

**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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**EDITORIAL**

The Reunion of Presidents of Casas was convened in an attempt to further strengthen the friendship, affection and goodwill amongst, to use the term used on many occasions by General Vasco Rocha Vieira, our fellow "filhos de terra". It was a good opportunity for us to get together and to come up with constructive proposals to help perpetuate our Macaense history, traditions and culture. We believe that the Macau Cultural Association is the only casa which took the trouble of producing and sending two discussion papers to "Pavilhão de Macau" *before* the meeting took place in Lisbon. Our Association advocated discussions on two fronts - one dealing with ways and means to stem the waning interest of members of our younger generation. We made a similar appeal in our address at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Encontro in Macau in March 1999.

The other subject matter concerned the question of "proliferation of casas". Our Association has also raised this very same subject previously in a letter addressed to Comendador Joaquim Morais Alves, President of the Macau Organising Committee for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Encontro in August 1996, a couple of months prior to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Encontro in Macau. We are very pleased that both subjects were touched upon during the course of the Reunion last month. We were particularly impressed with the forceful arguments put forward by Prof. Eng. Luis de Guimarães Lobato against the proliferation of casas which does nothing except to fracture our small Macaense communities even further..

It is a bit unfortunate that in Lisbon recently one or two casas, which shall remain nameless, resorted to their traditional song and dance routine, stretching out their palmed hands and singing the same old song: "give us money - give us money". Surely they should have risen above that on this occasion and come up with suggestions aimed at strengthening the bonds that are needed to bind us together and more importantly, to do something about it. We cannot depend solely on financial help from our benefactors to resolve everything under the sun. We have ourselves an obligation to act and we must do everything in our power to promote and disseminate our heritage, culture and history to all those around us. We believe that our Association has done its share. We have set up a modest scholarship since 1991; we produce a monthly newsletter with special emphasis on Macau news and to a lesser extent Portugal and including of a number of traditional Portuguese and Macaense recipes for the benefit of the community; we believe we were the first casa to set up our own web page; we have created our "Macau Youth Group" in an effort to revive the interest of our younger members in our community; we have set up a tuna band "Os Macaenses" and a young singing group "Os Cantores" in an effort to boost interest in our Macaense culture; These achievements have all been realised without any additional financial assistance so far from our benefactors.

In summary we believe that the combined efforts and contributions made by Sergio Rui de Pina, Beatrice Baptista and our Association president collectively and jointly made some impact on the discussions which took place in Lisbon recently. In addition Sergio also took over the role of semi-official translator, translating from Portuguese to English and vice versa, for the benefit of those few individuals who are not bi-lingual in those two languages. In particular Sergio Pina made some useful contributions not only during the substantive discussions that took place throughout the week but also, as they say, in the corridors of the Reunion. Well done - Sergio

**REUNION OF PRESIDENTS OF CASAS LISBON, PORTUGAL - 18-25 June 2000**

The Reunion of Presidents of Casas the world over took place during the week of 18-25 June 2000 in Lisbon, Portugal. Our Association was represented by three Committee members, two of whom paid their own way to Portugal and return, to provide the necessary logistical support. We attended the Reunion with great expectations and were not disappointed. Two memoranda were submitted by our Association to the Organising Committee in Lisbon and we are delighted that both subject matters were brought up for discussion in Lisbon. One concerned the policy regarding the proliferation of Casas and the other was on the policy to revive the interest of our younger generation. We know that we have done more than our share in the promotion and dissemination of the Macaense history, heritage and culture. Fundação Oriente came up with an undertaking to establish a student exchange program for 12-13 years old children and this announcement was received with some enthusiasm.

It was great honour for our Sergio Pina to be accepted by his peers to be the unofficial translator, from Portuguese to English and vice versa throughout the week. Our own Beatrice Baptista managed to set the records straight on the history of Marciano Baptista, the Macaense artist whose works have been displayed world wide and whose name has been perpetuated in a street in Macau named after him. It is of some interest to note also that Dr. Ricardo de Sousa, the grand uncle of the MCA President, was the "fundador e primeiro director dos Correios de Macau" and who also had a street in Macau named after him.

