

Newsletter

MACAU CULTURAL ASSOCIATION (CASA DE MACAU) OF WESTERN CANADA

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(Incorporated under the Society Act of B.C. on July 31, 1990)

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INTRODUCTION

As you can well appreciate, the magic of the 3^o Encontro of Macanese Communities is still with us. In this month's newsletter we will attempt to comment randomly on some aspects of the events that took place at the 3^o Encontro in Macau and we hope that our readers will bear with us and accept our comments, including some which may be somewhat adverse in nature, as constructive criticism, for what they are meant to be and nothing more.

OFFICIAL VISIT BY PRESIDENT OF PORTUGAL

As members are aware His Excellency Dr. Jorge Sampaio, President of the Republic of Portugal paid an official visit to Macau on March 18-22, 1999. During the course of that visit Dr. Sampaio met Mr. Qian Qichen, First Vice President of the People's Republic of China. The two of them, along with His Excellency the Governor of Macau, General Vasco Rocha Vieira cut the ribbon to open the new US\$120 million Macau Cultural Centre on March 19, 1999. In his speech Dr. Sampaio stated that the new Macau Cultural Centre is "the symbol of great vision and trust in the future of Macau".

On March 21, 1999 Presidents of all the Casas de Macau and their spouses were invited to a huge Reception hosted by the President of Portugal, Dr. Jorge Sampaio at the Governor's Palace.

On March 22, 1999 Dr. Jorge Sampaio and General Vasco Rocha Vieira, by their presence, added greater stature, importance and prestige to the solemn official opening of the 3rd Reunion of Macanese Communities at the Macau Cultural Centre.

HONOURS FOR COMENDADOR ARNALDO DE OLIVEIRA SALES

On March 18, 1999 Comendador Arnaldo de Oliveira Sales, CBE JP was awarded the Grá Cruz da Ordem Nacional de Infante D. Henrique, Portugal's highest civil honour. It was presented to him by the President of the Republic of Portugal, Dr. Jorge Sampaio in Macau.

We would like, belatedly, to congratulate Comendador de Oliveira Sales on this most signal honour which is the fourth such honour conferred upon him by the Portuguese Government for his services to the Macanese communities world wide.

Members may recall that only last year, on the first anniversary of the hand-over of Hong Kong, Comendador de Oliveira Sales was also awarded the Grand Gold Bauhinia Medal, Hong Kong's highest civil honour by the Special Administrative Region of Hong Kong.

Members of the Macanese communities world wide have every reason to be proud of this and past awards bestowed upon Comendador Arnaldo de Oliveira Sales by the Portuguese Government..

SPEECHES AT SOLEMN OPENING OF 3^o Encontro

Excerpts from some of the speeches delivered at the Solemn Opening Ceremony on March 22, 1999 have already been covered in our April 1999 newsletter. Altogether, there were eighteen speeches including twelve from communities established outside of Macau and this was perhaps a little too much to take at an inauguration of this kind. With FOUR speeches from Canada and THREE from California in the United States there was little one could do about this oddity.

One particular speech was perhaps not in keeping with the solemn occasion and specifically mentioned rather frivolously that "balichão" really smells bad. We are appalled to hear those remarks made publicly by a fellow "filho de Macau". We are sure that a great number of "filhos de terra" would take great exception to those remarks.

Balichão, to the diehard Macaenses, "chera muito bem" like, we suppose, "salt fish" is "ho heung" to the Chinese and "haggis" is appealing to the Scotsman. One can recall a family of four young brothers who between them consumed one half pound of "balichão" fried with lots of spring onions and pork renderings (toresmo) and six pounds of fresh bread in one sitting! One might well say that "balichão" is the "soul" food of the Macaenses. Viva "balichão" !!

There were also some similarities in many of the speeches. For example, His Excellency General Vasco Rocha Vieira threw down a challenge to the younger generation to strengthen their cultural ties with the land of their parents and ancestors. Our Association stated that, with the formation of our Macau Youth Group in July 1998 we have already taken action to try and revive the interests of our younger generation. We appealed to all the Casas world wide to do likewise and emulate us in order that all of our communities may continue to carry on with our "modo de viver".

