

Macao's
new frontiers

Preserving
fishing heritage

Painter Mio Pang Fei
in Venice

Macao 澳門

Opera dramatises
Macao history





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Jinghainun, a Beijing Opera (Photo by Cheong Kam Ka)

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Propriety [Li]

Combining a 'sacrificial vessel' alongside 'revelation' or 'heaven-sent', the character for 'propriety' shows us something of the history of this important concept in Chinese culture.

Originally *li* meant simply 'sacrifice', denoting observance of ceremonial ritual in order to interpret the will of heaven. Confucius enlarged the meaning of *li* to include correctness in dealings with others — for if his students were to become rulers, and treat people with respect, order would come to society.

From the book "The Spirit of the Chinese Character - Gifts from the Heart" by Barbara Aria with Russell Eng Gon

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Expanding Territory

Macao builds a new frontier with ambitious reclamation

By Luciana Leitão

Photos by Eric Tam and António Sanmarful

Within the next two years, Macao will enter a new phase in its history with the implementation of an ambitious land reclamation programme that will add more than 12 percent to the city's land area and create much needed new directions for the economy.

It comprises five landfills that will total 350 hectares and accommodate up to 350,000 people. Most of the land will be reserved for public housing, commerce and culture and large areas will be retained as green spaces.

The aim is to improve the housing environment and the quality of life for Macao's citizens.

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Preserving a declining heritage

By Louise do Rosário

Photos by Eric Tam

When Chan Yat Fung returned from university abroad, he was unprepared for the changes his home town has undergone during his absence. Such rapid pace of change has made Chan anxious to preserve memories of a quickly-fading industry which his family has been engaged in for over a century – fishery.

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Dramatic History

By Mark O'Neill

Photos by Cheong Kam Ka

A Macao author has created a Beijing Opera out of one of the most dramatic events of the city's history – the only assassination of a Portuguese governor during its 450 years as a colony. Mu Xinxin has turned this story into "Jinghaihun" (the Soul of Macao), a Beijing Opera performed by the Jiangsu Performing Arts Group.

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Next stop for Mio Pang Fei: Venice

Photos by António Sanmarful

By Filipa Queiroz

"All the World's Futures" is the theme of this year's Venice Biennale, running from 9 May to 22 November. The subject could not be more ironic for Mio. For him, the future is now. At 79 and in fragile health, the Shanghai-born avant-garde painter will represent the Macao Special Administrative Region at the International Art Exhibition with old and new works and an installation that evokes the Cultural Revolution.

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Images of a Bygone Era

By Mark O'Neill

Photos by Eric Tam

A plump Portuguese man sits in a sedan chair carried by four Indians in Goa; it is 1907. A group of Africans stand in front of the Customs and Post Office buildings in Cape Verde; it is 1910.

They are images from two of 11,000 postcards in a priceless collection acquired by the Historical Archives of Macao (HAM). They cover the period between 1898 and 1999 and eight Portuguese-speaking countries and districts – Macao, Angola, Mozambique, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, São Tomé e Príncipe, East Timor and the State of India.

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The Gentle Way

By Louise do Rosário and Mariana Sá

Photos by Leong Vai Keong

Every evening, dozens of youngsters gather at Vitoria Sports Centre in downtown Macao to practise a sport that many of them are passionate about: judo. At the centre's tatami judo room, training begins with a polite salute ritual to the coach. Then there are warm-ups, with students doing yoga-like postures to stretch their limbs and muscles. When it comes to the actual practice, all niceties disappear as the athletes try to throw and hold their partners on the mat.

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Respected Institution

By Mark O'Neill

Photos by Eric Tam

In a narrow street behind the former Governor's Palace is a building that has for the last 27 years been the beacon of French culture in Macao, providing classes and cultural events that have been enjoyed by thousands of people. This is the Alliance Française. Each year over 550,000 students attend its language courses and six million people attend its 20,000 cultural events, the vast majority of them free of charge.

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Macao celebrates Year of the Sheep

Photos by Ho Kuok Wai, Vitor Ng Alves and Weng Chan / Government Information Bureau (GCS)

2015 is the Year of the Sheep according to Chinese zodiac. The Year of the Sheep starts from Feb. 19, 2015 (the Lunar New Year / Spring Festival of China) and lasts to Feb. 7, 2016. During the Chinese New Year Macao received over one million visitors an increase of three percent compared to the Chinese New Year period last year.

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A Lone Defender

By Luo Xunzhi

The Japanese ordered three attempts on his life, but none succeeded. He carried a gun on a shoulder holster every waking minute for three and a half years and went everywhere with an armed bodyguard. His neighbour, the Japanese consulate, was assassinated, probably by his own secret police. This was war-time Macao and the life of John Pownall Reeves, British consul there between June 1941 and August 1946.

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Zhongshan becomes Third Italy in the Pearl River Delta

By Thomas Chan

Photos by Eric Tam

Zhongshan, birthplace of Dr Sun Yat-sen, has become one of the most important industrial cities in China. It is the one of the world's largest producers of electrical appliances and its goods compete with those of advanced countries. It has developed clusters of production in its different townships, similar to those in Italy, leading people to call it the Third Italy of China.

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Brazil in a Ball

By Nuno Mendonça in São Paulo, Brazil

Photos by Football Museum

It is no cliché to say that Brazil is the capital of football and the sport is embedded in the Brazilian psyche. The sport was born in England and introduced to São Paulo at the end of the 19th century. It went far beyond the football fields and was instrumental in the fight against prejudice, discrimination and racism. This story is told in the multi-media Football Museum, housed in one of the most iconic stadia of Latin America's financial capital.

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Branching Out

By Ou Nian-le in Taipei, Taiwan

Photos by Kris Yao | Artech

A majestic structure in the shape of a ballet dancer is rising up next to a lake in southwest Taiwan on what used to be a sugar cane field. This is the southern branch of the National Palace Museum (NPM), the world-famous collection of Chinese art treasures that attracted 4.5 million visitors in 2013, ranking seventh among museums in the world. The southern branch is due to open at the end of December 2015.

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The Lotus Temple and the floodplain village

By Maria João Janeiro

Illustration by Fernando Chan

Composed of three sets of pavilions, interconnected by courtyards and narrow corridors, the Lin Fung Miu or Lotus Temple on the hillside of Mong Ha, has an entrance with a spacious patio that gives access to the Lin Zexu Museum. There is a legend about the construction of the temple that dates back to the time when Mong Ha was still a small village of farmers and fishermen.

Expanding Territory

Macao builds a new frontier
with ambitious reclamation



Within the next two years, Macao will enter a new phase in its history with the implementation of an ambitious land reclamation programme that will add more than 12 percent to the city's land area and create much needed new directions for the economy.

It comprises five landfills that will total 350 hectares and accommodate up to 350,000 people. Most of the land will be reserved for public housing, commerce and culture and large areas will be retained as green spaces.

The aim is to improve the housing environment and the quality of life for Macao's citizens. The government's goal is to "create conditions for the development of Macao as a world tourism and entertainment centre".

It is one of the largest reclamations in the history of the city.

The start of the project

The Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT) said that the planning procedure involves three phases, two of them already completed. Between 2009 and 2010, the government organised the first of a series of public consultations, which yielded a wide range of different views. In 2011, the government drafted a provisional master plan, which was submitted to a second round of public consultation.

This produced a consensus on principles to be included in a final master plan. The list of essential requirements included: improvement of the quality of life and promotion of economic diversification; giving priority to public transport and eco-friendly means of transport; and paying close attention to the natural environment, including promotion of green areas and enhancing the beauty of coastal areas.

The final master plan that is still in the making envisages different usages for each landfill. Zone A, the biggest of the five, is to be used for public housing as well as building facilities for community recreation and culture. With an area of approximately 138 hectares, Zone A is located to the west of the maritime terminal, the reservoir and Areia Preta. To the east of Zone A there will be an artificial island for the bridge that will connect Macao to Hong Kong and Zhuhai.

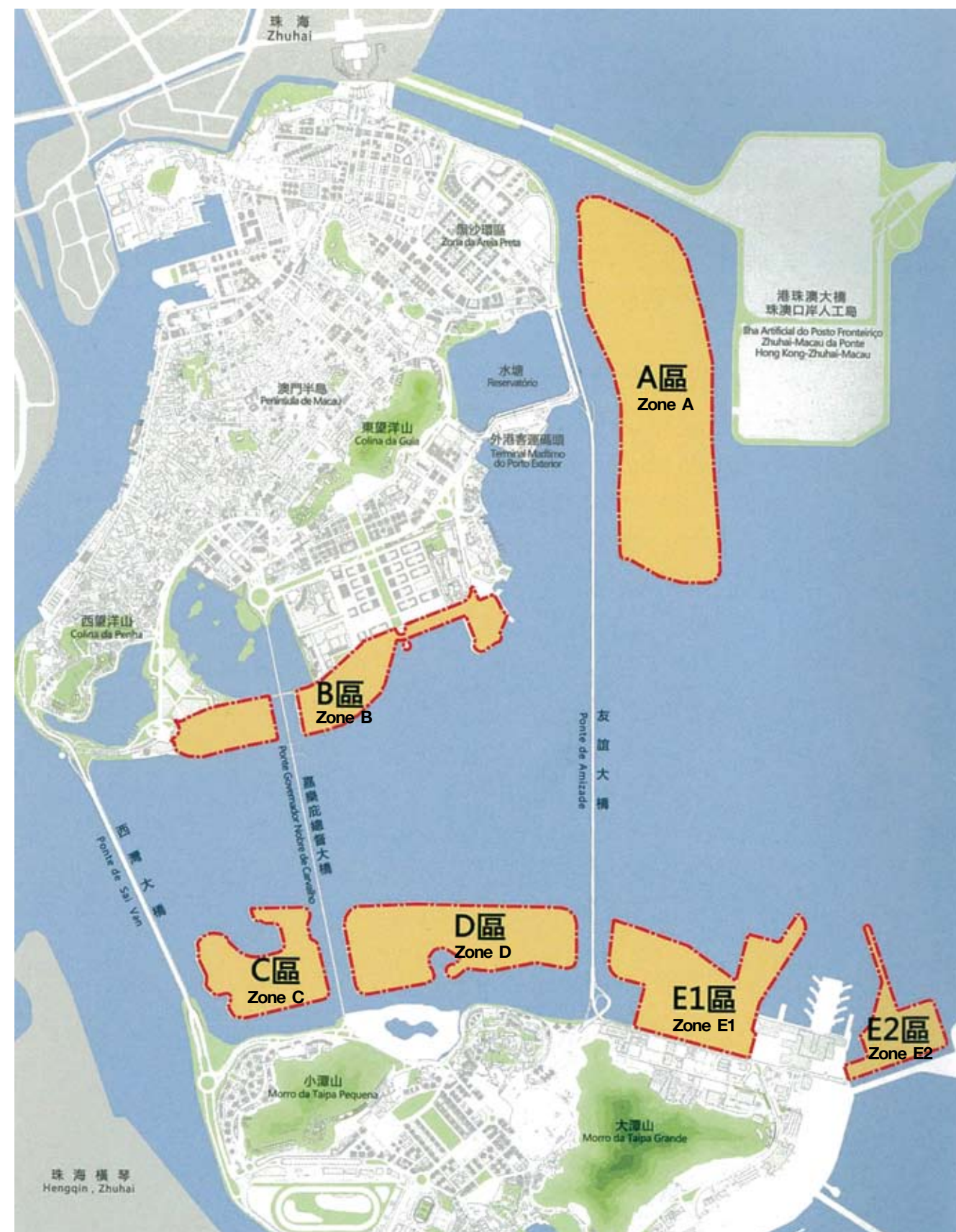
The island will be separated from Zhuhai by a channel. The project includes building a link between Zone A and the Fourth Bridge and construction of roads

to Cotai. "The new roads will benefit the access points to the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao bridge, the development of Hengqin Island, the border gate in Cotai and the development plan for Macau International Airport," said the DSSOPT in a note to Macao magazine.

Zone A is expected to provide housing for 57,000 people, mainly in 19,000 housing units to be located in the north of the zone. In the centre, there will be a combination of commercial development and housing. In the south, next to the sea, there will be different industries along with tourism and cultural facilities.

Walking by the sea

Zone B will be mainly used to house administrative offices, with priority given to judicial services and tourism. There will also be a promenade area with gardens by the sea. Some of the zone will be reserved for housing and shopping. Located south of Macao Peninsula, Zone B is divided by the Governor Nobre de Carvalho bridge. The eastern part will start near the Macao Science Centre and the western part will be adjacent to the Macao Tower and the Nam Van lake area. With a total area of 47 hectares, this zone should "harmonise with Macao's world heritage landscape and give continuity to the city centre function", according to a recently updated government draft of the master plan. It will house about 6,000 inhabitants in an estimated 2,000 housing units.



New reclamations areas

Low-carbon area

Taken together, Zones C, D and E should have the capacity to house 67,000 people in about 22,000 housing units. These three zones are also expected to be the green areas of the reclamation project. Located near the northern part of Taipa Island, Zones C, with 33 hectares, and D, with 59, will be separated by a channel and adjacent to the Shizimen channel. In view of their location, the government project for the master plan suggests that these zones will be ideal for the creation of a low carbon-index pilot zone. The two zones should have areas solely reserved for housing, while other parts will be allocated to a combination of commerce, housing and green space.

Zone E will be located on the northeast side of Taipa Island and will be divided into two sub-regions: E1 with 53 hectares, close to the Pac On ferry terminal, and E2 with 20 hectares, close to Macao International Airport. Both should have areas mostly for shopping and housing, and other areas of office space close to shops. Some parts of the zone will be reserved for municipal facilities or retained as green areas. The coast along Zones C, D and E “will be designated as a green corridor”. This will be an area where citizens and tourists can be in contact with water and enjoy leisure activities.

Work done and to be done

According to the DSSOPT, the landfill construction for Zone B was the first to take place and is already finished. It was followed by work on Zone A, which is now 20 to 30 percent complete. The landfill of Zone E has started and will be followed by that of Zones C and D. Reclamation in these zones will be coordinated with work on the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao bridge, the reorganisation of avenue Sun Yat Sen, the maritime ferry terminal in Taipa and the fourth bridge to Taipa. Meanwhile, according to DSSOPT, the final master plan for the five tracts of land is being drafted and “the third round of public consultation should occur as soon as possible”.

Multi-functional and connected

The Architects Association of Macau (AAM) has come out strongly in favour of the reclamation



Nuno Soares

plan and has published a number of comments and recommendations. One of its main concerns is that the five new tracts of land should be well connected with each other and the rest of the city, as well as being multifunctional. “There is some concern about the connection between the new landfills and the existing urban setting,” said Nuno Soares, a director of the AAM, as he outlined the recommendations from the organisation. His comments are based on the second round of public consultations in 2011, when the AAM compiled a document containing a series of recommendations.

One specific issue covered by the AAM was the status of Zone A which will be the biggest tract of reclaimed

land and physically separate from the Peninsula. “Physical separation has some advantages,” noted Soares. “We will extend the territory’s coastline and have more areas close to the river, but we will also have to deal with the problem of a possible lack of connectivity between the new and old parts of the territory.” The AAM director hopes that the final master plan will include proposals for strengthening the links between the reclaimed areas and Macao Peninsula. “We in Macao don’t have much space for more private cars and our public transportation system is not very efficient, as we still lack a light railway transit system. If we create one more island and that island is not well connected to the rest of

Macao, are we going to favour the use of individual transport?” he said.

Soares also warned that there might be a “synergy” problem, with a coordinated master plan for the new landfills but still no comparable plan for the peninsula. “It has concerned us in the AAM, since the beginning, that these new landfills might be thought of in isolation and not in coordination with the city.” For instance, considering that the north part of Macao has no green spaces and with the new landfills being built close by, it is advisable that there should be ready access from the existing city to the new tracts of land. “It’s this type of complementarity that we believe the project should promote,” he said.

Furthermore, the AAM recommends that the new landfills are planned to harmonise with other major projects, including the Light Railway Transit, the bridge connecting Hong Kong, Zhuhai and Macao and the expansion towards Hengqin Island. Soares suggested that, to make this kind of coordination possible, the master plan needed to be flexible, especially as land reclamation and development will still be going on 20 to 30 years from now. “The rules need to be very clear right from the start, but the plan needs to have the capacity to grow,” he said.

No casinos

Soares welcomed the decision not to build casinos on the new land. He sees the new areas as providing an opportunity for economic diversification and allowing space for creative and cultural industries. He also advised that each landfill needed to be multifunctional: “I’m against the idea that one landfill should be exclusively for services and another one for housing, since that generates spacial segregation and could mean that we have areas of the city that only have life during the day.” As an example of the type of development he prefers, he said: “Zone A will have both offices and housing and therefore should be multi-functional. That means that people who live there may also work there.”

He is particularly interested in the diversification of the coastal areas created by the new developments. “We need to have a coastline that is not only a green belt but also serves different functions, so that there will be different activities by the sea and the city is not separated from the water... It is important that the coastline has shops, public services and different activities.” That is why the AAM has recommended that, together with parks close to the water, there should be ports for small boats, balconies projecting above the water and buildings directly linked to the water “If one of the advantages of these new landfills is that they will increase the area of contact with the water, it is important to exploit this.”

Learning from history

Looking at Macao’s evolution, Soares believes one of the “problems” with the last landfills in the territory was that they created more traffic, resulting in roads that “do not work”. He cited the example of the road between the reservoir and the Border Gate.



Macao new frontiers

“There is a green area on the other side of the road next to the water, but it just allows a big separation between the city and the river,” he said.

The AAM also believes the size of each block in the newly developed areas will be very important. “What we call the suburban model can be seen in Cotai, where we have big offices and towers standing on big lots. We recommend that [for these new landfills] the lots are not too big,” said Soares. “If the lots are too big, we may break the functional connections within the city. On the other hand, if the lots are medium-sized, there can be different

types of development in one area that allow local promoters to participate.” One reason why local diversity is important is that it opens the way for different types of company to invest in a given area, not only the big corporations, he added. Moving about within the new developments will be another important issue. In today’s Macao, you can use personal as well as public transport and walk where possible. This is something that should also be retained in the new landfills. Soares believes the five tracts of land should avoid the typical modern model of very large roads and very large

neighbourhoods. “In each of the new landfills, one should be able to walk from one end to the other.” Finally, the AAM believes that, to avoid situations in which the landfills stay empty for many years waiting for the full implementation of the plan, the master plan needs to provide for temporary use of the new land. “We need to have a plan that says that, in the first five years, we will have this kind of development and, in the next six, we will have that kind. Plans should be constantly updated because, over time, there will be different needs that we cannot predict today,” said Soares.



