



## Newsletter

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

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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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**VOLUME 11 ISSUE NO. 01 and 02      February 18, 2000**

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### **EDITORIAL**

#### **Macau Cultural Centre - At what price ?**

There is no doubt whatsoever that everyone is one hundred percent in favour of a Macau Cultural Centre being established here in Vancouver. However, our Association has taken a realistic and pragmatic view that both Casa de Macau Club and the Macau Cultural Association must be permitted to operate, within the confines of any Centre, their own club premises independently whilst perhaps sharing a minimum of facilities such as a common entrance to the Centre; a large multi-purpose space for special large gatherings; the toilet facilities, and possibly some of the kitchen facilities subject to certain guarantees.

Each Casa would then have the choice of establishing whatever they wished by way of lounges, meeting rooms, card rooms, offices and other facilities.

If sharing is carried out on a large scale we fear that both associations would lose their own individual identities. The retention of our very own identity which we have built over the past ten years is of paramount importance to us. There are numerous other questions which need to be looked at in this context.

Our Association's major concern is: where does the sharing end ? Our Association has received monetary subsidies from the Governor of Macau for a considerable number of years. Are these Association assets up for sharing as well ? *Association members should be made aware that this very subject of past subsidies was in fact raised by a Casa de Macau Club representative at the meeting on December 4, 1999 with Ms Gabriela César !!*

Fortunately Ms Gabriela César left no doubt in any one's minds when she stated that the subsidies handed out in the past by the Governor of Macau are not part of the equation.

It is therefore extremely important, no matter how distasteful the subject matter may well be, that anyone dealing with the establishment of a future Macau Cultural Centre, must be briefed and be made aware of the unpleasant background history of the two Casas de Macau here in Vancouver. *If one Association wishes to purchase a piece of furniture or equipment with its own funds for the use of its own members, how then will this fit into any room which is to be // shared // ?*

Over the past ten years we have also received and acquired numerous souvenirs, books and publications which are presently stored in the basements of the homes of several Association members. How will these souvenirs, books and publications fit into a library that is to be // shared // between the two associations ?

The bottom line on this issue must surely be the extent to which some of the club facilities may be shared without impairing the important principle of retaining the unique identity and integrity of each of the two Casas and thereby permit them to operate independently from each other.

#### **LAST MONTH'S NEWSLETTER**

Due to a family bereavement the Editor went down in Los Angeles for about two weeks and was unable to publish the January 2000 newsletter last month.

#### **MACAU CULTURAL CENTRE**

#### **4 January 2000**

We have received a facsimile from **Ms Gabriela César** informing us that the Foundation for the Co-operation and Development of Macau (FCDM) has authorised financial support in the amount of MOP\$7 million (about Can\$1.35 million) towards the acquisition of premises to set up a future Macau Cultural Centre in Vancouver to be shared by the Macau Cultural Association and Casa de Macau Club. Despite the "doom and gloom" expressed recently by some individuals, we now have a firm offer of financial assistance from Macau. However, the offer is disappointing when compared with FCDM's offer of US\$2 million plus Fundação Oriente's offer of US\$400-500 thousand to the Casas in California.

#### **10 January 2000**

Our Association wrote to thank Ms César for FCDM's offer and suggested that FCDM and Fundação Oriente should be no less generous to us than they have been to California. This letter was copied to **Senhor Mario Brandão and Mr. Michael Guterres** for their information.

#### **Observation**

It should be noted that following the Governor's visit in early November 1999, our Association has spared no efforts to attempting to get this "Macau Cultural Centre" project off the ground. Three of our letters, dated December 7 and 17, 1999 and 10 January 2000 to Ms. Gabriela Cesar, were constructive and were copied to Mr. Michael Guterres, President of Casa de Macau Club as well as Senhor Mario Brandão, Director of Fundação Oriente for their information and comments. Apart from harping on the need for sharing club premises, no one, other than our own Association, has so far made any suggestion and/or proposal to get this important project moving. We have not heard from Fundação Oriente nor from Casa de Macau Club since early December 1999. In the meantime our Association has not wasted any time in the pursuit of our aspirations. We have met with **Comendador Gustavo da Roza** about two weeks ago to map out some initial strategy. His unsolicited offer of help and assistance is a tremendous boost to the chances of establishing a Macau Cultural Centre in this region. We hope that Casa de Macau Club will come on stream soon.