In his speech Arqto. José Celestino Maneiras, President of the Macau Organising Committee for the 3rd Reunion, used the term "filhos de terra" to define the Macanese who have created communities scattered across the globe and who display a deep-rooted sense of being Portuguese. Our Association used the very same term "filhos de terra" in calling upon our communities not to give up their heritage and our sense of belonging to Macau.

In his speech Eng. José Lello, the Portuguese Secretary of State for Portuguese Communities, referred to the future Portuguese Consulate General in Macau as a "bridge" to serve the Portuguese community in Macau and thus ensuring the continuation of the existing strong ties between Portugal and Macau and between the Portuguese people living in Europe and their brothers and sisters living in Macau. Our Association has already opened up our membership to Portuguese individuals here in Vancouver to serve similarly as a "bridge" between the European Portuguese and those living elsewhere and in particular the Macanese communities. Some of these individuals have worked or seen military service in Macau many years ago and have now been welcomed as members of our Association..

PARTICIPATION BY MCA MEMBERS AT 3º Encontro

We would like very much to thank our members for their positive participation during the 3º Encontro. We would like to single out a few MCA members as follows:-

Flag Bearers:

António Amante
Michael de Faria Neves

Ladies carry corsages behind the Statue of Our Lady

Seven of the twenty six ladies who carried corsages in the Procession were members of our Association:

Ana Clara Tellis
Rita dos Santos
Cíntia dos Santos
Isabel Jorge Ma
Elizabeth Pissarra
Arlette Rodrigues
Belarmina Marques

Volunteers who helped to carry the Statue of Our Lady and Other Statues:

Peter da Silva
Don Gillis
Michael Gillis
Eleitério Rodrigues
Eduardo dos Remedios

As one person from California has already remarked: "You Macau Cultural Association people did proud". Bearing in mind that our contingent numbered only 72 individuals we are indeed proud of our wholehearted participation in the programs and activities of the 3rd Reunion of Macanese Communities held in Macau recently.

APIM ALUMNI GET-TOGETHER

In the opinion of some the APIM Get-together on Wednesday, March 24, 1999 and the "Chá Gordo" that followed was perhaps the best event of the entire week in Macau. It provided the opportunity for many of our Macau-born members to meet up with their fellow classmates of old. Members of our Association attending this function included, amongst others, the following individuals:

Linda Achiam
António Amante
Daniel Cunha
Fernando & Fernanda Rosário
José Vasco & Rita dos Santos
Cíntia dos Santos
Roque Xavier Hy
Isabel Jorge Ma
Florinda Pina
Sérgio Pina
Ana Clara (Rodrigues) Tellis
Luís Cunha
Renato Rodrigues

Members of one particular "Casa de Macau" were conspicuously absent and were not even represented at this function possibly because they have no members who are Macau-born and Macau-educated.

ENCONTRO TRAVEL SUBSIDY

The sum of Can\$43,127.19, representing our Association's entitlement of the travel subsidy for 72 individuals, was credited in early April 1999 direct from Macau into our bank account. This works out to C\$598.98 per person. Our Association has decided to round off the travel subsidy for each person to a flat C\$600.00 amounting to a total expenditure of C\$43,200.00. The cheques are being issued within the next few days to those who travelled to Macau.

"MacaU"

We would like to congratulate Exmo. Snr. Rogério Beltrão Coelho and Exma. Snra. Cecília Jorge, Editor and Executive Director respectively of the publication "MacaU" for the excellent coverage they provided to the Macanese communities in their March and April issues of the publication. With the numerous photographs included in these two issues they will be obviously become treasured possessions to those who are lucky enough to acquire copies. For example, photographs of the following MCA members appear in the April issue of MacaU:-

Elizabeth Pissarra
Peter da Silva
Don Gillis
Gustavo da Roza
Glória da Roza
Gabriella da Roza
Maria da Roza MacFarlane
Gemma Gillis
Renato Rodrigues
Elsie Pereira
Rita dos Santos
Cíntia dos Santos
Anna Clara Tellis

Isabel Jorge Ma
Arlette Rodrigues
Belarmina Marques
Eduardo dos Remedios
Michael da Faria-Neves
Delcie Souza
António Amante
Sérgio Pina
Joe (Didi) Rosário

"THUMBS DOWN" to those few Encontro participants who:

- (a) went after the food as if it was to be their last meal on earth;
- (b) clambered through the bushes at the Palácio do Governo to get ahead of those who had patiently lined up for their turn at the food tables;
- (c) having been served, started to pass their plates of food to their friends at the back who had not bothered to line up like everybody else;
- (d) took huge servings of food and then, of course, wasted perfectly good food in a world of starving people.
- (e) commenced eating at Club Recreio even before the music, dancing and other entertainment provided by the host were over with.
- (f) sneaked up to the official table at the Leal Senado "dim sum" luncheon and tried to "take" away the small carton of souvenir posters which, in any case, was provided to every one attending the "dim sum" function.