José Maneiras

Building on landfill

The five new landfills provide solutions to a range of problems that could emerge over the next 20-30 years. Using landfills as a strategic instrument for promoting and directing growth, however, is not new. Since the end of the 19th century, Macao has been taking land from the sea to expand. "Initially [most of] what now is flat land was sea," said architect José Maneiras: "For instance, the hill in Rua do Campo reached Vasco da Gama garden and went through Guia - all this land as far as Dom Bosco was beaches. In fact, there were many beaches in Macao. Prior to the beginning of the 20th century, you had the city wall starting from the Mount Fortress and Saint Paul. And, when you reached Mong Ha, you had rice fields, waterlogged,

and the city wall existed all the way through until Ferreira do Amaral square," he said.

According to the book *Cem Dias que mudaram Macau* (One Hundred Days that Changed Macau), by Sérgio Infante, Rogério Beltrão Coelho, Paula Alves and Cecília Jorge, up until the 19th century, Macao's territory was unchanged - a peninsula, with Green Island separated from the city. It was only at the end of the 19th century that the first landfills took place. "In the coastal area of Inner Harbour, between Santiago fort and the Patane, deep coves gave way to a continuous coastline with piers, and an artificial dock was built," it said.

In the new century, the conquest of land from the sea continued in the coastal area of the Inner Harbour, between Patane beach and the Lin Fong temple, with the opening of two docks and in Green

water harbour as well as to close the channel that gave access to the Inner Harbour, close to Barra, through a landfill starting from Taipa. But no construction was done at that time.

By the end of the 20th century, the peninsula had an area of 7.7 km² while Taipa covered 5.8 km² and Coloane 7.8 km², a total of 21.3 km². This was a 100 percent increase of the territory's size at the start of 20th century when the peninsula and the islands of Taipa and Coloane together measured a modest 11.6 km². The biggest expansion occurred, after 1999, with the landfills in Cotai, which added 6 km² to the territory. "Whether [the Cotai project] made sense or not, the truth is that it was necessary to provide land for investors," said Maneiras. But the project was heavily biased to gaming centres and featured tall buildings and wide roads and was "a bit removed from the historical essence of Macao", he added.

Justification for landfills

Soares, the AAM director, sees the frequent landfills of the last century as historically justified. "Macao was always small and we needed to expand. Besides, it is located in a part of the Pearl River Delta in which the water is not too deep and building reclamation land was easy."

"Macao has the very nice characteristic of always keeping the old urban area while adding new ones. However, with these five new reclamation projects, the situation is different, as the new landfills will be mostly islands, not directly connected to [the rest of] Macao," he said. "Of the five new projects, Zones A, C and D are islands." Zones B, E1 and E2 are extensions to existing land and thus more in the historical tradition of landfills in Macao.

Considering that land is in short supply, Soares believes these new landfills can bring added value. "Most activity in the territory is currently concentrated in the peninsula and Taipa and these landfills can free up a bit of the peninsula. We can also make sure [with this scheme] that urban evolution doesn't move as far as Coloane, concentrating more on Macao and Taipa," he said. "Looking at the city's long-term evolution, development through landfills has gone pretty well. The city we now have is well connected and has a lot of diversity between different areas. And that could only have been achieved through landfills. Without them, Macao would have stagnated."

Island. In the early decades of the 20th century, the concept of growth through land reclamation rapidly gained ground with policy makers so that, by 1927, most of the general landfill areas that would be used up to 1991 were already decided.

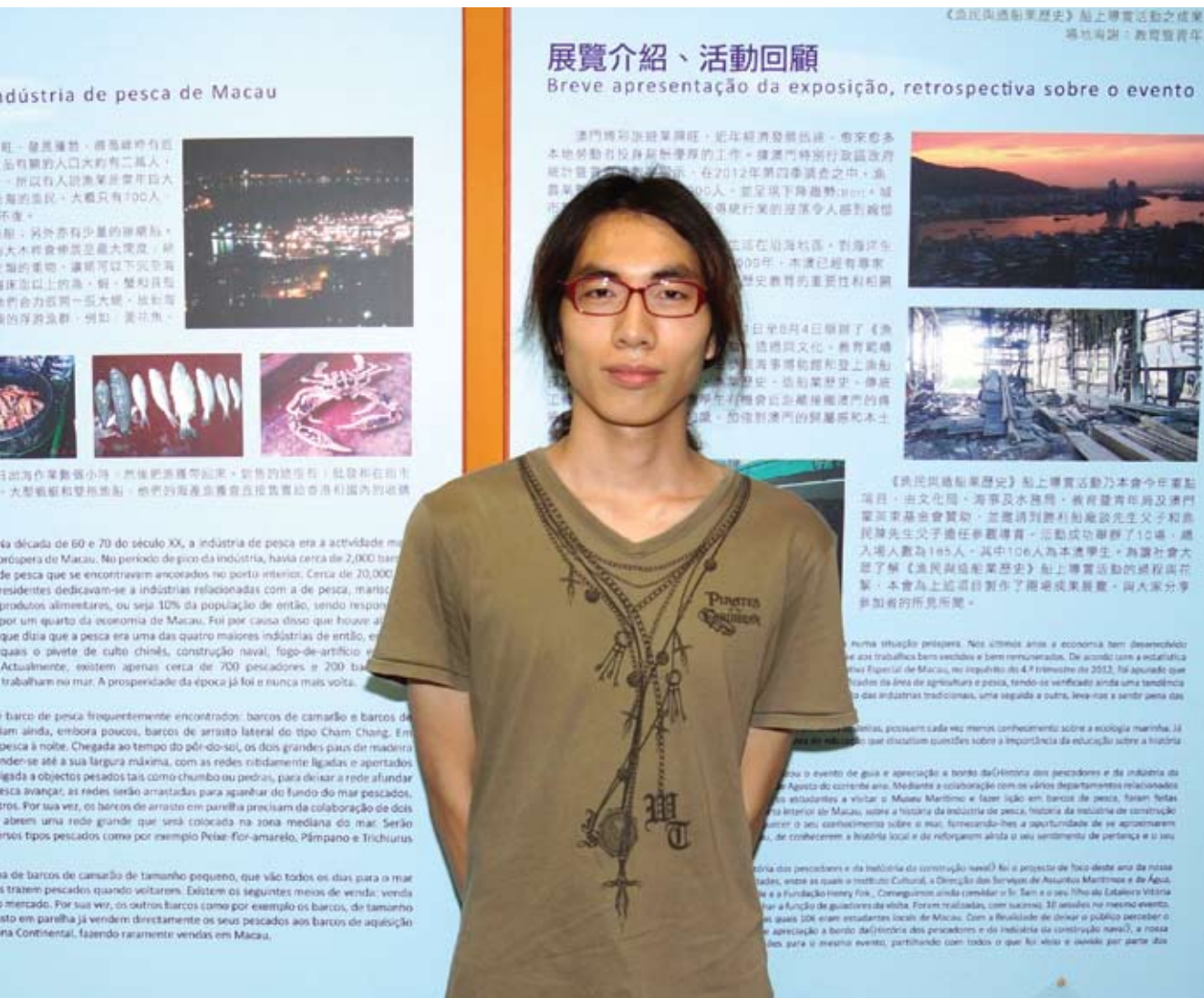
Historical landfills

According to the book *Macau na Cartografia Náutica* (Macau in the Nautical Cartography), the first big landfill occurred in 1936, between San Francisco Garden and the Reservoir/Areia Preta. In the same year, the Inner Harbour landfill was concluded, but it was considered a failure. "It was a flop as a harbour, since it was supposed to have deeper water and be used by big ships," explained Maneiras. The government had plans, after 1926, to create a deep

Preserving a Declining Heritage

Fishery family works to revive industry's former glory





Chan Yat Fung

When Chan Yat Fung returned from university abroad, he was unprepared for the changes his home town had undergone during his absence. Skyscrapers, casinos and hotels had sprung up everywhere. Small shops had been replaced by upmarket chains targeting tourists. Old factories had made way for chic new restaurants. Such a rapid pace of change has made Chan anxious to preserve memories of a quickly-fading industry which his family has been engaged in for over a century – fishery. From his great-great grandfather to his father, fishery was a livelihood and a way of life. Chan and his siblings are not fishermen but the burden of history weighs heavily on him. As he watches his 58-year-old fisherman father still going to the seas and his 79-year-old grandfather drawing pictures of ships he built in earlier decades, Chan,

28, opts to protect his family's heritage in another way: to record and educate the public about one of Macao's great traditions. In July 2013, he formed the Macau History and Culture Association of Port of Macau, with a group of like-minded young professionals, including designers, journalists and white-collar executives. "We treasure the history, culture and tradition of this World Heritage city (UNESCO awarded Macao this title in 2005). Macao has had over 400 years of history (as a Portuguese settlement). We will devote ourselves to the research and promotion of its unique culture, as seen from its port and fishery history," said Chan. To date, the non-profit-making association has organised exhibitions, educational talks and sight-seeing tours on the history of Macao's fishery.

Boom to bust

Fishery was an economic mainstay of Macao throughout history, but not many remember its glory days today. In the 1920s, as many as 70 percent of Macao's 84,000-population were fishermen. In the 1970s and 1980s, there were over 2,000 fishing boats and tens of thousands of fishing families. Macao was also one of southern China's four major fishing hubs, thanks to the territory's rich fishing resources, geographical location and superior fishing techniques at the time. Macao's ships sailed as far as Taiwan in the east and Vietnam in the west. Macao was also a major fishing-boat building centre, with 30-40 factories employing over 1,000 skilled technicians at one time.

Macao built its last ship in 2005

The industry went into a steep decline with the rise of aquaculture, the farming of fish and other aquatic

animals on a mass commercial scale that drove prices down. High fuel prices and the difficulty of hiring helpers on ships made the fishery business even tougher. Many fishermen eventually quit, sold their vessels and pursued other careers onshore. Today, it is down to 200 boats and around 730 fishermen. In 2006, the last dockyard was closed in Lai Chi Vun in Coloane, once a bustling manufacturing district. Chan and his family have lived through this rapid cycle of change and want to promote public awareness of the industry. From the worship of the sea goddess A Ma to local specialties such as salted fish, fishery and the traditions associated with it have made its mark on everyday life in Macao. Chan's father, Chan Meng Kam, has organised educational boat tours since 2011, to raise public consciousness of the declining industry. Young Chan's association took it a step further. "We need a formal registered vehicle to get funding and other support for our many activities," he said.



Inner Harbour

Showcasing Macao's shipbuilding past

In November 2013, his association held an exhibition of shipbuilding, with his father and grandfather telling their personal stories of their hardworking but happy days building ships in the dockyard at Lai Chi Vun.

Chan's grandfather was born, raised and worked all his life on his ship and his son followed in his footsteps. Chan Meng Kam has worked as a full-time fisherman since starting at the age of 14, in 1971.

The exhibition showed the transition of sailing with wooden boats to steel ships powered by engines. Grandfather Chan Kwong Yuk was at the forefront of the change, building the first modern

prawn ship at Lam Mau Tong in 1972-73. In 1982, he built Macao's first trio-propeller prawn ship at Lai Chi Vun, an 800,000-pataca engineering feat which greatly raised the port city's shipbuilding manufacturing standards.

Beside black-and-white photos, father Chan Meng Kam wrote how excited he was going to the dockyards in the 1960s. "I helped with the cleaning, painting and other miscellaneous duties over the weekend. I was still at school and looked forward to the fun of building a ship. Sometimes, our rice was covered with wood dust at the factory, but we did not complain."

The exhibition attracted many visitors, who knew little that the modern metropolis today was recently a prosperous shipbuilding centre.

Educational tours for the young

In July and August 2014, Chan's association held jointly with the Maritime Museum ten sessions of educational talks on a boat for a total of around 200 students and teachers.

In these three-hour sessions, the participants first visited the museum for the basic background of Macao's maritime past.

Next, they boarded a boat, where Chan's father and grandfather gave a talk on the past and present of shipping in Macao. They described the types of ships operating in the inner harbour, how shipping was done, the kinds of fish caught and climatic changes. Another specialist talked about shipbuilding, impressing the audience with

Macao's achievements in this area.

The children were excited to be on a boat talking to experienced fishermen and seeing at first hand the equipment needed for shipping. Their parents were pleased that the children were learning about an important aspect of the city's cultural heritage. "We want the public to discover the good things of the past, through our talks. We want them to have fun while being educated about the past," said young Chan.

In January and February this year, Chan's association organised 12 tours over the weekends for small groups to cruise along the inner harbour on his father's boat. "This is the first time our association has had tours held solely in our name," he said.



Chan Meng Kam



Tam Kam Weng presentation

Nostalgic tour of the inner harbour

The 75-minute excursion, called Nostalgic Times, combined sightseeing with education. It began with a photo and video presentation by veteran photojournalist Tam Kam Weng showing the dramatic changes of Macao's inner harbour. Then, on deck, fishermen talked about their work and the changes along the coast which they witnessed over the years.

"Our idea is to mix the past with the present. It offers different things to different people. Old Macao residents relive memories of the good old days. The young have fun sightseeing, while learning some history from photos contrasting the past and the present. Foreigners and mainland visitors can see Macao from another perspective," Chan said.

On one of these trips in early February, a group of local Macao residents and a couple from Beijing boarded a bus to reach Doca da Ilha Verde. There, a ship, owned by Chan Meng Kam, was waiting for them to set sail

along a small strip of water rich with history.

The 34-pier inner harbour is situated on the western side of the Macao peninsula, with No. 1 pier a short walk from Doca da Ilha Verde.

As far back as the Ming dynasty, the Chinese government had already set up customs to collect taxes on foreign imports. For the ensuing centuries, the harbour was a major commercial hub in southern China, handling freight and inland transport and providing shelter to fishing boats.

Chan Meng Kam remembers how busy the harbour was in earlier years. In the 1970s he sailed to Zhuhai regularly for meetings with Chinese fishermen. On their return, his and several other hundred ships from Macao sailed together back to the inner harbour, like "trains on water", he said.

The 1980s were the most prosperous for the harbour, with piers busy with traffic and their surroundings packed with small shops.

With the decline of fishery, many piers and warehouses have been left vacant.

Good old days on the boat

Still, Chan Meng Kam was able to point out a few landmarks, as the ship sailed steadily from pier to pier. There was the No. 5 pier, Nam Kwong, with two six-storey warehouses, the biggest in Macao. It handles mainly food, consumer goods and other daily necessities imported by Macao. Then, there was No. 8 pier, which used to handle the scandalous opium trade.

Chan said that, in the good old days, two to three thousand ships moored in the harbour. Looking around him at the sea today, he lamented, "There are now not more than 300 ships; change has been too quick and too drastic."

On this clear Saturday morning, sweet memories came to young Chan Yat Fung's mind. "I was born and raised onshore. In the summer, we spent our holidays on the fishing vessel. There was nothing much to do when we were on the ship, but it was fun for us. We ate fish, crabs and shrimps, cooking them in a simple but delicious way," he said.

For father Chan Meng Kam, feelings for his work

and the sea he lives on run deep. He has written essays and poems about his four decades on deck. He is to publish his memoirs later this year, with photos of the breathtaking scenery he encounters daily.

Chan said fishery is getting harder, with rising pollution and costs, but he is not calling it a day and continues to go fishing. During the annual recess in the summer, he uses his ship to do education-cum-sightseeing tours for the public. "It would be easy for me to quit: just sell the ship like many others have done. But I want to do something to help others understand and remember our great fishery industry," he said.

The young Chan Yat Fung plans to arrange more activities with the same objective as his father. One ambition is to have one or two fishery-related traditions, such as worship practices of fishermen and fishing with nets, listed in the United Nations' list of Intangible Cultural Heritage. This may be a hard dream to realise, but it is definitely a worthy cause for a son to pursue on behalf of his family's many generations of fishermen. ■



Visitors attending the Inner Harbour tour



Inner Harbour replica at the Macao Museum



Dramatic History

Macao author creates
Beijing opera from
Amaral assassination

A Macao author has created a Beijing Opera out of one of the most dramatic events of the city's history – the only assassination of a Portuguese governor during its 450 years as a colony.

On 22 August 1849, Joao Maria Ferreira do Amaral was taking a morning ride when seven villagers angry at his ill-treatment of Chinese people knocked him off his horse and cut off his arm and head.

Mu Xinxin has turned this story into "Jinghaihun" (the Soul of Macao), a Beijing Opera performed by the Jiangsu Performing Arts Group.

The group first put it on stage in Nanjing in July last year and then in Tianjin, where it was broadcast on China Central Television (CCTV) to a nationwide audience.

On 13 and 14 January this year, the group performed it in Macao for the first time, one of the events to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the city's return to China.

It is the first time a historical event in Macao has been performed as a Beijing Opera.

"I hope the opera will go further and be performed in more places, like Taiwan, Hong Kong and cities in the Pearl River," said Mu in an interview. "I hope more Macao people will turn other events into Cantonese Opera."

Beijing Opera at home

Mu was born in Anshan, Liaoning province, one of three daughters of an engineer whose work took him to different parts of China. She spent the first ten years of her life in the northeast, before moving to Macao in 1986 when she was ten.

As a child, she grew up listening to the melodies of Beijing Opera sung by her mother, a semi-professional who had performed on stage. "This is what she liked most. People used to learn history from watching these operas."

This family tradition continued after they moved to Macao, even though it was not performed here. "Our family members gave us tapes and every night I would listen to them. It was our main form of entertainment."

One day the family went to the Guo Hua Cinema and found the ticket was three patacas a person – compared to 0.1-0.2 yuan in the mainland – so 20 patacas for the whole family. It was too expensive, so they did not go in.

Meanwhile, Mu enrolled at a local school and spent the first month in a daze because she could not understand Cantonese. She quickly mastered it and did well at school, before going on to study news for four years at Jinan University in Guangzhou.

"It was lonely for our family after we arrived in Macao and hard to enter mainstream society," she said. "There was the language and the culture gap."

While she was at Jinan, she offered an article to Macao Daily. "I was writing about old Beijing and Beijing Opera and, when he met me, the editor was surprised at how young I was. He thought I would be middle-aged." He invited her to write a column, which she has done once a week since 1992, except for the period when she was a new mother to her son.

On graduating, she went to work in the Macao Government Information Service, where she stayed for five years. She also obtained a PhD in drama from Nanjing University.

