

# BOLETIM MACAENSE

## MACAU CULTURAL ASSOCIATION

A CASA DE MACAU EM VANCOUVER

澳門文化聯誼會

April 2004 Abril

<http://www.casademacau.net/MCA>

Box 48390, Bentall Centre  
595 Burrard Street,  
Vancouver, B.C. Canada V7X 1A2



## A Touch of Irish

IN MARCH MEETING

During our March meeting we all turned green for a moment and started to slur our speeches, not because of any alcoholic beverages being consumed but affected by the little leprechauns implanted in our tongues giving us a Gaelic tinge to our spoken words.

*Story continues next page...*

### Encontro das Comunidades Macaenses - Macau 2004

We are making a call to all our members and friends to join us for Encontro 2004 and show our gratitude to Macau in their effort to welcome us back to our native land and keep our communities around the world vibrant and in touch with one another.

We have received the preliminary program from the Organizing Committee. Since it is in rudimentary form, we will wait for further revisions before making it available to you. But we can inform you that it will be held during November 29, 2004 to December 6, 2004.

We believe that this will help members in forming plans for their holidays and trips for the year and include Encontro 2004 in their itinerary.

We will keep you informed as further information is available to the Organizing Committee.



## Bookshelf

### Taste of Macau: Portuguese Cuisine On the China Coast

By Annabel Jackson, Photography by Robert Stone  
ISBN 0-7818-1022-1

We received from Hippocrene Books their press release announcing Taste of Macau: Portuguese Cuisine on the China Coast, a complete reference guide to Macanese cuisine by Annabel Jackson author of Macau on a Plate, Vietnam on a Plate and Street Café Vietnam. According to the announcement "more than 450 years ago, the Portuguese landed in what was to become the first European colony in Asia, Macau, bringing their culture and their cuisine. Taste of Macau introduces the English-speaking world to one of the oldest "fusion" cuisines in Asia. It includes 62 recipes, most of which are old family recipes or hail from the files of influential Macanese chefs. Jackson author of Macau on a Plate, Vietnam on a Plate and Street Café Vietnam. According to the announcement "more than 450 years ago, the Portuguese landed in what was to become the first European colony in Asia, Macau, bringing their culture and their cuisine. Taste of Macau introduces the English-speaking world to one of the oldest "fusion" cuisines in Asia. It includes 62 recipes, most of which are old family recipes or hail from the files of influential Macanese chefs.

Hippocrene Books Inc., 171 Madison Avenue,  
New York, NY 10016, [www.hippocrenebooks.com](http://www.hippocrenebooks.com)

### Mr. Right (O Homem Ideal)

ISBN: 1-4140-2604-8 (e-book)  
ISBN: 1-4140-2603-X (Paperback)

We also have the pleasure of receiving a complimentary copy of a publication by Filipe Nery. According to the author this novel "primarily involves a love story between two people of different cultures and it also contains many historical events of the period including the Macanese Diaspora".

Available from: 1st Books Library, 1663 Liberty Dr.  
Suite 200, Bloomington, IN 47403 USA, To order call  
1-888-280-7715 or visit [www.1stbooks.com](http://www.1stbooks.com)

**NEXT MEETING: 2P.M. SUNDAY, MAY 16, 2004 at Metropolis Centre (formerly Eaton's Centre)**

## Patua, Macau's Sweet Language

The recent two shows performed before a full house by a local amateur group performing in Macau's Portuguese-Asian hybrid dialect proved, again, that slightly risqué comedy is not just good for a hearty laugh but may also help preserve one's fragile identity.

The detective story, *Unga Tiro na Iscuridam* (A Shot in the Dark), involving a bevy of women of easy virtue and swindlers, as well as two lovable police officers dressing up in drag to clear their names, was performed by the Grupo de Teatro Doci Papiacam di Macau (Macau's Sweet Language Theatre Group) in Patua, with subtitles in English, Chinese and Portuguese shown on a screen above the stage of the 500-seat Macau Tower Theatre.

Julie de Senna Fernandes, one of the prime movers behind the formation of the group in 1993, said its founders thought that the power of theatre was the best way of preserving "our unique language and identity that very few of us still speak but many still understand".

Patua is the now almost extinct original mother tongue of Macau's Eurasian minority, customarily known as Macanese, comprising some 8,000 residents in Macau and an estimated 20,000 emigrants around the world. It is a mixture of Chinese syntax and Portuguese, Malay, Indian, English, Japanese, Spanish and a string of other Asian and European languages. The strong Malay influence derives from the fact that Macau's early Portuguese settlers sought wives primarily from Malaya, as well as India and Japan. The British presence in Hong Kong resulted in the inclusion of English. Patua, also known as Maquista, began to be superseded by "metropolitan" Portuguese as the Macanese community's main language from the early 20th century. The crux is that Patua, which sounds melodiously sweet, never reached written-language status.

Nowadays it is fluently spoken by just a few dozen women in their 80s, in Macau and Hong Kong, and a few hundred Macanese emigrants. However, several thousand people in Macau and elsewhere still know a smattering of their ancestors' "sweet language".

Heidi Ho Lai Chun da Luz, president of the government-run Macau Cultural Institute, is of the opinion that Patua theatre plays have become a "must" for the annual Macau Arts Festival.

Regrettably, little research into one of the world's most interesting hybrid dialects has so far been done. None of Macau's 12 tertiary institutions offers any courses, let alone research or degree programmes. Time is running out. Urgent action is needed to stop the tide, otherwise Patua will vanish. That is why I suggest setting up a Patua research centre at one of Macau's higher-education establishments to not only conduct linguistic investigations but also provide language courses. I would be one of the first to enrol.