UPDATE ON "FAMILIAS MACAENSES" BY DR. JORGE FORJAZ

At one of the functions in Macau we met up with Dr. Jorge Forjaz and his most charming wife, Margarida. Dr. Forjaz has asked us to pass along the message that he would welcome fresh contributions, amendments and/or corrections for his publication "Familias Macaenses" as soon as possible. Depending on the volume of information received by him over the next few months he will have to make a final decision on whether he will opt for:-

- (a) merely publish an addendum to the original publication;
- (b) publish an entirely new edition of the publication; or
- (c) go high tech and publish a new edition using a CD-Rom

Members are therefore encouraged to send any of their fresh contributions and/or amendments to Dr. Forjaz whose address and telephone/fax number are as follows:-

Rua de Sé, no.26
9700 Angra do Heroísmo
Açores
PORTUGAL
Tel/Fax: 00-351-95-22645

This is a wonderful opportunity for any errors and/or omissions in the publication "Familias Macaenses" to be rectified and updated. If one does nothing about this matter at this point in time, please then do not come back in, say, a year's time and complain that some of the information is not correct or that some vital personal information has been left out.

OUTSTANDING DUES

This serves as a reminder to those members who may have overlooked paying up their 1999 membership dues and, in some cases, the charge of \$6.00 to cover postage for the newsletter. Membership dues are normally payable on January 1 of each year and members who wish to vote in the elections which take place in February each year must pay their dues one week before

the election date. In any case, it is generally expected that all membership dues will be paid up by March 31. Failure to pay one's dues by May 31 will cause a member to be regarded as delinquent and no longer a member in good standing for the remainder of the year, with the resulting loss of membership privileges. Failure to pay up by June 30 may result in the striking off of one's name from the Association's membership list. If you have not already done so, please pay up your dues and send the appropriate fees (cheques payable to the Macau Cultural Association) to the Association's official postal address or to the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Sérgio Pina at #306 - 8291 Bennett Road, Richmond, B.C. V5Y 1N4. We look forward to the payment and settlement of these outstanding dues and any money towards postage for the newsletter. We suggest also that all such payments be made by cheque and, under these circumstances, your cancelled cheques will serve as the official receipts, thus saving the Hon. Treasurer having to write out and issue numerous official receipts. Your co-operation in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

MARCH 1999 MEETING

Despite some members having left early for the 3rd Reunion, some fifty members attended this meeting on March 14, 1999. Members present were provided with a last minute update on the 3º Encontro arrangements. Members were reminded that those of us who are going to Macau must behave themselves as guests in Macau and as unofficial ambassadors of Canada.

APRIL 1999 MEETING

Fifty two members attended this meeting on April 18, 1999. Some members were still abroad and the Editor only returned on April 13 and despite the jet lag, he has managed to produce the April 1999 newsletter with a brief report on the 3rd Reunion. The April 1999 newsletter contained excerpts of some of the speeches delivered at the solemn opening ceremony attended by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Portugal, Dr. Jorge Sampaio and His Excellency the Governor of Macau, General Vasco Rocha Vieira.

Members who had attended the 3º Encontro were generally enthusiastic about the event. It was also mentioned that the Honourable Glen Clark, Premier of British Columbia had, at the specific request of the Macau Cultural Association, written a letter of salutations to General Vasco Rocha Vieira on the occasion of the 3rd Reunion. The Association's address at the opening ceremony on March 22, 1999 and at the Reception at Club Recreio on March 28, 1999 were both well received. At the former our Association called upon all the Casas world wide to emulate our Association in trying to revive the interests of the younger generation. At the Club Recreio function our Association, taking a cue from the nostalgic theme, romped through memory lane to recall the names of some prominent Portuguese/Macanese sportsmen from Hong Kong, Macau and Shanghai over the years.