She has also written a column for the Shenzhen Special Economic Zone Daily – over 50 so far and her aim is 100. Through these columns, she has helped to spread the history and culture of Macao. She has also used them to explain good public practices used here, as an example for the mainland – such as the ban on smoking in offices and public places and the licence plates showing official cars; this discourages civil servants from using them for private use, since other people can report them.

Stage of Beijing

She attained national prominence in 1999 when she was chosen to take part in an eight-hour live broadcast on the night in December to celebrate the handover. "They needed someone from Macao to talk about culture." It was a major challenge for someone not yet 30. "My Putonghua [language skills] were adequate, but I had not done much research on history and culture."

During the preparation for the programme, she met Li Feng, then the CCTV journalist in Macao. They fell in love and married in 2002; she moved to Beijing, where she worked in the Macao government office in the capital until 2010.



Mu Xinxin



Ferreira do Amaral (left) and Shen Ziliang (right)

The hated governor

"For a long time, I had the idea to write about Shen Ziliang, the villager who killed Amaral. But using words alone would not be enough," she said.

Born in 1803, Amaral had a distinguished career in the Portuguese navy; in 1821, he lost his right arm in the Battle of Itaparica during the War of Independence with Brazil.

He served as deputy governor of Angola, before being appointed the 79th governor of Macao on 21 April 1849.

He asserted Portugal's authority over the colony, with the aim of making it independent of China. He ordered all Chinese residents to pay ground rent and poll and property tax. The Qing officials in the city protested; he expelled them, destroyed their customs post and stopped paying ground rent to their government.

He further angered local people by seizing farmland and demolishing housing, especially in Longtian village. Placards offering a reward for his head were placed in Guangzhou.

Seven brothers from Longtian, led by Shen, planned

an ambush on 22 August 1849.

A man frightened Amaral's horse with a bamboo pole and signalled to his comrades in hiding. The one-armed governor held the reins in his teeth, to draw his pistol.

Before he could, the seven attacked him, dragged him from his horse. They cut off his head and hand, intending to collect the reward in Guangzhou.

On 25 August, the Chinese opened fire on Macao but a Portuguese sub-lieutenant, Vicente Nicolau de Mesquita, crossed the border gate and attacked the Passeleao, which is now in Zhuhai.

After negotiations, the Qing government returned Amaral's head and arm in January 1850; the entire body was returned to Lisbon for burial. To save the members of his village, Shen Zhiliang gave himself up to the Qing authorities. Under pressure from the Portuguese, they executed him.

A 65-foot statue of Amaral on a horse, as a national patriot, was unveiled in 1940 at the end of Avenida da Amizade in the square that now overlooks the Hotel Lisboa. It was removed in 1993, because of the handover six years later, was shipped to Portugal and now stands outside Lisbon airport.

Making the opera

It was in 2012 that the idea to dramatise this story started to become a reality for Mu. That year Wu Zhilang, president of the Macao Foundation, proposed to her that she turn the story into an opera and offered to help her find a mainland troupe to perform it.

If she wrote a Cantonese opera, it would only be seen by Cantonese-speaking people. So she decided on a Beijing Opera using Mandarin that would have national appeal. "When the idea of taking the story to the stage came up, I only had one choice – to make it into a Beijing Opera. I believe it is the best way to present such a story."

They went to Beijing and Shanghai to look for a suitable troupe and finally agreed on Jiangsu Performing Arts Group, with Tian Lei playing the lead role of Shen Zhiliang.

She started on the script in 2010. It was hard work and a long labour of love, involving ten rewrites. "I was not a professional writer of theatre and had to work with the director, the performers and the musical staff." It was a great challenge to turn a historical event of Macao into a Beijing Opera.

"Everyone was good and generous to me," she

said. "It is the first Beijing Opera about Macao." The performance includes modern Macao elements, kung fu and the city's famous drunken dragon performance.

She is delighted at the reception it has been given so far by the public.

It premiered in Nanjing on 29 July 2014. Its next venue was in Tianjin in December, where two performances filled all 1,700 seats in a large hall. CCTV broadcast nationwide one of the performances. It was part of the seventh Chinese Beijing Opera festival.

The performances in January in Macao were the third venue. They filled 90 percent of the 1,200 seats in the main auditorium of the Cultural Centre. That means a total of seven performances so far.

Future

Mu has no specific plans to write another opera. "I hope that other Macao people will write such operas. Only they understand the history and know what local people like and dislike."

She believes that opera is the best platform because it can reach a wide audience. "If you write a book on Macao, you can sell 1,000 copies. With an opera, the number is much bigger."

The Soul of Macao Opera performed by the Jiangsu Performing Arts Group



A photograph of two people, a man and a woman, looking at a large, dark wooden wall covered in Chinese calligraphy. The man, on the left, is pointing at the artwork. The woman, on the right, is looking at the artwork. The background shows a gallery space with other artworks and a spiral staircase.

Next stop for Mio Pang Fei: Venice

Better late than never -
Artist Mio Pang Fei
represents Macao at the
Venice Biennale

"All the World's Futures" is the theme of this year's Venice Biennale, running from 9 May to 22 November. The subject could not be more ironic for Mio. For him, the future is now. At 79 and in fragile health, the Shanghai-born avant-garde painter will represent the Macao Special Administrative Region at the International Art Exhibition with old and new works and an installation that evokes the Cultural Revolution.

"When I was young, I dreamt of going to the Biennale," the painter told *Macao* magazine. It is just weeks before the inauguration of "Path and Adventure: Works of Mio Pang Fei in Italy", his Biennale contribution. "If I were 20, I'd be very excited because it is a very important exhibition, but I am 80. I am happy, but not as excited as a youngster. I will have to fly for more than 10 hours to get to Italy and am a bit afraid. I don't know if my health can handle it."

Recent events, however, have pulled Mio away from recuperation from his ailments. One was a mega exhibition at the Galaxy casino in 2012, another a documentary about his life and career and a

retrospective exhibition in Taiwan and Macao. The Biennale is the icing on a cake filled with adventure. It has been created by the tireless energy and inspiration of the painter, with the support of his family.

The Macao Museum of Art chose Mio for the Venice event from a list of about 40 names, for "remarkable achievements both in terms of artistic production and his contribution to the promotion of the arts". The exhibition will be an illustration of the abstract painter's work dedicated for decades to research and the practice of what is called Neo-Orientalism - an artistic approach that transcends nationalism and adopts concepts from Western art to rebuild an oriental aesthetic.

Macao Pavilion in Venice

The Chinese painter was born in Shanghai in the 1930s. He decided to start exploring the perspectives of oriental painting as the Cultural Revolution was in full swing, in opposition to the ruling Maoist ideology and putting him at risk of severe punishment.



Cristina Mio, Mio Pang Fei, Chan Hou Seng Director of Macao Museum of Art, Rie Yamanaka Curator of the exhibition (from left to right).



Mio Pang Fei

The Special Era room of the Macao Pavilion at the Biennale will exhibit three original works dating from 1960 and 1970 - Flor, Cépolas and Rosa – along with several copies, and a background video with images of the Cultural Revolution.

In a meeting with the press at the Macao Museum of Art, where Mio prepared the pieces with the help of a team led by his daughter Cristina Mio, he explained how he painted in secret at the time. "When I returned home from work, while others slept, I closed the curtains, picked up the paper and brushes and painted until the sun came up." The painter also remembers keeping his head low during the brutal trial and struggle sessions used to shape public opinion and humiliate, harass and execute so-called "enemies of the people". He looked at the cracks in the ground and created beautiful compositions in his mind. This was how the painter survived the madness of those times. There are few works of this period that have not been destroyed or damaged, but those that are left were painted in pastels because they are easier to hide in an emergency.

Mio arrived in Macao with his family in 1982. It was here that he went on to develop the Neo-Orientalist style. It is both a transition from the old to the new and a new approach to and view of Eastern culture, respecting and understanding it. The concept is an attempt by the painter to respond to Western concepts and rebuild the Orient by moving beyond Chinese aesthetic features; it required extensive research and practice of both cultural traditions.

The second Macao Pavilion room at the Biennale is dedicated to just this theme: Exploration of Neo-Orientalism. Here the visitor will be able to see the documentary which recently opened in Macao *MIO PANG FEI*, by Pedro Cardeira, about the artist's life and career. The second pavilion will exhibit two calligraphic works - *Harmonia e Notas de Caracteres* (Harmony and Character Notes) and the *PósCaligrafia* (Post-calligraphy) series. The work deconstructs traditional calligraphy; the painter combines Chinese calligraphic aesthetics with abstract painting.

Mio uses materials and techniques that are typical of Western culture to create a calligraphic aesthetic that is impossible to achieve using traditional India ink and rice paper. It is daring work that shows

an aesthetic beauty through free brush strokes to create both deep harmony and a powerful clash. The third and largest room in the pavilion is called *Shui Hu* (Water Margin). It includes one piece that is 324 x 480 cm and two others measuring 200 x 135 cm, made with mixed media and inspired by the classic Chinese novel of the same name. The novel describes the rebellion of peasants at the end of the Song Dynasty about 1,000 years ago and tells of the exploits of men who robbed the rich to give to the poor.

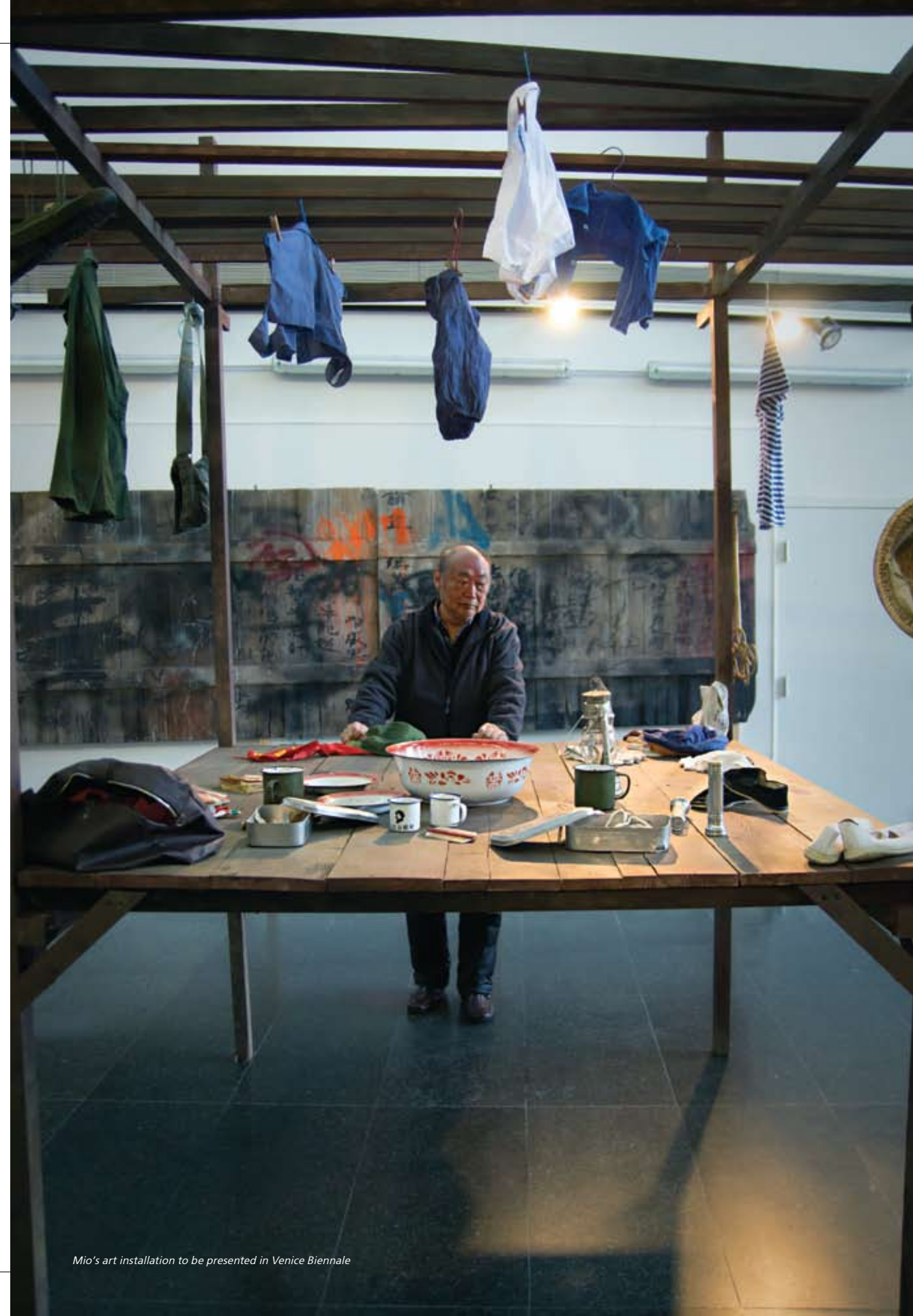
Mio made use of different materials and techniques to celebrate these heroes with scrolls and banners, altars and memorial tablets. The result is, according to the artist, an abstract representation of the essence of Chinese national spirit.

The Macao Pavilion at the Biennale will also include an outdoor area - a courtyard exhibiting two outdoor installations prepared at the Macao Museum of Art in January and February.

The first refers back to the times of the political and ideological campaign in China by the then leader of the Communist Party, Mao Zedong. A number of everyday objects in shades of blue, green, white and red are hung from an enormous wooden structure. There is a coat like the ones used by the Great Helmsman, and trousers, skirts, collars, socks, shoes, gloves, berets and red scarves. Inside a tin, there are ration coupons along with mugs with Mao's face drawn on them, toys and picture books.

"We bought everything in Shanghai, they are not ours, but they are real and from that time," explained Cristina Mio. They are pieces that, as the artist says, did not serve to meet the real needs of the people but rather the "correct" items imposed on them in those "difficult" times. "They are not a reminder, they are to show people how difficult it was to make art at the time," she added.

Outside the pavilion, calligraphy will also be exhibited. One installation made from several wooden planks is intended to symbolise Chinese writing on bamboo cane and silk ribbons. "It simulates an ancient Chinese book, written on bamboo, but has nothing written on it. It is calligraphy but what is written are not sentences," explained Mio's daughter, under her father's watchful eye.



Mio's art installation to be presented in Venice Biennale

"Beyond the surface"

The term comes from the Chinese philosopher and poet Laozi, whose work throughout history has been embraced by anti-authoritarian movements. "Beyond the Surface" [超以象 in Chinese] means "not very real" and is the name of the Mio Pang Fei exhibition that travelled to Taiwan and was shown in the SCM Hostel in January under a new protocol of the Macao Special Administrative Region Economic Office in Taiwan.

"Mio is a highly educated and extremely serious painter," said Carlos Marreiros. "All his painting reflects the 2,000 years of China's tortured history," said the architect and general manager of the hostel, who is also a colleague and friend of Mio. He is the man who 30 years ago launched the painter and his wife, Un Chi lam, also an artist, in the old Luís de Camões Museum. This was followed by a half-year tour of Europe as part of a local delegation and the foundation of the Espaço de Arte do Albergue (Hostel Art Space) group.

"This exhibition does not have a particular theme because they are things that I picked out from the past. Some are from my early career, others are digital copies of works made during the Cultural Revolution and other works were made in Macao," said the painter. There were only three original paintings on display - Flor, Cépolas and Rosa, the ones that will be exhibited at the Biennale in May. "They are from the beginning," explained Cristina Mio. "When we arrived in Macao, some had already been destroyed and others deteriorated after we arrived because of the humidity. They were stored in plastic bags and, when we took them out, they looked like pancakes."

The size of the works also stopped them from being transported to Taiwan for the exhibition at the hostel's small gallery; the intention was to highlight the artist's career and his presence at the Biennale.

"Mio Pang Fei is already known, except that Macao does not have specialised art critics, despite being connected to the world. I am very glad that he has deservedly been chosen [for the Biennale] without a competition. It was more than obvious; the only problem is that it has been so long coming, but he will have an important stage on which to

show himself to the world," Marreiros told Macao magazine.

Albergue SCM will subsidise a visit by a group from Macao to the Venice Biennale in June to support the local artist.

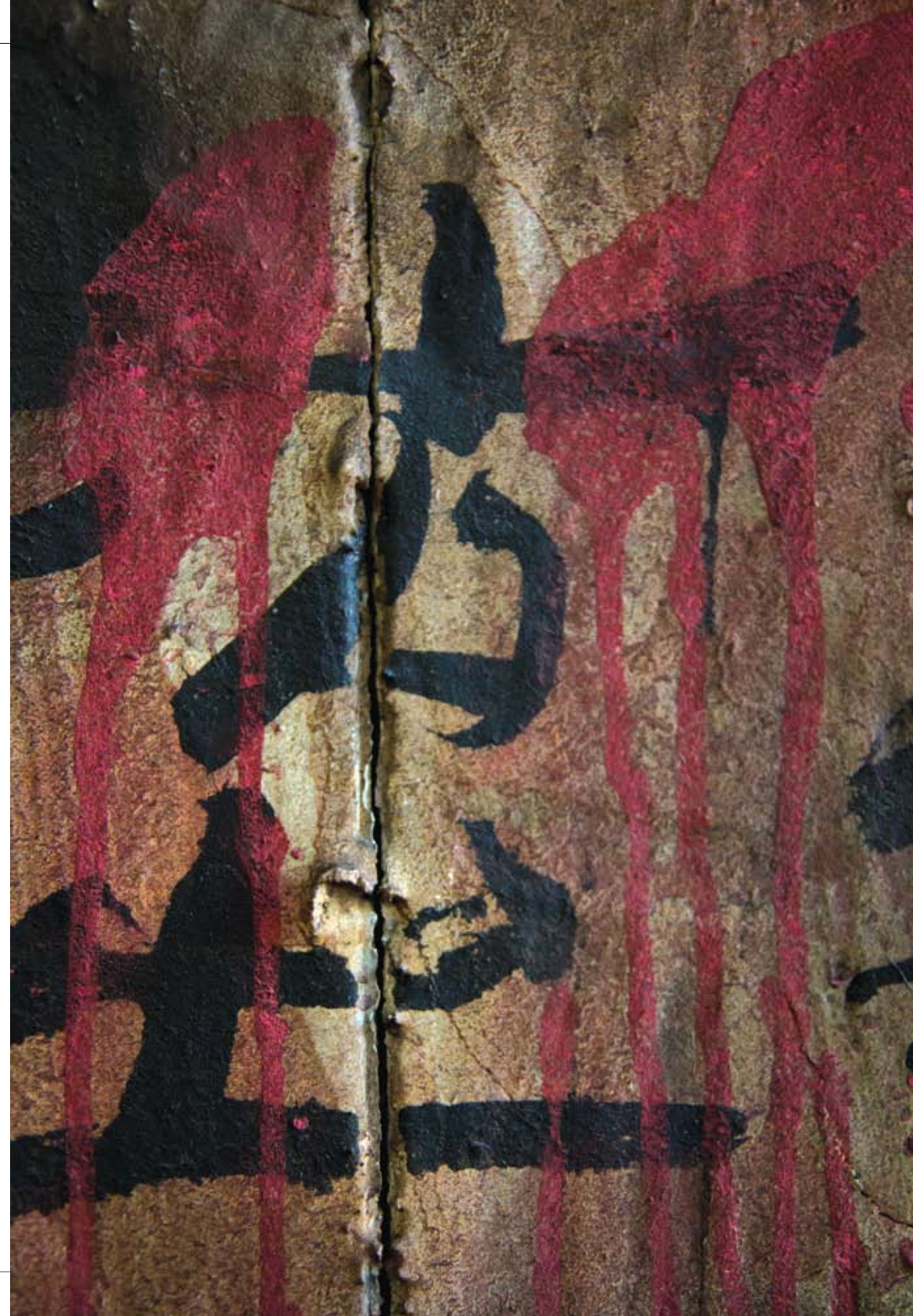
It is very important for my father to be known by more people and Europe is always very important. He studied European art and is very happy to go back there and see other artists," said Cristina Mio.