A brief Report of the Reunion Meeting in Lisbon; copies of our policy papers on "Proliferation of Casas" and "The Younger Generation" and a brief listing of our "Association Activities and Achievements" are attached to this newsletter for general information.

During the course of the Reunion a complimentary cassette of our tuna band, "Os Macaenses" playing "Macau" and a handout providing a brief description of our tuna band and our young singing group "Os Cantores" were widely distributed.

### **AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE**

(Contributed by Betty Baptista)

It all began on Friday June 16 (Not Friday 13) when I found out that no planes were flying in or out of Heathrow because of an Air Traffic Control computer problem. This made it impossible for Delcie & Luiz and I to leave Vancouver as planned on June 17. After a somewhat hectic 24-hour delay we eventually left one day late by KLM (not BA) for Lisbon via Amsterdam and arriving in Lisbon almost midnight on June 19.

#### **June 20, 2000**

This was the second day listed on the "Programa dos Presidentes das Casas de Macau" where all the participants met a few of the representatives from Macau - Dr. Jorge Rangel, Presidente de Direcção, I. I. M.; Dr. Henrique Pedruco, Secretario da Mesa da Assembleia Geral, A.D.M. and Dr. Luis Correia Gageiro, Secretario (Direcção), Associação dos Trabalhadores da Função Pública de Macau. They all spoke about the present situation in Macau since the handover in December 1999. Various relevant topics were discussed followed by a brief question and answer period.

Our Treasurer, Sérgio Rui de Pina continued with being actively involved in the translation of the various topics discussed. Congratulations are due to Sergio for a job well done and appreciated by all the participants.

#### **June 21, 2000**

This was for many the most memorable event in the whole "programa" - a visit to the 16<sup>th</sup> century Convento in Arribida, a property owned by Fundação Oriente. Words cannot describe the awesome feeling I had when I entered this ancient monastery. It was like going back into the Middle Ages. Dr. Monjardino has created a scenario most conducive to spur my imagination - the cobbled pavements, the wet slimy walls, and the crumpled ruins - all that was missing were the ghosts to spring out of the moulded crevices and tombs that were plentiful.

However, Dr. Monjardino has modernised some of the Chambers in this fortified sanctuary. He has an auditorium complete with plush theatre seats, a P.A. system, microphones, and visual aids equipment that would have been the envy of any modern technician.

What was the most significant message I carried with me after this visit? It must surely be this - **Dr. Monjardino suggested that in regions where existing casas cannot reach an agreement to establish a shared "sede" Fundação Oriente would consider establishing a "sede" for the entire Macanese community and run the "sede" themselves.**

All this time there was never any mention of funds and nothing was mentioned about money - nada. During a short spell Delcie and I were the envy of the rest of the participants when we got to ride in Dr. Monjardino's Mercedes.

#### **June 22, 2000**

This was a free morning dedicated to sightseeing and a bit of shopping with a visit to Cascais and Sintra in the early afternoon. The bus coach left the hotel at three in the afternoon and took the party to Cascais. It was a bit disappointing for me when the tour did not stop at Boca de Inferno for some shopping. When the party got to Sintra we had one hour to do our shopping and where I tasted for the first time "Travesseiros" or pillowcases, a pastry speciality of Sintra. We had dinner at a seafood restaurant close to an area where Clinton had dined. A graffiti reading "CLINTON GO HOME" was still in evidence.

#### **June 23, 2000**

We travelled to the Macau Scientific & Cultural Centre in the morning for the final moments of the Reunion. We then visited the Museum which was most interesting. I asked Isabel Correia of the Centre's Audio-visual and interactive Technology Department why my great grand father Marciano Baptista was not mentioned as the first Macaense artist. Delcie & I were taken upstairs to view several paintings by Marciano Baptista. It is indeed an honour to view his works exhibited together with those of George Chinnery

In the afternoon we paid a visit to Casa de Macau Lisboa for the opening of an exhibition of paintings by Herlander Zambujo followed by a "Chá Gordo" where I met a number of old friends. This was also the first time we saw General Vasco Rocha Vieira briefly.

