999 after 442 years of Portuguese rule and administration.

The two banks will jointly issue up to eight million 20-pataca bank notes; up to two million 50-pataca bank notes; up to 3.5 million 100-pataca bank notes and up to 1.7 million 500-pataca bank notes.

The Macau pataca is pegged to the Hong Kong dollar and under a Sino-Portuguese agreement the two banks will continue to issue Macau's pataca currency after the handover. It will be issued on behalf of the Macau Monetary & Foreign Exchange Authority which is Macau's de facto central bank.

##### Accolades for Macau Display in Lisbon, Portugal

Macau created one of the most spectacular displays to be seen at the recent "Bolsa de Turismo de Lisboa" (BTL) in Lisbon, Portugal.. Macau has been a regular participant at the BTL marketing event and has won

numerous prizes and awards for the high standard and originality of its exhibition stands. The 24-strong delegation from Macau included the Acting Director of Tourism, Dr. Rodolfo Faustino, seven delegates from the tourist trade, and a number of artists, was led by the Secretary for Communications, Culture and Tourism, Dr. Antonio Salavessa da Costa.

#### New China Hotel

The new 21-storey China Hotel located at the Macau International Airport is expected to be officially opened in April 1999. It will be linked to the terminal itself by an enclosed skyway.

#### Restaurant Hopping in Taipa

As we are on the verge of travelling to Macau we thought it might be appropriate to do a little restaurant hopping in Taipa. A number of restaurants have symbols of their own. For example, Pinocchio's was opened in 1977 and has been a long established pace-setter in Taipa. The proprietor, Dimitrino Pina suddenly found that he had a smash-hit eating establishment on his hands. Some of his famous visitors included the children of Deng Xiaoping, the son of Zaire President Mobuto, and movie stars such as Stephanie Powers and Jack Klugman. Jorge Mota runs the O Galo restaurant close by to Pinocchio. Replicas of a "galo" decorate the walls and shelves of the O Galo. Up another street, on the main road entering the village, are two more well patronised Portuguese-Chinese restaurants - the Pandal and its neighbour, the Estrela do Mar. The latter is run by Joao da Silva and his family. A jolly jumbo is the trademark of the spacious Dumbo Restaurant, furnished in Portuguese style and offering a wide range of Portuguese-Western dishes plus Cantonese delicacies. It is fun to explore because all you need is a good appetite.

#### Hotel Bela Vista

The hotel building with its characteristic shady terraces and arches, was constructed around 1870, possibly by a wealthy trader. Later William Clarke, a British sea captain, bought it and with his wife, Catherine Hannack, opened the Hotel Bela Vista. Even in those early days the hotel had a tremendous view of the Praia Grande with its constant movement of junks, sampans and schooners.

In early 1900 the Santa Casa da Misericordia purchased the building. For a time around 1917 the building was converted into a secondary school. In 1923 the building was reverted to being a hotel again. For a time the building was rented to the Hong Kong Government as accommodation for civil service cadets. It was again briefly reopened as a hotel in 1936 for a few years.

In 1942, during World War 2, Portuguese refugees from Hong Kong were billeted there. As a point of interest the Editor, as a young lad of sixteen, was accommodated at the Bela Vista in 1942-1945). After the war it served as a British servicemen's rest centre. In 1948 it was opened once more as a hotel. It was managed from 1967 by a well known Macanese, Adria Pinto Marques who was succeeded by his son in 1986.

After being declared a heritage building, a joint venture company formed by the Macau Government, Shun Tak Holdings and the Mandarin Oriental Hotel Group, took over in 1990.

A succession of colourful individuals and celebrities have stayed at the hotel over the years and it has also been featured in a number of films including a TV version of "Around the World in Eighty Days" in 1988 featuring Peter Ustinov and Pierce Brosnan.

The historic Hotel Bela Vista, one of the most elegant buildings in Macau goes out in a blaze of glory this month. Special functions and glittering parties, thrown by private citizens and the Macau Government, mark the last days of this century old building as a hotel.