When her father studied at the Faculty of Fine Arts at what is now Fujian Normal University, the history of Western art ended with French realism and the painter Gustave Courbet. Curiosity drove him to investigate beyond Courbet and socialist realism, and beyond Michelangelo, Rubens and Velasquez. He fell in love with Impressionism, Cubism and Fauvism.

Decades later, following a move to Macao after a failed attempt to emigrate to the United States and Hong Kong, the artist studied with Ung Vai Meng, the current President of the Cultural Institute, at the Faculty of Fine Arts of Porto in Portugal. He taught at the former Macao Visual Arts Academy, at the Nanjing Arts University, at the Fine Arts College of Shanghai University and at the University of Wolverhampton in the UK. He has taken part in over 60 exhibitions and several of his pieces are included in collections around the world. He has won several prizes and, in 1999, received the Cultural Merit Medal from the MSAR Government.

"Since my father was operated on five years ago, he stopped going out and has stayed at home more. He can't move much. But the times when he was in touch with all the Macao artists were happy ones," said Cristina Mio, who helps her father set up exhibitions and in the restoration of his works. She said that the artist "knows everything that's going on [artistically in Macao] and likes it".

Today the artist enjoys the good times, a world away from the time when "what was modern in the West was called garbage in China". It is a future that, as a young painter in Shanghai, he could never have imagined. He no longer needs to explain what he does. "It is abstract painting and so much fits inside it." ■



Images of a Bygone Era



Group. S. Cecilia Orchestra. Macau

Sold by Graça & Co., Hongkong, China

The Historical Archives of Macao
acquires priceless postcard collection of
Lusophone countries

A plump Portuguese man sits in a sedan chair carried by four Indians in Goa; it is 1907. A group of Africans stand in front of the Customs and Post Office buildings in Cape Verde; it is 1910.

These are images from two of 11,000 postcards in a priceless collection acquired by the Historical Archives of Macao (HAM) from a Portuguese lawyer named João Loureiro. They cover the period between 1898 and 1999 and eight Portuguese-speaking countries and districts – Macao, Angola, Mozambique, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, São Tomé e Príncipe, East Timor and the State of India.

They record the political, economic, religious, cultural, educational and architectural life of that turbulent century, as well as urban planning, antiquities, the environment and society.

“They have enormous value,” said Lau Fong, director of HAM. “There is no comparable large collection of postcards of Portuguese-speaking places. They cover a century and give us a wealth of information about many aspects of life.”

The name of the collection in Portuguese is: Macau e Territórios Lusófonos. The largest number of cards comes from Angola - 4,627; there are 2,853 from Mozambique and 1,044 from Macao.

In 2015 HAM will produce a book in Portuguese introducing cards from each of the places. It will hold an exhibition and is considering a Chinese edition. It is also digitalising the cards, with the aim of making them available on the Internet in 2016.

Starting the collection

Loureiro, who is in his 60s and lives in Lisbon, began the collection in the 1970s. During his life as a student, a soldier and a judicial magistrate, he travelled to Macao and the Portuguese colonies in Africa and developed an interest in and feeling for the places he visited.

He acquired the cards through his own correspondence, from friends and purchases from shops and dealers; it was not for profit but out of interest. He continued collecting until 2003. The quantity became so large that it filled an entire room in his house in Lisbon. In 1999, he published a book of the cards and also held an exhibition; their fame began to spread.



Lau Fong, Director of Historical Archives of Macao



He decided that he wanted to pass on the collection in its entirety to an institution that would treasure it and where it would be available for everyone to see. If he auctioned it, he could earn a higher price but the collection might be broken up and would probably end up in the hands of private buyers, where it would be seen by only a handful of people. He offered it first to the Arquivo Historico Ultramarino (Overseas Historical Archives) of Portugal in Lisbon; it was they who contacted HAM. In 2012, during a visit to Lisbon, Ung Vai Meng, President of the Cultural Affairs Bureau (CAB) of Macao, visited Loureiro in his

home and saw the collection; he was astonished and considered it to be very valuable. CAB proposed buying the 1,044 cards of Macao. But Loureiro insisted that a buyer must acquire the whole collection and not part of it, because he did not want it to be divided up. He also wanted it to remain in a Portuguese-speaking place. After lengthy negotiations and procedures, the two sides agreed a price – below what the cards would have fetched on the open market – and the collection arrived here in 2013. The purchase was in line with Macao's place in the world. "It was the first place in China that was a place

of exchange between China and the West," said Lau. "The cultural value (of the collection) is unique and enormous and it has a wide influence. Macao's status is as a world tourism and leisure centre and a platform for cooperation between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries." "The purchase of these postcards improves our knowledge of the history and culture of the Portuguese-speaking countries. It is a landmark in the contribution of photography to history and significant for learning about different cultures and races," she said. After the acquisition began the enormous task

of recording and cataloguing all the cards, then converting them to digital form to be available on the Internet. Lau said that the principle of HAM is to make its material available to the public, which is why there will be a book, exhibition and web database of the images. Loureiro himself maintains close links with Macao. He first came here in the 1970s and is a member of the International Institute of Macau. He comes to visit every year, to see his friends and contacts and look at the collection.





Value of collection

"We believe that this collection has a universal value, not only for Macao," said Lau. "From the point of view of archives, these images are very precious." This is especially the case for those of the first decades of the collection. At that time, photography was at an early stage; there were few pictorial images of

the countries and cities of the Portuguese-speaking world.

Lau said that this was the case for many images of Macao in the early decades of the 20th century. "We have written records but not images. One picture can tell many stories. They are a record of the time, direct and accurate."

For example, there is a panoramic view of the Inner



and Outer Harbours before 1910, a composite of three cards. There are other images of the period that demonstrate the city's layout and design of the period.

A card of Santa Cecília Youth Orchestra circa 1902 shows Chinese and Portuguese students with their instruments; the Chinese wear a pigtail, as was obligatory for men during the Qing dynasty.

There are also images of the Macao Trade Fair in 1926, with the western men dressed in top hats.

The images of Africa show many themes – the Governor's house, the Post Office, the Law Court, the harbour, the churches, street markets and the lives of ordinary people. They are just as precious – photographic records of those countries, especially in the early decades of the 20th century, are few. ■



History of HAM

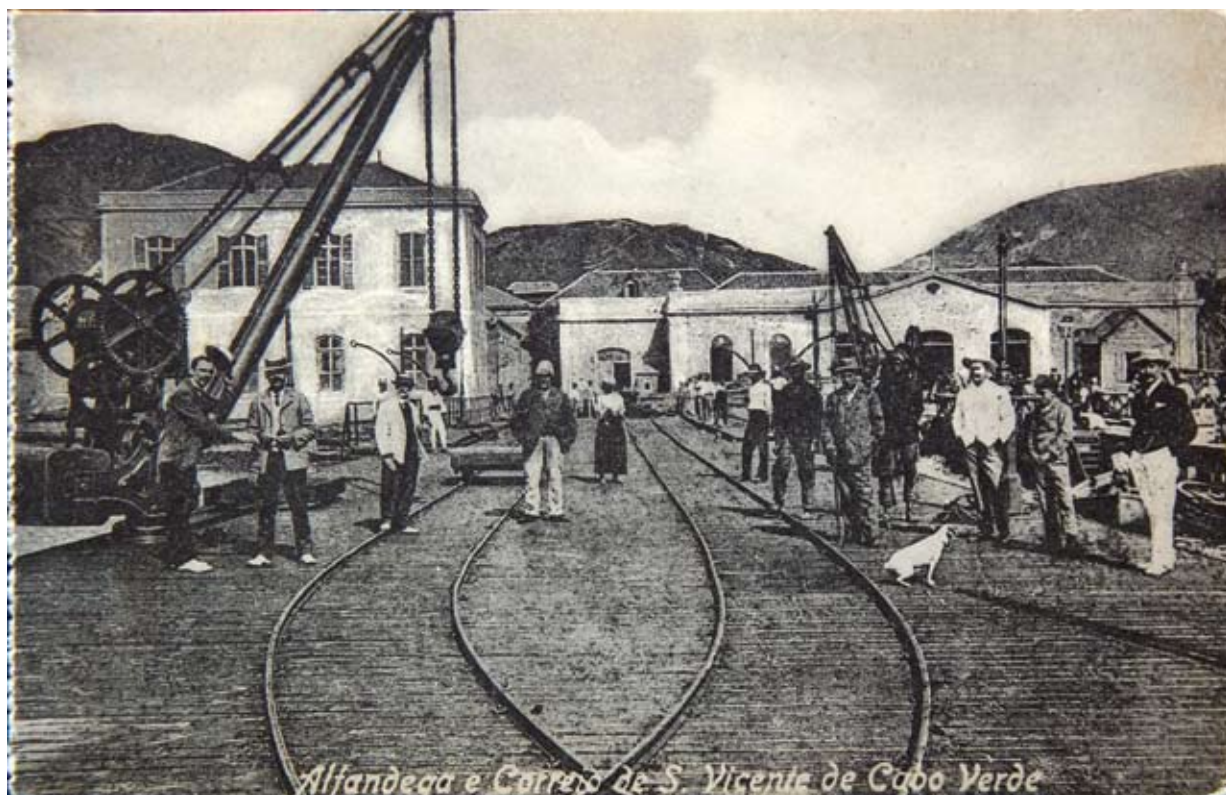
The General Archives were established in Macao in June 1952 but only became operational in 1979, when it was renamed and passed to the Education Department. In 1986, it was transferred to the Cultural Institute, now the Cultural Affairs Bureau.

In 1989, they were re-housed in its current home, an elegant building in Tap Seac Square that is listed; it was adapted for use as a repository, to provide appropriate conditions to preserve Macao's documentary heritage.

The collection mainly comes from the public services. The earliest document is from the Municipal Council (Leal Senado) and dates back to 1630. There are also records from the Civil Administration, Finance, Economics, Education, Government Press and Public Works departments.

Being the local general archives of the territory, the Historical Archives of Macao collects, processes, preserves and protects archival resources of historical value and makes them accessible to the public. The Archives maintains custody of over 50,000 files, 70,000 images and 10,000 publications.

A fully searchable catalogue of the records is available online, with successive additions of digital images of records.



節水
Douce
Água
Save
Water



澳門特別行政區政府海事及水務局

Direcção dos Serviços de Assuntos Marítimos e de Água
Marine and Water Bureau of the Macao SAR Government

THE GENTLE WAY

Judo attracting many young practitioners in Macao



Every evening, dozens of youngsters gather at Vitoria Sports Centre in downtown Macao to practise a sport that many of them are passionate about: judo.

Judo, meaning “the gentle way”, is the combative martial art that emphasises strength as well as the mastering of techniques to overcome the opponent within a time span of 15-20 seconds.

At the centre’s tatami judo room, training begins with a polite salute ritual to the coach. Then there are warm-ups, with students doing yoga-like postures to stretch their limbs and muscles.

When it comes to the actual practice, all niceties disappear as the athletes try to throw and hold their partners on the mat.

Leong Siu Pou, 31, the champion judo queen of Macao, has been coming to the centre for training almost daily since she was 12. “Judo is a complex, unpredictable game. In a match, the outcome is never certain. You can learn a hundred techniques, but if you are adept at manoeuvring, one or two skillful ones are enough to win,” she said.

In a contest, the petite athlete releases formidable

speed and force developed over years of hard training. In March 2013, she came first in the 48-kilogram category at the Hong Kong International Tournament. In January 2014, she came second in the 48 kilogram-category at the Lusofone Games in Goa, India. She retired as an athlete in late 2014 but continues to be a full-time coach.

Jerry Wong, 30, also practises regularly at Vitoria. “I started judo at 14 years old and have been mesmerised by it since then. Judo is like a game, full of challenges. It involves a lot of hard work, but gives me a great sense of satisfaction if I do it well.”

Joyce Leong, Macao’s first A-grade-judo coach and a leading judo athlete in the 1990s, recalls how judo was everything to her in her training days. “We practised all the time, even during the holidays. I started training at the age of 12 and retired at 25. Now, I am 41, but I am still involved in judo, as a coach and in organising events to promote the sport.”

Leong took part in numerous competitions in the 1990s, including the 11th Asian Games in Beijing, where she came fifth in the 61 kilogram-division.



Henry Chu



Akili Mac

“Judo is life to me. It has been my companion for the last thirty years. It teaches me that in life, no pain, no gain. One has to work hard to reach one’s goal.”

Among Leong’s judo pupils was Chang Choi Chan, who came fifth in the Asian Judo Championships in 2001 in Ulan Bator, Mongolia. Chang, 33, now runs judo classes in schools and is busily involved in affairs of the Macao Judo Association. She was voted an outstanding judo coach in 2013. “We said that we probably owed judo a lot in our previous lives and are now repaying our debt,” said Leong.

Prospering amid difficulties

It is because of this kind of passion that judo has been able to flourish in Macao against all odds. Judo athletes have won awards for Macao in international competitions, even in the earlier years when government support for them was limited. As coaches, they not only train the young but also help nurture in them a lifelong interest in the game. Their hard work is bearing fruit, as evident in the many awards Macao has gained in recent competitions for younger athletes.

At the 12th Macao International Cadets and Junior

Judo Tournament in July 2014, Macao won a total of 33 medals, of which six were gold and nine were silver. Over 200 athletes from 15 countries and regions took part.

Judo’s beginnings for Macao

It began in the 1960s, with the setting up of Macao’s first private judo school by a Korean teacher. When the school fell on hard times in 1975, a local student named Che Kuong Hon took it over. Kuong himself went to Japan for six months of intense judo training. On his return, he taught judo to local police and security guards.

Kuong and a group of like-minded judo enthusiasts helped to officially register the judo school as an association in 1980 and applied successfully to have it as a member of the Judo Union of Asia. In 1983, the Macao Judo Association became a member of the International Judo Federation, allowing it to take part in international competitions.

In the early years, the association was an amateurish, loosely bound sports group. Its big break into the international scene was Macao’s debut participation in the Asian Games in Beijing in 1990.



Joyce Leong

Amid high public expectations, the judo association assembled a team of about 20 athletes, Leong included, and hired for the first time a Japanese coach to train them. The rigorous professional training helped Joyce to secure a medal for Macao. The experience in Beijing was an eye opener and morale booster. "The national team made great advances after the 1990 Games, with systematic and intense training. We also took part in more international contests, with the women's team doing well," recalled Leong.

The ensuing years were a great era for Macao's judo, she added, thanks to government support in funds, logistics and other resources.

Between 1989 and 1998, top-calibre coaches were hired from Japan, where judo was founded and is the most developed. "These teachers raised our standards and brought the sport to a clearer path of development," said Leong.

With financial support from the government, the team went to Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and mainland China for short-term intensive training.

Another boost for the sport was the annual summer recruitment of youngsters for training, an activity jointly held by the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau and the Macau Sport Development Board. Hundreds of students had their first taste of the sport there; for many, it was the beginning of their life-long love for judo. Schools too started to have judo classes, recognising that judo was good for both the physique and the mind.

Losing momentum

After the handover of Macao to China in 1999, the sport lost momentum due partly to a new policy of localisation. No foreign coaches were hired for years. Local coaches such as Leong did their best, but the number of athletes started to fall.

"Compared to other sports, judo was less interesting to the young because it required a lot of hard work and the likelihood of making it to the higher ranks was not great," she said.

Competition results were unimpressive, as older athletes like Leong retired and new ones had yet to catch up. Government funding was reduced, so that even local coaches like Leong had to quit and pursue other careers.

In the late 2000s, the sport made a strong comeback, thanks again to a momentous sports event - the Olympic Games in Beijing in 2008. Not an Olympic member, Macao did not compete in the Games, but the excitement and pride generated by it prompted the government and the public to engage more in developing sports locally.

In 2009, a Japanese coach was hired, after a foreign hire freeze since 1998. "Japanese coaches are experienced in training youngsters and they place great emphasis on the basics. A good coach is very important; he or she not only is a teacher of the sport, but provides a focus for the team as well," said Leong.



Leong Siu Pou (left) and Tiffany Wong (right)

Training the young

At schools, judo is also becoming more popular. In the past, coaches were part-time teachers sent by the judo association. Now, there are retired athletes-turned-coaches who teach full time. "They can observe the progress of their students at close range and offer more training on campus," said Leong.

To further promote the sport among the young, the judo association organises annual tests to rank aspiring athletes. "It is important to provide young judo players with goals and satisfaction. A judo class is no longer just a place for parents to have their kids looked after and do a few somersaults."

Judo is attracting many young players, even the very young, like eight-year-old Akili Mac. "Every week, I come for two judo lessons. At home, my brother also teaches me whenever we are free. I hope to compete in contests in the future," she said.

Samantha Wong, 13, also enjoys judo greatly. "When

I was six, my mum asked me to choose between dancing and judo, as a hobby. I chose judo. I really enjoy the throwing technique of nage-waza. I wish to continue with the sport no matter how busy I am in the future," she said.