ANNIVERSARY OF PORTUGUESE REVOLUTION IN 1974 (Revolução de Cravos)

On April 25, 1996, the office of the Portuguese Consulate collaborated with members of the Portuguese Canadian Seniors' Foundation to celebrate the anniversary of the bloodless Portuguese revolution in 1974 - known as the Revolution of the Carnations - now a key event in the country's history. A group of about eight members of our Association, representing several families (and not restricted to just one single family) joined in the celebrations held at the premises of the Portuguese Canadian Seniors' Foundation and we even provided several Macanese delicacies for the pot luck occasion. The event was graced by the presence of the Portuguese Consul, Mr. Pedro Manuel da Sampaio and Mrs. Sampaio and by the Chancellor, Mrs. Hironcina Ghouri and her husband, Abdul.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on Sunday, June 20, 1999 at the Eaton Centre Community Room commencing at 2.00 p.m. Now that the 3º Encontro is behind us the Association will attempt to get back to normal business as quickly as possible.

COOKING DEMONSTRATIONS

We welcome back Beatrice (Betty) Baptista who has re-joined our Association recently after a long absence and we are going to organise some Macanese cooking demonstrations to be conducted by Betty Baptista and Isabel Jorge Ma, our 2nd Vice President. Learn to cook [Tacho] and [Bebinga Leite] ? Watch out for more announcements at the coming meeting on May 16, 1999.

CANADA DAY BAR-B-Q

Members are advised that our Association will be holding our traditional Canada Day Bar-B-Q in Central Park on Thursday, July 1, 1999. Members may recall that we had a record number of members attending this function last year. Watch out for further details and announcements this coming month.

MEMBERS' DAY DINNER DANCE

We have not forgotten our Members' Day function but due to being fully tied up with the 3rd Reunion, the event will take place a little later this year, possibly in July or August. Watch out for details which will be announced very soon.

HEALTHWATCH

We are happy to report that Cyril Neves has recovered sufficiently to be discharged from hospital and is now convalescing at home.

Filomena (Nena) McSmith has had an operation on May 14, 1999. We suggest that intending visitors check with family members before contemplating any visits. In the meantime we call upon members to remember Cyril and Nena in their prayers and we wish them both a speedy recovery.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS IN MACAU

Fátima Procession

By the time one reads this newsletter the annual Fátima Procession from the Sé Cathedral to Penha Chapel has already taken place on May 13, marking the Miracle of Fátima in Portugal in 1917.

Camões Day & Communities Day

June 10 is a public holiday in Macau marking Portugal's national day with celebrations and a traditional ceremony at Camões Grotto in Camões Garden.

Portuguese Night

June 12 will see celebrations in the form of fado singing and Portuguese folk dancing.

Dragon Boat Festival

One of the most spectacular events of the year with local boat races on June 18 and international races on June 20.

St. John the Baptist: Celebrations in honour of Macau's patron saint, St. John the Baptist, take place on June 24 which is a public holiday in Macau.

MOTHER'S DAY - HISTORY

(contributed by Fr. Mike Baptista)

The earliest Mother's Day celebrations can be traced to the spring celebrations of ancient Greece in honour of Rhea, the Mother of the Gods. During the 1600s, England celebrated [Mothering Sunday], which honoured the mothers of England, on the 4th Sunday of Lent. There was also a mothering cake to provide a festive touch.

As Christianity spread throughout Europe the celebrations changed to honour the [Mother Church] - the spiritual power that gave them life and protected them from harm. Over time people began honouring their mothers as well as the church.

In the United States, Mother's Day was first suggested in 1872 by Julia Ward Howe who organised Mother's day meetings in Boston, Mass. every year. In 1907 Ana Jarvis, from Philadelphia, began a campaign to establish a national Mother's Day on the 2nd Sunday in May. By 1911 Mother's Day was celebrated in almost every State. President Woodrow Wilson, in 1914, proclaimed Mother's Day as a national holiday on the 2nd Sunday in May each year. There are some countries of the world that celebrate their own Mother's Day at different times throughout the year but many fell in line with the observance of Mother's Day on the 2nd Sunday in May.

