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# Macao rocks to Latin parade

**Museum honours  
founder of  
fruit mission in China**

Fu Tak-iong,  
**Macao's gambling king**  
in the 1930s

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## GRAPHIC DESIGN

Soluções Criativas, Lda.

## SUBSCRIPTION ORDER

[www.macaomagazine.net](http://www.macaomagazine.net)

## PRINTER

Welfare Printing Company, Lda Macau

## PRINT RUN 3,000

ISSN 2076 - 5479

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## SINCERITY [Ch'eng]

'Words' emanating from the 'mouth', with 'perfection', produce the character for "sincerity", an attribute considered foremost on the path to enlightenment.

"Sincerity is the Way of Heaven. The attainment of sincerity is the Way of men," says the Chung Yung, a classic work of Confucianism. Ch'eng is the perfection of self, but more important, as the perfection of others through its practice in human relationships.

Sincerity: perfection through the transformation of thought into words.

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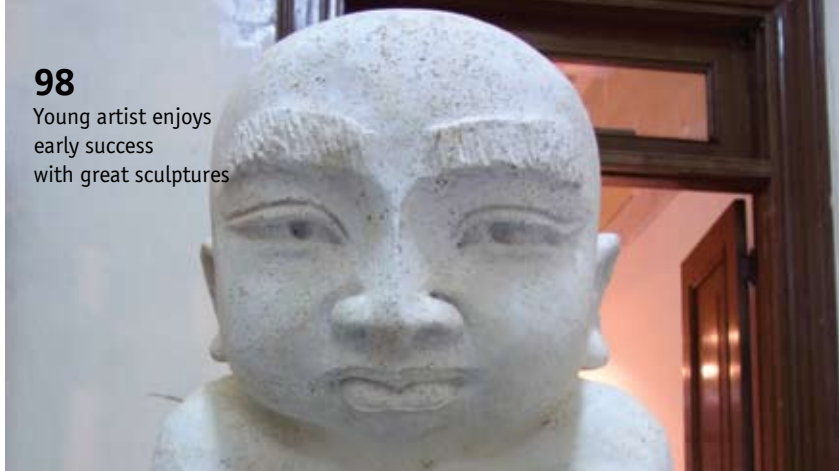
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大堂銀行大廈

澳門城市

金碧文娛中心

金碧文娛中心

金碧文娛中心

Almeida Ribeiro Avenue



# Prominent Address

## Exhibition remembers Macao's premier commercial street

By Mark O'Neill



In 1903, the former Portuguese government began the planning of a new road to link the main port serving the mainland with the Nam Van (South Bay) district of Macao. It became the most important street and the commercial centre of the city – a role it has retained to this day.

The Portuguese called it Avenida de Almeida Ribeiro, a name so long that Chinese people called it 'San Ma Lo', meaning 'new road', which is still in use over 100 years later.

In late October, the Civil and Municipal Affairs Bureau organised a month-long exhibition in the Leal Senado, dedicated to the road, including street and shop signs, calendars, product boxes, two seats from a barber's shop complete with his tools, a manual telephone switchboard, and tickets from the cinemas on the street.

"In the minds of Macao people, it was and is the most important commercial street in the city," said Loi Chi Pang, head of the division of cultural facilities for the Department of Cultural Activities and Recreation, and the organiser of the exhibition. "It had many shops, as well as the first Western bank, the Post Office and government buildings. It also had the first lift in Asia, in the Central Hotel, which many people flocked to see.



Macao - 1950

"It is our collective memory. It makes us think of the history of the city."

The exhibition took one year to prepare, on a budget of 400,000 patacas, including publicity and payment for some of the exhibits.

Loi said that it was a great challenge to collect the 200 items that were shown. "People did not want to lend shop fronts and other pieces. It was not that they did not trust the government; they trusted only themselves. They did not want to give the items to others. It was a question of trust.

"Sometimes we talked to people for five hours; sometimes it took a week, and even then they would not lend to us. Each shop was different. Sometimes they lent the items to us and sometimes they gave them to us. We preferred the latter."

Loi's department puts on exhibitions of Macao history, including streets and individuals, and takes them to schools, old people's homes and other locations.

## Building the New Road

In the first decade of the last century, the Portuguese government started to plan the new road, in the interests of better city planning. The exhibition has a map dated 11 February 1903, with the drawing of

the plan of the road. It was named after the Minister of the Colonies, Almeida Ribeiro.

Construction of the new road was completed in 1918, measuring a length of 620 metres. It immediately became the city's most important thoroughfare, and the centre of government, finance and retail.

The Leal Senado overlooked the avenue; a new external wall was built on it in the late 19th century. In 1902, the city's first Western financial institution, Banco Nacional Ultramarino, opened at the southern end. It is still operating today out of its original building and has built a new, modern extension above it. Other banks followed, including the Tai Fung Bank, which was established by Ho Yin in 1942. The exhibition shows gift coupons and other documents issued by the banks and other financial institutions on the avenue.

It hosted the President Hotel, the tallest building in the city at the time, which opened in July 1928, boasting six floors. In 1932, the President changed its name to the Central Hotel. It had a beauty parlour, Western restaurants on the first and second floors, a Chinese restaurant on the sixth floor and a dance hall on the seventh.

It was the first building in Macao to have a lift; it was such a novelty that many came from all over to





Macao - 2013

use it. It belonged to the Tai Heng Entertainment Group, owned by Fu Tak-iong and Kou Ho-neng. In 1937, they obtained the gambling concession and added casinos in the basement and on the second and seventh floors.

Business boomed, especially after the outbreak of World War Two. After the occupation of Hong Kong in December 1941, Macao was one place in East Asia not under Japanese occupation. The rich flocked there to escape the war. The Central was the most modern and luxurious entertainment palace in Macao, where guests could enjoy gambling, food, drink and the company of beautiful ladies.

In March 1941, another luxury hotel, the International, opened its doors on the road. With nine storeys, it aimed to rival the Central in comfort and modernity. It had a bar and a Western restaurant in the basement, a dance hall on the second floor and an international restaurant on the third. The fourth floor and above were dedicated to guest rooms. Its owner was a Guangzhou gambling operator who also wanted to win the city's gambling licence; he failed in this attempt.

After the International opened, the owners of the Central were embarrassed that their property was not as tall as their competitor's. So, in 1942, they added five storeys to the existing six, to make it the

tallest building in the city, at 196 feet. They invited an American-trained architect to design the extension and spent US\$500,000 on it. When completed, the 11-storey building had 78 rooms, and was able to accommodate 150 people. It had restaurants, an outside tea garden, a cinema with seating for 440, and a terrace for a musical troupe.

The exhibition had several items from the Central, including a calendar, a publication to mark its opening and a plan dating from the 1940s.

In 1961, the government awarded the gambling concession to a new company, the Sociedade de Turismo e Diversões de Macau, which opened the Hotel Lisboa as its principal casino. The casinos in the Central closed; it remains open as a two-star hotel.

At the southern end of the road was the three-storey Hotel Riviera, which was aimed at a wealthy foreign clientele. Built in the south European style, it opened in the late 19th century.

It offered Western cuisine, imported wines, a high quality of service and foreign dance bands playing the latest European and North American music. It had a Western restaurant, cake shop, billiard room, bar and dance hall, with guest rooms on the second and third floors. During World War Two, representatives of the Nationalist and the Japanese governments held secret talks in the hotel.

It closed in 1973, because it could not compete with the new hotels that had opened. It became a car showroom and was then demolished. The Bank of China building now stands on the site.

## Cinemas and Shops

The avenue was also home to Macao's first Western cinema, the Victoria, which opened in 1910. The exhibition had a summary from 1927 of *Wild Oranges*, one of the films shown at the Victoria that year. It closed in 1971 and was demolished; now it is used as the headquarters of the Tai Fung bank.

A second Western cinema, the Apollo, opened in 1935, further down the avenue. The exhibition had cinema tickets from it, including a performance of *Young Savages* in 1961 with Burt Lancaster. It closed in 1993 and has become an Esprit clothing outlet.

The avenue also became a retail centre, with department stores, cake-, shoe-, clothing-, wine- and tailor-shops, pharmacies and photography studios. The exhibition had many souvenirs from these stores, including a wedding cake box, gift boxes, gift coupons, paper boxes and paper bags.

It also showed measuring cups used to fetch wine, as well as the cake moulds and the plaque of the Yu Lee pastry store, from the 1950s; the latter was written in gold characters on a black background.

On 8 December 1929, one of the most imposing buildings on the avenue opened up opposite the Leal Senado – the General Post Office; it is still in operation today. The exhibition showed a manual telephone exchange used in the post office.

The avenue was also home to foreign trade and shipping firms, law offices and doctors' clinics.

## Pawnshops – banks for the poor

One of the items in the exhibition was a wooden plaque of the Tak Sang pawnshop; its gold-coloured characters are engraved on a red background. The shop was at 64, Fifth October Street, on the corner of Avenida de Almeida Ribeiro.

Until the 1960s, pawnshops were an essential part of the life of ordinary people in Macao.

"They were different to today, when they are mostly for visitors and those who need money for the casinos," said Loi. "In the old days, ordinary people pawned daily items like pens, ties, shirts, trousers, and cotton blankets, for as little as two

or three patacas. They used the money to buy rice, cooking oil and other daily necessities. They would pawn their cotton quilts in the spring and buy them back for the winter."

This led to the pawnshop owners building large warehouses to store all the items. "A person would go to only one pawnshop, for reasons of saving face," said Loi. "The staff members would develop feelings for the client. In the modern era, ordinary people can go to banks and finance companies to raise money."

The Tak Seng On has become a museum, on its original site. Tak Seng On belonged to Kou Honeng (1878–1955), one of the richest men in Macao, who was one of the two owners of Tai Heng Entertainment, which had the gambling franchise from 1937 to 1961.

Kou started his career in gambling and expanded into opium, shipping, money exchanging and then pawn-broking; he became the 'pawn king' of Macao, with outlets all over the city. He was also a keen philanthropist, donating to the Kiang Wu hospital, the Red Cross and other charities. He received decorations from the Portuguese government and the Red Cross.

The pawn broking business today has changed. The shops no longer meet the needs of ordinary people but of gamblers. The pawnshops are close to the casinos, where most of their clients come from in need of money urgently. They pawn watches, jewellery and other expensive items.

Today, the avenue remains the most important commercial street in the city. The mix of businesses has changed but the crowds remain, boosted by thousands of visitors from the mainland. Many of the new shops cater to them, selling branded watches, gold and jewellery and up-market clothes. There are no cinemas and fewer shops selling everyday items. The rents have become too expensive.

At the northern end of the avenue, many shops are boarded up. This is because the nearby port handles only goods and no longer people. Loi said that these empty shops are unlikely to be redeveloped because of the complexity of ownership. "Some buildings have many owners; others have owners who have left Macao and may not know that the property is in their name." So the shops will stay closed until someone finds a better use for them. ■

*Photos by Manuel Cardoso and courtesy of IACM*





Tak Seng On pawnshop



Macao, 1970's



Macao, 2013



■ O Melhor do Design  
de Cartazes  
do Cinema  
Polaco

■ 15/12/2012  
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Michele Ruggieri in the book *Kerkelycke historie van de gheheele werelt*, Vol.1 (1667) by Cornelius Hazart



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# Unsung Hero

## Macao Museum remembers **Michele Ruggieri**, founder of Jesuit mission in China

By Ou Nian-le

He was the founder of the Jesuit mission in China, the author of the first Christian book in Chinese and a pioneer in learning the language.

History has forgotten Michele Ruggieri and remembers Matteo Ricci, but the records show that it was Ruggieri who was the first to open the door into China and who invited Ricci to come with him.

Ruggieri lived in China for nine years and revolutionised the then view of the world, revealing to an astonished Europe the enormous extent of the Chinese empire. He was the first to map and describe this land. It was his fellow Jesuits – and not Chinese mandarins – who did not send him to China again.

An exhibition devoted to his life and work, 'Journey to the Ends of the World: Michele Ruggieri and Jesuits in China', opened at the Macao Museum will run until 3 March 2013.

Most of the material comes from the State Archive of Rome, who lent a selection of the most valuable cartographic work of Ruggieri and other map-makers. Together with Matteo Ricci, they laid the foundations for the mutual knowledge of China and the West, during the Ming dynasty (1368–1644). Other items come from the National Library of France, Portugal and Macao.



*The life and work of Matteo Ricci by the jesuit Giulio Aleni*

## Forgetting treasure

The idea for the exhibition came in late 2011 when Ung Vai Meng, director of the Macao Cultural Affairs Bureau, was visiting the State Archives in Rome and discovered the maps and other artifacts belonging to Ruggieri. He invited the institution to show them for the first time in China.

Ruggieri's work was left untouched for nearly 400 years until Professor Eugenio Lo Sardo, director of the Archive, presented the findings of his research on the manuscript maps in 1989. He then continued his research jointly with a group of scholars. In 1993, the Istituto Poligrafico e Zecca dello Stato published *Atlante della Cina di Michele Ruggieri, S.J.* (Michele Ruggieri's Atlas of China).

The exhibition shows 100 years of history, including manuscripts, 20 maps by Ruggieri and a collection of drawings from the archives. There are also the first maps showing the China-Russia border. In total, there are more than 100 items, including atlases, maps, prints, rare manuscripts and books, reports of journeys, drawings of astronomical instruments, religious statues and oil paintings.

His maps were among the first maps of China drawn by a Westerner. These atlases first introduced the

geographic locations, rivers, agriculture, mining, education and culture of different provinces of China to the Western world and showed the importance of the southern regions.

The exhibition shows a Catholic catechism in Chinese written by Ruggieri – the first book in the language by a Westerner. There is a letter in Chinese written for the Pope to sign, asking Emperor Wanli to allow the Jesuits to remain in China and preach their religion.

It also shows, for the first time in Macao, a sandal of St Francis Xavier, the first Catholic missionary in China, who died on Shangchuan island near Macao in December 1552. This is on loan from the Jesuit society of Portugal.

## Paving the way

Ruggieri was born in the town of Spinazzola in the Kingdom of Naples, southern Italy, in 1543. He earned a doctorate in civil and canon law from Naples University before entering the Society of Jesus on 27 October 1572. After completing six years of study, he left for Lisbon, the gateway of missionaries for the Far East. It was there that he was ordained as a priest, on 12 March 1578.

He left Europe as part of a group of 12 missionaries, including Rudolph Acquaviva and Matteo Ricci. They arrived in Goa in September 1578; he was 35. He immediately started to learn the local language; within six months, he had reached such a level of proficiency that he could hear confession.

It was this gift for language that made him an ideal choice to begin the mission to China. He arrived in Macao on 20 July 1579, three years before Ricci. At once he began to read and write Chinese; he also set up the first school for teaching Chinese to foreigners, St Martin House. His fellow priests told him that it was impossible for Europeans to understand Chinese.

What he learnt was not the language of the common people but that used by the mandarins. It was they who ran the country and controlled access to it. If the Jesuits were to enter China, they would have to earn the approval and cooperation of the mandarins.

Ruggieri learnt the language so well that he joined the annual Portuguese trade delegation to Guangzhou as an interpreter. He was admired by Chinese people for his fluency in their language and his politeness. "The efforts he made to learn their language were very much appreciated by the

Chinese, so he was almost able to consider himself the friend of an important mandarin," said Professor Lo Sardo.

His intention and that of Matteo Ricci was to settle in the mainland. To seek permission, he made several visits to Guangzhou and Zhaoqing, the seat of the Governor-General of Guangdong and Guangxi.

He befriended Wang Pan, the prefect of Zhaoqing; it was this friendship that won the approval to reside there in 1583. It was the first step of the mission of the Jesuits to settle in Beijing, the imperial capital.

## Move to China

In their first official audience with Wang, the two priests presented themselves as monks from India; Wang was a devotee of Buddhism and India the country, which had sent monks and holy texts to bring Buddhism to China.

Ruggieri said that they served the 'ruler of heaven' and had travelled for three years from the distant west, attracted by the good governance of the Great Ming Empire. Wang assigned them land for a house; they built a two-storey structure, using a mixture of Chinese and Western architecture.

*Guangdong map from the XVI century with the place where the first christian church was built in Zhaoqing*





Wang had been married to one wife and two concubines for 30 years but did not have a male heir. Within a year of the arrival of the two Jesuits, he had a son and then a second; he attributed this to their intervention.

He and other officials saw the Jesuits through the prism of Buddhism, as bringing a new school from India; to win acceptance, the visitors had to change their view of a world whose centre was Rome and the Pope. They had to adapt themselves and their religion to the Chinese reality.

But not everything ran smoothly. The presence of the 'barbarians' aroused suspicion among their neighbours; they could not communicate with them since they spoke Mandarin, while local people spoke Cantonese. They suspected them of buying Chinese children and taking them to Macao.

In 1584, Ruggieri published a Chinese catechism, the first book in Chinese written by a European. The book, containing 43 pages, took four years to write; the Jesuits presented the book to Wang Pan, who liked it so much that he ordered a print-run of more than 3,000 copies.

First Chinese catechism published by Michele Ruggieri in 1584



Ruggieri visited villages in the Zhaoqing region, where he baptised several families; they formed the nucleus of the first Christian communities in China. He accompanied his patron Wang Pan to his hometown of Shaoxing in Zhejiang province. This took him through Meiling in northern Guangdong, as well as Nanchang, Jingdezhen – the centre of China's porcelain production – and finally Shaoxing. He remained there for six months. He described these travels in a journal he wrote after his return to Europe.

He founded missions in Zhejiang in 1585 and in Guangxi in 1587, but was not allowed to stay there. During his voyages in China, he tried to create a complete atlas to illustrate this new world, so different in every way from the European one. These studies made Ruggieri very close to China and became one of the first meetings between these two civilisations, European and Chinese.