At the end of this month the building will be handed over to Portugal and, after undergoing minor changes, the renovated building will become the official residence of the first Portuguese Consulate General in the territory when Macau reverts to Chinese administration on December 20, 1999.

#### Chinese Festivals

Legend, piety and zest for life intermingle with the traditional festivals that mark any year in Macau and they offer a fascinating insight into the local culture. Here are some of the festivals:-

#### Birthday of Kun Iam (April 5)

Legends abound about this Buddhist deity, the Goddess of Mercy. She is venerated as a great protector, particularly of children, from evil. She was from a Southeast Asian country but fled to China after refusing to marry according to her father's wishes. The Kun Iam Temple is a 400-year-old building on Avenida Coronel Mesquita. The temple is of some interest to historians because the US-China treaty was signed there in 1844.

#### Ching Ming (April 5)

Ching Ming is a family affair when relatives flock to pay a visit to their ancestors' graves. The day ends with a family feast.

#### Taoist Goddess A-Ma (May 8)

A-Ma, a Taoist goddess, is particularly revered in Macau. Also known as Tin Hau, she is the deity of fishing community and other seafarers. After appearing to save a junk in distress, legend has it that she landed and walked up to the top of Barra Hill and flew up to Heaven. A temple was built on the spot where A-Ma landed and it is still there to this very day. Centuries later when Portuguese sailors asked for the name of the place, they were told 'A-Ma-Gao' (Bay of A-Ma) and eventually the place came to be known as 'Macau'. Recently a huge statue of A-Ma was placed on the highest point of Coloane. This year's festival will be held on May 8.

#### Dragon Boat Festival (June 18)

The thunder of drums accompanies the annual Dragon Boat races held on Nam Van Lakes. This spectacular competition commemorates a third-century BC court advisor of great integrity who drowned himself in protest against a decision by his emperor to go to war against a neighbouring state.

#### Mid-Autumn Festival (September 24)

This is one of the biggest holidays of the year with the roundest and brightest moon prevailing to symbolise completeness, and an ideal time and occasion for Chinese families to meet.

#### Cheung Yeung (October 17)

This is the Double Nine Festival (ninth day of ninth moon) when families offer prayers at the graves of their ancestors and climb hills in the belief that it will avoid disaster.

#### GOSTOS E SABORES

##### Peixe à Portuguesa (Baked Fish)

(Casa de Leão, Castelo de S. Jorge, Lisboa)

Ingredients 4 onions, sliced approx. 3 lbs fish salt and pepper to taste 1 clove garlic, crushed 1 cup (8 fl ozs.) dry white wine 1 tablespoon vinegar 2 tomatoes, peeled and sliced 2 bay leaves 4 cooked potatoes, sliced 3 tablespoons olive oil

1. Preheat oven to 200°C (400°F)
2. place half of the onion slices on the bottom of a buttered ovenproof dish
3. Place the fish into the dish, sprinkle with salt, pepper, garlic, wine and vinegar
4. Cover with the remaining slices of onion, the tomatoes and bay leaves
5. Arrange the potato slices around the fish. Sprinkle with olive oil and bake in the pre-heated oven for about 45 minutes. Occasionally baste with the cooking juices. Serves 4-5 persons

##### Ovos Moles

###### Ingredients

1 cup (8 ozs.) sugar  
½ cup (4 fl ozs.) water  
6 egg yolks

1. Boil the sugar and the water to produce a light syrup

2. Allow the syrup to cool
3. Beat the egg yolks until they are creamy, and gradually add the syrup
4. Pour the mixture into a saucepan and slowly heat, stirring constantly until it thickens. DO NOT BOIL
5. Pour mixture into a bowl, and allow to cool. Place into the refrigerator and serve when chilled.

BON VOYAGE TO ALL THOSE GOING TO MACAU FOR THE 3° ENCONTRO OF MACANESE COMMUNITIES AND COME BACK WITH HAPPY MEMORIES !

Until next month  
Luiz M. Souza, MBE AE  
Editor  
e-mail: [luiz\\_souza@bc.sympatico.ca](mailto:luiz_souza@bc.sympatico.ca)