#### **MACAU GOVERNMENT SUBSIDY**

It was announced at our monthly meeting on December 12, 1999 that our Association has received in early December 1999 another unexpected windfall monetary subsidy from His Excellency the Governor of Macau, **General Vasco Rocha Vieira**. We are most grateful for His Excellency's most generous gift which is very much appreciated. Members should be aware therefore that in 1999 alone we have received two payments from His Excellency the Governor. In view of the impending change in administration on December 19-20, 1999 we rushed a facsimile communication to Macau to acknowledge with thanks receipt of this latest subsidy. May we now look forward hopefully to receiving more such subsidies in the future from the Macau SAR ?

#### **DECEMBER 1999 MEETING**

In the absence of the President, **Mr. António Amante** chaired the meeting. Topics discussed at this meeting included the Tenth Anniversary Dinner Dance on November 20, 1999; the dinner in honour of the visiting Portuguese Secretary of State for Portuguese Communities, **Eng. José Lello** on November 27, 1999; the performances by our Association's "Os Macaenses" tuna band and singers during our Tenth Anniversary Dinner Dance, and at the dinner in honour of the visit of Eng. José Lello; the cooking demonstrations on December 5, 1999; the announcement of the Nomination and Election Timetable and Procedures; the Hand-Over Ceremonies scheduled to be held in Macau on December 19-20, 1999 and the financial position as at November 30, 1999.

The monthly meeting was followed by our Children's Christmas Party and that in turn was followed later by a "pot-luck" dinner. The afternoon activities were enhanced by yet another great performance by the "Os Macaenses" tuna band and the young singers.

#### **JANUARY 2000 MEETING**

Due to the heavy snowfall on January 16, the monthly meeting was postponed to Sunday, January 23 and was held at St. Theresa's Church Hall on Canada Way. There was a good turn out of some sixty members. Members were brought up-to-date on the Macau Cultural Centre situation. Members also authorised the expenditure of a sum of money to purchase musical equipment for our "Os Macaenses" tuna band. Mr. Virgílio Rosário then opened the nomination forms to announce the candidates for the Elections on 20 February 2000. It was subsequently

announced that the following individuals will be elected by acclamation on Election Day (20 February 2000):-

President: **Luiz Souza** (re-elected)

Vice President **António Amante** (re-elected)

Vice President **Mrs. Natalie Santos**

Secretary **Mrs. Natércia da Rosa** (re-elected)

On Election Day members will vote for either **Sérgio Pina** (incumbent) or **Peter da Silva** to serve as Hon. Treasurer in the coming year.

### **HAND-OVER OF MACAU**

#### **Official Invitations**

By some quirk of fate invitations sent by the Macau Government on December 2 and 7, 1999 inviting a representative of our Association to attend the Hand-Over Ceremonies in Macau on December 19-20, 1999, were not delivered to the Association until after the event on Tuesday, December 21, 1999 due to a mix-up on the part of the air express courier.

Our Association was therefore not represented at the Hand-Over Ceremonies in Macau on December 19-20, 1999. In view of this mix-up, our Association sent letters addressed to His Excellency the Governor of Macau, **General Vasco Rocha Vieira** on December 18 and to the new Chief Executive of the Macau SAR, **Mr. Edmund Ho Hau Wah** on December 20, 1999 offering an explanation for the non-appearance of our representative at the Hand-Over Ceremonies and conveying our greetings and sincere sentiments to them for the historic occasion.

#### **Rocha Vieiral's Departure from Santa Sancha**

On Sunday, December 19, 1999 His Excellency the Governor of Macau, **General Vasco Rocha Vieira**, his wife Maria Lenor and their three children, Joao, Pedro and Felipe, aged 22, 21 and 15, bade an emotional farewell to staff at their official Santa Sancha residence. At 4.30 p.m. General Vasco Rocha Vieira and his family stepped out of the two-storey colonial building on Penha Hill and said their final farewells to house staff, gardeners, security guards and drivers. Many of the housemaids and other staff were clearly tearful as they said their goodbyes. The future plans of General Vasco Rocha Vieira, who spent most of his childhood in Portugal's former African colony of Mozambique, have not yet been announced.