He wrote a book describing many aspects of life in China, including boat travel and the high level of sanitary and living conditions. It was an example of a country that could live without the Pope, with more than 100 million people, and a history longer

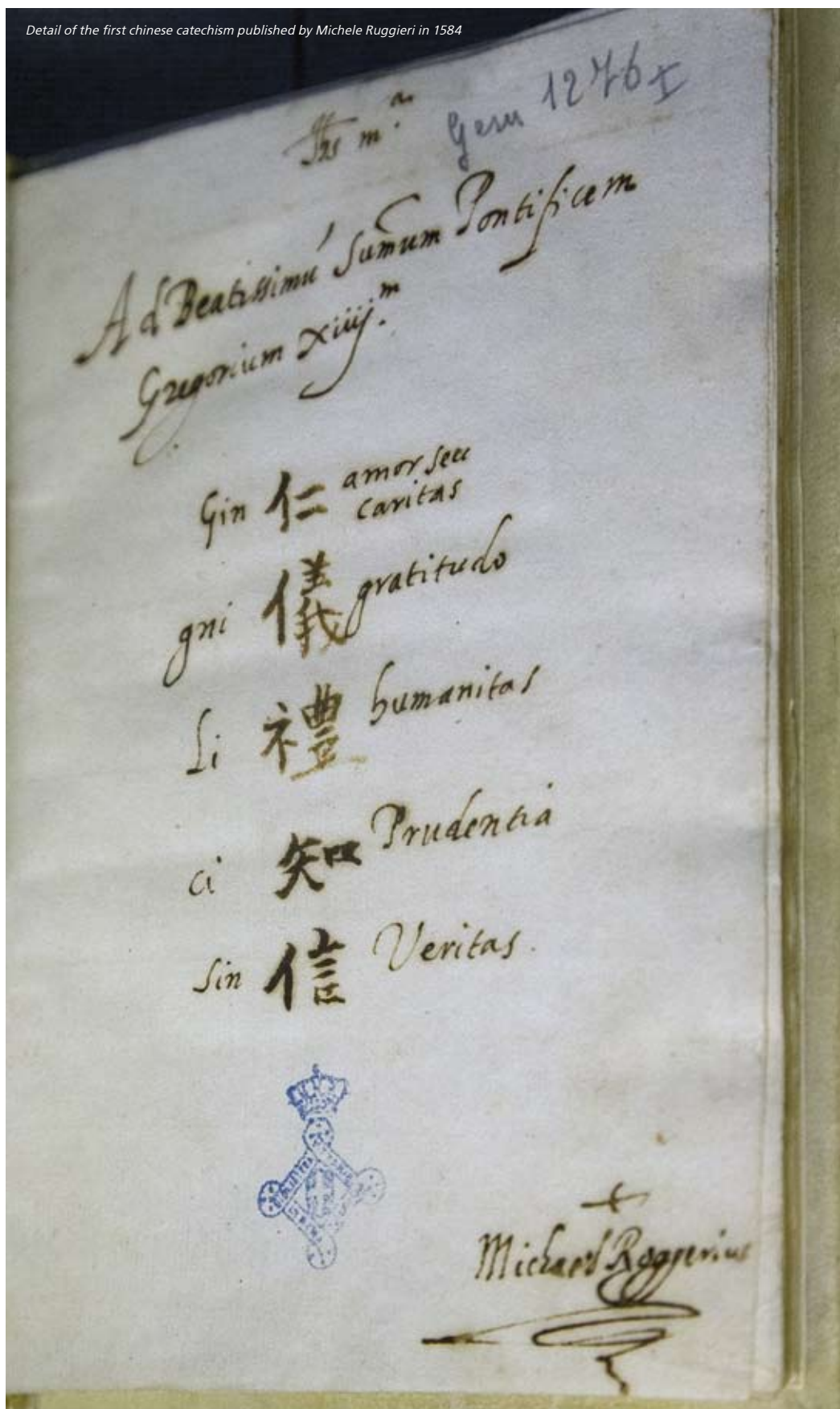
than that of Europe, with cities, broad rivers and different religions.

He was especially influenced by Buddhism and saw a country more open than his own. It allowed foreigners to preach the gospel, while in Naples he could not print a description of China.

Where he and Ricci were not so successful was their evangelism; up until October 1586, they had converted less than 20 people in Zhaoqing. One reason was that their reading and writing skills in Chinese were better than their speaking skills.

The two men collaborated on a Portuguese-Chinese dictionary, the first of its kind with Chinese and a European language. For this, they needed to develop a system to transcribe Chinese words into the Roman alphabet. They were helped in this by a Chinese Jesuit lay brother, Sebastiano Fernandez, who had grown up and been trained in Macao.

Unfortunately, the dictionary was lost in the Jesuit archives in Rome and only discovered in 1934. It was finally published in 2001.





## Returning to Rome

In the autumn of 1588, Ruggieri was ordered to return to Rome. His superior in Macao, Alessandro Valignano, decided that the best way to secure a firm foundation for the Catholic mission in China was to send a Papal envoy to Beijing and get approval from the highest authority.

Ruggieri seems to have lost the confidence of his fellow Jesuits; his superior had decided – but did not tell him – that he would not return to China. On 22 November 1588, he left Macao on a Chinese junk for Malacca.

He carried with him a letter in Chinese addressed to Emperor Wanli for the Pope to sign; it asked him to allow the Jesuits to preach in his empire. The Pope was described as ‘the king of morality of India’. Since the emperor had no idea of the existence of Rome and the Pope, the Jesuits thought it better to use terms he would be familiar with.

Ruggieri reached Rome in the summer of 1589. But the letter was never signed. Pope Sixtus V died in August 1590, his successor reigned for only 10 days and the next one was preoccupied by wars and crises in Europe. China was far away and far down the list of his priorities.

Ruggieri’s health deteriorated and he retired to Salerno. There he continued his work to make China

better known in Europe. He wrote poetry in Chinese and completed a Latin translation of the Four Books, an introduction to the philosophy of Confucius. He also circulated copies of Chinese maps which he had brought from Zhaoqing.

He was sought after as a spiritual guide and confessor. He died on 11 May 1607, without returning to China.

“He gave something good to China,” said Professor Lo Sardo. “He was very passionate about spreading knowledge of China. His last work on a map dates from one year before his death. He had no pre-conceptions of China, as he was the first one to have this kind of experience. His encounters were of a very friendly nature.”

## Ricci

Ricci is more famous in Macao and China than Ruggieri because he had the chance to travel to Beijing and publish many books, while Ruggieri wrote only one. But it was Ruggieri who chose Ricci to come to Macao.

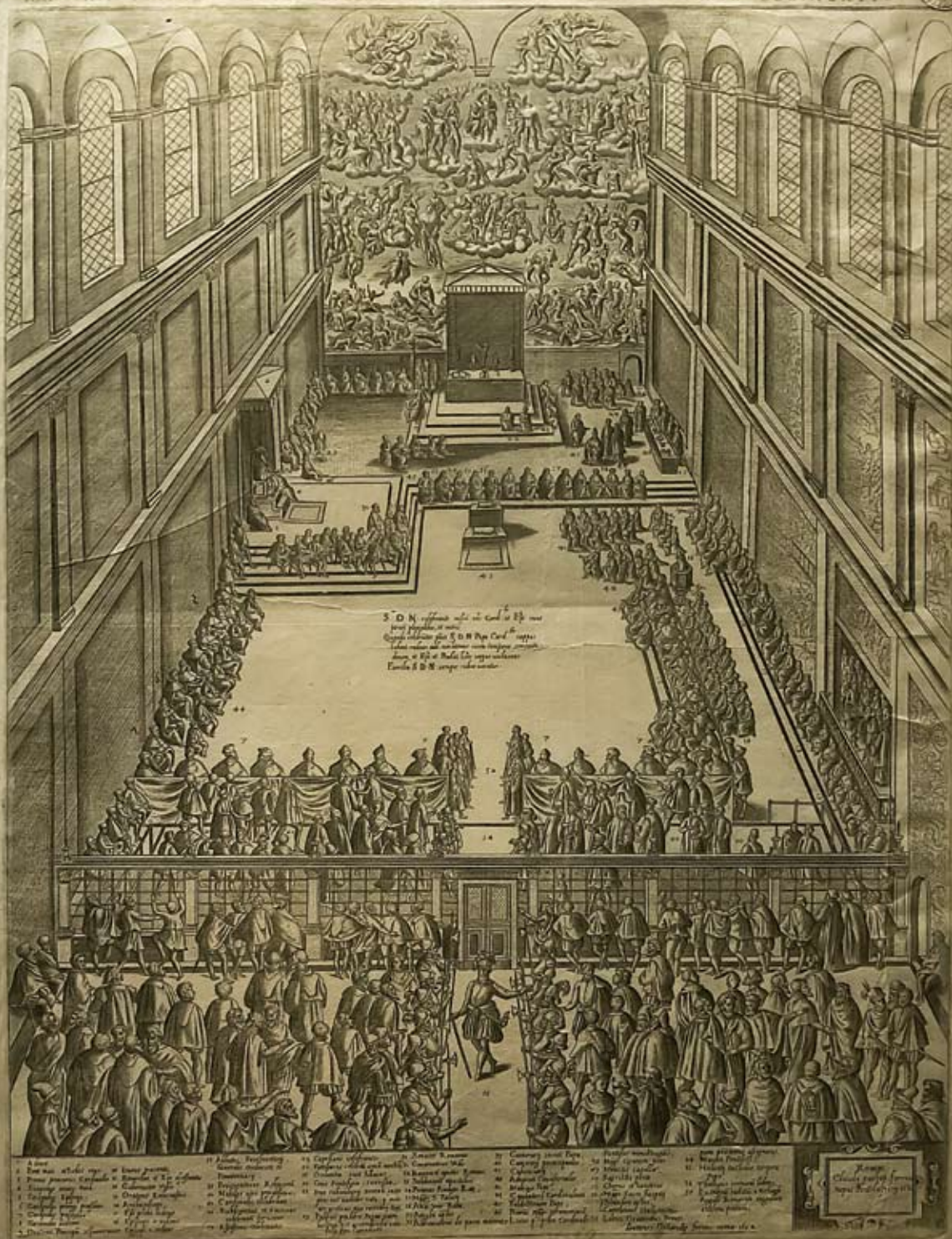
“It was he who understood that it was totally impossible to convert the Chinese,” said Professor Lo Sardo. “Because you not only had to convert them to another religion but to a completely different vision of the universe, namely the Catholic one.” ■

*Photos by Eric Tam and courtesy of Macau Museum*

*Opening of the Exhibition Journey to the Ends of the world - António Freitas, Ung Vai Meng director of Cultural Affairs Bureau, Macao Bishop, José Lai, Liu Xiaohang, Alessandra Schiavo, Fr.Beda Liu and Eugenio Lo Sardo (from L. to R.)*







*The papal court in the Sistine Chapel in 1602*







# Getting older in Macao

Local population is aging,  
but young immigrants  
are increasing

By Luciana Leitão



People are getting older in Macao. The Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) registered 557,400 people living in Macao by the end of 2011, of which the majority (80.8 percent) were aged between 15 and 64 years old. The aging ratio has been increasing over the past three years, having grown from 56.2 in 2009 to 62 percent in 2011.

Based on the 2007–2031 forecast, from the 2011 census, the chief of the Department of Demographic, Social and Employment Statistics, Mark Mak, says that the population will continue to age, with the percentage of elderly people (over 65 years old) set to increase from seven percent (2006) to 19 percent (2031). By 2031, the elderly population will be larger than that of the younger generation, due to the decrease of the birth rate and the increase of life expectancy.

The latest 2011–2036 forecast, from the 2011 census, goes even further, predicting that by 2036 the elderly population will increase to 20.7 percent. The census reveals a figure of 65,900 children up to 14

years old for 2011, which accounts for 11.9 percent of the population – 9.7 percent less than in 2001.

The reason behind it is related to significant immigration numbers, particularly in the 1980s, from the Mainland to Macao. Mr Mak says that in 1979 and 1980 the government facilitated the immigration procedure, giving immigrants legal status in the territory. Such a flow of people from the Mainland resulted from the start of the opening-up policy of the leader of the People's Republic of China, Deng Xiaoping. It also led to less control over migration.

The 2007–2031 projections made by DSEC also reveal that by 2031 there will be 829,000 people living in Macao. The latest forecast, however, has adjusted the predictions, claiming that the number will not rise higher than 759,900. Either way, Mr Mak believes any such increases might pose a problem: "If you want to have the capacity for such a huge amount of people, you need to do a lot of planning, in terms of housing, benefits and welfare."



The 2011 census does show that from 2010 to 2011 there were over 16,800 people living in Macao. By June 2012, the local population was 568,700 (includes residents and non-residents), which means 11,300 more than by the end of last year.

Mr Mak highlights that the increase is mostly due to the influx of people, especially from Mainland China. It cannot be accounted for by an increase in births, as the data on the natural increase in births records that there were 5852 births in 2011, which is only 14.4 percent more than the previous year. "Macao is special, it is an immigrant city: a main component of the population is made up of incoming immigrants," he says.

Last year alone, there was an influx of 15,000 migrants, including non-resident workers and immigrants who were authorised to reside here. The total number of non-resident workers at the end of the second quarter was 102,557, while by the end of 2011 there were 94,028 – already 18,215 more than in 2010. According to Mr Mak, after the liberalisation of casinos in 2002, workers started to come to Macao from Europe and the USA, in addition to the regular influx from Mainland China.



## The refugees from World War Two

Sociology professor at the University of Macau, Zhidong Hao, believes that the most significant time in recent history to contribute to the current composition of Macao society was World War Two, when many Chinese people sought refuge in Macao. Even though some of them did eventually leave the territory, Mr Hao believes that they managed to change Macao to a certain extent in terms of culture. And, of course, some of them did stay on in Macao for good. "There were a lot of creative people, who performed plays in Macao, some of them revolutionary plays," he says.

It was a "glorious" period for Macao history, in which the Chinese and Portuguese cultures intertwined, resulting in an interesting fusion. In a way, such people did "develop a culture of their own", regardless of the difficult period. "At least temporarily it did change the society."

A few years later, in the 1960s, Chinese citizens living in Indonesia, in Thailand and in Burma who were being persecuted by the established regimes of those countries, came to Macao and settled here. Influencing social organisations and business networks, this group raised the issue of "the social groupings within the Chinese community".





Although the second and third generations already speak Cantonese, Mr Hao says that they have their own identity. "Politically, there is not too much of a difference between these different groups, but culturally, yes, they have different cultural roots." Historian Jonathan Porter, who has written books on the subject, says there was a big increase in the population during the 1970s and the 1980s, mainly due to immigration.

The main group entering Macao were illegal Mainlanders, later becoming legal, while other people from Southeast Asia also sought refuge in Macao. "The Chinese people coming in were escaping difficult economic conditions in the south of China, whilst the Vietnamese were escaping from the chaos of war. I recall watching the maritime police stopping junks in the outer harbour along the Praia Grande (in the good old days when that existed), looking for refugees. This was a common occurrence."

The society then was quite different. "Macao was developing rapidly but was not as economically advanced as now. Gambling was still relatively under-developed, and there were many Chinese refugees who spoke Mandarin as opposed to the native Chinese Cantonese-speaking population," he says. Furthermore, the Macanese still played an important role.

### **The turning point**

Mr Hao considers the moment before the handover as one of the most significant points in Macao's population history, as many Portuguese and Macanese people left the territory, afraid of what it would be like under Chinese rule. "It was another change in the population, and not necessarily a good one, as it meant the loss of the multicultural characteristics of Macao," he adds. Furthermore, the traditional role of the Macanese as the middlemen



between the Portuguese administration and the Chinese got lost after the handover. "It meant the playing down of the role of the Macanese."

The liberalisation of the gaming industry, in 2002, was also important, bringing different types of people to the territory. Mr Hao says there was even an expansion of the staff of the University of Macau, with many teachers arriving from abroad and the creation and development of other universities.

The sociologist highlights that more recently there has been an increasing influx of Mainland Chinese due to the short distance involved, and of Western people due to the casinos. It is unclear whether these two groups communicate with each other, but Mr Hao doesn't seem to think that they do. "There is always this kind of natural barrier, because

of cultural differences. They don't know each other that well and they don't feel that comfortable interacting with each other, coupled with the problem of language."

Mr Hao also believes that there is no sense of community amongst these two groups, unless there is a crisis. Even amongst the Mainlanders, people differ according to whether they come from Guangdong or from, for instance, the northern part of China. He says it is easier for the former group to mix in with the locals, although there are some local people who distrust Mainlanders because of the problems they have encountered. Nowadays, Hao concludes, there are several communities in Macau – one big non-Chinese community and one Chinese community that includes different sub-communities.





## Different nationalities

By 2011, the local population (not including non-resident workers and foreign students) reached the significant mark of 485,255 people, of which the majority were Chinese (470,750).

The second biggest community was the Portuguese, with 4635 people living in Macao, while the figures released by DSEC account for 3160 Filipinos and 3337 from other Asian countries, of which the biggest group were Thai people (564). Of the 485,255 local residents, 3373 came from other countries such as the USA (695), England (650) and Australia (518).

It is difficult to make an exact prediction in immigration trends, as there are several factors to take into account. For instance, says Mak, in 2006 DSEC could not have foreseen the numbers of Westerners set to enter Macao. Nor could they have predicted that the local and central government would authorise adult children of Macao permanent residents, who were born and lived on the Mainland, to settle in the territory. "It was a new policy in 2009 – the kind of information we could not have

forecast. We need to make lots of adjustments to the old projections," he adds.

The figures that are the most difficult to predict are those accounting for the influx of people from elsewhere and the numbers for non-resident workers. "Now the figures are quite stable, and dominated by Mainlanders, as the cost of workers is cheaper and communication is good," says Mak. Even so, the latest forecast concludes that the number of non-resident workers will increase from 69,900 (in 2011) to 83,200 (in 2036). Also, by then, the number of local residents who work in the territory but actually live in the Mainland will decrease from the current 4,300.

But predictions on a city like Macao, where everything changes so fast, are difficult to keep accurate. And, according to Mr Mak, even the predicted figure of the number of people living in Macao in 24 years' time, will probably be much different in the event. "Part of the older population will return to Mainland China or Hong Kong upon retirement, because Macao is so expensive," he explains.

*Photos by Manuel Cardoso*



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# Spreading the Wealth

**Chief Executive Chui Sai On  
announces more benefits for  
residents totalling  
US\$ 1.21 billion in 2013**

**12.5% of 2013 budget goes to  
subsidies, allowances and tax cuts  
for Macao residents**

By Christian Ritter





*Chief Executive Chui Sai On*

On 13 November 2012 Chief Executive Chui Sai On announced the continuation of his government's policy of granting the city's residents a wide range of subsidies, allowances, old-age pensions and tax cuts, breaks and rebates, as well as another cash handout for all permanent and non-permanent residents.

Chui said that while the subsidies, allowances and cash handouts would cost the government 9.7 billion patacas (US\$ 1.21 billion) in 2013, the tax cuts, breaks and rebates would result in a fiscal loss of 1.6 billion patacas.

In 2013, "the government will give priority to improving people's livelihoods," Chui said, adding that his government also would "fully leverage Macao's advantages to speed up adequate economic diversification".

The Chief Executive also said that "the government will strive to create more and better opportunities for the advancement of Macao's residents, and lay solid foundations for the long-term development of society".

Based on the government's overall budget of public expenditure of 77.98 billion patacas (US\$ 9.74 billion) for next year, the spending on subsidies, cash handouts, allowances and related payments will take up 12.5 percent of that amount, as against 11 percent in the current year.