Marco Ho started judo two and a half years ago at 14. "The techniques of judo are very beautiful and smooth. I usually practise three times a week; I hope that I will be good enough to compete one day. With judo, you have to persist and push yourself more than with other sports. You need to think hard to predict your opponent's next move. You use different techniques for different situations," he said.

Leong, the judo veteran, watches closely how the new generation of players is being trained. "I note that the young players are very confident and have no fears about their opponents. It's probably because they are being exposed to international competitions more these days."



Sam Wai Ian, Tiffany Wong, Wong Kin Wai, Lo Chi Wai, Li Ka Tung, Eric Lau and Aquino da Silva (from left to right).

Tough competitors

Despite the optimism, Leong Siu Pao, Macao's champion judo queen, doubts if Macao can catch up with the fast-rising international standards of judo.

In Asia alone, there are many outstanding athletes in the categories of 48 and 52 kilograms, with Japan and Mongolia being particularly strong, she said.

"In Macao, there are many people practising judo these days. I am not sure how many will be able

to persist," she said. Students in Macao practise after school and during holidays. During the exam months, judo has to give way to studies. "Heavy home work and pressure from parents and schools to do well academically mean students can't spend much time on judo," she added.

In other countries, more and more youngsters are doing full-time professional training. They take part in many competitions and gain valuable experience.

"They practise several times a day; we only practice once a day."



Young Macao players are not deterred, however, by the tougher environment and plan to continue with it. Tiffany Wong, 19, said she will never give up judo because it is like a friend to her. "Judo is not only a physical challenge. It also tests your mind and endurance." In the summer of 2014 she had to put her willpower to the test. "I attended two competitions in Hong Kong and Macao. The first one did not go well because my mind was preoccupied and I was not aggressive enough. In the second (the Macau International Cadets and Junior Judo Tournament) I really put my heart and mind into it and I won first prize (in the under-48 kilogram category).

Samuel Cheng, 16, has been learning judo for a decade. "Judo used to be just a fun sport but it is now a goal in my life. I practise three to four times a week. I would love to participate in more

competitions. When I won the gold medal in a recent competition, I was so happy. Still, I know there is a lot of room for improvement."

Eric Lau, 25, started judo eleven years ago because the sport was exciting to him. "What I value most about judo is the principles about life you learn from it, such as the motto that when you fall down, you always need to get back up. Its challenges and techniques really fascinate me." Lau unfortunately injured his lower back at the Hong Kong International Judo Tournament three years ago and is unlikely to fully recover from the fall. "I'll still practise once or twice a week, but I won't be able to take part in contests any more. Many people in a similar situation would quit the sport completely but I've decided to go on with the training." Such is the depth of this young man's love for judo.

Marco Ho (l.) and Samuel Cheung (r.)





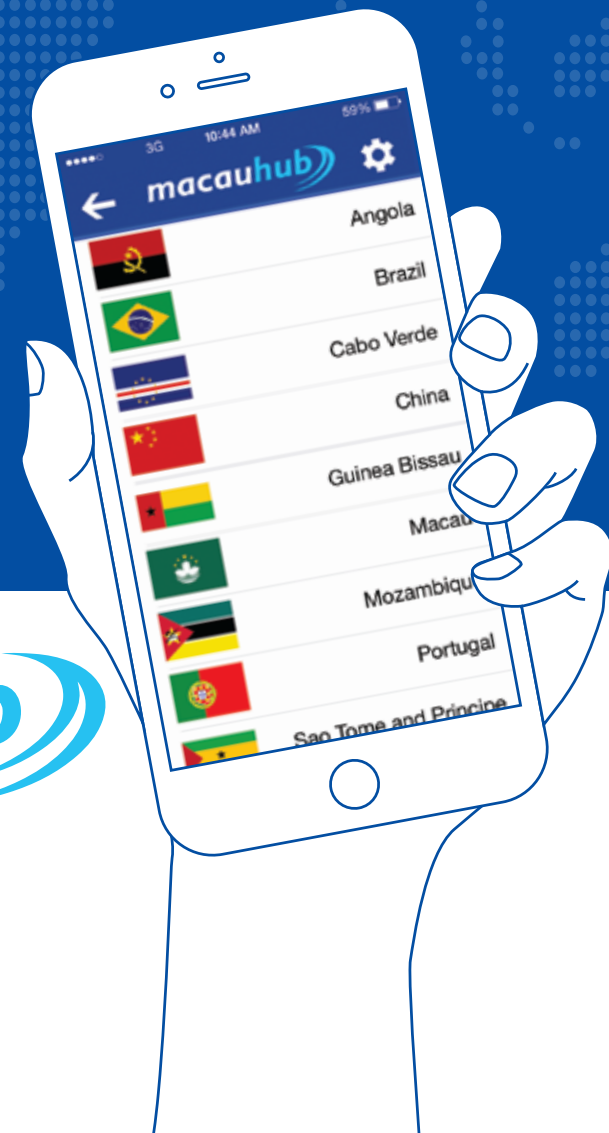
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Alliance is beacon of
French culture in Macao

Xavier Garnier, Director of the Alliance Française (Macao)

In a narrow street behind the former Governor's Palace is a building that has for the last 27 years been the beacon of French culture in Macao, providing classes and cultural events that have been enjoyed by thousands of people.

This is the Alliance Francaise, one of more than 1,000 in 137 countries around the world, that has since 1883 been promoting French language, paintings, sculpture, music and performing arts around the world.

Each year over 550,000 students attend its language courses and six million people attend its 20,000 cultural events, the vast majority of them free of charge. It has an annual budget of 188 million euros.

Last year, to mark its 130th anniversary, President Francois Hollande invited the directors of all the branches to the Elysee Palace in Paris to express his appreciation.

"The Alliance Francaise is like a noble old lady who is greatly respected and not to be touched," said Xavier Garnier, director of the Macao branch on Travessa do Bom Jesus since November 2013. "She owes this in part to the prestige of the Third Republic, a glorious period in French history, when she was born."

Macao branch

The Macao branch was founded in 1983 and has since taught more than 10,000 students, promoting French language and culture and enforcing the links between Macao and France.

It has four full-time teachers, as well as part-timers. "Our students are mainly Chinese, with a few Portuguese," he said. "In principle, we are open every day of the week. We are self-financing. So, if someone wants a course on a Sunday, we should provide it." The average cost is 70 patacas an hour. "We have classes for all ages, starting at three years old, and up to all levels. There are six levels, the top being C2. We have C1s among our current students here," he said.

It is hard work. Only a handful of schools in Macao teach French; the preferred languages are Mandarin, English and Portuguese. This means that the vast majority of students start from zero.

"Learning French is not easy. It requires a lot of effort and concentration, especially at the beginning," said Garnier. "Portuguese people over 40-50 speak very well but not the young ones."

He said that the main reason why people here study is out of pleasure and interest. "They have been to France for a holiday or plan to go. It is out of curiosity to discover France and French culture. They love our food and luxury goods." The cost of classes of some students is covered by the government. "People do not plan to work or study in France."

It is different in the Alliances on the Mainland; Garnier taught for four years at the branch in Beijing and was director in Jinan and Qingdao in Shandong province for six years. "There the pupils plan to study and work in France. They are intense and study for more than 20 hours a week. It is a different ambience."

Garnier is not an employee of the French state but of the committee of the Alliance Francaise de Macao, a non-profit-making association founded in 1987. This is the form of management used in 75 percent of the branches around the world; they are run by local people, with participation by French people and diplomats.

The aim is to anchor the Alliance firmly in the local location and under the management of people who know it well. The president of its general assembly here is Joaquim Neto Valente, one of the city's best known lawyers. The president of its executive committee is Madame Amber Li and the vice-president is Eric Sautede. Arnaud Barthelemy, Consul-General for Hong Kong and Macao, serves on the committee. Some members are French people who have lived here for a long time and want to keep a link to France. The Alliance has no religious or political affiliations.

Garnier has no fixed-term contract. "If the committee approves my work, I can stay as long as I wish. I enjoy the liveliness of Macao, the mix of cultures and all the contrasts. Cultural life here is intense. I am never bored."

Fifteen cultural events a year

Garnier is also director of the French Cultural Centre, which organises 15 events a year; all the costs are born by the Macao government.

The artists come not only from France but from the 77 members of la Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF), which was established in March 1970, to promote the language, culture and sports. "We aim to work with what is being done in



Alliance Francaise class

Macao," Garnier said. "In November, for example, we have invited a French mime artist to perform with a group of local artists." He arranges musicians and orchestras to come to perform in festivals put on here. Earlier this year the Alliance organised a workshop with a local association, AFA Art for All Society, and invited Blick Bassy, a musician from Cameroon, for World Music Day in June.

It was a partner of the French consulate who organised the French May in Macao.

"I have a wealth of choice," he said. "Many artists want to come to China not for the money but for the discovery and the experience. I prefer to work with one of the 5,000 civic associations of Macao and not so much with the casinos. Entertainment and culture are quite different."

In Macao, the Alliance has 700 students and 20,000 teaching hours a year. That compares with 100,000 hours a year in Qingdao; there the government does not subsidise the cultural events but the fees from the teaching are sufficient to pay for them.

Louis Pasteur and Jules Verne

The Alliance was founded on 21 July 1883 by a group of eminent men, including scientist Louis

Pasteur, diplomat Ferdinand de Lesseps, writer Jules Verne and publisher Armand Colin. Its mission was to promote the learning of the French language and French culture in the world.

It was a symbol of national renewal just 13 years after a crushing defeat by Prussia that led to the loss of Alsace-Lorraine and war reparations.

The first foreign Alliances opened in 1889 in eight cities around the world, from Shanghai to Prague and Mexico to Ile Maurice. In 1914, it built a new headquarters on 101 Boulevard Raspail in Paris, where it remains today.

During the last three decades of the 19th century, the country established many colonial areas in Indochina, Madagascar, Polynesia and West Africa. French became the lingua franca of these colonies.

When the Nazis occupied Paris in 1940, they closed the Alliance and removed its archives to Berlin. Its London branch became the international headquarters during World War II.

In 1943, from Alger, the capital of Algeria, General Charles De Gaulle, leader of the Free French, made a stirring speech to mark its 60th anniversary and reaffirm the mission of the Alliance, saying that it would survive and prosper after the war.

Today it covers the world. Its centre in Ile-de-France



Learning French

in the middle of Paris is the largest, receiving more than 11,000 students from 160 countries each year. It opened in 1894, making it the oldest teaching institute.

The Alliance runs a centre to train language teachers; each year nearly 2,300 are trained across the world, on site or via the Internet. It issues diplomas to enable people to work professionally as teachers. They give courses tailored for different needs – children, people working in companies and in the work place, as well as general instruction.

It has 111 chapters in 45 states in the US and 72 partnerships in Argentina, with 16,000 students, one of the largest in the world. Dublin is home to the third largest Alliance in Europe. It has branches in Ulan Bator, Vladivostok, Easter Island and Ushuaia, on the southern tip of South America.

In 1998, the Alliances returned to Russia and China. Now Mainland China has 15, while Hong Kong has three, the first opened in 1953.

In 2005, it received the Prince of Asturias Award for outstanding achievements in communications and humanities.

Garnier said that one reason for this global reach was its decentralised character; it is local people who take up the initiative and set up branches. Worldwide, they are self-supporting to the extent of 83 percent, with the French state covering the rest. Another factor is the 8,500 volunteers who contribute their services to the branches free of charge.

On its website, it outlines four missions – to teach French and develop its use on the five continents of the world; promote French culture and Francophone cultures in the world and the culture of the countries where it has branches; welcome and organise debates on the great questions of the day; be a platform for exchanges for its partners and cooperation projects between France and other countries.

French in the world

The Alliance is the pioneer in maintaining the status of the French language in the world.

It is spoken by 230 million people, ranking sixth after Mandarin, English, Hindi, Spanish and Arabic. Europe accounts for 40 per cent of them, sub-Saharan Africa and the Indian Ocean 36 percent and North Africa and the Middle East 15 percent.

After English, it is the second most widely learned foreign language in the world, with almost 120 million students and 500,000 teachers.

It is one of the six working languages of the United Nations, one of three procedural languages of the European Union and the sole one used in the EU Court of Justice. It is one of the working languages of many other international institutions. French and English are the only languages spoken all over the world.

TV5 Monde, the global French station, has 55 million viewers a week, while Radio France Internationale has 40.1 million.

But it is losing ground to English, which has become the global language of business and accounts for half the sites on the Internet. French accounts for only five percent of Internet pages, ranking seventh.

In March this year, on the occasion of the International Francophonie Day, French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius forecast that it would include 400 million people in 2025 and 700 million in 2050, of whom 80 million would be in Africa.

“In 2050, French will be the language of work, mobility and knowledge for more than 560 million Africans on a continent that should have economic growth of double digits,” said Yamina Benguigui, Minister for la Francophonie. “It is on this continent that the wonderful destiny of French will be realised,” she said.

She said that, to achieve this, it was vital to provide

enough teachers. To this end, the French government has launched a programme “100,000 Teachers for Africa”, with free courses online for students and teachers. They include courses designed for health, tourism and diplomacy.

Paris is home of the IOF whose president is AbdouDiouf, a former President of Senegal. It is another instrument to promote the language.

Jacques Attali is a member of the Sponsorship Committee of the Alliance and also a member of the Council of State. In August, he presented a report to President Francois Hollande on the future of French.

He also said that it could become the fourth most spoken language in the world by 2050, used by 770 million people.

But this is not a given. “There is the pressure of the other great international languages as well as local languages and the difficulties of some Francophone countries in the South to ensure access to education of their populations when they are exploding. A worst-case scenario could lead to the loss of 120,000 jobs in France by 2020, with a loss of attractiveness for French universities, culture and products.”

His report proposed 53 specific measures, to bring about the best outcome. One is to improve and expand the teaching of French, with more access and better materials; promote French films; improve the attraction of the French identity through more exports; establish a Francophone union of laws and standards; make a French economic union similar to the European Union; target seven key sectors, including tourism, digital technology, health, research and development, finance, infrastructure and mining and ‘make the Alliance Francaise the ambassador of our tourism’.

Louis Pasteur and Jules Verne would be delighted to hear it. ■





2015/01/21 Government expects visitors to grow 5 pct to 33 million this year

Visitor numbers are expected to grow five percent this year, from 31.5 million last year to 33 million this year, even as the city's gaming revenue is falling, Macao Government Tourist Office (MGTO) Director Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes said.

Senna Fernandes made the remark during the office's annual press conference where she announced that the city's visitor arrivals last year topped 31.5 million, a 7.5 percent growth year-on-year.

This year's total budget for the office amounts to 303.6 million patacas.

"Gaming revenue has not been at its best for the last six months but visitor arrivals continued to rise [and] mainland visitors were still going strong in the second half of last year so it's encouraging to see that visitors are not coming to Macao just to gamble" Senna Fernandes said.

About 21 million mainlanders visited Macao last year, a year-on-year growth of 14.1 percent. Some 42 percent of them came from Guangdong province. Mainlanders accounted for two thirds of all visitor arrivals last year.



2015/01/21 Macao expects legal assistance pact with HK this year

Secretary for Administration and Justice Sonia Chan Hoi Fan said that the local government would do its best to ink a mutual legal assistance agreement with its Hong Kong counterpart this year.

Asked by reporters as to whether the agreement will be applied to fugitives fleeing justice from either jurisdiction whose cases predate it, Chan said that the accord has not been finalised and some legal concepts were still under discussion between the two sides.

The policy secretary made the remarks at the Identification Services Bureau (DSI) after inspecting the bureau's services and facilities. The bureau is part of Chan's portfolio.

Asked by reporters about the latest developments concerning the mutual legal assistance agreement, Chan said that both governments were still working on it.

Once the pact is signed the problem of fugitives taking refuge in one of the two special administrative regions to avoid punishment in the other will finally be addressed.



2015/01/26 Traditional Chinese Medicine set to drive Macao's diversification

Beijing State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine (SATCM) Commissioner Wang Guoqiang said that as the mainland has created a favourable environment to develop traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) as an industry and as Macao is opening up new development opportunities, TCM was set to become an important area to drive Macao's economic diversification.

Wang, who also is a vice-minister for health, made the comments during a meeting at the SATCM headquarters in Beijing's Dongcheng district with Chief Executive Chui Sai On and his entourage regarding TCM cooperation between the mainland and Macao.

He also said that based on the 12th Five-Year Plan the related departments in the mainland were required to assist Macao in becoming a world tourism and leisure hub, as well as a platform for economic and trade services between China and Portuguese Speaking countries.

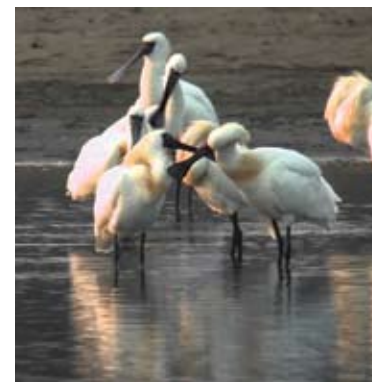


2015/01/29 Macao introduces new app showing waiting times for health centres

The Health Bureau (SSM) announced in a press conference that it has implemented new measures to reduce waiting times in public health centres, private hospitals and private clinics subsidised by the government, involving a new mobile app so that users can check the latest updates on queues so that patients can more easily decide where to seek medical treatment.

SSM Director Lei Chin Ion said the app was initially only available for Android but would soon be available for iPhone users as well, adding that for now there are both Chinese and Portuguese versions.

Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Alexis Tam Chon Weng, who presided over the press conference, had nothing but praise for the app. "This is something new and I believe that it is very useful. With the app's initiation, I believe that it will greatly reduce the waiting times and residents will see where they can receive treatment faster," he said, adding that the government may consider conducting a review of the app at the end of the year.



2015/02/01 Black-faced spoonbills reach all time high

Environmental Protection Bureau (DSPA) Acting Director Vai Hoi leong said that the number of black-faced spoonbills in Macao continues to rise and reached an all-time high last month.

"In the last few years, there has been a gradual increase in the number of birds coming to Macao. Take the black-faced spoonbill for example – we recorded 63 of them in January," said Vai.

"There hasn't been a decrease in the number of birds visiting. Still, we know it is not easy to preserve the conservation zone when factors such as traffic flows are taken into consideration ... but the number of black-faced spoonbills is the highest [on record] of all time," Vai said.

He added that the bureau may consider allowing more individual visitors to visit the conservation zone, which contains wetlands where the extremely rare black-faced spoonbills spend their winter.