#### June 24, 2000

This was the final day of the reunion. We visited the Macau Pavilion at the Expo site. A Mass was celebrated in the garden in honour of St. John the Baptist. We then proceeded to the Chinese Restaurant close by for lunch where I saw General Vasco Rocha Vieira only for the second time during the entire week. After lunch we returned to the Macau Pavilion where entertainment was provided. Carlos Coelho, well versed in Patois, was the Master of Ceremonies and I was asked to read our a short Patois speech which was written in Vancouver specially for our trip to Lisbon. This ended a week of fond memories and unforgettable times. The Reunion was successful and many expressed the wish of meeting again in the future. We have to thank the organising committee headed by Prof. Eng. Luis Guimarães Lobato, Dr. Vítor Serra de Almeida and Dr. Mário Matos dos Santos, Dr. Ernesto Basto da Silva and all the other members of Casa de Macau - Lisboa and Fundação Casa de Macau for all their warm hospitality and hard work in organising the Reunion. Thank you one and all.

#### Jorge Alvares Foundation

(Source: "Ponto Final" - June 9, 2000)

It has been announced that General Antonio Adriano Lopes dos Santos has taken over the presidency of the Jorge Alvares Foundation (JAF) from General Vasco Rocha Vieira. Lopes dos Santos, who is 83 years old, served as Governor of Macau from 1962 to 1966 and was also the last Portuguese governor of the Cape Verde Islands. Vasco Rocha Vieira's decision to step down came about following the announcement made by Rocha Vieira recently. The decision to appoint Lopes dos Santos was taken recently at a meeting of the curators of the JAF. The board of the JAF, now presided by General Lopes dos Santos also includes two other former Macau governors, Melo Egidio and Carlos Melaneia, editor Guilherme Valente and attorney Manuel Coelho da Silva. The Board of Curators which includes six former Macau Governors (Rocha Vieira, Carlos Melaneia, Pinto Machado, Almeida Costa, Melo Egidio and Garcia Leandro) amongst other members, established a working group, under the leadership of Carlos Melaneia, to carry out "short term measures" such as "liaison with several Macanese communities located overseas".

(As mentioned elsewhere General Vasco Rocha Vieira appeared only briefly twice during the recent week-long Reunion of Presidents of Casas in Lisbon. He was present at the "Chá Gordo" on June 23 at Casa de Macau Lisboa and at the luncheon which took place at the Restaurante de Macau at the Expo site on June 24, 2000).

#### "Tuna Band" Activities in Vancouver.

Within the past month or so our Tuna Band "Os Macaenses" has performed on three separate occasions. On June 11 they played at the Dia de Portugal celebrations organised by the Portuguese Club of Vancouver and were accompanied by the children's choir "Os Cantores". On June 18 the band also performed at the festivities of the Amigos do Pico's "Festa Tradicional da Santíssima Trindade" On July 1 the children's choir, "Os Cantores" again teamed up with our tuna band "Os Macaenses" to perform at the "Festa do Espírito Santo" organised by the Irmandade do Espírito Santo.

#### Dia de Portugal

Our Association's participation at the Dia de Portugal celebrations on June 11, 2000 organised by the Portuguese Club of Vancouver was a huge success. In addition to the performances by our tuna band and our children's choir we mounted a general information booth from where our members serving the booth distributed information pamphlets about Macau and gave away a number of our very coveted T-shirts and where our "Os Macaenses" tape was played throughout the day. Members of our Macau Youth Group played their part by handing out free "Dia de Portugal" balloons and carrying out "face painting" on young children. Both were great hits with members of the public and generated long lineups throughout the day.

#### FALL FESTIVAL

*We are releasing a little more information about the Fall Festival to be held on Saturday, November 18, 2000. It will be a Fund Raising Fashion Show Dinner Dance complete with a proper sit down Portuguese dinner with red wine. And with music provided by our very own tuna band, "Os Macaenses". We are counting on each and every member AND their friends to support our Association on this fund raising bash. More details will be released in the coming months.*

Until Next Month  
Luiz M. Souza, MBE AE  
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