Chui announced the proposed measures in his 2013 Policy Address in a plenary session of the Macao Legislative Assembly that was attended by all 29 lawmakers.

According to the government's policy blueprint for 2013, all permanent residents will receive a so-called "wealth-sharing" cash handout of 8,000 patacas next year, up from 7,000 patacas this year. Non-permanent residents will receive 4,800 patacas, up from 4,200 patacas this year.

The 2013 Policy Address, entitled "Enhance the Well-being of Society and Prepare for Long-term Development," also includes the pledge to develop a "long-term mechanism for effective administration", namely in four areas: housing, social security, medical and healthcare services, and education.



*Macao Legislative Assembly*

In addition, all eligible residents will benefit from an additional 6,000-pataca cash injection into their individual Central Savings accounts.

Residents' health-care vouchers will rise from 500 patacas this year to 600 patacas next year.

All households will benefit from a 200-pataca electricity bill subsidy.

Residents aged 15 onwards will be able to get a continuing education subsidy of 5,000 patacas.

Elderly residents will be able to benefit from subsidies, allowances and related payments of up to 59,600 patacas a year, or about 4,966 patacas a month, not including their 600-pataca healthcare voucher.

Payments to senior citizens include an old-age allowance of 6,600 patacas a year and a monthly pension of 3,000 patacas (for those aged 65 or older) 13 times a year.

Pupils will receive a textbook allowance of up to 2,400 patacas per term. Tertiary education students will be given a study allowance of 3,000 patacas.

Student loans and scholarships will be increased to up to 4,500 patacas a month. Special bursaries will amount to a maximum of 5,400 patacas a month.

### **More benefits for disadvantaged families**

For disadvantaged families, the minimum subsistence index of 3,360 patacas per one-person household will be adjusted at the beginning of 2013. The low-income worker's subsidy will be increased to 4,400 patacas a month. Social housing tenants will be granted rent waivers for one year.

The government's short-term food assistance programme – popularly known as the "food bank" – will be extended to eight weeks for each term of the programme, up to two terms a year.

Employees and middle-income residents will benefit from a 30 percent reduction in personal income tax, with the basic allowance set at 144,000 patacas a year. Moreover, there will be a 60 percent rebate of personal income tax, subject to a ceiling of 12,000 patacas. Eligible residents will receive their rebate in 2014.





For business owners, the increase in profit tax allowance from 32,000 patacas to 200,000 patacas will be maintained. A string of business tax waivers will be continued. There will also be waivers from stamp duty on tickets for cultural and art performances, exhibitions and entertainment programmes.

The government will also introduce an interest-free loan scheme for young business people of up to 300,000 patacas, to be repaid within a maximum of eight years.

Chui announced an adjustment of the income ceiling for applicants for home-ownership scheme (HOS) flats, which he said would allow 80 percent of local households to meet the scheme's income-limit conditions.

He said the government would study residents' views on the concept of "Macao land for Macao people". He also said that some future land-reclamation areas would be reserved for public housing projects.

Chui went on to say that the government would soon complete the construction of 19,000 public housing units – comprising low-rent social housing flats and HOS units – and that the government would recommence accepting applications for HOS units and public-housing flats in the first quarter of next year.

The Chief Executive also announced plans for a 400-million-pataca subsidy scheme to encourage the replacement of highly polluting vehicles, starting with the launch of the city's first e-bus route in Taipa this year.

### **Reinforcements for Social Security Fund**

Chui announced a raft of measures to reinforce the city's Social Security Fund. In 2013 and 2014, the government plans to pay five billion patacas per year into the fund, to be followed by an annual cash injection of 13.5 billion patacas per year in



2015 and 2016, totalling 37 billion patacas over the four-year period.

The Chief Executive, who holds a doctorate in hospital management, also promised to implement a “highly efficient” health system by 2020, involving an investment of 10 billion patacas. He pointed out that more than 80 percent of the patients at the public Conde de Sao Januario Hospital benefit from free specialist treatment and rehabilitation care.

In addition Chui announced further efforts to promote Macao’s sustainable economic development and regional co-operation. The efforts include the “strong” promotion of the convention and exhibition sector and the launch of professional training programmes for the organisers of international conferences.

“Special arrangements” were announced for Macao’s small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Zhuhai’s Hengqin Island development projects.

Chui pointed out that Macao will celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Forum for Economic and Trade Co-operation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries in 2013. He said that this would further strengthen the city’s role as a business-service platform between China and Portuguese-speaking and other Romance-languages speaking countries.

The Chief Executive pledged that his government would attach great importance to the technical requirements, quality and safety of the Light Rapid Transit System (LRT) project and heed public opinion to meet the objectives of serving the community and resolving traffic problems.

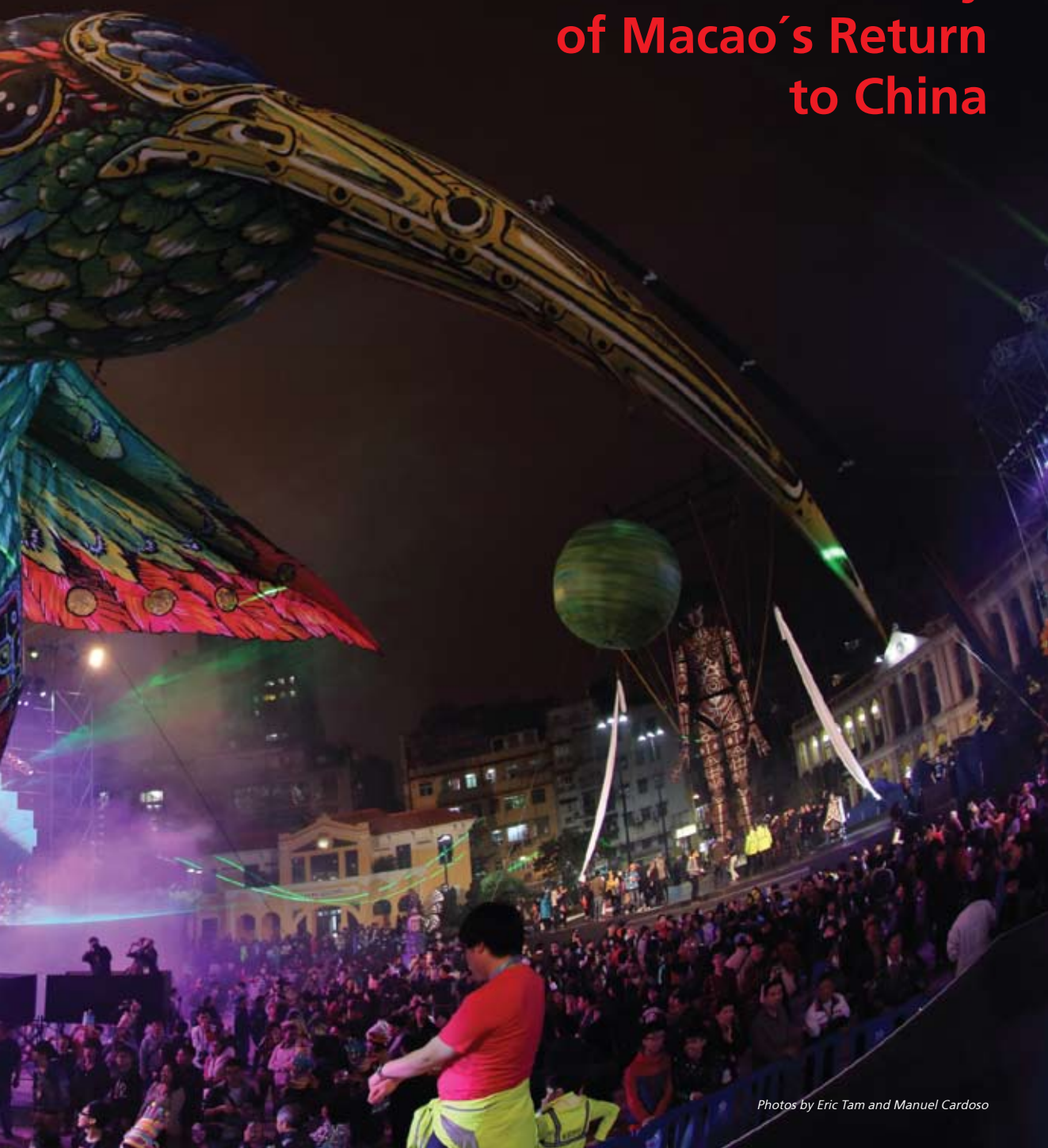
Chui also said that the government would explore the feasibility of building a fourth Macao-Taipa bridge.

*Photos by GCS and Manuel Cardoso*





# Parade through Macao, Latin City Celebration of the 13th Anniversary of Macao's Return to China



*Photos by Eric Tam and Manuel Cardoso*









































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**2012/11/17**

**Portuguese António Félix da Costa wins Macau Grand Prix F3**

Portuguese driver António Félix da Costa won the Macau Grand Prix Formula 3 in a Dallara Volkswagen from the Carlin team.

Félix da Costa, 21, started the race in the pole position after taking a comfortable win in the Qualification Race on the 2.5 km Guia Circuit.

Félix da Costa was the outstanding driver in the 2012 Formula Renault 3.5 Series with four wins in the last five races of the season, and this was his third time competing in Macao. In 2010 he took a strong 6th place on his debut while last year he had to retire owing to a technical failure.

Swedish driver Felix Rosenqvist, in a Dallara Mercedes, came second.

Briton Alex Lynn took the third place, also in a Dallara Mercedes.

In the 46th Motorcycle Grand Prix, British rider Michael Rutter won the race in a Honda 1000, making a record-breaking eight wins at the Macao race.

Briton Martin Jessopp, in a Ducati 1200, came second and Simon Andrews, in a BMW 1000, also from Great Britain, took 3rd place.



## macao newslne macao newslne

**2012/12/01**

**Ethiopians sweep Macao Marathon**

Ethiopia's Heile Haja Gemedo and Ehitu Kiroso Reda became the winners of the Macao Galaxy Entertainment International Marathon.

Gemedo sailed past the finish line in two hours 23 minutes and 56 seconds to lift the men's title. Kenyan Duncan Cheruiyot Koech followed at heel in 2:24:00. Gemedo's compatriot Gezahegn Alemayehu Abebe came third, finishing in 2:24:11.

In the women's event, Ethiopia had a one-two finish as Reda set the winning pace in 2:50:11 before Tsega Gelaw Reta completed on 2:51:04. Irene Kemunto Mogaka of Kenya took bronze, at 1:21 off the pace. There were over 6,000 people from 57 countries and regions participating in the 2012 event.



## macao newslne macao newslne

**2012/12/03**

**GDP growth in 3rd Q slows to lowest since 2009**

Macao's gross domestic product (GDP) for the third quarter grew just 5.1 percent year-on-year in real terms, the lowest growth since the second quarter of 2009, according to official statistics.

A government statement attributed the slowing GDP growth in the third quarter to a decline in exports of gaming services and the slowing down of increases in total visitor spending.

In the third quarter, the city's exports of gaming services dropped 0.1 percent year-on-year. In the previous quarter, exports of gaming services increased 6.2 percent.

In the first quarter, exports of gaming services rose 19.6 percent.

Economic growth was fueled by rising private consumption expenditure and investment, of which private consumption expenditure rose 9.1 percent, investment grew 10.3 percent and merchandise exports and imports were up 28.3 percent and 7.1 percent respectively.

Total visitor spending rose a paltry 2.3 percent and government final consumption expenditure rose a mere 1.2 percent year-on-year.

In nominal terms, GDP rose 11.8 percent year-on-year to 86.1 billion patacas in the third quarter, the slowest nominal growth since the third quarter of 2009.

Quarter-on-quarter, GDP was up 2.7 percent in real terms in the third quarter.

In the first three quarters, GDP increased 10.0 percent year-on-year in real terms.



**2012/12/12**

**Government expects inflation rate in 2013 to be below 6 pct**

The government's top economic affairs official said that he expected Macao's annual inflation rate for next year to be below six percent.

Secretary for Economy and Finance Francis Tam Pak Yuen made the forecast after presiding over Wednesday's meeting of the Convention and Exhibition Industry Development Committee, held at the Economic Services Bureau (DSE).

Tam pointed out that 2012's annual inflation rate was under the government's previous forecast, which he said was expected to be around six percent.

According to official statistics, the average composite

consumer price index (CPI) for the first 10 months of this year rose 6.18 percent year-on-year.

"The inflation rate eased in the past two months ... due to seasonal reasons or the changes in the price of some goods," Tam said.

Tam also pointed out that changes in domestic demand would also affect the local inflation rate.

"It is predicted that the local economy will remain stable in 2013 and that the [growth in] domestic demand will ease ... as the demand eases so will the inflation rate," Tam said, adding, "It is possible that the 2013 inflation rate will be below six percent."



## macao newslne macao newslne

**2012/12/18**

**Local artist Carlos Marreiros to represent Macao at the 2013 Venice Biennale**

Local architect and artist Carlos Marreiros was chosen to represent Macao at the 55th Venice Biennale to be held from June to November 2013.

Marreiros said he feels "very honoured to have been selected for the first time to represent Macao in this event".

"The responsibility of representing the arts and culture of Macao in front of such a demanding and internationally well-known public is very high," he admitted.

2013 Biennale is entitled "The Encyclopedic Palace" under the direction of Massimiliano Gioni.

It will be the fourth time Macao will have participated in the Venice Biennale.



## macao newslne macao newslne

**2012/12/19**

**2013 will bring new opportunities but also risks to Macao says Chief Executive**

Chief Executive Fernando Chui Sai On said that Macao would "face new opportunities but also higher risks" next year due to the "complexities in the global economy".

In the face of doubts clouding worldwide prospects, Chui said the administration would first ensure the stability of public finances and the employment of Macao residents.

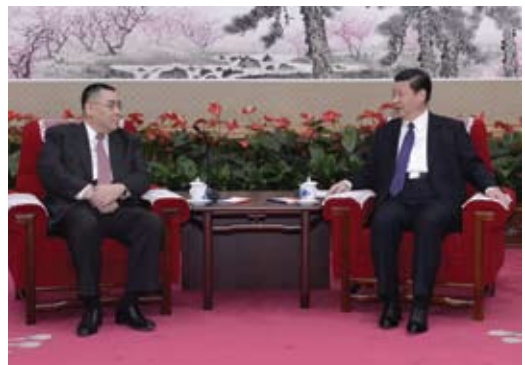
During his speech at the official ceremony on the 13th anniversary of Macao's handover, the Chief Executive pledged to further promote closer cooperation ties with mainland China to "provide a strong backing and new opportunities for Macao's sustainable development".

On gaming development, the government will continue to strive for enriching the non-gaming elements within the Macao casinos, Chui also said.

After the Macao ceremonies Chui Sai On went to Beijing for a three-day visit to see party and government officials.

In the Chinese capital he met Xi Jinping, the new leader of the Communist Party and future President of the People's Republic of China.

During the meeting Xi acknowledged that the overall situation in Macao is good and that Chui's team



deserves recognition for their work to unite people from all walks of life in Macao and maintain the prosperity and development of the territory.



**2012/12/26**

**New tourism director wants more tourism attractions in less-visited parts of Macao**

The new director of the Macao Government Tourist Office (MGTO), Helena de Senna Fernandes, said she wanted more tourism attractions in the less-visited parts of the city.

Senna Fernandes, who took up her post from Joao Manuel Costa Antunes, said her office aimed to "enrich the tourism elements of the entire city to divert visitors to different spots".

"The Ruins of St Paul's is an attraction crowded with tourists and we hope that through cooperation with other public bodies or promotions we can let tourists know that Macao has other places worth visiting," she said.

Senna Fernandes said the government would improve

the northern district, near the border with mainland China, in 2013.

"There are already some churches and temples with potential in that area. We will use these as a foundation and add some new elements," she said.

Referring to the increased number of tourists to Macao, Senna Fernandes noted: "It is unrealistic to continuously strive for growth in tourist arrivals but we can work more on the quality, like prolonging visitors' lengths of stay and attracting them to more and different places in Macao."

She also said that recent studies conducted by the Institute for Tourism Studies (IFT) shows that Macao can cope with up to 29 million visitors annually, adding that Macao has not reached this benchmark, as only around 28 million tourists visited the city in 2012.



## macao newslne macao newslne

**2012/12/26**

**Inflation rate accelerates to 5.72 pct in November**

Macao's inflation rate slightly accelerated in November, mainly due to the rising cost of eating out and higher prices of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) according to the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC).

The city's composite consumer price index (CPI) rose 5.72 percent year-on-year last month. In October and September the index rose 5.19 percent and 5.69 percent year-on-year, respectively.

The price index of alcoholic beverages and tobacco products rose 34.35 percent year-on-year last month.

The 8.26 percent increase in the index of household goods and furnishings was mainly due to higher prices of LPG and domestic services.

For the 12 months ending last month, the average composite consumer price index rose 6.19 percent from the preceding period.

The composite CPI rose 0.90 percent month-to-month in November, due to higher LPG prices and rising charges for out-patient medical services.

The average composite CPI for the first 11 months of the year increased 6.13 percent year-on-year.



## macao newslne macao newslne

**2012/12/28**

**Macao's visitor arrivals down 1.8 pct year-on-year in November**

Macao's visitor arrivals decreased by 1.8 percent year-on-year to 2,374,110 in November 2012, according to figures released by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC).

Analysed by place of residence, visitors from the Chinese mainland increased by 2.9 percent year-on-year to 1,503,158 – 63.3 percent of the total, of which 632,640 were travelling to Macao under the Individual Visit Scheme.

Visitor arrivals from South Korea (34,686) increased by 14.2 percent, while those from Hong Kong (529,911), Taiwan (79,884) and Malaysia (34,318) decreased by ten percent, 11 percent and 3.3 percent respectively.

In the first eleven months of 2012, visitor arrivals totalled 25,586,441 but the rate of increase narrowed to 0.5 percent year-on-year, according to the DSEC.



**2012/12/31**

**Government studying a 4th cross-harbour link between Macao and Taipa**

An official report has proposed the construction of a dual 3-lane under-water tunnel for Macao's fourth cross-harbour link between Macao and Taipa, running parallel to the Friendship bridge, the Infrastructure Development Office (GDI) said in statement.

It would be Macao's first cross-harbour tunnel.

Macao and Taipa are currently linked by three bridges, the oldest of which is restricted to public and emergency transport.

According to the statement, the office held a meeting with specialists and government officials to review a feasibility report on the construction of a fourth Macao-Taipa crossing and an underwater six-lane

tunnel connecting future land reclamation projects in the Macao peninsula.