Spoonbills are large water birds with dorso-ventrally flattened, spatulate bills. Confined to the coastal areas of Asia, the black-faced spoonbill population in a 2012 census was recorded at just 2,693 birds globally.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) classified the bird as an endangered species in 2005.



2015/02/17 Macao residential property prices rise 22 pct in 2014

Macao residential property prices rose 22 pct in 2014. The average price of residential units rose 22 percent year-on-year to 99,795 patacas per square metre of usable area last year, the Statistics and Census Bureau (DSEC) announced.

The average price per square metre of residential units in the Macao Peninsula (95,576 patacas), Taipa (106,316) and Coloane (122,697) rose 19.8 percent, 29.6 percent and 20 percent respectively.

The average price per square metre of pre-sale residential units (156,164 patacas) and existing residential units (85,219) rose 48.1 percent and 28.8 percent respectively.

The average price per square metre of office units and industrial units reached 121,112 patacas and 54,250 patacas respectively, up by 62.5 percent and 60.9 percent year-on-year.

Both the volume and value of real estate transactions suffered year-on-year declines last year: 13,200 building units and parking spaces changed hands at 83.69 billion patacas, down by 31.2 percent and 12.9 percent respectively.



2015/02/27 Macao's economy likely to shrink in first quarter of 2015

Lionel Leong says Macao's economy is likely to decline in the first quarter of 2015 if gaming revenues continue to drop.

The Secretary for Economy and Finance also says the government is taking note of the steep decrease in casino revenues reported during the Chinese New Year week.

Leong said if gaming income continues to drop, it will take a toll on the region's Gross Domestic Product, which may decline.

"Also the consumption pattern has been adjusted. We should say that regardless of the consumption or the fact that the consumption format has been adjusted. Therefore, we speculate that the GDP would also tend to drop," the Secretary said.

Leong was asked if tightening up restrictions on individual visit scheme tourists from mainland China would affect Macao's economy.

He said the government would discuss the tourism policies with mainland China.



2015/03/04 Macao gaming's revenue halves in February

Gross gaming revenue in Macao fell 48.6 percent year-on-year in February to MOP19.5 billion (US\$ 2.4 billion), according to the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau.

Revenue from retail players fell 35 percent, while VIP revenue fell 57 percent.

It was the first time in four years that Macao's monthly gaming revenue tally stood below MOP20 billion, according to official data.

The latest result means accumulated revenue for the first two months of 2015 stands 35.1 percent lower than in the same period in 2014, at MOP43.3 billion.

It also extends to nine months the period of consecutive monthly year-on-year decline in Macao gaming revenue.

The Macao Government Tourist Office said on Thursday that during what it described as "Chinese New Year golden week" visitor arrivals to Macao numbered 1,028,559 (including non-resident workers and students), according to preliminary statistics. It said that was a slight decrease of 2.4 percent over the corresponding period last year.



2015/03/04 Echo Chan is the new coordinator of the Forum Macau Support Office

Echo Chan Keng Hong is the new coordinator of the Support Office to the Permanent Secretariat of the Forum for Economic and Trade Cooperation between China and Portuguese Speaking Countries. Echo Chan, who was previously a director at the Macau Institute for Promotion of Trade and Investment (IPIIM), succeeds Rita Botelho Santos, who held the post since the creation of the Forum in 2003. In an order published in the Official Gazette, the Secretary for Economy and Finance appointed Echo Chan for the post whilst keeping her role as a non-executive director of IPIIM. Echo Chan graduated in economics from the University of Jinan, China, has a Master's degree in Business Administration from the University of Macau and a Portuguese Language diploma from the University of Coimbra in Portugal. Previously, Echo Chan was a coordinator of the Traditional Chinese Medicine Industrial and Scientific Park, as well as Chair of the Board of Directors of the "Guangdong-Macao Traditional Chinese Medicine Technology Industrial Park Development" and was director of Macau Investment and Development.



2015/03/04 Macao Chief Executive 'cautiously optimistic' about economy

Chief Executive Chui Sai On said he was "cautiously optimistic" about Macao's economic future. He made the remark before leaving for Beijing to attend the opening ceremony of the annual meeting of the third session of the 12th National People's Congress (NPC). The Gaming Inspection and Co-ordination Bureau (DICJ) revealed that Macao's gross gaming revenue fell 48.6 percent year-on-year to 19.54 billion patacas last month. Chui said that business cycles were inevitable and the drop in gaming revenue had been expected. He also said he expected the city's casinos to generate a monthly average of 20 billion patacas in gross revenue in the foreseeable future. He also said that everything was in line with the government's projections and that as the direction of the city's tourism had shifted from casinos to resorts, the decline in casino revenue would have no effect on the government's plan to talk to the central government about ways to improve the flow of mainland visitors to Macao, namely those travelling under the so-called individual visit scheme (IVS).



2015/03/05 Premier reaffirms support for Macao's development

The central government is determined to support the development of Hong Kong and Macao, and to promote co-operation between the mainland and the two special administrative regions, according to a government work report delivered by Premier Li Keqiang on Thursday. The central government will steadfastly carry out the principles of "one country, two systems," the people of Hong Kong governing Hong Kong, the people of Macao governing Macao, and both regions enjoying a high degree of autonomy, according to the report delivered at the third session of the 12th National People's Congress (NPC). "We will give full support to the chief executives and governments of the Hong Kong and Macau Special Administrative Regions in governing their regions in accordance with the law, growing the economy, improving people's standard of living, advancing democracy, and promoting social harmony," Li was quoted by Xinhua as saying.



2015/03/29 Macau Literary Festival –The Script Road joined China and Portuguese Speaking Countries

The 4th edition of the Macau Literary Festival –The Script Road – was held in March with writers, filmmakers and musicians from China and Portuguese Speaking Countries. Amongst the guests were Chinese writer Wang Anyi, author of The Song of Everlasting Sorrow, and Angolan author Ondjaki, winner of the Jabuti Prize (2010) and the Saramago Prize (2013). Also present at the festival were Wong Bik-wan from Hong Kong, Xi Chuan, Yang Hongying, Yan Ge and Murong Xuecun from China and Hung Hung from Taiwan. José Viegas, João Tordo, Maria do Rosário Pedreira and David Machado came from Portugal and Gregório Duvalier from Brazil. Cecília Jorge, Rogério Beltrão Coelho and Joe Tang were Macao's representatives at the Festival. The Script Road also presented films from Chinese director Ann Hui (The Golden Era), Portuguese directors João Botelho (Os Maias and Filme do Desassossego) and Miguel Costa (No Divã).



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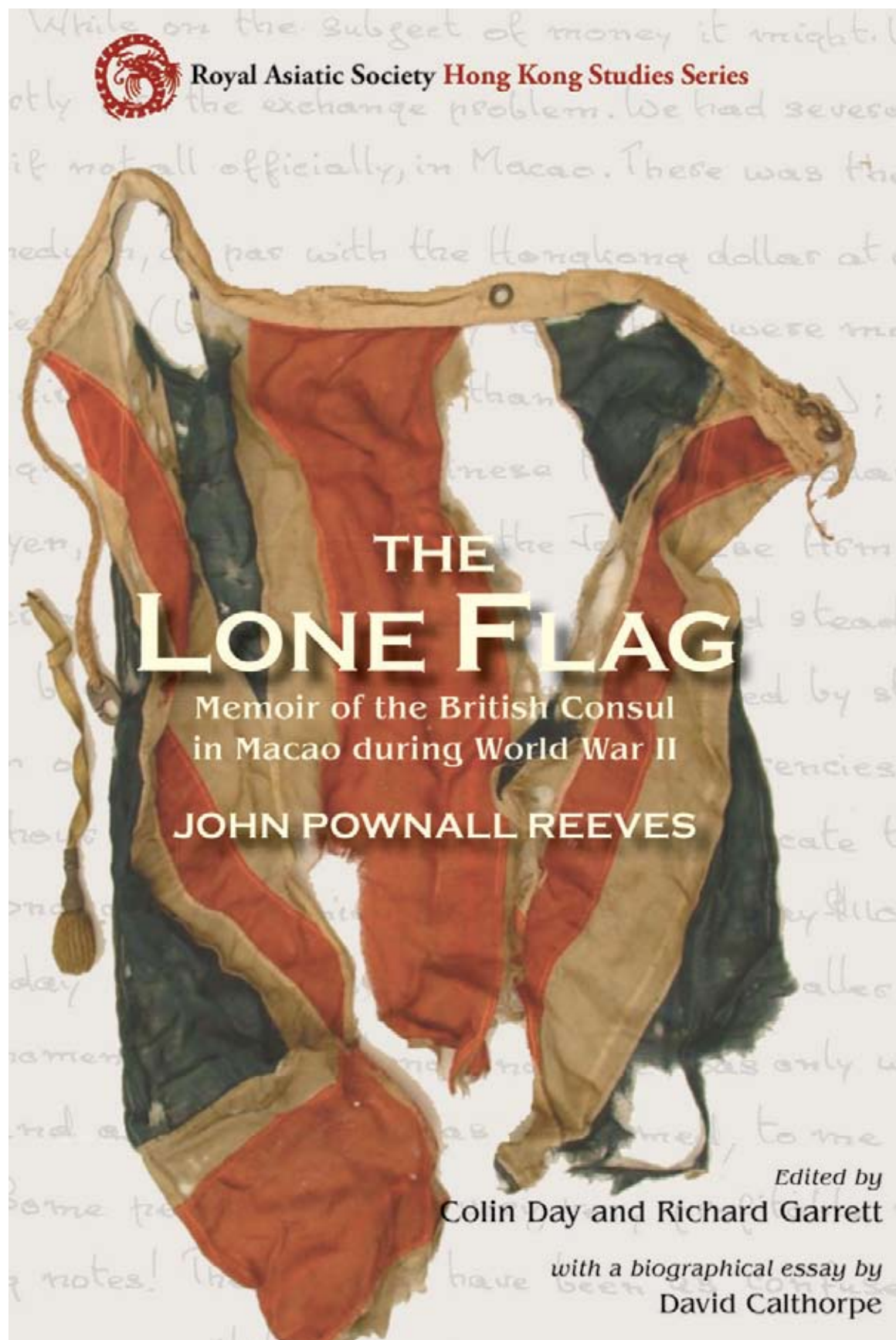
Macao celebrates Year of the Goat

2015 is the Year of the Goat according to Chinese zodiac. The Year of the Goat starts from February 19, 2015 (the Lunar New Year / Spring Festival of China) and lasts until February 7, 2016. During the Chinese New Year Macao received over one million visitors, an increase of three percent compared to the same period last year.









A Lone Defender

British consul describes dramatic World War Two in Macao

The Japanese ordered three attempts on his life, but none succeeded. He carried a gun on a shoulder holster every waking minute for three and a half years and went everywhere with an armed bodyguard. His neighbour, the Japanese consulate, was assassinated, probably by his own secret police.

This was war-time Macao and the life of John Pownall Reeves, British consul there between June 1941 and August 1946. It was the most extraordinary period in the city's history, when it was the only place in East Asia not under Japanese military occupation. Refugees from Hong Kong and neighbouring areas increased the population from 157,000 in 1927 to 245,000 in 1939 and nearly 500,000 in 1942; it was a territory of only 14.47 square kilometres. Everything was in short supply; no-one knew if or when the Japanese would take it over, as they could have done at any moment.

Precious first-hand account

Hong Kong University Press has just published "The Lone Flag", the memoir of Reeves during this dramatic period, as part of the Royal Asiatic Society Hong Kong Study Series. He began writing it immediately after the war and completed the manuscript in January 1949, when he was posted to Rome.

In October that year, the Foreign Office refused him permission to publish it, citing government policy over "official experiences" of members of the Foreign Service. So the world has had to wait for more than 60 years for this invaluable first-hand account of life in wartime Macao. Reeves died in South Africa in 1978.

During and after the war, Reeves realised that the experience was the highlight of his life. "We had an exciting time; I loved it. When I got back, someone in the Foreign Office said they were expecting me to look tired and ill. There was only one reply and it was truthful and spontaneous – 'but I kept my sense of humour'".

His greatest achievement was to look after the health, welfare and well-being of more than 9,000 British refugees; many survived thanks to him. This is the tribute which the British Consular Service wrote to him in September 1945: "Sympathy for his fellows, farsightedness in planning for dark and difficult days, dynamic in encouraging others to do their little bit for the community as well as for the common cause, resourceful in meeting ticklish situations, a good sportsman in every sense of the word, cut off from his fellow-countrymen and standing alone as it were in the midst of a disintegrating world, he held the British flag to the mast in this little neutral Portuguese colony, a symbol of courage and fortitude for all men to see."



Feeding the hungry, caring for the sick

Reeves, his wife and daughter arrived in Macao in 1939 after six years in China. He had been posted in 1933 to the British legation in Beijing, where he spent two years studying Chinese. He was posted to Hankou for three years and then as acting consul-general in Shenyang. He was a gifted linguist, having studied French, German and Spanish at Cambridge University; he does not say it in so many words in the book, but it would seem he spoke Portuguese too.

The family was in Macao for rest and recreation when the war broke out. He stayed there and took over as acting consul on 7 June 1941; he had one assistant, a steno-typist secretary. The city was already crowded with thousands of refugees who had fled the Japanese occupation of Guangdong province and much of southeast China.

Reeves' Calvary began after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour on 7 December; Japan declared war on the US and Britain.

He became almost totally cut off from the outside world. From that day until 14 August 1945, the day Emperor Hirohito surrendered, his consulate

received no mail, no private correspondence and nothing which could not be transmitted by radio. He knew very little of what was happening in the world. His only link was short-wave radio and an international cable that linked the colony to Lisbon and London.

After the fall of Hong Kong, refugees began to arrive. The fortunate ones stayed with friends and family or in homes, hospitals, schools, clubs and churches. The rest lived on the streets or in camps or centres, with no hot water and poor sanitary conditions. The death rate, which had been 3,000-4,000 in 1930, rose to a peak of 16,000, from starvation, disease and cold; there were cases of cannibalism. Everything was in shortage. In 1941, Macao had just ten doctors and three hospitals: others were later allowed in from Hong Kong.

Reeves was responsible for those with British nationality. This was often hard to establish since most refugees had no passport or nationality document and many claimed it without the proper papers.

In the end, he was responsible for 9,000 people, including thousands of Chinese who had no proof of British citizenship other than sworn statements they

had been born in Hong Kong. With limited food, medicines, materials and staff, he organised relief centres and medical clinics. His final records showed that, during the war, they handled 4,118 cases and 33,000 papers, with a budget of HK\$ 25 million, provided promptly by the Foreign Office through telegraphic transfer via its embassy in Lisbon.

Much of his work was to persuade and inspire people to take part in the relief effort and work beyond the call of duty. "The nurses and the rest of the administrative staff worked selflessly and magnificently in circumstances of discomfort and difficulty."

He enjoyed an excellent personal relationship with the Governor, Gabriel Mauricio Teixeira; this greatly facilitated his work.

Death at any moment

Reeves never knew how long he would live. The Japanese Kempeitai, secret police, and the Chinese who worked for them could have arrested or killed him at any time.

"What you have in your head can be forced out of it by the delirium of torture and I was under no illusions as to the sort of treatment I could expect if the Nips laid their hands on me." His house was next to that of the Japanese consul, Mr Fukui, who was himself assassinated, possibly by the Kempeitai, because of his neutral leanings. This meant that the Japanese knew a great deal about his activities.

"How much the Japanese really wanted me removed I have never known. I know the reward for me once went up to 4,000 pounds and one immediately asks why it was not earned. The answer is not far to seek; in this sort of job, the Japanese were working through Chinese gangsters and those somewhat low types were aware that they were unlikely to live to collect in view of the way I was armed, of the fact that my bodyguard was always with me and that I was normally shadowed by one or two Chungking gunmen (of the Nationalist government). And the Japanese could certainly not be trusted to pay a widow."

He always carried a gun, which he removed only to take a bath and to play hockey.

In early 1945, three American airmen who had been shot down in the sea arrived in a sampan. At Reeves' instruction, they dumped their uniforms in the



harbour and took a long bath in his house. Governor Teixeira agreed not to intern them and told him to get them out of Macao as soon as possible. Taken out on a junk, they managed to evade capture by the Japanese.

Improving morale

Reeves also threw his energy into organising events to improve morale among the refugees and the residents. These included dances, parties, clubs, sports and other activities to help pass the time and raise the spirits of the people.

Reeves was a keen player of hockey, a game at which Macao excelled. He and others organised a senior league, a ladies' league and a junior league. His team called itself Valentines (Valiants) and wore a red, white and blue V on white shirts.

"On the whole, morals and morale were good ... We had our looser members, our prostitutes, our thieves, our scandal-mongers and our liars. But less than a dozen were called in by the police. None ever lost his temper with the Japanese. The Governor told me that he had heard of no incident involving Japanese and refugee. That I consider a clear sign of self-restraint and strength of morale."



Macao, 1945

After the war, Reeves was warmly praised in public tributes by the Hong Kong Portuguese and Eurasian communities, his own government and by the newspapers. He received the Order of the British Empire for his service.

Aftermath

Nothing in Reeves' life after the war matched his experience in Macao.

This is how his friend David Calthorpe expressed it in a biographical essay included in the book.

"His work on behalf of the refugees ... was more than just duty to king and country. It was a deep love for China and, in particular, the city of Macao and its people. It was the crowning point of a career that was curtailed by circumstances, both personal and otherwise. He was the right man, at the right time, to perform the humanitarian task which history entrusted to him."

After the war, he and his wife were judicially separated but did not divorce.

In September 1947, he was posted to Rome and, in 1949, was made consul for East Java, living in Surabaya. There he met Tessa Schukking, who was to be his companion for the rest of his life. At the end of his posting, he left the consular service and they moved to South Africa. He worked as a broadcaster on South African radio for nearly 20

years. In 1972, they retired to the small village of Malmesbury, north of Cape Town. Their house was full of the furniture, paintings and other artefacts he had brought from China.

He died in 1978 in Malmesbury; he never returned to his beloved Macao nor saw China again. ■





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From Fragrant Mountain to Economic Miracle

Zhongshan becomes Third Italy in the Pearl River Delta

Zhongshan, birthplace of Dr Sun Yat-sen, has become one of the most important industrial cities in China. It is the one of the world's largest producers of electrical appliances and its goods compete with those of advanced countries.

It has developed clusters of production in its different townships, similar to those in Italy, leading people to call it the Third Italy of China.