GOSTOS E SABORES

Galinha Recheada (Stuffed Chicken/Capon)

Ingredients:

6-7 lb. Capon
1 ½ tablespoon salt
2 teaspoon pepper
3 cups white wine
¼ lb butter
4 onions, chopped
½ teaspoon nutmeg
1 teaspoon cinnamon
2 cups bread crumbs
1 ½ cups sliced green olives
6 hard-boiled eggs, coarsely chopped
1 teaspoon vinegar
½ cup milk, scalded

Method:

Wash and dry the capon, reserving the gizzards and liver. Combine 1 tablespoon of the salt and 1 ½ teaspoons of the pepper and rub it into the capon, inside and out. Place the capon in a large bowl or pan and pour the wine over it. Marinate overnight in the refrigerator and baste occasionally.

Place the gizzards in a saucepan with water to cover and boil for about 30 minutes. Add the liver and boil another 10 minutes. Drain. Cut up the gizzard and liver finely. Melt the butter in a skillet. Add the onions and sauté for ten minutes; stirring frequently. Combine the sautéed onions with the nutmeg, cinnamon, remaining salt, and pepper, bread crumbs, olives, eggs, vinegar, milk and the gizzard and liver which has been cut up finely. Mix well.

Drain the capon but reserve the wine. Stuff the capon with the mixture, fastening the opening with skewers or with thread, or cover with a piece of aluminium foil. Roast the capon in a 350o oven for about 25 minutes per pound. Add 1 cup of the reserved wine after the first 30 minutes of roasting time. Baste frequently, adding more wine if required.

Sopa à Portuguesa (Portuguese Seafood Soup)

Ingredients

3 tablespoon olive oil
3 fillets of sole or other white-meat fish
1 lb shrimps, peeled and cleaned
6 cups of water
6 sprigs of parsley
½ teaspoon basil
6 white onions
5 slices bread, trimmed
6 hard-boiled eggs yolks, mashed
1 cup ground almonds
2 teaspoon salt

1 teaspoon pepper
6 slices toast (French bread if possible)

Method:

Heat the olive oil in a frying pan. Add the fish fillets and brown on both sides. Set aside. Combine the shrimp, water, parsley, basil and onions in a saucepan and cook over medium heat for about ten minutes. Add the fried fillets, bread and egg yolks. Cook over medium heat for 15 minutes. Force the mixture through a sieve (One might try using a blender here) and return it to the saucepan. Add the almonds, salt, and pepper. Cook over low heat, stirring constantly, until hot, but do not allow to boil. Place a slice of toast in each soup plate and pour the soup over it. The result is a soup thick enough to be considered as a stew but this is a very old Portuguese soup recipe.

Rebanadas (Fried Bread Dessert)

Ingredients:

3 cups milk
1/3 cup honey
1/3 cup sugar
2 tablespoon grated lemon rind
½ cinnamon stick (optional)
a pinch of salt
12 slices French bread ½ inch thick
OR 6 slices white bread cut in half
4 eggs, beaten
1 cup salad oil
¼ cup confectioner's sugar
¼ cup cinnamon

Method:

Combine the milk, honey, sugar, lemon rind, cinnamon stick, and pinch of salt in a saucepan. Bring to a boil and cook over low heat for about thirty minutes. Remove from the heat. Dip the bread slices in the mixture and then into the beaten eggs. Heat ½ cup of the oil in a frying pan. Fry the bread in the oil until light brown on both sides. Add additional oil as required. Allow the fried bread to cool slightly and then serve it with confectioner's sugar and cinnamon.

Pudim de Bananas (Light Banana Soufflé)

Ingredients:

6 bananas, finely sliced
5 tablespoons sugar
juice of ½ lemon
½ cup (4 fl oz) port
6 egg whites
½ teaspoon vanilla essence

Method:

1. Preheat oven to 180o C or 350o F
2. Butter a soufflé mould and sprinkle it with a little sugar
3. Mix the bananas with 2 tablespoon sugar, lemon juice and port
4. Put them into the mould
5. Whip the egg whites with the remaining 3 tablespoon sugar and the vanilla essence to a glossy meringue
6. Spoon the meringue on top of the bananas and bake in the pre-heated oven for about 20-25 minutes. Serve immediately (four portions)

Until next month

Luiz M. Souza, MBE AE
President & Editor

Friday, May 14, 1999

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