Based on analyses and discussions, the government

has approved the report, which would later be edited for further research and submitted to the central government in Beijing for approval.



## macao newslne macao newslne

**2013/1/1**

**Guangzhou-Zhuhai South railway opened on New Year's Day**

The first passenger railway along the southern coast of the Pearl River, cutting the journey time from Guangzhou to Zhuhai South to just 46 minutes, opened on New Year's Day.

The terminus is at Gongbei, next to the border with Macao, making travel simpler for millions of mainlanders who visit the Special Administrative Region of Macao.

The total length of the new line is 177 kilometres, of which 116 is between Guangzhou South station and Zhuhai.

There are also branch lines from Xiaolan station to Xinhui (26 km), and from Zhuhai to Zhuhai airport. It

will have a maximum speed of 200 km per hour.

The train passes through the main cities of the southern Pearl River Delta, including Foshan, Shunde, Jiangmen and Zhongshan. It has a total of 27 stations. Passengers will have the choice of 46 minutes non-stop from the two termini or 76 minutes with stops at each station. The current journey time by bus is about 90 minutes from Gongbei to Panyu in the suburbs of Guangzhou.

The line between Guangzhou South and Zhuhai North opened on 7 January 2011, with a journey time of 41 minutes. Guangzhou South is in Panyu, a suburb of the city. Passengers there can catch high-speed trains to Shenzhen, Hong Kong, Wuhan and Guizhou. To reach other parts of Guangzhou, they must take a subway.

Guangzhou South is one of three railway stations in the city.



## macao newslne macao newslne

**2013/1/3**

**Double record marks casinos' 2012 results**

Macao's casinos ended 2012 with a double record: gross revenue leaped 19.6 percent year-on-year to 28.2 billion patacas (US\$ 3.5 billion) in December, trumping the previous monthly record of 27.7 billion patacas in October, while last year's gross receipts reached a record 304.1 billion patacas (US\$ 38 billion), up 13.5 percent on 2011.

The Gaming and Inspection Coordination Bureau (DICJ) announced the figures Wednesday.

Last month's gross receipts rose 13.5 percent month-to-month.

2012 was the first year for the local casino industry's gross receipts to exceed 300 billion patacas.

The industry topped the 200 billion pataca gross

revenue threshold for the first time in 2011 and 100 billion patacas in 2009.

In 2004, when the liberalisation of the gaming industry got off the ground, gross receipts stood at 41.4 billion patacas.

However, last year's gross receipts eased off from the year before, when the industry rocketed 42.2 percent to 267.9 billion patacas, as the mainland's economy slowed and affected high-rollers who flock to Macao's gaming tables.

Despite that, analysts said that Macao's better-than-expected December gaming revenue suggested that a rebound was in sight.

This compared to a 3.2 percent year-on-year growth in October and an increase of 7.9 percent in November. Macao overtook Las Vegas as the world's gaming

capital in terms of revenue after the casino sector was opened up to competition in 2002, ending a monopoly that had been in place since 1937, the last four decades of which were dominated by Stanley Ho Hung Sun's STDM.

The city's first casinos were licensed in 1847. At the end of 2012 Macao had 35 casinos.







*Fu Tak-iong*

# A Man of **Luck** and Steel

## The Gambling King who won a fortune but lost his ear

By Mark O'Neill

He was born into a poor farming family in Guangdong province and went to Hong Kong in search of a better life. In 1937, along with a partner, he obtained the gambling concession in Macao, which made him one of the richest men in South China and enabled him to build a business empire. Fu Tak-iong is one of the best-known people in Macao's history. He is famous as a gambling king, a leader of the business community, a philanthropist to thousands of refugees during World War Two, and for being kidnapped at a monastery in February 1945. During the dramatic negotiations for his release, the kidnappers cut off part of his right ear. After his family lost the gambling concession in 1961 to a consortium led by Stanley Ho, it moved to Hong Kong where it developed its business in hotels and real estate. Nothing remains of Fu in Macao except for two tablets dedicated to his parents that he had engraved in their memory; they stand in the garden of the spacious home he once lived in, close to the old Belavista Hotel.



He is remembered as a man of power, wealth and influence more than as a person who made a great contribution to the city.

### **Rising from poverty**

Fu was born in 1894 in a village in Nanhai county, Foshan city, in Guangdong province. The family was very poor; the young man cut grass on the hills around his village to earn a few pennies. His first business venture was to boil peanuts in salted water and take them to the neighbouring city of Guangzhou to sell. From an early age, he enjoyed gambling. When a drought aggravated the poverty of his family, he and his father went to Hong Kong in search of a better life. There he did whatever work he could find; he secured a post as an apprentice in a ship machinery yard. In his spare time, he walked around the streets and gambled when he had the opportunity. One day he got into a fight and was arrested by the police. He was sentenced to 10 months in prison.



When he was released, he decided to try his luck away from Hong Kong; he went into business in Guangdong and the neighbouring province of Guangxi.

His first business was money-lending; he lent cash to customers in exchange for their goods. He prospered in trading in Guangdong and Guangxi and met many officials and wealthy people. By 1927, he had earned enough to build a large garden in his home village in honour of his ancestors.

## Attracted by gambling

He returned to Hong Kong with the money he had made and looked for greater opportunities. With his interest in gambling, he was intrigued by the gambling concession in Macao. In 1930, he made a bid but was defeated by Hou Heng, a consortium of powerful Hong Kong and Macao businessmen. They included Huo Zhi-ting, a wealthy businessman with gambling interests in Guangdong and large savings in the foreign banks of Hong Kong. The consortium had backing from two banks and bid 1.4 million patacas a year. Its casinos were on the fifth and sixth floor of the President Hotel.

Fu became a friend of Huo and in 1935 the two set up gambling companies in Guangzhou and Shenzhen. In Shenzhen, he opened a casino in Baoan county, which, because of its location between Hong Kong and Guangzhou, attracted many gamblers. This badly affected the business in Macao.

The next opportunity to win the Macao gambling contract came at the end of 1936, when the franchise held by Hou Heng would expire. At the same time, Japan was preparing its all-out invasion of China. It was a good moment for Fu to move his business operations away from Guangdong to Macao.

This time, he prepared his bid with great care. He chose as his partner Kou Ho-ning, one of the richest and most powerful people in Macao.

Kou had a similar background to that of Fu. Born in 1878 into a poor family in Panyu, close to Guangzhou, he lost his father at the age of five and left home at the age of 14 in search of work; he became a servant and then went into business. In 1911, he moved to Macao where he leased a fantan parlour in the city's entertainment district. Under his management, it achieved the highest turnover of any fantan parlour in the city.

From this, he diversified into opium, shipping and pawn-broking; he created the largest pawnshop business in the city. In 1916, he bought a sprawling three-storey mansion on Rua do Campo, built with a mixture of Chinese and Western styles. When Clark Gable came to Macao to make a film, he stayed in the mansion, in a room on the second floor.

Fu and Kou set up a company named Tai Heng, which made a bid of 1.8 million patacas and promised to employ 700–800 people. The government selected Tai Heng in January 1937; Tai Heng bought the President Hotel, renamed it the Central and put its casinos on the fifth and sixth floors. It was the flagship of the company, offering a night club, coffee shops, restaurants and other entertainments as well as the casinos.

Kou only put capital into Tai Heng; he left the gambling operations in the capable hands of his partner, Mr Fu.

## Perfect timing

Fu's timing was perfect. Six months later, the Japanese army attacked the Marco Polo Bridge in Beijing and later took occupation of Guangdong province; he had left just in time. The war drove many wealthy people, Chinese and non-Chinese, to take refuge in Macao; they became clients of his hotels, restaurants and casinos.

Fu branched out into shipping and warehousing; he owned Port 16 and the shipping company that brought visitors from Hong Kong. He purchased a large house close to that of the Governor in the most desirable area of Macao.

Business became even better after the Japanese occupation of Hong Kong. More rich people moved to Macao – the only neutral place in the Far East. The war also provoked a flood of refugees from Hong Kong and Guangdong. The population of Macao tripled from its pre-war level to 450,000; it had never accommodated such a large number of people.

Thousands lived on the streets or in makeshift camps set up by the government, the churches and other charitable organisations. Like other rich people, Fu donated money to buy food and daily necessities for the refugees.

Fu was also active as a contributor to Tong Sin Tong – the biggest Chinese charity in Macao – the Kiang Wu hospital and the Red Cross.

# 新中央

Central Hotel





## Kidnapping

On 10 February 1945 Fu was resting in the Kun lan temple in Macao, when armed men broke in and kidnapped him. Because it was a Buddhist temple open to the general public, he was less well protected than usual. The kidnappers demanded a ransom of nine million patacas – an indication of Fu's wealth. The family called in Ho Yin – the most influential Chinese man in Macao – as a mediator. He succeeded in negotiating the ransom amount down to 500,000 patacas. But one of Fu's children tipped off the police; they went to the site where the handover was to take place.

Enraged, the kidnappers called off the handover, cut off a piece of Fu's right ear and returned to their original demand of nine million. This time, another mediator was called in – Deng Wing-cheung, one of the most famous Cantonese opera stars, better known by his stage name San Ma Jai. He was able to negotiate the figure back down to 500,000 and arrange Fu's release.

## Undeterred

Such a trauma would have knocked out most men but not Mr Fu. He resumed his business career and diversified after the war into Hong Kong.

In 1952, he obtained land in Central on which his family would build the Furama Hotel. Four years later, he bought the Swire Pacific Bank Far East Building, also in Central. His interests included property, trade, shipping and cinemas. In addition, he was a senior member of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce in Macao.

Kou, his partner in the Tai Heng franchise, died at his home in Hong Kong in 1955. Fu also died at his home in Hong Kong, in 1960, at the age of 66. He had 16 children. The following year, Tai Heng lost the Macao gambling franchise to a newcomer, Sociedade de Turismo e Diversões de Macau. It offered the government an annual payment of 3.167 million patacas, compared to the 3.15 million by Tai Heng.

After the loss of its major business in Macao, the Fu family withdrew to Hong Kong and concentrated on its interests there.

Fu's eldest son founded the Furama Hotel in Connaught Road Central, which opened in 1973 as one of the premier hotels in the colony. The hotel was later demolished; the site now houses the AIA Building.

In Macao today, there is almost no trace of the extraordinary life of Fu Tak-long. There are no statues or museums in his honour. In the garden of his former home stand two stone tablets with engravings on them; he commissioned a calligrapher to carve them in 1952, in honour of his father and mother. The family sold the house, which now belongs to an owner from Hong Kong. ■



Stone tablet honouring the parents of Fu Tak-long

[www.creativemacau.org.mo](http://www.creativemacau.org.mo)

# EXHIBITIONS



## NATURE

cristina vinhas  
jewellery

11 - 31  
January



5 - 23 February

Black and White drawings



## Inexplicable Collisions

Debby Sou Vai Keng  
ink painting

1 - 19  
March



## Angel and Faith

Tong Chong  
sculpture

22 Mar - 13 Apr



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創意產業中心為澳門歐洲研究學會項目  
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With the support of Macao Cultural Centre







# Breaking the Mould with Faith



China's  
first female minister  
in worldwide  
Anglican Church

By Mark O'Neill

*Morrison Chapel in Macao*



"As I walked to church, I found myself behind the men who had the job of picking up the bodies and putting them into a big wooden box-cart to take them to the grave. They packed them on top of one another like sardines."

These were the words of Florence Li Tim Oi, a deacon in the Anglican Church, describing the wartime conditions of Macao. She had been sent there from Hong Kong to serve a congregation, mainly of refugees, who met in the Morrison Chapel.

During this terrible period, Li not only led services in the church, in Chinese and in English, but also worked in a girls' school and helped and cared for the needy.

A flood of refugees had swollen the city's population to a record 450,000 – three times its pre-war level. Many lived in the open, in public places, scavenging for food and clothing. Collectors went through the streets each morning, loading the corpses onto horse-drawn carts for burial in a mass grave.

Into this dungeon of suffering, Deaconess Li brought her spirit of care and love: she worked as a nurse and helped the refugees to secure food and lodging and bury their dead. Her work so impressed Ronald Hall, Bishop of Hong Kong, that he decided to ordain her as the first female minister in the Anglican Church.

It was a momentous decision – at that time the church did not permit the ordination of women. The bishop performed the ceremony in an Anglican Church in Zhaoqing, Guangdong province, on 25 January 1944, in front of a congregation of 100 people.

After the war, Li was forced to give up her licence but continued to serve the church. It was only 27 years later that the church lifted the ban, ordaining two female ministers, both in Hong Kong.

From 1948, Li was trapped in China, suffering intense persecution. She was only allowed to leave in 1981, to spend the last 11 years of her life in Toronto.

## Early life

Li was born on 5 May 1907 into a devout Christian family; her parents often hosted Bible studies and services of worship in their home. She had five brothers and two sisters. Despite being a Christian, her father had two wives. To secure a steady income, he gave up his medical practice and became a government school headmaster. Li attended this school until she was 14 but did not go to secondary

school until she was 21; her brothers had priority.

She enrolled in the Belilios Public School for Girls and graduated at 27. At school, she joined the Anglican Church. While studying there, she came to admire Florence Nightingale and took Florence as her English name.

When she was 24, she attended the ordination of a British woman, Lucy Vincent, to the diaconate. During the service, the bishop asked if a Chinese lady would also commit herself to the church; she felt the call from God.

For nearly a year after graduation, she taught in a school for fishermen's children, to please her father.

In 1934, she entered the Guangzhou Union Theological College; the church paid the fees. On graduation with full honours in 1938, she returned to Hong Kong as a lay worker in All Saints Church, Kowloon. It was a hazardous journey; she had to pass through areas of Guangdong occupied by the Japanese army to get to Hong Kong.

On 22 May 1941 – Ascension Day – she was ordained as a deacon at St John's Cathedral in Hong Kong.

## Macao: haven of refugees

Because Portugal was neutral during World War Two, Macao became a place of refuge. Bishop Hall sent Li there to serve the congregation in the Morrison Chapel; they were mostly refugees from Hong Kong and China. The war brought with it professionals like university professors and government employees.

After the fall of Hong Kong in December 1941, the number of refugees soared. The city had never in its history had such a large population. Everything was in short supply, including food, clothing, housing, medicines and fuel.

As a single woman, Li worked as best she could. She led regular services in Chinese and in English and taught in a girls' school. She helped and cared for those in need. She secured food and lodging for the needy, worked as a nurse and arranged credit for a destitute wife who needed a coffin to bury her husband in.

No priest could make the journey from Hong Kong, so Li was licensed by her superiors to preside at Holy Communion for two years. The number of believers increased rapidly.

Bishop Hall had left Hong Kong before it fell and taken refuge in the Nationalist capital of Chongqing.



*Li Tim Oi, her mother, Bishop Mok, her father, Archdeacon Lee Kow Yan after her ordination as Deacon by Bishop R O Hall at St John's Cathedral HK, Ascension Day 22 May 1941*



The work of Deaconess Li impressed him so much that he decided to ordain her as a minister; he wanted to honour her work and regularise it. "I am merely confirming what the Holy Spirit had already ordained," he said later.

He sent her a message: "If you dare to come and meet me, it is good that you be ordained priest and given a proper right to work." He gave her a date on which he would travel from Chongqing to Xingxing, in Guangdong province, to meet her.

It was a hazardous journey of 250 kilometres, leaving neutral Macao and going through Japanese-held territory. With help from the congregation, she set out and went on foot and by bicycle, small boat and sedan chair; it took a week. She had been given the names of Christian families and other places of refuge en route.

She and Bishop Hall arrived at the home of the Reverend Lai Kei Cheong within a half hour of each other. She wrote: "We knelt down immediately, in Pastor Lai's sitting room, to thank God."

The two talked and prayed together for several days. He asked many questions about her work and calling but did not speak about her being a woman. She said: "The wider issues of the ordination of women were far from my mind as I entered the little church. I was being obedient to God's will."

After the ordination in the Zhaoqing church, there was a celebratory lunch. She returned immediately afterwards to Macao, on a safer route, to resume her duties.

## Losing her licence

After the war, the Lambeth Conference – the ruling body of the Anglican Church – refused to accept Li's ordination. She was summoned to Hong Kong and told that either she either had to forfeit the title or Ronald Hall would have to resign as bishop. To protect him, she resigned but carried on her mission. She told him that she did not need to have the name of priest to do church work.

Then she was sent to a parish in Hepu, a county of Beihai city in Guangxi, southwest China, to help rebuild it after the neglect of the war years. She started a large maternity home to ensure that newborn girls were not smothered at birth.

Another Calvary was about to begin. She stayed in Guangxi while the new government took power. She was unable to leave the country for the next 32 years.

During political campaigns, she was repeatedly singled out for abuse because of her ties to the English 'colonialists' and her role as a female priest. She was sent to live in a commune with other Christians to raise chickens and rabbits and carry timber. She was sent to labour reform camps, to work in factories, and lived in terrible conditions. Her possessions, including her Bible and prayer book, were confiscated. Red Guards ordered her to cut her priestly vestments with scissors.

She contemplated suicide; but her faith saved her.



Florence Li Tim Oi (c.)

She accepted her suffering with an extraordinary sense of forgiveness.

Finally, after 30 years, the doors of the churches re-opened. Li became actively involved in Zion Church, Guangzhou, which resumed services in September 1979; over 1,000 people crowded in for the first service.

In 1981, she was allowed to visit Hong Kong, to join her family. At their request, she applied for Canadian citizenship, to be reunited with other members of the family; in 1983, she became a permanent resident of Canada. She actively served as assistant priest at the Anglican Church of St Matthew and St John in Toronto, which has services in English and in Chinese.

## Recognition at last

During her years in China, the Anglican Church changed. In 1971, it accepted the ordination of women; Jane Hwang and Joyce Bennett were ordained as priests in Hong Kong and, at the same time, Li was officially recognised as a priest.

Other countries, including the United States, followed suit. Li commented: "The ordination of women appears to be a gift from the Eastern Hemisphere to the Western Hemisphere."

The Church of England itself did not ordain them until 1994. It remains a controversial issue among many members.

After Li had become established in Canada, the church made great efforts to show its recognition for her life of suffering and loyalty.

In 1984, she attended a ceremony in Toronto's St John's Cathedral to mark the 40th anniversary of her ordination. A few days later, she was invited to London and was received by Robert Runcie, the then Archbishop of Canterbury, in person; he welcomed her to his official residence, Lambeth Palace.

He organised a large service which also celebrated the 40th anniversary of her ordination.



Copyright 2004 by St. George's Episcopal Church, Dayton, Ohio, and crafted by Willet Stained Glass, Philadelphia.