It has recorded rapid economic growth for the last three decades, enabling its per capita GDP in 2013 to reach US\$ 13,473, ranking it among the upper middle income cities of the world.

The key to this success has been the development of its own brands and technology; it has not simply become a mass producer of goods for foreign companies, like many cities in China. This has enabled it to weather the storms in the international economy and build up a strong market share at home and abroad.

It has also become popular for second homes or retirement for Hong Kong and Macao people, through preserving its Cantonese character and a good living environment.

History

Xiangshan (Fragrant Mountain) was the name of Zhongshan until 1925; it was originally a group of islands in the sea at the western part of the Pearl River estuary.

It had a strategic location guarding the entrance of the waterway to Guangzhou. When the Portuguese came in the Ming Dynasty, they settled in Macao in Xiangshan. For 400 years until the late 19th century, Macao was placed under the jurisdiction of the Xiangshan county government. Together with Macao, Xiangshan enjoyed the benefits of the trans-continental cargo trade between the Portuguese colony, Nagasaki, Manila and Lisbon.

Over 600 years, natural silting and man-made encirclement of land for farming built up a plain joining the islands together and merging the three deltas of tributaries of the Pearl River. Xiangshan became a fertile plain for rice growing and farming for sericulture as well as for fruits, flowers and fish farming. This produce and its place on the trading route brought great prosperity and a rapid



Xiangshan map (1815)



Sun Yat-sen Memorial Park

population increase, with migrants arriving from eastern Guangdong and Fujian province.

Since the middle of the Qing dynasty, the towns in the county have become part of the larger network of industrial and trading towns of the Pearl River Delta, surrounding and feeding from the metropolis of Guangzhou and its two outposts of Macao and Hong Kong.

Large-scale emigration

During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, there were large waves of out-migration from the region, in particular to the new continents of North America and Australia; Hong Kong was the most important transit point for the migration and remittances came back to the native towns and villages.



The whole delta was integrated into one economic system, although Hong Kong and Macao were under foreign rule. Because they were free trade ports, there were no restrictions on cross-boundary flows of goods and passengers. In fact, differences in tax levels in Hong Kong and Macao compared to other parts of the PRD stimulated smuggling from the two. Xiangshan and Macao belonged to the same geographic and economic system. As

residents could easily travel across borders, Macao served as the place for work while the towns and villages in Xiangshan remained as the homes for their families.

These close economic and social ties between Xiangshan and other PRD towns and villages with Hong Kong and Macao made the delta an outward-looking region before 1949. Xiangshan changed its name to Zhongshan in honour of its most famous

son, Sun Zhong-shan, after his death in 1925.

During the Republican era, it took advantage of its highly productive agriculture and its geo-strategic location for commerce, industry and foreign trade to become one of the richest areas in China and a model county. It produced most of the compradors working in the foreign hongs in Hong Kong, Shanghai and other treaty ports, including famous names like Tang Ting-shu, Xu Lun and Zheng Guan-ying. Some became

government officials and promoted modernisation and open-door policies. It was the most open and externally linked county in Guangdong and in China.

The Communist revolution unified China and brought long-term political and social stability. Despite political movements in the cities and collectivisation in the countryside, the PRD did not suffer. The stability provided the best environment for the consolidation and further growth of agriculture in the county, with Hong Kong and Macao as lucrative markets. The county also benefited from remittances of overseas relatives in Hong Kong and the US. Compared with less than two million local residents in Zhongshan, there are nearly one million Zhongshan people living just in Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan who have never forgotten their native villages and towns.

Economy revives with open door

The open-door policy and economic reform from 1978 revived the economic ties of Zhongshan with Hong Kong, which had marched forward to join the league of top ten industrial exporters in the world, with an intensive industrialisation from the 1950s to 1970s. It suffered from cost inflation in the 1970s and tried to diversify its industry and economy. The opening up of the PRD with three special economic zones (SEZ) was the most opportune moment for Hong Kong to relocate its export industries to low-cost production sites in the villages and towns in the delta. The relocation first concentrated in Shenzhen and Dongguan, which were closer to Hong Kong. At that time, the delta had poor transport and telecommunication links, while Shenzhen was an SEZ next to Hong Kong.

Shenzhen and Dongguan became popular locations for Hong Kong firms to process industrial goods for export. Most of this was export-oriented industrial processing, which was determined by orders of buyers from Hong Kong and overseas. It was standardised mass production using low-cost labour and land and imported equipment. Because of the flexibility of institutions and policy in the areas, production grew at a very rapid pace. But most of the revenue and profits went overseas to buyers and their agents in Hong Kong and Taiwan.



Zhongshan downtown

Zhongshan and the neighbouring cities of Foshan and Jiangmen pursued a different path - import-substitution producing by small and medium-sized firms, most of them for the Chinese market. Foreign investment was limited and what there was also targeted the domestic market. The first wave of investment was in electrical appliances and consumer electronics. In the 1980s and early 1990s, China faced a shortage in the supply of these modern goods from overseas. Demand was enormous; Zhongshan made the best use of its proximity to Hong Kong -- convenient for the import of parts and components for assembly as well as production equipment, knowledge, technology and management. It became the largest producer of these new consumer durables in China. Local brands from the area have overtaken many national famous brands because of their timely import of styles, design and technology, especially from Japan and Italy, via Hong Kong. A very profitable synergy took place between Zhongshan and Hong Kong. Due to its early success in consumer electronics and electrical appliances Zhongshan was so prosperous

that, with Dongguan, Nanhai and Shunde, it was named one of the 'four little tigers of Guangdong'. It was as successful in its policy of import substitution as Dongguan was in export processing.

World production centre

The changes in domestic consumer preferences and global demand led Zhongshan to develop new industries - small household appliances, like electric rice cookers and electric fans, of which Zhongshan soon became the biggest producer in the world. In addition, it made air conditioners with many varieties for industrial, office and home use and developed as an OEM (original equipment manufacturing) base for a comprehensive range of electrical appliances, including updated LCD panel televisions for all important Chinese brands; consumer electronics, especially acoustics; lamps and lighting fixtures; locks and security devices, including those used in cars; stoves and other kitchen and bathroom ware, including heaters; furniture, in particular made of mahogany and in US styles; elevators with

German and Japanese technology and investments; garments and clothes, notably casual dresses, jeans and underwear; and paper and food for Guangdong cuisine.

Many local industries have become leaders in the country, like jean production, which constitutes 40 percent of national production, and lighting fixtures 60 percent. With its neighbouring cities, Zhongshan has emerged as the largest production base of electrical appliances and small household appliances in the world, with specifications and standards equal to those of advanced countries like Japan and Italy. Compared with the industrial processing of Dongguan and Shenzhen, volume of production is relatively small. But factories in Zhongshan have developed their own R&D and brand names together with national and international distribution networks. Industrial processing firms are just OEMs, vulnerable to market shifts when buyers take their orders to those

who offer lower production costs. Zhongshan's manufacturers are capable of competing in the national and international markets independently and have built up the knowledge for further evolution and upgrading.

Most of the firms in Zhongshan are start-ups; most remain small and medium-sized, with those of the same industry grouped together in the same town to share local knowledge, resources and infrastructure. They are, in many ways, like firms in industrial districts in the so-called Third Italy. The specialties are lighting fixtures in Guzhen, elevators in Southern District, electrical appliances in Nantou and Dongsheng, household appliances in Dongfeng, acoustics equipment and locks in Xialan, mahogany furniture and jeans in Dachong, American-style furniture in Bangfu and processed meat in Huangpu. For each industry in each town, there is a cluster of several hundred up to 1,000 firms taking part in the production chain.



Second homes

In the 21st century, the real estate and service sectors have become an important driver of the economy. Because of improved transport links, Zhongshan has become closer to Guangzhou, Hong Kong and Macao; the three core cities have become one hour away. This has drawn residential and business demand from residents and firms in these cities, making the expansion of the service economy a healthy supplement to slower industrial growth. In particular, real estate development, especially housing for non-local residents, has become a major engine of growth. This is very attractive to residents in Hong Kong, who may or may not have social ties in Zhongshan; but all suffer from spiralling property

prices at home.

Since 2000, Zhongshan has become one of the most popular locations for second homes or retirement for Hong Kong residents. This is due in part to the strong social ties between the two cities, including the Cantonese dialect and Guangdong cuisine, which make it different to Putonghua-speaking Shenzhen. It is also due to the fact that the city is more livable because it is less polluted by automobiles, commerce and overcrowding than Shenzhen and Guangzhou. Older Hong Kong and Macao residents can find many traces of their old city and social life of the 1950s and before in Zhongshan and living costs are much lower. It is easy to travel to Hong Kong, Macao and Guangzhou as local transport has been greatly improved. ■



Zhongshan Pagoda

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Brazil in a Ball

It is no cliché to say that Brazil is the capital of football and the sport is embedded in the Brazilian psyche. The sport was born in England and introduced to São Paulo at the end of the 19th century. It went far beyond the football fields and was instrumental in the fight against prejudice, discrimination and racism. This story is told in the multi-media Football Museum, housed in one of the most iconic stadia of Latin America's financial capital.



Daniela Alfonsi

"Why did we lose?" The question seems normal for any team beaten in the World Cup (WC), which was the case for Brazil in the last tournament in 2014. But here it had a special resonance, because the whole country expected the national team, as the host nation, to win.

In fact, that is the expectation for every WC. The idea might be inconceivable in the rest of the world, but in Brazil it is the norm. No wonder that the deception is as dramatic as the expectation.

In a recent temporary exhibition at the Football Museum, in the Pacaembú stadium in São Paulo, visitors were welcomed by these questions at the entrance - "why did we win?" and "why did we lose?" in the 20 tournaments since the WC began in 1930. "It was a teaser for the football fans," explained Content Director Daniela Alfonsi. "As the anthropologist Roberto DaMatta once said, football is a window to think about Brazil's history. It is the history of the Brazilian people, its racial integration and its projection to the world."

Of course, the statistics help. Brazil has won five WCs,

more than any other country. "Football helps people to think about Brazil, from the point of view of who won," said Alfonsi. To be a winner is an important factor in a nation that has suffered chronically from poor education and social inequality, with tragic consequences in terms of corruption and violence. There is a noticeable lack of pride for their own country in the speech of the average Brazilian, but football is the exception. That is why the sport is an object of study about Brazil in historical, sociological and emotional terms.

It was also the main reason to create the Football Museum. The idea was born in 2005 and came to completion three years later, combining the contributions of the state government and city council of São Paulo and private sponsor, the Roberto Marinho Foundation.

Since its inauguration in September 2008, it has been visited by more than 2.5 million people. The 15 rooms of the permanent exhibition lie below the stands of the Pacaembú stadium, which is a symbol of the city, like the Maracanã stadium in Rio de Janeiro. It has 1,500 images, more than five hours of videos and excellent interactivity.

The museum is also home of the Brazilian Football Reference Center, an impressive archive with 1,700 books and more than 150 references about football in São Paulo, 260 interviewees and details of 493 stadia, professional and amateur teams and fan clubs. But what are the reasons for such a deep impact on society, with no parallel anywhere else in the world, including Britain where football was invented?

Historical coincidences

Football arrived in Brazil at the end of the 19th century thanks to Charles Miller. He was a Brazilian sportsman of English and Scottish descent who introduced football to São Paulo in 1894, having learned the sport in a public school in Southampton. Miller was instrumental in the creation of the football team at the São Paulo Athletic Club, founded six years before by the British community in the city and where cricket was the main sport. It started as an amateur sport for the elite, but the appeal of its simplicity - a ball, two teams and a pitch - quickly spread from elite circles to the streets, as the Brazilian working class grew increasingly fond of the new sport.

A combination of factors in Brazil at the end of the century helped to stimulate the popularity of football. The new country, independent of Portugal only in 1822, was starting its first wave of industrialisation; it attracted tens of thousands of immigrants from all over Europe, willing to work hard and at the same time forge new bonds of identity and integration. Football was the perfect

answer. An explosion of clubs and associations in the working class areas of São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, the country's capital at the time, followed.

It was a way of bringing together foreign communities in their leisure time. The Vasco da Gama in Rio was traditionally the club of the Portuguese community, whereas the Palestra Itália - renamed Palmeiras during the Second World War - was home for São Paulo's Italians. The Jabaquara Atlético Clube was founded by Spaniards in the port city of Santos and the Sport Club Germânia - later Esporte Clube Pinheiros - was launched by Germans, also in São Paulo.

The urban elites were quickly losing control of the sport they had pioneered but could not believe what was about to come - or indeed accept it.

The vast Brazilian black and mixed-race community was only freed from slavery in 1888 by the "Lei Áurea" (Golden Law). But this momentous event was not followed by an inclusive policy; it created an army of marginalised urban poor, condemned to menial and badly paid jobs and excluded from the social and economic ladder.





Football was one of the few pleasures of male workers in the shanty towns where they lived. What they lacked in opportunities, they made up for in sporting skills.

By then, the huge success of football had led to local and regional tournaments, forcing clubs to look beyond their white ranks and hire black and mixed-race players to remain competitive.

This caused a huge controversy as black sportsmen were banned from elite clubs. The conservative elites would not accept them without a fight.

The most extraordinary example of this racial and social prejudice was Carlos Alberto, the first black player of Rio's exclusive Fluminense football club;

he had to cover his face and body in powdered rice to play against other teams. During one match, the powder gradually melted, exposing his black skin and leading to the expression "pó de arroz" (rice powder) to refer to the upper-class club. It also exposed how gifted he was, in spite of the shock and anger of the board.

The result was that, over three decades, the elite clubs were forced to revoke the ban. Vasco da Gama was the first to include black players in its team, becoming Rio's League champions in 1923. The elite clubs did not accept this and banned Vasco da Gama, when it refused to expel its black players, until 1925. The defiance paid off; by 1933, when football

became a professional sport in Brazil, the majority of big clubs had black players in their ranks.

The World Cup phenomenon

This shift coincided with a change in ideological and racial policy in Brazil. The country decided to accept miscegenation as the social fabric of the country, instead of insisting on the racial superiority of whites. Therefore in 1930, when the Brazilian team played in the first World Cup in Uruguay, it was ethnically mixed.

This first participation was disappointing, with Brazil ending in sixth place among 13 teams. But

steadily the national team built up a "Brazilian way" of playing, different to the Europeans. The style got noticed and admired internationally. Black players were directly linked to this innovative approach to football. In the 1938 World Cup in France, the first Brazilian hero was born. Brazil achieved third place and Leônidas da Silva, a striker from Rio's Flamengo Football Club, became a star for his skills and agility. The most famous one was the "bicycle kick" volley, which he invented and left the French crowds delighted and the referees dazzled and confused. He got the nicknames of "Black Diamond" and "Rubber Man".

Back home, the success of the national team made Brazilians proud but did little to improve the living conditions of the black population. Nevertheless, their visibility started to grow in sports and in the arts, and even today, football is considered by many black teenagers and poor people in general the only way to move up in the world. It remains difficult for them to afford a proper education and obtain well-paid jobs.

Football became the common denominator of the whole population, regardless of ethnicity or social and economic background.

A spirit of permanent winning evolved and became deeply rooted in people. Victories produced a reaction of ecstasy, while defeats were somehow apocalyptic: when things go wrong, words like 'blackout' and 'fatality' are used by the media to this day.

The World Cup of 1950 in Brazil was a landmark. On 16 July, the hosts played the final in the newly inaugurated Maracanã stadium against Uruguay. The country anticipated a certain victory, but the Latin American neighbours ended up winning by 2-1, in a debacle described by the national media as "Maracanazo" - a word play with the name of the stadium. The word erupts regularly when Brazil is defeated or plays badly. Scapegoats were immediately named. Many said that it was not the fault of the team but of the goalkeeper. The dark legacy was so enduring that the accused, Moacir Barbosa Nascimento, said in 1994: "In Brazil, the maximum sentence for any crime is 30 years. I am being punished for 44." He was one of the best goalkeepers in the world during the 40s, but, when he died in 2000, he was mostly remembered for that fatal match.

On 9 July 2014, Brazil again hosted the tournament but was thrashed 7-1 by Germany, the eventual winners. It was the feared ghost of the Maracanazo all over again.

Remarkably, as in 1950, nobody could find a reasonable explanation for such a comprehensive defeat. The coach Luiz Filipe Esclari put all responsibility on himself. Yet, he and the players struggled to explain the loss. So had nothing changed in 64 years?

"Brazilians accepted the idea that the team was always good," explained Alfonsi. "But, if we compare this defeat with the one of 1950, there are many differences. Today's society is very different and the place of football in it is different as well. After the defeat by Germany, most of the Brazilian public immediately opted for irony and turned the fatality into jokes, rather than succumb in the face of the humiliating defeat, as in 1950. I just hope that this time, instead of a national trauma, we reflect on how to restore the Brazilian national team. The model chosen by the Brazilian Football Federation this time didn't work."

A possible explanation has to do with the way football is organised. Brazil has big teams but little money to pay the players; this results in the departure of the best ones to the top European teams who offer golden contracts. Few return, which leads to a crisis of soccer stars who play in the country. And Brazil produces some of the best in the world.

Pelé – the nickname for Edson Arantes do Nascimento – tops the list. He is arguably the best

footballer of all time and is associated with Brazil's victories in the World Cups of 1958, 1962 and 1970. Not as internationally famous as Pelé, but uniquely gifted is Garrincha – nickname for Manuel Francisco dos Santos – who shot to stardom in the World Cups of 1958 and 1962.

There are many more, but these two stars encapsulate how much football is rooted in the Brazilian psyche.

It touches all areas of life, of which politics is the most sensitive.

"Curiously enough, elections in Brazil have coincided with the WC tournaments since 1986," said Alfonsi. "One cannot establish a direct association of politicians with football, but it is known that governments, both during the dictatorship and the democracy, linked themselves to Brazilian football, especially with the victories," she added. President Lula, for instance, welcomed the winning team of 2002 in the capital Brasília.

Open future

After the World Cup, the curators met to decide how to showcase the events of June and July 2014 in the museum. "Why did we lose?" asked many people. That is the beauty and challenge of an institution like this one: it is never finished and is in constant evolution. Its main mission is to tell the history of the Brazilian people through football. And the experiences of the past have shown how football can change the country in ways that politicians can only dream of. ■



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Branching Out



Taiwan National Palace
Museum builds southern
branch in Taibao



A majestic structure in the shape of a ballet dancer is rising up next to a lake in southwest Taiwan on what used to be a sugar cane field.