#### **Rocha Vieiral's Departure from Palace**

An emotionally charged flag-lowering ceremony at sunset on December 19, 1999 marked the beginning of the end of Portuguese rule. About 2,000 residents and foreign visitors watched the five-minute ceremony at 5.00 p.m. when the Portuguese red and green flag was lowered at the Macau Government Palace. Members of the Colour Party folded the flag before placing it on a silver plate which was then handed over to the outgoing Governor, **General Vasco Rocha Vieira**. The General sang and stood to attention as he watched the Portuguese flag come down. Clutching the folded flag firmly to his chest, General Vasco Rocha Vieira took a final glance at the Palace before stepping into a black Mercedes limousine that whisked him away to other hand-over events.

#### **Official Hand-Over**

The official hand-over ceremony, filled with pomp and ceremony, lasted under twenty minutes. Portuguese **President Jorge Sampaio**, **Prime Minister António Guterres**, **Parliamentary Deputy Speaker Navana Coissoro** and the rest of the official Portuguese party were in a sombre mood as the Portuguese flag came down on their country's last colonial outpost. The **Hon. Christopher Patten**, former and last Governor of Hong Kong was amongst the official guests invited to Macau for the occasion.

**President Sampaio**, speaking just before midnight, called upon Macau SAR to respect individual human and political rights, and stated that Macau must continue as an important meeting point between Europe and Asia. He also stated that Portugal will continue to express its solidarity with Macau and will remain committed to its future with the conviction that in Macau SAR, democracy and freedom are an irreplaceable reality.

#### **President and Governor's Departure from Macau**

**General Vasco Rocha Vieira** and **President Jorge Sampaio** boarded an Air Macau flight at about 1.00 a.m. after another emotional farewell at the airport when General Vasco Rocha Vieira said goodbye to some of his closest local staff. The flight took the party to Bangkok where the President was to make a one-day state visit in Thailand.



The "dragon" years in the past were 1904, 1916, 1928, 1940, 1952, 1964, 1976, 1988, and this year 2000.

### **NEWS FROM MACAU**

(Macau Travel Talk and other sources)

#### **Governor's Farewell Speech**

*As Portugal's 442-year presence came to a close on December 19, 1999, the out-going Governor of Macau, **General Vasco Rocha Vieira** emphasised that colonisation was never the aim of the Portuguese who were essentially navigators and discoverers and as a result of that, the Portuguese also became conquerors and colonisers. As navigators they were motivated solely by a desire to encounter and understand other people through understanding, willing co-operation and the creation of something new. The Portuguese during their tenure in Macau has nurtured the territory into a free and cosmopolitan city. **General Vasco Rocha Vieira** also paid tribute to all the Portuguese who ever lived in Macau and who helped to build a unique territory and a free and multi-cultural city.*

#### **Procession of Our Lord of Passos**

##### **11-12 March 2000**

An image of Our Lord of Passos is carried through the streets of Macau re-enacting an historical and traditional local event marking the beginning of Lent. This year the procession will take place on 11-12 March 2000.

### **FUNDAÇÃO ORIENTE NEWSLETTER**

Our Association has received a number of copies of Fundação Oriente's Newsletter for November 1999. As usual this issue includes a number of very interesting articles including details of an Agreement signed between Fundação Oriente and Johnson and Johnson to help solve problems and shortfalls in health care in mainland Portugal and the autonomous island regions; Foundation activities in India and Sri Lanka; summer concerts in the Fundação Oriente's Gardens in Lisbon, Portugal; a Village Party in the Heart of China; and the new premises for the Casa de Macau in Lisbon and a great many of the other activities (scholarships, exhibitions, Media, Music and Dance, Publications, Research Projects dealing with Cultural Heritage, Health, Welfare and Philanthropy) in the Foundation's calendar of activities for the first half of 1999. Copies are available on request and whilst copies last.