*Entering Westminster Abbey to celebrate the 40th anniversary of her priesting*

## Final years

She spent the last years of her life in Toronto, serving her parish and encouraging the acceptance of women into the priesthood; she was an honorary non-stipendiary assistant priest. Her sister moved from Switzerland, where she was living, to Toronto, to take care of her.

In 1987, at the invitation of the local bishop, she returned for the first time to her parish in Hepu, Guangxi, at the age of 80. It was a moving moment for her and the members of the congregation.

In 1988, she attended the Lambeth Conference – an event held every 10 years – as the first female minister in the church.

After Christmas in 1990, she had a fall at home and seriously injured her spine. Friends who visited her in hospital found that, within 30 minutes, she was asking them about their families and telling jokes; she did not complain and bore her pain patiently. She passed away on 26 February 1992 in Toronto, aged 84. She is buried there; she left her archives to Renison University College, Waterloo, in Ontario.

She wrote: "I have learned that God is a vibrant God, a living God. I have passed through so many ups and downs in my life to learn of his goodness, his kindness, his love. With his love and kindness,

I have tried to prove that there is a living God in my life; that He is really there in my inner life."

In 2003, the Episcopal Church of the US fixed 24 January as Li's feast day in Lesser Feasts and Fasts, based on the eve of her ordination. In 2007, the Anglican Communion celebrated the centennial anniversary of her birth.

St George's Episcopal Church in Dayton, Ohio, has honoured her with a window in its building; it shows how she kept her Christian faith in the midst of Maoist China, even when she was required to feed chickens.

## Foundation in her name

After Li's death, her sister Rita requested the establishment of the Li Tim Oi Foundation, to help women in Third World countries who wish to serve the church but do not have the funds for the education they need.

Based in England, this foundation has spent in excess of 500,000 sterling on helping over 275 women in Africa, Brazil, Fiji and Pakistan. It has committed more money than it currently has access to, and would welcome support from the city where Florence Li did so much to help.

*Photos by Eric Tam and  
courtesy of St. George's Episcopal Church, Dayton, Ohio.*



Morrison Chapel





# Constant Transformation

Shanghai's Bund  
starts its third life

By Luo Xunzhi in Shanghai





In the 150 years since the birth of Shanghai, its most famous street – the Bund – has had three lives.

The first, until 1949, was as a centre of finance and trade for the foreigners who managed the city. The second, after the Communist revolution, was as a base for the government and large state institutions.

The third, and current one, is as a showcase for luxury foreign brands and high-class consumption. A century ago, the foreigners were the ones who walked with pride and bulging wallets along the Bund; now it is the wealthy Chinese.

The Bund is the heart of Shanghai; it stretches for 1.3 kilometres, overlooking the Huangpu river. On the other side, is the commercial district of Pudong, which boasts some of the tallest skyscrapers in China.

Giorgio Armani, Cartier, Swatch, Rolex and Dolce & Gabbana have located their flagship stores in four buildings on the Bund. The street boasts bars and restaurants where the minimum charge is 3,000 yuan per person. High-end brands occupy the ground floor of the luxury Peninsula Hotel. Built by the Hong Kong & Shanghai Hotels, it opened in March 2010, boasting 235 rooms.

All of the above companies want the prestige of association with the most famous address in Shanghai, which attracts millions of Chinese and foreign visitors every year.

*Tourists in the Bund of Shanghai*



## Origins

In 1845, the British established a settlement on the Bund, which was combined with an American settlement to make the International Concession. A building boom at the end of 19th century and the start of the 20th century created the financial centre for East Asia, with 52 imposing buildings housing the headquarters of the major financial and trading institutions in China, both foreign and domestic.

The most famous were the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) buildings, constructed in 1923 in the Greek classical style, and the Peace Hotel, built in 1929 in the modernist style. Europeans and Americans strutted along the Bund, wearing the latest outfits from Paris and New York.

After 1949, the foreign companies left; the HSBC building became the headquarters of the city government. Other buildings were occupied by the Textile Bureau, the Foreign Trade Bureau and other departments of the government. There were no foreigners to be seen.

## Foreigners return

After the founding of the Pudong special economic zone in 1993, the city ordered its departments to leave the Bund and invited the foreign companies back.

The American insurance group, AIA, is the only one to have moved back to its original building, Number 17. The city discussed with HSBC the possibility of returning to its former building; but the two could not agree on the price, and instead the bank created a new headquarters across the river. The original building, restored to its former glory, is now occupied by the Shanghai Pudong Development Bank.

Other Chinese financial institutions moved in. But most foreign banks preferred custom-built modern structures in Pudong; the old buildings would need enormous investment to include all the facilities needed for a bank of today.

But, while the foreign banks and trading companies hesitated, the Bund attracted thousands of visitors every day, leading to other investors conceiving of different uses for the old buildings.





The first was a Hong Kong company, which opened a Western restaurant, M, on the Bund, on the roof of Number Five, in 2004. It was a great success, offering a stunning view of the Huangpu river and Pudong opposite.

Another Hong Kong investor, Sun Xiao-wen, bought a 20-year lease on Number 6 – a Gothic building that opened in 1897. He spent more than 100 million yuan on a major overhaul of the decaying structure.

He has leased it to four clients – Dolce & Gabbana on the ground floor, Suntory on the second, a Chinese restaurant on the third where you pay 10,000 yuan for a room, and a Lan Kwai Fong-style bar on the top floor.

Swiss luxury watch maker Swatch has leased Number 19, which it has turned into its flagship Shanghai store, as well as a hotel and apartments for lease to artists.

The Peace Hotel was closed in 2007 for a major renovation costing 650 million yuan; it re-opened in July 2010 in time for the World Expo. The renovation involved a major challenge – to preserve the hotel's character as a pre-war period piece and yet provide all the modern amenities needed. It also involved the recovery of a large reception hall that had been turned into a shopping mall; this took months of negotiation.

The refurbished hotel, managed by the Fairmont Group of Canada, aims at the top end of the market, with a minimum charge of 2,000 yuan a night. About two thirds of its clientele are foreign, a member of staff said.

Another luxury hotel, at Number Two, is the Waldorf-Astoria, which has taken over the Shanghai Club that was the principal social club for British men in the Concession era.

Number 27, which used to be the Jardine Matheson building, now houses the Rolex flagship store, the largest wine cellar in China, three restaurants and a private club whose membership costs 60,000 yuan a year.

These brands do not judge the success of the Shanghai stores on sales alone. They are a window on to the most prestigious street in the city; many who see the goods will buy them in Hong Kong, Singapore or other cities where the luxury tax – and the price – is lower.



## Traffic flow

A major redesign of the traffic system, which began in 2008, has greatly improved the environment of the Bund. The city built a tunnel to carry the majority of the traffic along the route, and they demolished a section of an elevated expressway which had brought cars on to the Bund.

The result is a reduction in the volume of traffic, enabling people to cross at ground level, instead of going underground as they did before; it has also made it quieter. In addition, it allowed for a widening of the walkway along the river, with room for trees and lawns.



*Bund in Shanghai*

The Bund was re-opened to the public after the completion of all of this work in March 2010. It includes a large copper bull, modelled after the one on Wall Street: a sign of strength and prosperity.

### **Who buys the goods?**

The Bund may be the most famous address in Shanghai but it does not have the highest rent. That honour goes to nearby Nanjing Road – the city's traditional shopping centre, which sees 20 times more human traffic than the Bund.

The lower rents also reflect the fact that the prices in the shops and hotels on the Bund put them out of

reach of the vast majority of visitors.

"When foreign tourists come, they look at the Bund," said Paul French, director of market research firm Access Asia-Mintel. "But the Chinese tourists look at Pudong, which they consider the equivalent of Manhattan or Central (in Hong Kong).

"There is nothing on the Bund for ordinary Chinese shoppers. It is only for super-rich Chinese people. At the Bar Rouge, it costs 2,000 yuan per table and 1,000 yuan for a Russian girl to come and talk to you," he said.

"In China, the biggest problem is hatred of the rich," said Jane Jian, a history professor who leads tours of Shanghai.



"The gap between rich and poor is widening. The Bund is a very visible example. Here you can buy a diamond-encrusted mobile telephone for 100,000 yuan. One moment of carelessness – and you have lost it.

"It gives you great social standing to have a wedding banquet at somewhere like the Peninsula. An event can cost over 100,000 yuan. People will borrow money to organise such a banquet," she said.

Because of these high prices, the vast majority of clients in the shops and hotels are wealthy Chinese people. The only foreigners who can afford them are those on corporate salaries and expense accounts; the bars and restaurants are good places to invite a visiting chairman or chief executive or to entertain an important client.

This is a dramatic change from the early years of the British Concession. Initially, Chinese people were not allowed to live there, until the British consul ruled that the regulation would have to be changed to allow cooks, maids, drivers and other servants to come and wait on them.

"The Bund was designed for foreigners," said Jian. "The northern end, which is now a walkway, was a park from which Chinese people and dogs were banned."

How the world has changed. Foreigners who want coffee or a quick meal have to walk several streets away to find a Starbucks or fast food outlet. Wealthy Chinese people walk confidently into the luxury stores and choose their purchases at leisure.

## Expanding the Bund

Michelle Blumenthal, an independent art consultant who works between Hong Kong and Shanghai, said that the Bund was a success as a centre of banking and high-end luxury goods, services and food and beverages.

"Historically, banks and insurance and trading companies were the high-end brands of the time. Now we have high-end brands of a different kind.

"In most cities of the world, a luxury brand has only one store. In Shanghai, they have two or three. This is a reflection of the world economy. China is their only growing market," she said.

The commercial success of the Bund has persuaded the government to expand it. In 2009, the State Council announced that the financial district of Lujiazui in Pudong would be extended to the western side of the river and the area of the Bund would be expanded to the south.

This means that new buildings for more than 20 financial institutions will go up over the next four years on the banks of the Huangpu, south of the existing Bund.

This will bring thousands more well-paid employees and customers to its shops and restaurants and push rents up even further. The third life of the Bund is going to be a long one. ■

*Photos by Carlos Gonçalves and Xinhua*







# MACAO YEARBOOK 2012

Macao Yearbook 2012 is the regional almanac published by the Government Information Bureau of the Macao Administrative Region (MSAR)



The richly illustrated book aims to provide its readers with a comprehensive and objective record of the progress of Macao's political, economic, social and cultural developments in 2011. The well-edited Yearbook is meant to provide detailed and accurate information, in-depth analysis and concise data to all those who wish to know more about and better understand Macao.

Macao Yearbook 2012, separately published in Chinese, Portuguese and English, can be purchased at major bookshop in Macao at 120 patacas or 120 Hong Kong dollars per copy.

In Hong Kong, the three separate language editions of Macao Yearbook 2012 are on sale at the Commercial Press (HK) Ltd bookshops.



THSRC Train

# ***Fast Journeys***

## **High-Speed Train Transforms Taiwan**

By Luo Xunzhi



We're at Taipei railway station at the sales counter for the Taiwan High-Speed Train. Hsu Mei-ling, a well-dressed lady in her 50s, has just bought a ticket to Kaohsiung. "I use the train eight times a month, sometimes four times a week. My company has operations in both cities. I used to fly and drive, but not any longer. The train is better than both flying and driving."

A couple in their 20s has bought a ticket to Taichong: "We go two or three times a month to visit our relatives there. Before the High-Speed Train, we didn't go at all because of the time it took and the inconvenience. The train has changed Taiwan."

Costing NT\$400 billion, the train line is the biggest construction project in the history of the island and the largest Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) scheme in the world.

It aims to turn the western half of the island, where 95 percent of its 23 million people live, into a 'one-day circle', i.e. enabling people to go anywhere on the line – to attend a meeting, do their shopping, meet a friend or a relative – and be back home on the same day.

It takes just 96 minutes to cover the 345 kilometres between Taipei and Kaohsiung – the two largest cities on the island – and the two termini. "Before,

it took two days to do business or visit relatives," said Kenneth Wang, a senior specialist in the media relations department of the Public Affairs Office of the Taiwan High-Speed Rail Corporation (THSRC), the private company which operates the line. It has not received any government subsidies.

"The line has created many love stories and marriages. It has enabled couples in the north and south to meet often. They meet at our stations. Some have got married on the train because the line holds such good memories," he said.

On 6 December 2011, the THSRC organised a ceremony at Taichong station for 11 couples, including one celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary.

But the THSRC carries a heavy debt of NT\$67.7 billion, because of the large loans it took out to finance the construction work. The BOT contract covers a period of 35 years. Last year was the first in which it made a profit, of NT\$5.78 billion.

"In 2010, the banks provided a new syndicated loan with a reasonable interest rate," said Wang. "In the early days, the banks wanted a higher interest rate because they did not know how the line would turn out. Now the situation has stabilised and is going well."



## An idea long in the making

The idea of the line was born in the 1970s. Rapid economic growth from the 1960s caused a saturation of traffic, by road and rail, in the western half of the island. Informal planning began in the 1980s.

In 1987, the Executive Yuan (Cabinet) instructed the Ministry of Transport to conduct a feasibility study; it found that, compared to other solutions, a high-speed train offered the highest transit volume, lowest land use, highest energy savings and lowest pollution. In 1991, the route was selected and plans were approved by the government, who decided that a private company would build the line as a BOT.

The THSRC was established in May 1998, with private investment. The government owns a stake of about 10 percent.

The construction was an enormous undertaking on an island regularly hit by earthquakes, typhoons and rainstorms. The line had to pass through the most developed part of Taiwan, dense with houses, factories and intensive agriculture.

It took six years to complete, with the help of more than 2,000 professional engineers from 20 countries and over 20,000 foreign and domestic workers. The line has eight stations and an operating speed of 300 km per hour. About 251 km, or 73 percent of the line, runs on viaducts, mostly pre-cast, pre-stressed concrete girder spans; a section of 157 km from Changhua to Zuoying in Kaohsiung was the world's longest elevated rail line section at the time of opening.

Viaducts were designed to be earthquake-resistant, to allow trains to stop safely during a seismic event. About 61 km, or 18 percent of the line, is in 48 tunnels, the longest of which stretches for 7.4 km. The dimensions inside each tunnel measure 90 square metres, with space for two tracks and safety walkways.

The line has a sophisticated warning system for earthquakes; drivers are warned in advance and can slow down or stop, according to the severity.

The environmental features include bridges over the line for animals to walk over, planting and re-planting of trees along the route to reduce the noise, and the purchase of farmland to create a preservation area for jacana birds.

Five of the eight stations were built on farmland without integration with existing transport systems.



*THSRC route from Taipei to Kaohsiung*

The THSRC was given a lease of 50 years on the land surrounding these stations and the right to develop it, as one way to recoup its enormous investment. Three quarters of the funding for the construction came in syndicated loans from banks.

The company chose Japanese technology for its core operating system, using the 700T trains made by Kawasaki Heavy Industries. The line had its official opening on 5 January 2007; it became the sixth high-speed rail system in the world.

## Building up passengers

In the first year, the system carried 15.56 million passengers on journeys totaling 7.8 million kilometres. To attract people, it had to persuade them to change habits that had been built up over many years – driving down one of the island's two North-South expressways or taking the 30-minute flight from Taipei to Kaohsiung. And it had to persuade them to make journeys they had not made before.





*Hsinchu Station*

In 2008, the company nearly doubled the number of trains; passengers increased to 30.6 million. The figures have risen gradually since then, reaching 41.6 million on 15.78 million km last year. The punctuality rate is 99 percent.

"The average passenger load in the first four months of this year was 120,000 a day," said Wang. "It rose to 140,000 at weekends, festivals and during the summer vacation. During the Lunar New Year in 2012, we had 1,872 trains running over nine days; the highest on a single day was 196.

"We have no passenger targets. We hope to have a better service and more passengers. We can always increase the number of trains," he said.

The greatest pressure in the early years was financing the project. As a private company, THSRC relied largely on borrowed money. The banks were willing to back the project but were uncertain about how many people would use it; so they demanded a high rate of interest, at eight percent.

Normally, the depreciation period for a railway is up to 100 years; but the BOT contract for the line in Taiwan is short, at only 35 years, which has increased the cost of borrowing.

In 1986, the British and French governments initially awarded a concession of 55 years to private companies for the construction and operation of the tunnel beneath the English Channel; they later extended this to 100 years, in light of the financial difficulties the operators faced.

During the first three years, the average passenger load of the THSRC was about 90,000 – below the break-even level. Up to the end of May 2009, it had paid NT\$6.55 billion in interest alone. As from last year, the company had turned the corner and now operates at a profit.

### **Income base**

The company has income from two sources. One is sales of tickets to passengers; it operates no services for freight, which is carried on the 1,097-km network of the government-owned Taiwan Railway Administration, which was founded in 1887.

The other is money from development of the land around the stations, for which it has a 50-year lease. Three of the stations – Taipei, Panchiao and Zuoying (Kaohsiung) – have no spare land.

That leaves five stations – Taoyuan, Hsinchu, Taichong, Tainan and Chiayi. They were all deliberately built away from urban areas, to allow THSRC the opportunity to sell the land for commercial and residential development. It has a total of 30.14 hectares and a potential 1.2 million square feet of commercial space, for hotels, offices, travel, retail and other uses.

“We aim to attract more commercial investors,” said Wang. “We organise events around the stations, such as an orchid festival with the Tainan county government in March, a rock and roll festival in May in Taoyuan and a Lantern festival in Hsinchu lined up for next year. These events bring people and income.”

Four new stations are planned to open in July 2015. These are Miaoli, Yunlin, Changhwa and Nangang. The first three will have land for development.

The timing is not so favourable, however. The era of rapid economic growth has passed. Tens of thousands of factories have moved to mainland China and Southeast Asia, shrinking the island’s industrial base.

## Changing Taiwan

The line has changed Taiwan; it has changed the lives of ordinary people and the way companies do business.

There are now only a handful of flights per week between Taipei and Kaohsiung. During the typhoons

and heavy rains of the summer, the aircraft are subject to delays and cancellations; this does not happen with the train.

Since the first year of operation in 2007, the number of passengers has more than doubled, and could even triple this year. Some are making journeys they would otherwise have made by air or road; many are ‘new’ journeys that people would not have taken without the speed and convenience of the train.

“I studied in Kaohsiung and have many friends there,” said Reed Hu, a specialist in the station relations department of the Public Affairs Office of the THSRC. “In the past, when friends there held a wedding, birthday or other celebration, I would send a card. Now I take the train after work at 17:00, attend the wedding or birthday banquet at 19:00 and return on the train at 22:00 and can report to work the next day.”

It has also changed the way companies work. “Before, business people took the plane or drove a car,” Hu said. “It was tiring and could be dangerous. Now they can work on the train, relax and be full of energy when they arrive. Companies with operations in the north and south arrange meetings in Taichong (in the centre).”