- Harald Bruning. *South China Morning Post*

### SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

DINNER IN HONOR OF THE WINNERS AND PARTICIPANTS OF THE COMPETITION  
MACANESE CUISINE CONTEST - 2004

**DATE** Monday, April 26, 2004  
**TIME** 7.30 P.M.  
**TO CELEBRATE** Macanese Cuisine Contest -2004  
**VENUE** Marpole-Oakridge Area Council Society (MOACS)  
 The Old Firehall  
 70th Avenue/Hudson  
 1305 West 70th Avenue  
 Vancouver, B.C.

Interested members, families and friends who wish to attend the dinner to honor the winners of the contest are welcomed to sign-up with the chairperson of the committee, Laura Cordeiro (604-873-6816) no later than April 18, 2004 (our MCA monthly meeting) in order that food and other provisions may be adequately arranged.

Cost of dinner \$10.00 per person.

Thank you for your participation and continued support.

## A Touch of Irish in March Meeting, cont.

Now what is this nonsensical tale you are telling us, you may ask. By no means we are pulling your legs, but to our sudden desire to be Irish just for a wee time. We live in a uniquely rich multicultural environment where the interchange of cultures is alive and well in Vancouver. So it is not unusual to be caught up in the Irish custom of celebrating St. Patrick's Day. Our Social Committee decorated the tables with green shamrocks and green tablecloths. A happy St. Patrick's Day was celebrated by everyone in our March meeting.



### Obituary for Roza-Pereira

Carlos "Carlinho" Eduardo Roza-Pereira died peacefully in Vernon on March 25, 2004, aged 97 years. A Hongkong Volunteer and POW, Carlinho was a career banker in Hongkong until his retirement to Richmond in 1969. He moved to Vernon in 1995. Predeceased by wife Beatrice in 1986, Carlinho is survived by daughters Ena and Vince Edwards of Vernon and Theresa (Tessa) Sprackling in Sussex, England; grandchildren Antony (Pattie), Robert (Lois), Michael (Edit), Peter (Sarah) Edwards, Samantha and Sean Sprackling; and 11 great grandchildren. Prayers were recited on April 2 at Our Lady of the Valley Roman Catholic Church in Coldstream. Funeral Mass was celebrated on April 3. Cremation was to follow. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Hospice House, 3506 27th Ave, Vernon, V1T 1S4.

Melania Cannon's Chronicle of Macau

# A Reed in a Tempest

## Part II Excerpt 7. Setting the Stage for the Opium War, 1800 -1839

The British manipulated conflicts and tensions caused the Chinese to fear that the British would attempt to take Macau by force as a way to gain a foothold in China, as they had done in 1808. Despite the earlier requests for support that the Portuguese had made to the Chinese government, Macau refused to allow Chinese troops to be stationed in the city, preferring to defend themselves with the local militia. The 1830s saw a rising wave of animosity between the British and the Chinese, with Macau located squarely in the middle. Despite the hostility that had grown between the British and the Portuguese through the former's attempts to take Macau, the Portuguese had no option, given the international trade and politics of the time, but to allow the British to continue their trade through Macau. When in 1833 the British East India Company monopoly on British opium trade was revoked, the British replaced its Select Committee with a Chief Superintendent of Trade to China permanently stationed in Macau.

Throughout the forty years prior to the Opium Wars, the Portuguese in Macau lived on

tenterhooks, trying desperately to balance the growing animosity between China and Britain and to maintain their trade and livelihood. It was in the interests of Portuguese survival in Macau, even as Portugal proper was disintegrating, to be diplomatic and pacifist in their dealings with both the British and the Chinese. Thus, at the beginning of the nineteenth century, the Portuguese in Macau truly developed and perfected the policy of neutrality which became characteristic of their international relations right up to the end of the twentieth century.

Unfortunately, despite the dogged attempts of the Portuguese to stay out of the rising conflict between Britain and China, they were unable to control the foreign opium smugglers and the military personnel who used Macau as a distribution centre and a base to plot their further exploitation of China. These tensions rose steadily throughout the first half of the nineteenth century and erupted into violent confrontation in 1839. The result was the first Opium War.

*(Excerpt from research materials of Melania Cannon of Vancouver, B.C. Canada. Her research testifies to our unique, colourful and rich history. Excerpts of her body of work were published in prior publications and other excerpts are scheduled for future issues. Editor)*


## Social Activities in April




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## Happy Winners!

We finally came around to presenting the coveted MCA T-shirt to Ana Clara Tellis and Don Gillis for guessing right in our last two Guest Where monthly quizzes in our Boletim Macaense. The award was made by our President Carlos Cordeiro during our March meeting. Well done and congratulations to Ana Clara and Don.

Pedro Coelho was also a winner and was to be awarded the MCA T-shirt, but he left the meeting prematurely. We will get him next time.



## This Week's Guess Where?

A bit of a change for this issue....

Name the general location of this building. Not the building, but the location where it's at. Good luck.

Call me at 604- 277-4713 with your answer and win one of our Casa cloth logos.

- Jackie

Macau Cultural Association is a non-profit organization for the advancement of Macau and Macanese culture, heritage and interest.

Based in Vancouver, Canada, it forms part of the network of Casa's de Macau throughout the world. Other sister organizations are located in Lisbon, Toronto, Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, San Francisco, Hong Kong and Sidney.

Executive Committee  
 President Carlos Cordeiro  
 Vice President Sérgio Rui de Pina  
 Secretary Josefina do Rosário  
 Treasurer Ronald Gill

**Boletim Macaense Editor:**  
 Jackie Pereira  
 Tel: (604) 277-4713

\* Please note that while all articles submitted to the Editor reflect the opinions of the authors, they are not necessarily the views of this publication.

Website: <http://www.casademacau.net/MCA>

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