### **SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS**

#### **CAMOES INSTITUTE - PORTUGAL**

Scholarship Programs related to the Camoes Institute for the year 2000/2001 have been announced. Further details are obtainable from the Office of the Portuguese Ambassador in Ottawa or from the Office of the Portuguese Consulate in Vancouver.

### **NEWS FROM HONG KONG**

(Source: HKPOW Association newsletter)

#### **HSBC Centre**

Some three months ago the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation opened its new \$4 billion HSBC Centre in West Kowloon, near the Olympic MTR station on the Tung Chung line. The Centre has a gross floor area of 913,856 square feet and will accommodate 5,000 staff. It has, amongst other amenities, a 350-seat canteen serving Chinese and Western food; a 3,000 sq.ft Fitness Centre; child-care facilities for 150 children; a fast food canteen and a medical clinic.

#### **Rents in Hong Kong**

Causeway Bay is still the world's second most expensive shopping area after New York's Madison Avenue in terms of rentals. The Madison Avenue prime rentals are US\$600 per square foot per year with Causeway Bay at US\$454. This is more expensive than Champs Elysees in Paris or Oxford Street in London.

### **GOSTOS E SABORES**

#### **Feijoada (by Maria Luiza Rosario)**

##### **Ingredients**

2 lbs shank beef

2 lbs trotters

2 lbs ham hock

1 lb Portuguese sausage

2 large Cabbage

2 large red onions  
2 large bay leaves  
1 tsp sweet paprika  
4 tbsp minced garlic  
1 tbsp tomato paste  
1 19 oz can crushed tomatoes  
4 ozs fresh shallots  
8 ozs red wine (tinto) or dry sherry  
3 19 oz cans of red kidney beans  
olive oil  
salt and pepper to taste

**Method:** In a large pot heat some olive oil. Then sauté half of the red onions and garlic and brown the beef. Add the red wine and water to cover the beef and cook until tender. In another pot, boil some water to blanch the trotters. Rinse well in cold water and commence cooking until tender. Cut the cabbage into eighths and use the liquid from the beef and trotters to cook the cabbage. In a larger pot, sauté balance of the onions, garlic and the rest of the ingredients. Cook slowly, adding the liquid until thickened, adding the cabbage and beans. Mix well. Serve with rice or bread.

### **Coscorões**

(by Ana Clara Tellis)

#### **Ingredients**

1 lb Flour  
6 egg yolks  
Salt  
Water

#### **Method**

Mix the flour, salt and egg yolks  
Add enough water to form a dough  
Knead well and roll dough as thin as possible  
Cut into 4-inch squares  
Deep fry, placing one chopstick in the centre of the square whilst using the other chopstick to move the side of the square to form a pinwheel.

#### **SYRUP**

2 cups of sugar  
1 cup of water  
Dilute the sugar in the water  
Cook slowly until the mixture turns into a thick syrup  
Drizzle the syrup on top of the coscorões.

### **The Human Race**

In case you needed further proof that the human race is doomed through stupidity, here are some actual label instructions on a few popular consumer goods:

**On a Sears hair dryer** - *Do not use whilst sleeping - (Gee, that's the only time I have to work on my hair!)*

**On a bag of Fritos** - You could be a winner ! No purchase necessary Details inside. (The shoplifter special !!)

**On a bar of Dial soap**: *Directions - Use like regular soap. (imagine !!)*

**On a well known frozen dinner**: Serving suggestion: Defrost (just a suggestion !!)

**Printed on the bottom of a Tiramisu dessert**: Do not turn upside down (Too late!!)

**On a Marks and Spencer bread pudding**: *Product will be hot after heating (Are you sure ?)*

**On packaging for a well known iron**: Do not iron clothes on body (Wouldn't that save time ?)

**On a Children's cough mixture**: Do not drive car or operate machinery (Well that helps)

**On Nytol sleep aid**: Warning - May cause drowsiness (one would hope so)

**On a string of foreign made Christmas lights**: *For indoor and outdoor use only (How about outer space and underground ?)*

**On American Airlines packet of nuts**: *Instructions: open packet, and eat nuts. (what is going on here ?)*

**PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT**

The [President's 1999 Annual Report](#) highlighting the main activities of this Association for the twelve months ending 31 December 1999.

Until next month

Luiz M. Souza, MBE AE

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