The train has enlarged the commuting area of Taipei. Commuters can live in Taoyuan and Hsinchu and take the train to the railway station in the centre of Taipei – a journey of less than 30 minutes – and return home in the evening. ■

*Courtesy photos by THSRC*



THSRC Train







# Steady Ascent

Zhuhai air show presents  
contradictory face  
to foreigners

By Frank Xie



For foreign visitors, the 9th China International Aviation & Aerospace Exhibition in Zhuhai in November brought both excitement and shock. They saw 150 civilian and military products, including a first sighting of a Chinese-made drone, as well as acrobatic performances by Chinese, Swiss and Russian teams.

That was the exciting part. The shock was to see China's rapid progress in the production of civilian aircraft, and its rising threat to Europe and North America, whose manufacturers have dominated this sector since the birth of aviation.

Will China repeat in passenger planes its success in steel, shipbuilding and telecommunications equipment?

Leading the charge is the state-owned Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China (COMAC), set up in Shanghai in 2008 with capital of 19 billion yuan. In Zhuhai, it received 50 new pre-orders for its C919 aircraft, which seats 168, bringing the total to 380. It is due to have its first flight test in 2014.

So far 15 companies have signed orders, including

British Airways, Ryanair, GE Capital and two Chinese firms: Hebei Aviation Group and Joy Airlines.

The most important player is the state-owned Aviation Industry Corporation of China (AVIC), set up in April 1951 during the Korean War. It has 11 subsidiaries that employ more than 400,000 people and it makes an enormous variety of products, including civil and military aircraft, helicopters, and engines.

In 2012, Fortune ranked it as 250th of the world's 500 biggest companies; it has a sales target of one trillion yuan by 2020.

The aim of Beijing is to make COMAC and AVIC into global producers able to sell civil and military aircraft that can compete with any in the world. They have already exported more than 1,400 planes.

Beijing's trump card is access to its market, which is essential for global manufacturers. The best way to access this market is local production; this has to be in joint ventures with a small number of state-owned manufacturers and runs the risk of losing the technology that provides the competitive advantage for foreign firms.





9th China International Aviation and Aerospace Exhibition in Zhuhai

## Zhuhai Show

Foreign and domestic visitors flock to Zhuhai, because it is the only international aviation show in China endorsed by the government. It has been held every two years in November since 1999.

The 2012 show saw a record number of visitors, exhibitors and contract values, a sign of how China has become one of the world's biggest aviation markets.

It attracted 400,000 visitors, with the first four days reserved for those in industry and the last two days open to the public; an estimated 120,000 were from the aviation industry. There were 650 booths from 39 nations, including 400 from the mainland and 250 from abroad.

On show were 150 military and civilian aircraft and products, including a scale model of the J-31, China's fifth-generation stealth fighter, which is still under development. Also on display were Chinese-made engines that can be used in fighter jets, unmanned aerial vehicles and commercial aeroplanes.

For the first time, visitors saw China's military drone, the Wing Loong, made by AVIC. It weighs 1.1 tonnes, is nine metres long and has a 14-metre wingspan; it can fly at a maximum altitude of 5,300 metres and has a range of 4,000 kilometres; it can be used for military and non-military operations and can carry two air-to-surface missiles. It sells for less than US\$1 million, far cheaper than drones made by the US or Israel, making it attractive to many countries, especially in the Third World.

Visitors saw live displays by the Chinese August 1 aerobatic team, the Russian Knights and Breitling from Switzerland.

The organisers said that 30 commercial agreements were signed during the show for 202 aircraft of different types, worth a total of US\$11.8 billion.

## Booming market

China has become one of the world's largest aviation markets. In 2011, there were 290 million air passengers in China, up 9.5 percent on 2010.



By 2015, it will add 55 new airports, bringing the total available for commercial use to 230.

AVIC forecasts that air passenger traffic will see an average annual growth of eight percent between now and 2031, when it will hit 2.1 trillion passenger kilometres. By the end of 2031, the fleet size of China's airlines will reach 5,545 airliners, including 4,594 planes, 951 regional aircraft and 764 freighters.

Boeing forecasts that, over the next 20 years, China will need 5,000 new aeroplanes worth more than US\$600 billion; this demand will make China the largest commercial aircraft customer of Boeing. It aims to provide a large proportion of them.

The government wants a high percentage of these new planes to be made in China by domestic manufacturers; it also wants them to win many overseas orders.

"The goal of the Chinese is to be in a few years' time at the same level as different parties around the world, like Airbus and Boeing," said David Lopez Grange, general director of Spanish aeronautics firm Aritex. "Maybe it is not so far away, perhaps 10 years. China will be a very important player in the world in a few years."

*Model of Chinese-made C919 jumbo jet in Zhuhai City*

## Strong competitors

The C919 is the most serious threat to Boeing and Airbus in the mainstream commercial aircraft market. Currently, the two firms dominate the market for single-aisle aircraft with 150–180 seats. Its other main competitor is Bombardier, based in Quebec, Canada, the world's third largest aircraft manufacturer; it makes the C series, which can accommodate 100–149 seats.

The C919 aims to compete with the Boeing 737 and the Airbus A320. It has a long way to go. It relies on foreign technology for key parts, including the engines, to be supplied by French-American venture CFM International.

The orders it has received are not all market-driven; there is a political element, with Beijing instructing Chinese companies to buy them to provide capital and credibility to COMAC.

In 2008, it held a test flight for a smaller regional jet, the ARJ21, which seats 78–90. Since then, it has not delivered any; the project is years behind schedule.

The company faces an enormous challenge to win over major airlines and convince them of the plane's reliability and security. The C919 is still a year from



its trial flight and COMAC is little known in the world. It has a great deal to do to persuade global carriers to order this plane in preference to models they have been using successfully for many years.

## **Airbus and Boeing in China**

Pressure from Beijing persuaded Airbus to build its first assembly line outside Europe in Tianjin; it began operations in September 2008. It is a joint venture between Airbus, AVIC and the Tianjin Free Trade Zone.

Its first A320 jetliner went into commercial operation in June 2009 with Sichuan Airlines, the first Airbus jetliner built outside Europe. The plant delivered its 100th jetliner to Air China in September 2012.

It has a contract to deliver 284 of the aircraft; this runs out at the end of the first quarter of 2016. Production there is due to peak at four aircraft a month from the end of 2012 or early 2013.

As of June 2012, Airbus had more than 800 aircraft in service with Chinese airlines. To supply them, the company built a customer support centre in Beijing, with 25,000 spare parts and a dedicated avionics repair workshop.

Over half of the Airbus fleet in service worldwide has parts produced by Chinese companies. It has several major technology transfer programmes in place, including one that will enable the complete wing of the A320 to be manufactured in China.

Boeing is also heavily engaged in China. Of its planes worldwide, 6,000 fly with parts and components made in China, including its newest model, the 787 Dreamliner.

Boeing has substantial investments in China, including production of parts and components, a maintenance, repair and overhaul centre in Shanghai, a joint centre with COMAC in Beijing to support 'green growth' in the industry. It has 250 Boeing employees throughout China and more than 6,000 employees at its different businesses, subsidiaries and joint ventures.

Since 1993, it has provided professional training to nearly 40,000 Chinese people in the aviation field, free of charge.

But, unlike Airbus, it does not produce any complete aircraft in China.

The challenge for both companies is how to enlarge their market share in China without giving away too much of the key technology.

*Factory of Airbus A320 in Tianjin, China*





In all sectors, Beijing's strategy with foreign companies has been to trade market share for technology.

## Corporate jets

Brazilian plane-maker Embraer is another foreign company that has produced aircraft in a joint venture in China, with mixed results. It produces corporate jets, another market with enormous promise in China; currently, the country has only 267, up from 78 in 2007.

Last November Embraer forecast that the country would need 650 such jets by 2022, worth US\$24 billion. The main buyers are wealthy business people and corporate executives. It said in November that it had taken 28 firm orders and another five options for its corporate jets in the mainland.

In a statement during the Zhuhai airshow, Airbus announced that it had won a total of 25 orders in China for its ACJ319 corporate jet. It has a range of

11,100 kilometres and seats eight people.

Embraer started a joint venture in the northeastern city of Harbin in 2002, assembling the ERJ145 regional jet. The jets were produced until 2011. It then proposed a conversion of the production line to make E190 aircraft, but Beijing rejected this because it would have competed with the ARJ-21 made by COMAC.

In such negotiations, the foreign party is in a weak position. The state tightly controls the aviation sector and the number of companies with whom a foreign manufacturer can negotiate is small.

After two years of tough negotiations, the two sides agreed to make the Legacy 650 jet, with the first due to leave the production line at the end of 2013. The first customer for the China-produced plane is ICBC Financial Leasing, who has signed a deal with the joint venture to buy 10 jets.

It will compete with a plane made by another Sino-foreign joint venture, the Caravan single-engine turboprop, made by Cessna of the US and AVIC. ■

*Photos by Xinhua*



*A model of the Beidou Satellite Navigation System is displayed during the 9th China International Aviation and Aerospace Exhibition in Zhuhai*



*J-10 fighters of the Bayi Aerobatic Team of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Air Force*









# The Red Tide

Vintners look to tap into  
mainlanders' growing taste  
for wine

By Nuno G. Pereira

For those looking for a reason to raise a toast, Macao's economic prosperity is a fine cause for celebration. Such a toast could be made with wine – and often is – typically with red wine, which is a drink with a growing crowd of devotees. From the young enthusiast to the millionaire who has bought a French chateau surrounded by vines, the fans of red wine are increasing in number.



Mainland China has long been the home of the cereal-based drinks *huangjiu* and *baijiu*, and produces a large selection of wines. Add the growth of tourism in the region, and it all contributes to a very vibrant wine scene. However, Macao still needs to develop a local wine culture that doesn't depend entirely on tourists and nurtures more home-grown wine lovers.

According to Filipe Cunha Santos, President of the Wine Society of Macao, this transformation of the wine industry in Macao is already happening. "I have met many locals who are really passionate about wine," he says. Filipe's family is from Torres Vedras, a Portuguese wine-making region, though he has lived in Macao since 1982. He concedes that Macao is not yet an international wine centre. "It is overshadowed by the vibrancy of Hong Kong, which is a distribution hub for Asia – a land of collectors. Hong Kong holds big wine auctions, and three annual fairs."

Yet the progress being made locally is undeniable. "There is no doubt that wine has become more popular here. In fact Macao has always been associated with cuisine – much more so than Hong Kong. Portugal had wine, but the English didn't. The market has developed a lot. There are Macanese shops that imported as much wine as they did construction materials, but they have faced stiff competition from companies that specialise in importing wine."

Even so, the relationship between Macao and Hong Kong is not one of rivalry. In fact the Macao Special Administrative Region (MSAR) benefits from its proximity. "Macao and Hong Kong enjoy a very special, close relationship," says wine expert Jeannie Cho Lee. "Hong Kong visitors are the second most important to Macao, after mainland China. The main difference is that Hong Kong is a much larger city with a very strong financial and professional community and is a regional base for companies operating in Asia."

"Macao is small in comparison to Hong Kong and relies on other industries for its unique positioning, such as tourism. The infrastructure for shipping, travel and other logistics is much stronger in Hong Kong, thus the wine companies and consumers have more choices there, versus Macao. I don't think, given the fundamental differences between the two cities, this will change in the near future."



## Another jackpot

With the casino boom in Macao, the economy has grown to unprecedented levels of prosperity, but this lucky streak has extended much further than the gambling industry. New operators brought with them an enormous increase in hotel and restaurant businesses. On this fertile ground, wine was bound to grow. "Macao already had a strong tradition, but the big leap came with the liberalisation of the casinos," says Filipe Cunha Santos. "The consumer market grew substantially, companies specialised in importing



*Jeannie Cho Lee*

wines began to emerge, and restaurants popped up alongside the casinos. Restaurants are more aggressive in the food and beverage (F&B) sector.”

In 2008, as Jeannie Cho Lee notes, there was another factor that helped drive the trend. “Much of the drive behind the growing appreciation is due to the encouraging environment that the government has provided by eliminating wine duties in the same year that Hong Kong eliminated theirs. With this encouraging sign, many wine importers grew in number and size, while food and beverage outlets and hotels responded by upgrading their wine

selections and wine-related activities. It is now a very vibrant, exciting city for wine lovers.”

Even the relationship between casinos and wine has a direct link. The Vice-President of the Wine Society of Macao, Luís Herédia, points this out. “Giving a bottle of wine costing 5,000 patacas to high-rollers who come here is nothing to the casinos that are welcoming them – these visitors will probably spend much, much more. Of course the casinos could give them something else, but wines are of great importance when offering a good meal. They are a select beverage, and add an unbeatable touch of class.”

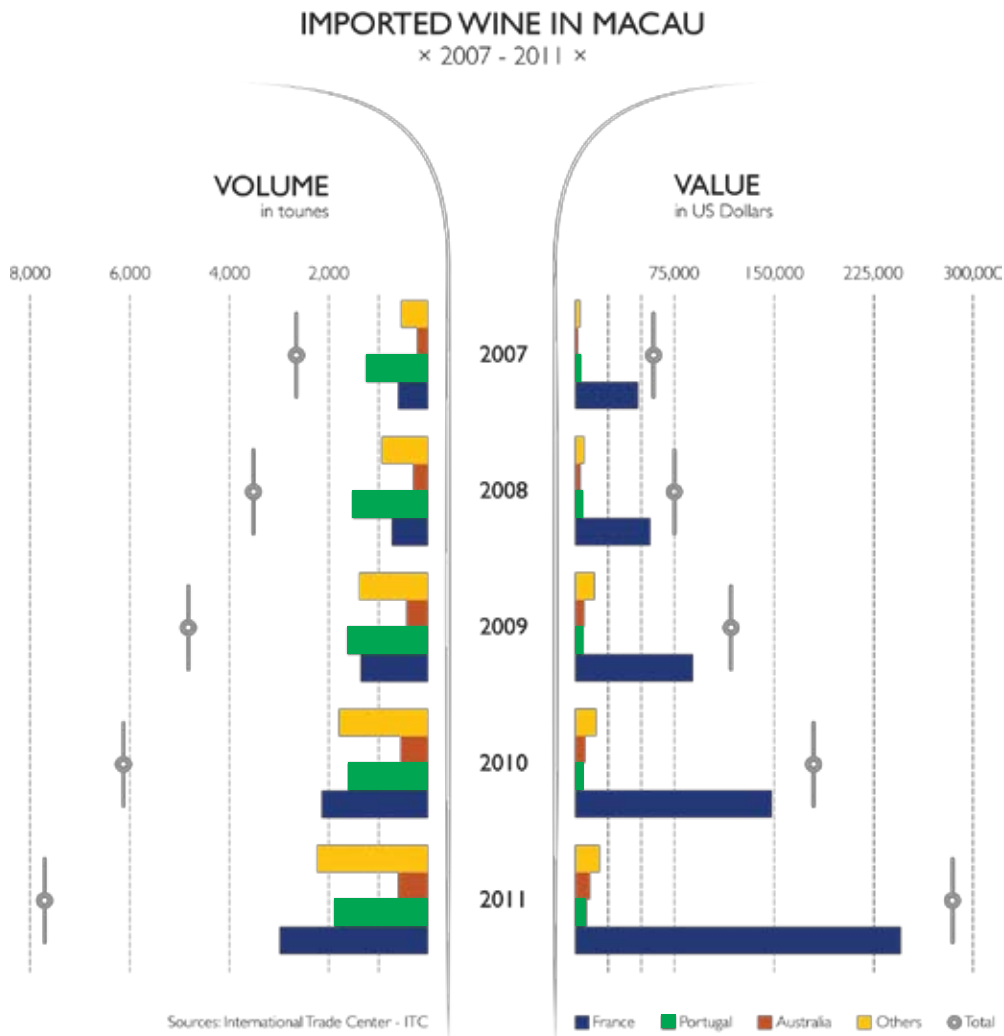


French ascension

The development of the wine market in Macao continues to see consumption rise, leading to growth for brands from all regions. However, although the growth in volume has increased across the board, in terms of value, there have been evident changes: Portuguese wine, which used to dominate the market, has lost its top spot, and now its French rivals are the undisputed leaders.

Luís Herédia explains. “For many years, what buyers in Hong Kong and mainland China wanted above all was the châteaux of Bordeaux, the cabernet-sauvignons, and the merlots. Burgundy wines featured as well, and a few Italian varieties. The Chinese got very used to those wines – the expensive ones. So, when the Portuguese wines come along – the touriga nacional variety, for example – with

a flavour that was different from the varieties they were used to, they didn’t rate them very highly.” The MSAR receives over 2 million visitors per month, most of them from mainland China. The powerful position of French wines is understandable. There has also been growth in ‘New World’ wines, which include varieties that seem to be more easily accepted by a Chinese consumer’s palate. “Australian and South African wines are present here in numbers. They have dynamic distributors and producers,” says Filipe Cunha Santos. “They are taking a lot of the market share from Portuguese wines. And the local youngsters are starting to appreciate ‘New World’ wines. Note that I’m not talking about quality, because Portuguese wines have seen fantastic development in terms of quality. But there is a problem with distribution here.” [See box ‘The Portuguese wine challenge’]



## No more Lafite with 7UP

You might think there would be significant differences between the East's relationship with wine compared to that of the West. Jeannie Cho Lee says that this is not the case. "The difference is more between the person's exposure to and experience with wine (newcomer or experienced wine lover) than being Asian, Chinese or Western. In general, mainland Chinese people are new to wine so they seek familiarity just like all new wine lovers do, and they look for brands and names they recognise. French wines – Bordeaux, in particular – are very trusted drinks, probably due to the French success in selling cognac and other high-end alcohol in Macao and mainland China. More experienced Chinese wine enthusiasts will go beyond looking just for Bordeaux or a familiar wine brand and try Californian, Portuguese, Spanish or Italian wines. The more people become confident and comfortable with wine, the more they tend to venture beyond the familiar."

Chinese cuisine is also adapting wine to its meals. "Wine made from grapes did not really have a role in traditional society, because the category was dominated by local spirits such as *huangjiu* and *baijiu*. Now wine is taken very seriously and is more popular in many Chinese restaurants than traditional beverages."

Filipe Cunha Santos notes that Macao Chinese people have always had a close relationship with wine, even in their traditional restaurants, because of the Portuguese influence. This has not been the case with the mainland population. "There was a time, in the mid 1990s, when wine started to be imported at prices as low as 10 and 20 patacas, and then bottled in China. This led to a great downturn for the beverage. In the last few years, slowly, things have changed. Consumers have become more educated about wine. Stories



*Filipe Cunha Santos*

that you'd hear, like of people drinking Château Lafite with 7UP, are now very rare. The opposite is now the case, and an increasing number of Chinese restaurants know how to treat wine. Shanghai, for example, is now very sophisticated in this area."