This is the southern branch of the National Palace Museum (NPM), the world-famous collection of Chinese art treasures that attracted 4.5 million visitors in 2013, ranking seventh among museums in the world.

The southern branch is due to open at the end of December 2015. Its title is Museum of Asian Art and Culture – it will show art not only from China but also from Korea, Japan and other countries in Asia. Items from the Taipei museum will be on display there.

The new museum involves an investment of NT\$ 7.933 billion and will include a five-star hotel and tourism facilities under the 'build, operate and transfer' model.

Delayed construction

The project was first proposed in 2003 and officially approved the next year as a museum of Asian art and culture, with a focus on archiving, research, preservation, education and the display of relics and artefacts from Asia.

The first contract for architectural design, with an

American firm, and supervision of construction was signed in April 2007. The design called for a man-made lake, which was built. Due to contractual disputes, the work stopped.

The museum held a second round of competition. Kris Yao, the renowned Taiwan architect, won the contract with a new concept of using Chinese calligraphy as the inspiration in design to create the form of the museum.

Taiwan is an area subject to heavy rainfall and typhoons in the summer and vulnerable to earthquakes; therefore, several important design elements focus on high-standard flood control,

structural seismic design and sustainability. The building has attained a Taiwan Green Building (EEWH) diamond certificate. Together with its unique architectural form, it is base-isolated with the Friction Pendulum System (FSP) to reduce tremors in the event of an earthquake, in order to protect the priceless national treasures.

The museum covers 20 hectares, with an area of 38,413 square metres on four floors, out of the total site area of 70 hectares.

It will have six permanent galleries, one special exhibition hall and one loan exhibition hall. The permanent galleries will show Asian Buddhist art, Asian woven products, Asian tea culture, Asian ceramics, digital arts and the history of the development of Chiayi.

There will also be special exhibitions of the treasures from the NPM in Taipei. The first will be "Exquisite Beauty Islamic Jades", then one of blue and white porcelain from the Ming and Qing dynasties, one of jewellery and accessories from the Qing palace and jades from the Qing dynasty.

The NPM is also in discussions with the Musée Guimet in Paris for loans of an exhibition of Cambodian arts and relics and with the Museum of Oriental Ceramics in Osaka and the National Museum of Korea for an exhibition of Korean blue porcelain.

Chinese calligraphy

The ground-breaking ceremony took place on 6 February 2013.

The museum will be a steel frame structure, of reinforced concrete walls with stone cladding, cast aluminium plates and IGU (insulated glass unit) single low-e glass.

Most visitors will arrive by crossing a bridge 140 metres long over the lake. "When we won the contract, the lake was already built, so we took the opportunity to use it as an advantage for this project," said Kuo-Chien Shen, a partner of KRIS YAOIARTECH and principal of the design team for the project. "The water of the lake creates a reflection of the building and adds to the visual effect. It also brings ecological diversity in terms of green landscape design."

The walk will give the visitors a spectacular view of the structure.



Shen explained that Asia was home to three great civilisations – China, India and Persia, represented by the dragon, elephant and horse respectively – and that each has its own distinctive features. These images are incorporated into various architectural detail designs.

“Yao’s inspiration for the building is Chinese calligraphy,” he said. “This includes three elements – thick ink, half-dry strokes and smearing. The thick ink forms the dark solid mass which hosts the exhibition rooms, where natural lighting needs to be eliminated. The half-dry stroke is the more transparent building mass, hosting the café, library and offices. Finally, the smearing stroke is the courtyard bamboo garden in between, creating an outdoor promenade plaza for the visitors.”

The building orientation takes sun exposure and wind direction into consideration. Chiayi has strong sunshine; so the west wing is designed as a solid mass and the east side structure frames act as vertical sunshades.

“It is a very complicated structure with more than 36,000 aluminum plates as its exterior skin,” said Shen, in explaining the exterior wall pattern of the building. The design is a pixilation of a dragon pattern selected from Ch’in dynasty bronze ware. The idea is to excerpt part of the ancient design, transform it into modern architectural language and elaborate with Chinese culture’s fondness for

decoration.

“We have a very tight schedule to complete the building by the end of 2015. Everything must go well,” said Shen.

The site is in Taibao city in Chiayi County and just minutes from the Chiayi station on the island’s High Speed Railway between Taipei and Kaohsiung. This will make it easily accessible to the majority of the island’s population and the millions of tourists who come every year.

The site will include a visitor service area and thematic landscaped gardens, with miniature gardens of Asia. There will be commercial facilities and performance space. There will be two lakes and two ecological islands, with a part of the site maintained as a wetland, to help with flood prevention.

Since October 2009, the NPM has been conducting educational promotion programmes in Chiayi, to train volunteers as tour guides and for other services for the visitors. It has invited renowned scholars from local and overseas universities to teach Asian art programmes. It has trained more than 200 volunteers who will be able to work as guides as soon as the museum opens.

It aims to bring economic benefits to the southwest districts of Yunlin, Chiayi and Tainan and be integrated with tours of Alishan, Dongshi fishing port and the Aogu wetland and forest park. The government of Chiayi County is aiming for four



million visitors a year for the museum and the other tourist attractions of the area.

KRIS YAO | ARTECH

KRIS YAO | ARTECH was founded by Kris Yao in 1985. A native of Taipei, he received degrees in architecture from Tunghai University and the University of California at Berkeley. His firm now has 160 staff, of whom 100 work in the Taipei main office and 50 in the Shanghai office.

Most of its projects are in Taiwan and the Asia-Pacific region. They include commercial/office buildings, hotels, transportation facilities and institutional buildings. His well-known projects include the Hsinchu station of the High-Speed Train, Shih Chien University, the Water Moon Monastery in Taipei, the Langyang Museum in Yilan, a Museum of Prehistoric Art in a science park in Tainan that is scheduled to be completed in 2016, and the corporate headquarters of the China Steel Corporation, a new landmark of Kaohsiung City.

In the mainland, it has designed the Wuzhen Theater at Wuzhen, a water village near Hangzhou, Zhejiang province, the Huangshan Urban Planning Exhibition Center as the gateway landmark to Huangshan city and other commercial residential complexes, such as Huashan Square in Shanghai.

In 2013, the design for the southern branch of the

NPM was displayed at the International Architecture Showcase in London. In 2014, Yao received an honorary fellowship of the American Institute of Architects.

He is collaborating with Dutch architect Rem Koolhaas in the design of the Taipei Performing Arts Centre, due for completion in 2015. Koolhaas designed the giant headquarters of China Central Television in Beijing and the new building of the Shenzhen stock exchange.

National Palace Museum

According to The Art Newspaper of London, the National Palace Museum is the seventh most popular museum in the world and the most popular tourist attraction in Taiwan. The number of visitors has skyrocketed since the island was open to mass tourism from the mainland in 2008.

By the end of 2013, it had 696,295 pieces, the vast majority brought from the mainland in 1949; they also include 705 acquired and 3,297 donated during 2013.

In July 2012, the government approved a plan involving investment of about NT\$ 30 billion to construct a new hall and a cultural and creative park on more than 20 hectares at the present site of the museum and at a site nearby. The park is due to open in 2016 and the new museum in 2024.

The expansion is to meet the increase in the number of staff, pieces and tourists and educational activities.

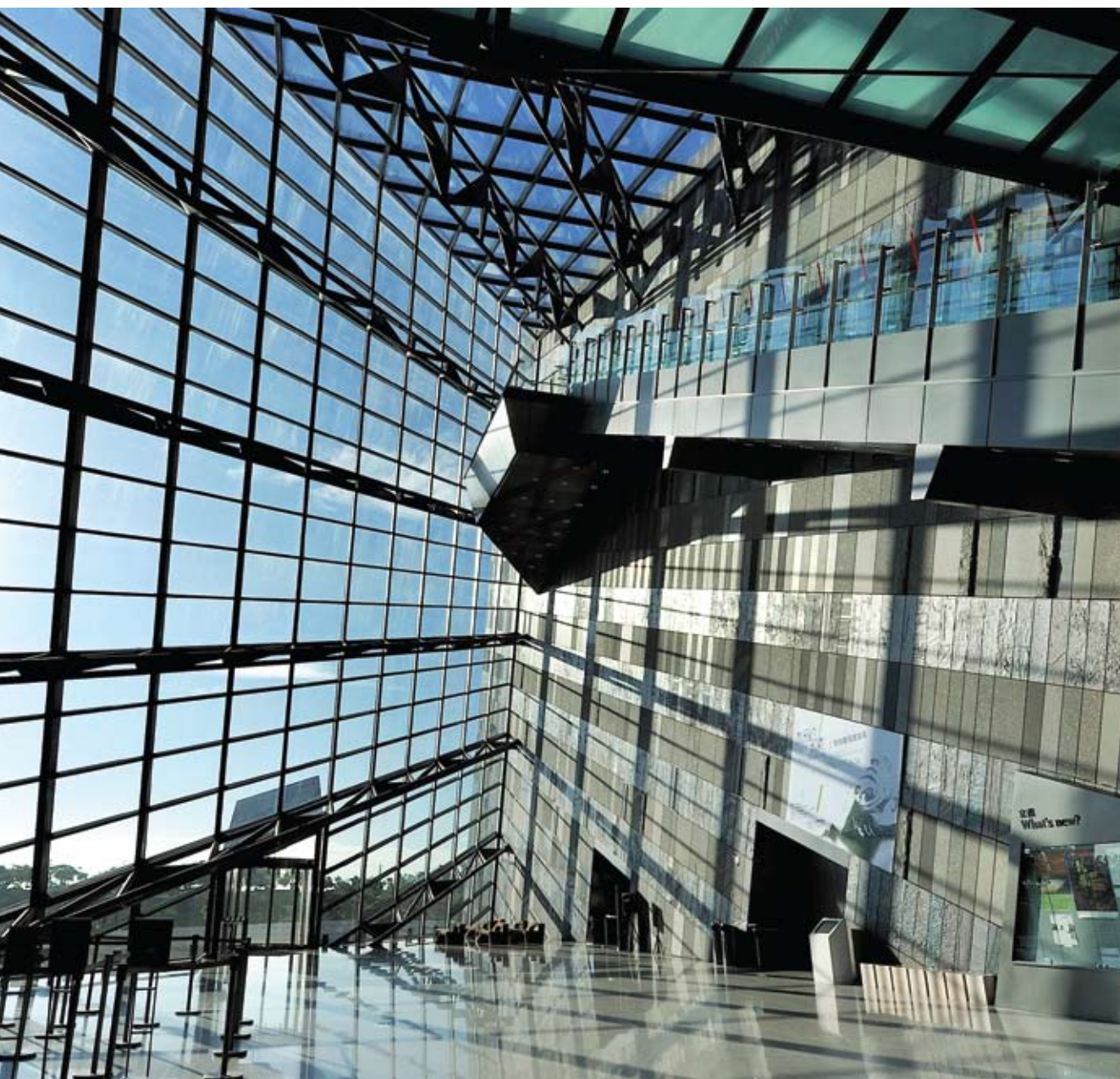
The park will include a Research Centre for Scientific Preservation, an Research and Development Centre for Digital Arts Performance and a Creative Industry Park.

The plan forecasts that this will increase the number of visitors to seven million a year in 2041 from 4.5 million in 2013 and 2.57 million in 2009, with a record of 17,000 in a single day, and bring economic benefits over 30 years of NT\$ 151 billion.

By 2024, it will provide 2,200 jobs.

The NPM has 21 databases, nine different languages on its website and newsletters in Chinese and English. These provide access to its treasures for people around the world. In 2013, there were 3.1 million visitors to its website in the nine languages.

In 2013, it sold 256,000 of its publications, raising NT\$ 125 million in revenue. In 2013, it also earned NT\$ 563 million from the sales of licences, images and others; the biggest item was NT\$ 465 million from sales of 2,118 cultural and creative merchandise. ■



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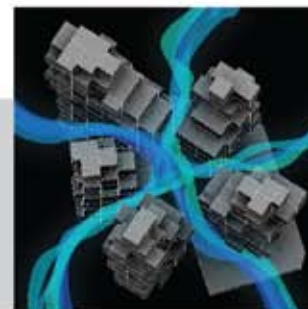


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The Lotus Temple and the floodplain village

The Lin Fung Miu, or Lotus Temple, sits on the hillside of Mong Ha, composed of three sets of pavilions, interconnected by courtyards and narrow corridors. The spacious patio of its entrance gives access to the Lin Zexu Museum.

This tiny museum was built next to the temple to commemorate a visit by Lin Zexu, the Emperor's Commissioner, to Macao in 1839. He had come to ban the opium trade and ensure the neutrality of Portugal in the conflict between China and the United Kingdom in what was known as the Opium War.

The Lotus Temple has several halls, the main one dedicated to Tin Hau or the Goddess of Heaven. A second hall in the central pavilion is dedicated to Kun lam, the Goddess of Mercy. In the side halls are several altars to Kuan Tai, god of war and wealth, I Leng, god of medicine, Seng Nong, god of agriculture, Kum Fa, goddess of flowers and children, and many other deities.

There is a legend about the construction of the temple that dates back to the time when Mong Ha was still a small village of farmers and fishermen. It had a tank where lotus flowers grew and where there was a well, whose clear water was famous for its excellent quality.

One fine morning, the villagers found the well was

full of rubble. In desperation, they thought they were being punished by the gods. For this reason, not even the fishermen would go to sea, because they feared they had been punished and would catch no fish. Without drinking water, the farmers were unable to irrigate their produce. Desperate, they decided to talk to a man named Van Tam, to whom the gods had granted supernatural powers. This man had devoted himself to the study of the philosophy of Lao Tzu and meditation and aspired to reach nirvana. Given the plight of the villagers, Van Tam decided to help them.

For many days, he remained in isolation, in deep meditation. Finally, on a pitch black night, everyone was awakened by an enormous bang. Once again, the villagers panicked and were afraid that there were demons and monsters out there in the dark night, doing mischief. They did not dare to leave their homes.

They only came out when the sun rose, when they saw that the well was clear and sparkling again. Then they ran to give the good news to the philosopher Van Tam - but found only a red sash that he had worn. He had left this world for another, on performing the miracle.

The small village became prosperous and its little shrine was rebuilt to make way for the Lotus Temple.

Adapted by Luis Gonzaga Gomes in Chinese Legends from Macao and Curiosities from Old Macao.



Macao

next issue



Tea House Long Wa: Where tradition lives on

Tucked away in a corner next to Macao's Red Market, this traditional Cantonese teahouse has been serving authentic local flavors to the surrounding community and those in the know since 1962. It has not only survived but flourished within the hustle and bustle of our fast changing city. From its original 60s decor to its relaxed, open and friendly atmosphere, eating here feels almost like traveling back in time.

One of the last places in Macao where one can enjoy fresh, tradition Dim Sum (Buffet style) with, of course, a pot of exquisite tea.



The pandas are coming again

The government expects a new pair of pandas to arrive from the mainland during the first half of the year. The mainland authorities in Chengdu are still in the process of deciding which pandas will be best suited for Macao's subtropical climate.

The mainland authorities would preselect several panda pairs after which local government officials will choose which two they will prefer to be sent to Macao.



Giant food factory in Guangzhou turns into art and creativity centre

For 50 years, it was Asia's biggest food processing plant, turning out canned fish and luncheon meat. Now it has become a shop window for Guangzhou's art, design and creativity, a glimpse of what the city wants to look like in the future.

Redtory Art & Design Factory – in Chinese, 'the red special factory' – sits on 170,000 square metres of land on the banks of the Pearl River in the Tianhe district in the east of the city. It was born in 2009, when it signed a 10-year contract to lease the land from the food factory that moved to a new location.

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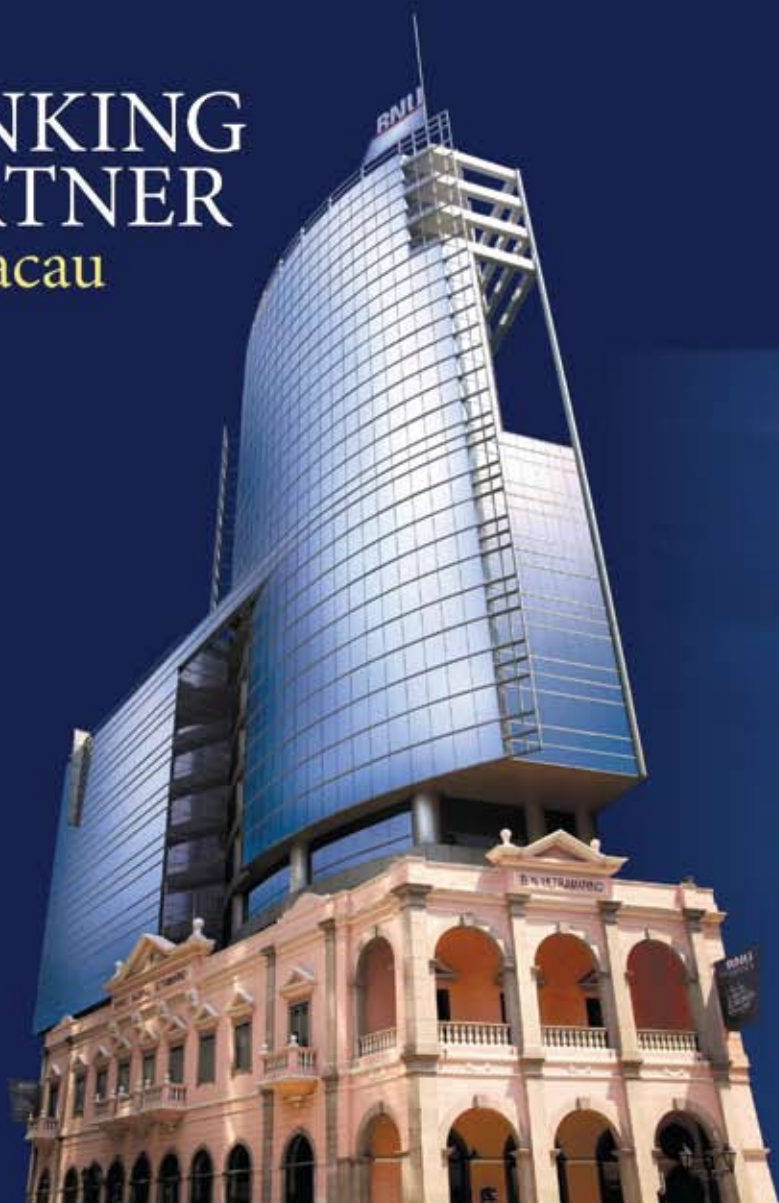
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