## New consumers

Although Macao's economic performance is enviable, what has happened across China is even more impressive. An increase in purchasing power has brought a search for refinement along with it, including a market for exceptional wines. "With many people getting richer, what do they look for?" asks Luís Herédia. "They want to try good things, the '82 Châteaux and so on. As Chinese people want to taste the best wines, these have to be available in Macao."



The desire for wine is growing across this whole area of Asia. Even young people are being drawn in. "Both on the mainland and in Macao, they are open to tasting new things. They have understood that wine is a select choice, despite not being part of their culture. They don't have vineyards around them, their parents probably didn't have a single bottle at home, but they understand that it is a special product, and they have started to appreciate it. It's different to Europe, where young people are not drinking wine."

The profile of this type of consumer in Macao starts with young people. "They want to understand wine, to know how to drink it, how to match it with food. They are taking courses here in Macao, laid on particularly by hotels and the tourism industry. After

that their taste spreads to their friends. They all have some purchasing power. In this case, in fact, there is a new Macao, with people who have purchasing power due to the arrival of the casinos and a rise in salaries. They have started living more." Filipe Cunha Santos adds that they particularly like 'New World' wines. "They are fruitier, without the tannic acidity that there was a few years ago in Portugal."

Jeannie Cho Lee outlines two different types of wine drinker amongst locals and visitors. "The new wine consumers in Macao are fairly young – in their late 20s to early 40s – and they travel often to Hong Kong and to other countries outside of China. The locals are looking for value and quality. Tourists, many from the mainland, are attracted by familiar labels, names and brands."

## PER CAPITA WINE CONSUMPTION BY COUNTRY IN 2010

× SELECTED COUNTRIES - LITRES PER PERSON ×



FRANCE  
45.7



PORTUGAL  
41.8



AUSTRALIA  
24.9



CHINA  
0.7

Wine sales on the mainland  
are forecast to grow 11 per cent  
annually between 2011 and 2016,  
yet per capita consumption  
remains relatively low





## A fashion with a future

From the West to the East, wine has become fashionable, and those who love it are emerging in unprecedented numbers. This amount of interest in wine has led to the emergence of specialised television programmes, magazines, blogs and workshops. Macao has yet to experience wine “fever” but it is heading in that direction. According to Luís Herédia, in the last few years there has been an explosion in the number of people, of every ethnicity, doing wine courses. They want to “understand” wine and its subtleties. Some of them have even proudly built up their own wine cellars. “There are people who want to collect all the iconic wines of Portugal, France, Italy, Spain, or Australia. Some of them are after very specific wines for their collections.”

Another characteristic is sharing. After all, wine should be drunk in good company. “There is now a fun tradition: after-work sessions on Fridays. Going to a tasting is not very expensive before dinner, and there are always snacks available. Several hotels here in Macao have organised these tastings, which have become quite popular. People who go then return with their friends, and so the legion of wine lovers grows. Whoever tries it sticks around.”

However, meals are the stage on which wine plays its natural leading role. In Macao the audience is up for the show. “The Chinese have always liked to get together, and to socialise around a table.

Most have a genuine interest in trying good wine.”

A question remains though: Unlike the people of the Mediterranean, for example, the Chinese are not accustomed to entertaining at home. So, how do they share that special bottle of wine with their family and friends? Filipe Cunha Santos explains. “I’ve often seen groups socialising in restaurants, and they bring their own bottles. They pay the corkage fee, which is normally low.”

In such a promising setting it is no surprise that specialists agree that the best is yet to come. “Growth will continue, without a doubt, and in mainland China per capita consumption will actually increase exponentially,” said the President of the Wine Society of Macao. “There has been a great cultural swing: spirits have lost ground to wine, and the Chinese population is increasingly educated and demanding in this area. And then there are the visitors who come here.”

Macao is preparing to welcome them better by expanding what it has to offer tourists in every area. The wine business will certainly be part of this future, as Jeannie Cho Lee predicts. “I expect it to grow in conjunction with the growth of hotels, food and beverage outlets and tourism. Wine is a pleasure and it can be an affordable luxury that many people in Macao are discovering. The food scene is also booming in Macao so, together with wine, I feel that the city is well positioned to become a food and wine destination for visitors from all over the world.”



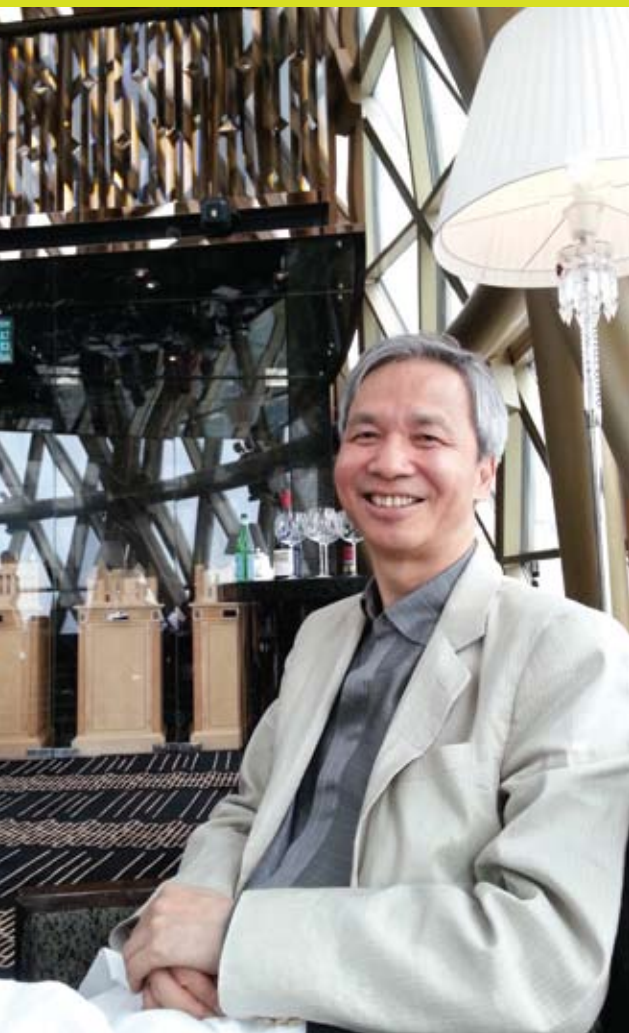


*Chateaux de Cevrey/Chambertin*

## Chinese want Portuguese properties

Macao businessman Louis Ng made global headlines last summer when he bought a traditional wine production company in France: Château de Gevrey-Chambertin, in the Burgundy region. Is this a sign that local business people can evolve from wine lovers into producers? Filipe Cunha Santos believes not, noting that Louis Ng is a unique case in the MSAR, because of his economic power and a long-held passion for wine. Jeannie Cho Lee is not so certain. "It is hard for me to predict but I would say 'why not'? Winery owners can come from anywhere in Asia or anywhere that's accumulating wealth. Macao is booming economically, so it makes sense that some of its wealthy residents will invest in the wine industry."

Luís Herédia also believes that Louis Ng was a special case, although he said that similar cases could occur in Macao. However he noted something else: An interest in Portuguese wine estates. "Next year, when the crisis is even greater, there will be partnerships or even acquisitions by Chinese people." Can he give us more details? "There are some things afoot (laughs). There have been visits. Let's see."



*Louis Ng*

## Tasting and laughing

In China white wine is seen by many people as being a spirit. So, when people say wine they are only thinking about red wine. This is a myth that is likely to disappear as the country continues to develop its knowledge of wine. But are there other myths? What are the common mistakes made when Chinese people first go to wine tastings?

It seems there is always some inappropriate behaviour – some that is quite amusing, and some irritating – but the specialists agree on one thing: There are no cultural differences here, only some universal mistakes made by people who have yet to know what they are talking about.

Luís Herédia explains the major mistakes to avoid at a wine tasting. "Too much perfume, for example: Other participants, when it is permitted, also smoke. Smells, for those who want to savour the wine, are extremely disruptive. Then there are people who want to show off what they already know and then make some asides such as describing a red with aromas that are typical of whites (laughs). Others move the wine around too much, when what is normal is to just move it enough to release some of its aromas."

There are also some people who don't know an essential rule that, as Jeannie Cho Lee explains, can have some unwanted effects. "In a wine class I taught in Hong Kong many years ago, I noticed, near the end of the class, that everyone's faces were

flushed and many people were looking very happy. I walked around the room and noticed that no one was spitting in the spittoons that were provided for them. We were tasting 12 wines in that class and so the students had consumed at least half a glass of each of the 12 wines! I realised that I not only had to teach about wine tasting, but also about spitting. So now I state at the beginning of my classes that all students are encouraged to spit!"

Another universal fact, according to Filipe Cunha Santos, is how male and female tastes often differ, which is especially clear in blind tastings (when the wines are not seen by the people tasting them). "Sometimes we are in a blind tasting, of eight or ten wines for example, and a man says that one of them was the best of the entire selection. It's very common that a woman who is also taking part will say, 'I'm sorry, but for me that was the worst wine, it's horrible.' And that happens both here and in Europe."

It is at blind tastings, in fact, that the usual gaffes are committed ... with some mischief along the way. "For example, we might have a 300-pataca wine and another one costing 80 patacas, and the experts will say the opposite of what might be expected, praising the cheap wine in comparison to the other one. And when we organise tastings ... we sometimes put a French wine in the middle of a group of Portuguese wines. These are some tricks organisers play (laughs)."

*Luís Herédia*





## The Portuguese wine challenge

Portuguese wine totally dominated the Macao market before the Handover. Despite the growth in the volume of sales, however, the Portuguese wine market has an increasingly small market share, beaten back by the leadership of French wines and the vigour of 'New World' wines. Filipe Cunha Santos understands the difficulties for the Portuguese producers, such as a lack of scale and the small amount of support from the Portuguese government.

However, he also thinks that mistakes continue to be made by the Portuguese wine-traders in Macao, ranging from "restaurants that insist on high price margins on wines, and poor distribution" to "general apathy". He also says that there has been little focus on promotion. "The new casino restaurants, on the other hand, run a lot of promotions, like pairings [meal+wine], particularly with French wines. That's how they attract the local Chinese population, which has become more curious and has taken to non-Portuguese wines."

Distributors are aware of the problems in the market. Maria-João Gregório is one such distributor. A Portuguese national who has been living in Macao for the past 18 years, she founded Next Vector, a business consulting company, in 2001. Four years later she set up another company, NextV Wines, representing Portuguese brands of wine. "I started the company because there were a lot of wine producers from Portugal, who were our customers at the consultancy, who approached me about representing them in Macao. It was a good business opportunity because there was a huge amount of wine on offer. There are still a lot of Portuguese producers who want to sell their wines here; the difficulty is demand."

The business woman feels sharply the preference that Chinese consumers have for French and 'New World' wines. "In the middle of this equilibrium, the Portuguese wine producer is losing out." Those that make buying decisions in a territory where tourists from mainland

China are in the majority, have few doubts. "A food and beverage manager at a hotel told me that he had tried Portuguese wine, liked it and put in an order. But the wine didn't sell. He said: 'I know the wine is good and that the price-quality ratio is good too, but my customers don't know Portuguese wine and don't ask for it.' So it stays on the wine list but has no turnover. When the wine list is updated, the Portuguese wine is taken off."

Maria-João Gregório also talks about the difference in scale and how distributors for other regions are helped by "large producers, from Chile, Argentina, and even New Zealand and Australia". Despite these difficulties, she says she has a solid network of customers and that her business has continued growing, "though without the volume it could have if we worked with French producers, of course."



Maria-João Gregório

Photos by Manuel Cardoso  
Charts by Miguel Botelho



## WINE SALES ON THE MAINLAND × BILLION YUAN ×

### WHITE



### RED



Sources: Euromonitor International, Wine Institute

= 1 Billion    = 10 Billion    = 50 Billion







# Born to carve

Young artist enjoys  
early success  
with great sculptures

By Cherry Lee





Artist Wong Ka Long enjoyed early success for his talent in making sculptures. In 1999, at the tender age of 22, his bronze sculpture of the famous Portuguese poet Luís Vaz de Camões, was highly acclaimed and installed permanently at the Taipa Houses Museum.

Since then, his creative energy has not slowed down. He has made more sculptures, all accepted as great works and placed at important landmarks in the city.

Wong has also represented Macao at major international exhibitions in Lisbon, Venice, Las Vegas, Melbourne and elsewhere.

With his talent recognized early, Wong, 35, is now a

prominent artist in Macao, known for his sculptures, painting, design and other artworks. He is an art consultant on various local projects. He also holds senior positions in local arts bodies, such as the Academy Department of Macao Artists Society, the Macao Sculpture Association and the Art for All Society in Macao.

Wong inherited his artistic genes from his father, who teaches arts and also paints. At school, Wong was interested in only one subject – art – and showed a particular passion for sculptures. His father encouraged him to pursue his interest and sent him to study at the Guangzhou Fine Arts Academy in 1996.

*Luís Vaz de Camões statue in Taipa island*



## Learning in Guangzhou

For the next seven years until graduation, Wong was immersed in studying art. "Everything then was so new and different from home. I was learning so much."

Discipline was the order of the day at the academy. "There were no mobile phones or Internet connections. My daily routine involved the studio and the dormitory, and nothing else. As a student, my most important task was to study. Life was simple; I could fully enjoy the pleasure brought by creating art, without worries to deal with."

In 1998, the artist travelled for a few months in Guizhou, Gansu and other parts of western China. "It was another great adventure of my life and I was completely taken by the local people. They have strong facial features with icy, deep dark eyes, just like Greek sculptures. I enjoyed making sketches of them."

Wong spent hours chatting with local people from all walks of life. The freedom of the nomadic people and the Tibetans' religious faith made him rethink his own values. "Their life is so simple and yet they have such a strong focus."

Wong has also been influenced by Western artists, especially the American realist painter Andrew Newell. "I love the colours in his paintings, which are usually very light and evoke a sense of sadness."

## A bronze statue of Camões

For his bachelor-degree graduation, Wong was asked to make a sculpture that reflected the culture of Macao. He chose Camões, who had spent a few years in Macao as a government official, as his subject matter. "To me, he was a very romantic poet. He always had a lot on his mind, which made him sleepless at night." That might be the reason why Wong's Camões has only one eye. The sculptor also made the poet wear tight trousers and fiddle with his fingers in a contemplative mood.

Wong took six months to finish the bronze statue; he cut himself off from mobile phones and other trifles of life during this period. "I took great pleasure in the creation," he said, adding that this sculpture has remained his most favourite work since then.

In 2002, a year before he graduated with his Masters degree in Art Education, Wong completed another major sculpture – "Nightingale" – for the Kiang Wu



Wong Ka Long

Nursing College of Macao. So popular is this bronze sculpture that student nurses like to touch it before their exams to bring them good luck.

Since then, he has created more sculptures, which can be found in different districts of Macao. There is the Jesus icon "Matteo Ricci", placed at the Seminário e Igreja de São José and the square of Ruins of St Paul.

Another religious sculpture is "Don Bosco" (a Catholic saint with schools named after him in Macao), placed in the Jardim Municipal da Montanha Russa.

The sculpture "Authoritative Flying" is displayed at Macao International Airport and "Maonan Family Girl" is an exhibit at the Chinese Ethnic Sculpture Garden of Taipa Granda Country Park.



## A liberal teacher of arts

Wong is also a part-time art teacher in Hai Sing Catholic School, with students from a range of different backgrounds. He likes to show them artists with greatly varied styles, from tortured geniuses like Vincent van Gogh to the controversial Chinese contemporary artist Ai Weiwei.

Wong has a distinct teaching style. "Often, I do not teach them how to draw, but encourage them to think about what art is about and why society needs art. I also encourage them to picture themselves as living in the same era as the great artists." They can explore what art form they wish to develop, rather than being led by the teacher in developing their interests, he said.

Wong got married in 2009 and his baby son was born a year later. "He was constantly playing with his toes and fingers. I think he was trying to learn about his body." He has made a series of sculptures "tuan ti" (a chubby child) based on the baby's playful movements.

## Inspiration from trips overseas

Wong travels abroad each year, to provide him with inspiration for his work. "Portugal and Italy are my favourite destinations. Florence is the birthplace of art and the cradle of the Renaissance, where I can enjoy some of the greatest artistic treasures in the world. At the same time, I have a strong affinity to Portugal, as it looks very much like the Macao of my childhood."

In Macao, one of Wong's favourite leisure pursuits is to stroll in the largest Roman Catholic cemetery by himself. "I can spend hours walking around observing the exquisite and tasteful designs of the sculptures. I am touched by the magnificent creations

there and I feel relaxed just looking at them."

Wong says Macao is an international hub with different cultures coexisting, a feature found even in local cuisine. "Do not be surprised to find baked coconut chicken in the Portuguese style, Chinese-style steamed eggs with salted fish and local pineapple buns served at the same table," he said. Macao's distinct blend of East-West culture invariably makes its mark on local artists like Wong.

Macao's art scene is flourishing, thanks partly to government efforts to promote it. Still, Wong feels he is sometimes a "loner", as there are few full-time artists like him locally.

The artist says he will go on making sculptures, even though the cost involved is significantly higher than with other art forms. "Few things can beat the pleasure of making a living by doing what you love," he said. ■



Wong Ka Long with Mateo Ricci statue







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# CHINESE ALMANAC

What to expect  
from the  
*Year of the Snake*

By Luis Ortet



# SNAKE

(1917-1929-1941-1953-1965-1977-1989-2001-2013)

*Year of mobility and tension*



## Character

Placed on the sixth of the Chinese zodiac, Chinese Horoscope sign for Snake are basically collected, refined, reflective and intuitive among the other signs. They don't get embarrassed easily, and people of this sign are totally gorgeous. Truly graceful in nature, they exude both excitement and dark energy.

Snakes don't show their emotions to others. They are always lost on their thoughts and don't disclose their true feelings. This individual will scheme and plot just to ensure that everything is on the right track. They are not good in communicating with others.

Water Snakes are influential and insightful. They manage others well and tend to be good for organizations to utilize as staff. They are quite motivated and intellectual, very determined and resolute about success.

## Health

Individuals from this sign can get stressed-out quickly. A professional from this sign should stay away from busy schedules or a crowded environment. They are not the type who enjoys adrenaline rush, they usually get a headache. They are in need of a soothing and subtle environment for them to do well. To lengthen one's existence snakes should have the right amount of sleep and rest.

## Profession

Boredom comes easily with snakes. This is why they prefer changing jobs regularly. They are hard-working and careful at work. Since these are relaxed individuals, people seem to misjudge them as slackers when in fact that they are actually at the height of their imaginativeness. Furthermore, these people are very particular and organized. They help in lightening deadline and solve problems easily. They are excellent painters, investigators, sociologists, dieticians, potters and scientists.

## Social and Relationships

Chinese zodiac sign for snake when it comes to love have strong sex appeal. If they fancy it, they can be pretty seductive and sleek. Snakes don't just pick because of that person's appearance. They like someone who can appreciate their wacky ways. Most of the time, the Snake is the one who does the pursuing.

They are affectionate with their families and friends but do not show this side of their personality to colleagues or business partners

## THE SNAKE YEARS

1905 – Wood Snake

1917 – Fire Snake

1929 – Earth Snake

1941 – Metal Snake

1953 – Water Snake

1965 – Wood Snake

1977 – Fire Snake

1989 – Earth Snake

2001 – Metal Snake

2013 – Water Snake





## RAT

(1912-1924-1936-1948-1960-1972-1984-1996-2008)

*A year to relax*

LOVE \*\*

WORK \*\*

MONEY \*\*\*

HEALTH \*\*\*

As there is no special relationship between the sign of the Rat and the sign of the Snake, which is the sign for 2013, forecasts in the almanacs for the next 12 months are relatively neutral.

Survivors by nature, Rats can somewhat lack creativity when they don't have to hide from danger or court success.

On the other hand, as Peter So says, "that's not necessarily a bad thing". According to the astrologer, everybody needs to take a break and a step back, to gain a sense of perspective over recent events and the situation in general.

In terms of the circulation of universal energy - *qi* – the "energy" of the Rat (the water element), tends to control the Fire of the Snake. This suggests that natives of the Rat will need to be very specific in setting their goals. Plans for 2013 should not be vague (such as "having a better life" etc.) but rather very concrete, including dates, names and numbers. Only then will their lives be productive.

This is a calmer year, which brings advantages and disadvantages.

It is using their skilful way of playing hide and seek with problems and adversity that those born in the year of the Rat make their way in life. In this year of the Snake they will have to set goals well.



## OX

(1913-1925-1937-1949-1961-1973-1985-1997-2009)

*A safe journey*

LOVE \*\*\*

WORK \*\*\*

MONEY \*\*

HEALTH \*\*\*

The keynote for 2013 is stability. Everything will depend on personal effort and intelligence as natives of this sign face the next few months.

The Ox prefers a slow and stable route through life. In this year of the Snake universal *qi* energy flows from the Snake (Fire element) to the Ox (Earth element). This means protection from powerful people, but also a predisposition to laziness.

According to the astrologers, however, the most important point is the potential for the end of the year given that the two signs are part of the same family. Ox natives will feel "in their element" and thus may make significant progress. But if they don't make the effort nothing will happen.

Their biggest trump card will be their relationships with other people. This will benefit family life as well as professional life. Whatever is tried methodically and with persistence will provide the desired results. Powerful people will be willing to help them.

Oxen are convinced that there is only one way of getting what they want: through work and effort. But it is important to remember that friends and allies also play an important role.



## TIGER

(1914-1926-1938-1950-1962-1974-1986-1998-2010)

*More patience than strength*

LOVE \*\*

WORK \*\*(\*)

MONEY \*\*\*

HEALTH \*\*

Facing a great difficulty or a powerful enemy are not exactly problems for Tigers. They focus their energy, then pounce and fight, which they enjoy doing.

But this time, in this year of the Snake, the difficulties they encounter will be a little more subtle and of a subjective nature. Other people's envy and curiosity will be the things that wear them down, along with small personal conflicts and frequent arguments.

What do they do in this situation? Peter So advises that they should accept it and "remain flexible and solve problems as they occur". Or rather, there is no point in swimming against the tide.

In fact, the presence of some positive "stars" in 2013 suggests useful help from powerful people. Regardless of this, Peter So notes, "do your work well, without thinking of rewards", and everything will be resolved in the natural course of events.

The area of emotions and family will require extra effort to keep relationships peaceful.

There are those who say that there are two kinds of Tiger: the more common Tiger who is strong and dictatorial, and the "pussycat" version, or the Tiger who hides his or her power under a passive exterior. This second type will be able to take more advantage of the year of the Snake.



## RABBIT

(1915-1927-1939-1951-1963-1975-1987-1999-2011)

*Venturing out of the warren*

LOVE \*\*\*

WORK \*\*\*

MONEY \*\*\*

HEALTH \*\*\*

This is a relatively neutral year, without clearly positive or negative "influences". At best we can say that the overall trend will be slightly positive.

The great plus point for Rabbits is their instinctive ability to manage their own vulnerability (or rather, their apparent vulnerability). Potential enemies consider them too inoffensive to take the time to bother them.

The negative side is that, as they are protected in this way by their own demeanour, they easily limit themselves to a mediocre lifestyle, settling comfortably in their "warren". This is how their potential remains unfulfilled.

The good news is that they will be going through a "year of mobility", which promises a variety of travel and changes. They should thus embrace every opportunity to travel or to change the environment in which they live.

On the other hand, it is important to take into account that universal *qi* energy flows from the Rabbit (Wood) to the Snake (Fire), which means that Rabbit natives should take action and show others their capabilities.

Because of their personalities, those born under the sign of the Rabbit are able, with little effort or conflict, to get what others are unable to secure through force. On top of this, luck solves many of their problems.







## DRAGON

(1916-1928-1940-1952-1964-1976-1988-2000-2012)

### *A passionate flight*

LOVE \*\*\*\*

WORK \*\*\*

MONEY \*\*

HEALTH \*\*\*

Peter So says that in the first four months of the Year of the Snake (until May 2013) people may still feel the effects of the year of the Dragon (2012), which will perhaps mean a period of trepidation for Dragons. Therefore, in terms of relationships, for example, they should have a careful and attentive attitude at the start of the year.

But the keynote for 2013 is clearly positive, and that's due to the presence of the Happiness "star", whose name says it all.

Relationships tend to be the order of the day, in a positive way, particularly for single people or for those who have just started a new relationship. For married people the almanacs say there may be good news for the family.

The prognosis is also good for careers, in which the ability to establish good relationships will also be evident.

The Dragon's dream is to fly, which is in line with the symbolism of its myth. This means overcoming reality, particularly in its daily and trivial details. The Dragon's dreams are excessive and passionate – and that is where their wealth lies.

With its breath, the mythical dragon blows away and remakes clouds. In the same way those born under the sign of the Dragon are quite decisive in their actions, leaving marks of their journey through life.



## SNAKE

(1917-1929-1941-1953-1965-1977-1989-2001-2013)

### *Year of mobility and tension*

LOVE \*\*

WORK \*\*

MONEY \*\*\*\*

HEALTH \*\*

There is a temptation to consider that for natives of the Snake, the year of the Snake is positive. It will feel like "being at home" and thus events will remain under control.

But, in the Chinese tradition, when the sign of your year of birth is repeated, there are "energies" that, because they are of the same nature, "compete" with birth "energies". Therefore it may be a somewhat uncomfortable year, perhaps due to being overworked and a lot of small conflicts that need to be managed.

The way to "get around" fate, according to the astrologers, is to organise a positive event, such as a wedding, a foreign holiday, the birth of a child, or buying an apartment. This – it is believed – will stop negative things from happening according to the principle that "a happy event prevents three negative events from happening". In essence it is a question of changing the way events develop by putting a positive spin on actions.

There will also be a focus on change and mobility, including journeys and changes to working conditions.

Because of the magic that surrounds them, it is said that those born in the year of the Snake are the most powerful, beautiful and fatal men and women. When they wake from their apparent lethargy and start to act, everything is possible.



## HORSE

(1918-1930-1942-1954-1966-1978-1990-2002-2014)

### *Across the fields*

LOVE \*\*\*\*

WORK \*\*\*

MONEY \*\*\*\*

HEALTH \*\*\*\*

The sign of the Horse is the most spontaneous expression of natural energy. The hearts of those born in the year of the Horse fall in love every day and at every moment, and that is their natural way of dealing with life.

The rest depends on understanding whether circumstances are in line with that predisposition. In relation to 2013, most of the Chinese almanacs forecast a brilliant and passionate year.

The symbolic Sun "star" will shine and its rays will be far reaching. This means that the actions of those born in the year of the Horse will reach further afield and may even arrive in "distant lands" both metaphorically and literally speaking. The Sun "star" (whose name can also be translated as the Big Yang) also means that men will have an important role to play in the lives of natives of the Horse.

Another "star" also adds a very romantic side to the year. Natives of the Horse will appear more attractive than usual, and will manage to attract others to them.

The approach to life of people born under the sign of the Horse is simple. They do not beat about the bush or employ subterfuge. They are natural and honest and they owe much of their popularity to these traits. Everybody knows what to expect of them.



## GOAT

(1919-1931-1943-1955-1967-1979-1991-2003-2015)

### *Relying on their own strength*

LOVE \*\*

WORK \*\*\*

MONEY \*\*

HEALTH \*\*\*

Overall the year will have a neutral keynote for those born in the year of the Goat. There is no special relationship between the Goat and the sign of the year – the Snake – and there are no positive or negative "stars" that are of note.

So you may ask what natives of the sign should expect in 2013, a year ruled by the Snake. Although it is true that they can count on some stability, which will allow them to keep hold of the good things that they have in their lives, it is also true that they cannot and should not rely on luck.

In the area of relationships, for example, it is not likely that a truly significant relationship will emerge in the lives of those who, because they live alone, have been expecting "somebody" to appear.

Career-wise there are potential opportunities, but astrologer Mak Ling Ling recommends that natives of the Goat do not draw too much attention to themselves.

Finally they must take into account the flow of universal *qi* energy. It flows from the Snakes (Fire) towards the Goat, which means Action. The natives of the Goat will follow universal rhythms if they take the initiative of showing off their talents.

It is believed that those born in the year of the Goat are able to live with little and be happy with what there is. Although that is a strength, which makes them resistant to life's more difficult times, it is also a weakness because it lacks ambition.





## MONKEY

(1920-1932-1944-1956-1968-1980-1992-2004-2016)

*Sorting the wheat from the chaff*

LOVE \*\*\*

WORK \*\*\*

MONEY \*\*

HEALTH \*\*

Quintessentially "resourceful", natives of the Monkey will have to use their skills to disentangle themselves from the circumstance they have ahead of them. The fact is that the Monkey's relationship with the Snake is both good and bad. The key is to manage the benefits from the good side and being protected from the bad side.

They will, according to astrologer Peter So, have people by them who will do everything they can to help. But there will also be those who will be determined to harm them.

On the one hand the two signs are a "couple" in the Chinese Zodiac. This means their corresponding "energies" have a special affinity, which is evident in the predisposition to find the right partners, both in love and at work. This can also be the source of a great opportunity.

At the same time the two signs are a mutual irritation to one another, which can lead to enmity and persistent conflict, which can be difficult to explain.

This is how Peter So puts it: "Fundamentally it is all about knowing who is your friend and who is your enemy. Get closer to the former and avoid the latter. In that way everything will fall into place, without much effort."

It is said that those born under the sign of the Monkey have a great capacity for improvisation and diplomacy. With the combination of these qualities there is no problem they can't solve.



## ROOSTER

(1921-1933-1945-1957-1969-1981-1993-2005-2017)

*On its perch*

LOVE \*\*

WORK \*\*\*\*

MONEY \*\*\*

HEALTH \*\*\*

Natives of the Rooster will feel "in their element" in 2013 and should try to take advantage of this. The Rooster and the Snake belong to the same family of signs. In fact, the Ox, the Snake and the Rooster make up the triangle of the Metal elements in the Chinese Zodiac.

The year may not be particularly romantic (it doesn't offer great prospects for single people, for example) but an ability to get along with other people, in every field, will be above average. Relationship "networks" will be at their best, but it is important for a concerted effort to be made to take advantage of those networks. In this respect Roosters really are in their element, as they are most fulfilled by their social lives.

It may also be a year for power and progress in the professional arena. They may be promoted or called up for a mission involving great responsibility.

This is a year for progress and going a little beyond the comfort zone and routines. Moving into the year without ambitions would be a waste.

By nature Roosters like to be demanding and are perfectionists. They want everything to be done elegantly and perfectly. These characteristics will work very well together in this year of the Snake, which is so full of potential!





## DOG

(1922-1934-1946-1958-1970-1982-1994-2006-1018)

### *Time to love*

LOVE \*\*\*\*

WORK \*\*\*

MONEY \*\*\*

HEALTH \*\*\*

According to popular belief, natives of the Dog above all prioritise human relationships. In fact the most important factor in this year of the Snake is relationships with others. Taking into account the existence of "lucky stars" in the astrological chart, the Dog will be one of the signs that benefits most from the coming year.

The touchstone will be a greater attractiveness in their personalities and the ease with which they will be able to get along with people who will have an important role in their lives.

Love will, naturally, be one of the most favoured sectors, particularly for single people. The beginning of a new emotional relationship will be very easy. At the same time marriage and previously existing relationships will be consolidated.

But this greater empathy and friendliness towards others may also have a positive influence on other areas of life, ranging from friendships to professional life and business partnerships.

With regard to careers in particular, the almanacs' forecasts are quite positive.

In terms of human behaviour, the canine sense of smell corresponds to intuition, which is a gift shared by all natives of the Dog. In 2013 this quality will be very useful in seeking out worthwhile opportunities and people.



## PIG

(1923-1935-1947-1959-1971-1983-1995-2007-2015)

### *Turnaround year*

LOVE \*\*

WORK \*\*\*

MONEY \*\*

HEALTH \*\*

The Snake and the Pig occupy opposite positions in the Chinese Zodiac. This means that natives of this sign will experience a "clash of energies".

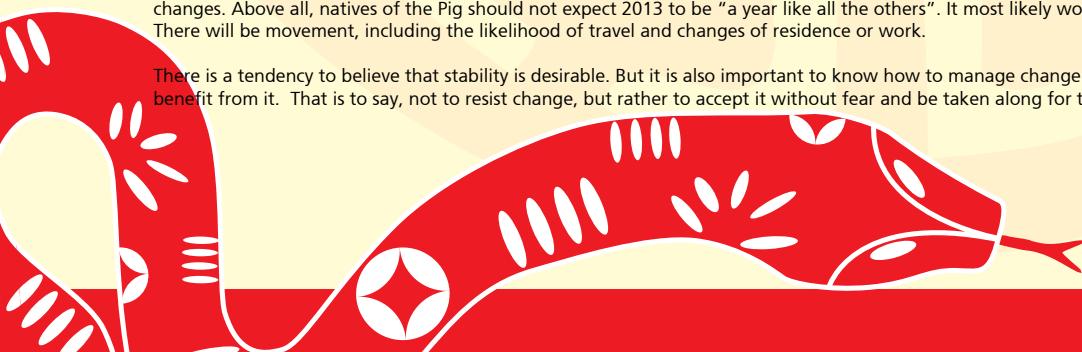
For those born under the sign of the Pig, 2013 will be a year rich in news. Things will not go as usual, as contradictions that have so far been hidden, will come to the surface.

Because of that "clash of energies" there is a tendency to imagine that this year will be negative.

But in fact everything depends on the current circumstances that people find themselves in. If they are in a very good phase this may mean that problems may start coming up, as any change is seen as bad news for those people who are doing well.

But for those who have been "crossing the desert", the year of the Snake may be positive, exactly because it will bring changes. Above all, natives of the Pig should not expect 2013 to be "a year like all the others". It most likely won't be. There will be movement, including the likelihood of travel and changes of residence or work.

There is a tendency to believe that stability is desirable. But it is also important to know how to manage change and benefit from it. That is to say, not to resist change, but rather to accept it without fear and be taken along for the ride...





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# macao <sup>next</sup> magazine <sup>issue</sup>



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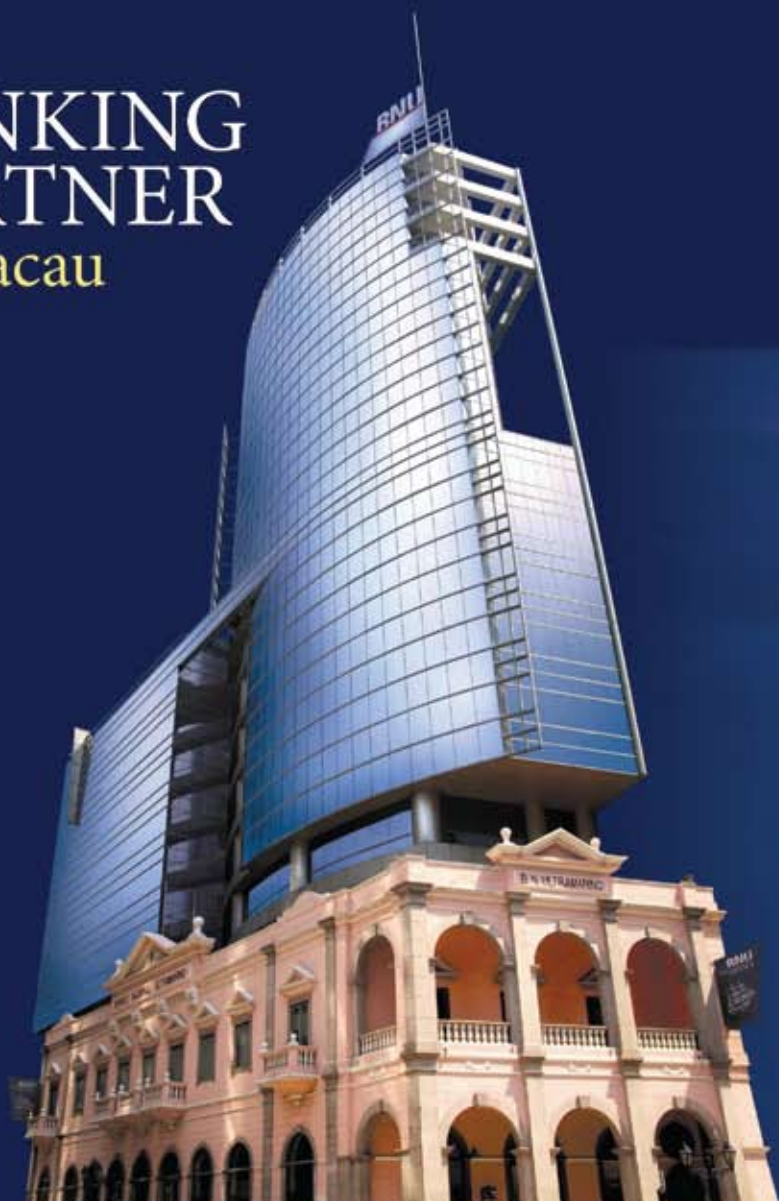


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