

Casa de Macau no Canada (Toronto)



Newsletter

Vol. 4 June 2, 2005

4168 Finch Avenue East, P.H. # 39
Scarborough, Ont. CANADA
M1S 5H6
Tel: 416-299-6947
www.casademacau.ca

Board of Executives

President and Editor
Monica Alves 905-887-9408
1monman@rogers.com

1st Vice-President and Editor
Gloria Soares Anok 416-284-9095
Theanoks@hotmail.com

2nd Vice-President
Marie-Cecile Remedios 416-383-0327
Marie_Remedios@msn.com

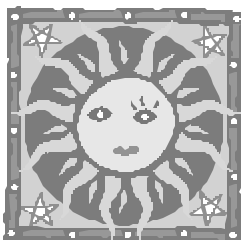
Treasurer
Barbara J. Baptista 416-283-7937
Baptistabj@rogers.com

Secretary
Helena Barradas 905-201-7155
helena.tony.barradas@rogers.com

Clubhouse Manager
Isabel Gomes da Silva 416-228-1207

Table of Contents

From the Executive	1,2
Casa Social Events	2,3
Upcoming Events	3,4
Congratulations.....	4
Did you know	4-8
Across the Wires.....	8,9
Calendar of Events	10



Here comes the sun...

From the Executive



In the last three months, we have witnessed such high and low examples of the potential of the human spirit from both far away and close to home. There was the passing of our beloved Pope John Paul II, to the scandalous revelations coming out of the Gomery enquiry hearing. The one has resulted in the election of a new spiritual leader while the other, the election of possibly a new secular leader of our country.

Both these events have impacted us in the microcosm that is our Casa. Although nothing in comparison to the events happening on the world stage, yet in the context of our community, there is much that we will be reporting to you of events held and those planned for the upcoming months.

Please remember, when you are out and about as the days get warmer and the rays of the sun are stronger, make sure to protect yourselves with sunscreen. Watch out for the mosquitoes and if you are going on any trips, stay safe. A happy summer to all!

5th Anniversary RAEM celebrations

Although particulars and a budget were sent to Macau for approval, we still have not heard anything in return. We think it safe to say, seeing that we are at the

half year mark and well past the significant actual 5th anniversary date of December 1999, that this proposed celebration will not occur this year. However, you will be kept posted if anything develops.

2nd Anniversary of the Amigu di Macau Club (Toronto)

José Cordeiro, President of the Amigu di Macau Club (Toronto) extended an invitation for two of your Executives to attend a dinner on April 9, 2005. The occasion was to celebrate the 2nd Anniversary of that club's existence. Monica and Marie-Cecile represented our Casa and were treated to a scrumptious meal and entertained by the club's musical group playing traditional Chinese instruments. In addition, there was Line Dance and Ballroom dance demonstrations. As a 'contribution' to the evening, the Amigu di Macau Club suggested that all those attending bring along some non-perishable food, which would be collected and sent to the Toronto Food Bank. On behalf of Casa, close to \$50 was spent filling two boxes with a variety of tinned goods, soup, pasta etc. We would like to congratulate José and his organizing committee for a job well done.

Casa de Macau Lisbon visit
Our Casa has received a request from our sister Casa in Lisbon, informing us that a group of its

members are planning a visit to Toronto, and Vancouver, in mid-September. They are hoping that we can arrange a gathering allowing them to meet members of both clubs at the same time. We contacted José Cordeiro, spokesperson for the Macau Club, and between us picked a weekend that is suitable for both clubs. It is our plan that the reception will be a joint affair, held at the clubhouse and open to members of both clubs. We have exchanged communication with Vitor Serra de Almeida, the President of Casa Macau Lisbon, on May 3, 2005 indicating the preferred weekend and are awaiting his reply. Once we have an indication and confirmation as to when they will be in Toronto, members will be informed.



In an email dated May 27, 2005, your Executive has just been notified by Vitor Serra de Almeida that due to an inability to coordinate a mutually convenient time to take in visiting all the Canadian Casas, plus the fact that their Casa closes in August for the summer, they have opted to postpone the trip until sometime in the future.

Your Executive has sent our regrets and hope that we will be given the opportunity to host our sister Casa sometime in the future.

Financial Statement

Inserted in this newsletter is a copy of the Financial Statement of the Casa for the fiscal year January 1, 2004 – December 31, 2004. In this regard, your Executive would like to thank our fellow member, Peter Cheung, who kindly offered his services to complete, and then file with Revenue Canada Casa's 2004 Tax Return. As this

covers the Fiscal year, there has been an incorporation of certain figures presented by the outgoing Executive at the Annual General Meeting in September 2004. These figures incorporate the 9-month activities of the previous Executive, and 3 months of the current Executive. Peter, who received his accounting accreditation in the United Kingdom, has also offered some helpful suggestions to Barbara regarding the management of the bookkeeping side of things. Peter is committed to assist us for the duration of our term. Thank you, Peter. Should members have any questions regarding the Financial Statement, don't hesitate to call Barbara.

Formation of the Portuguese Representative Group

At our previous meetings, your Executive discussed the possibility of assembling a Portuguese-speaking group from the general membership to represent our Casa at meetings/functions put on by the Portuguese Consulate and the Portuguese community in general. We have, at random, selected and approached 10 members, inviting them to participate. They, of course, had the right of first refusal. We thank those members who have accepted our proposal.

Golf shirt and jacket re-order

Your Executive received a number of inquiries from members interested in purchasing golf shirts and (nylon) jackets embroidered with Casa's logo.

The colors for the shirts come either in black, or white, the jacket in navy blue. Depending on the response, there might be the possibility of an order being placed for polar fleece jackets in black.

At the Dia de Macau function (June 11), and thereafter at Casa functions, we will take your orders.

Please pay by cheque ONLY at the time of placing your order.

Casa - Social Events



Jantar

These events at the Casa are always a great success. Both the October and March Jantar events were booked solid, with some members having to go on the waiting list. Those who managed to get in early but could not attend at the last minute had the courtesy of phoning in, thus freeing their space for their fellow members on the waiting list. We always try to make the menu as Macanese as possible.

Casino Rama Trip

On Saturday, April 9, 2005 some 38 members and friends boarded the bus for Rama. We would like to thank Regina Holden and Cacilda Ribeiro for taking care of the 'details' on that day. From all reports, not too much 'damage' was done and some people even came back ahead of the game. Well done.

Western Night

There was a great gathering of 40 'cowboys' and 'cowgirls' at the O.K. Casa Coral on Saturday, April 23, 2005. Everyone came dressed in character from hats, kerchiefs to boots, which was lovely to see. Come chow time, members feasted on two varieties of Chili, sausages, beans, salad and buns. Our thanks to the cooks and their contributions to the meal: Barbara Baptista; Anne and David Brander; Regina Holden; Christine and Mike Rose. For dessert we had fresh fruits, cream puffs, jello and cake thanks in part to Cacilda Ribeiro and Virginia Sanchez. What's a "hoe down" without dancing you might ask... so to work off some of the meal, members took to the floor and Line Danced. There were two

out of town visitors who attended the function, 'Acaio' d'Assumpção and his wife Vera from Rio. They thoroughly enjoyed themselves and we even got Vera to kick up her heels. Sadly all good things had to come to an end as did this evening. Our appreciation and thanks is also extended to all those who assisted in the setting up of the hall, warming of the food and the inevitable clean up in the kitchen. We could not have done it without your help. To view some photos taken, please visit our website: www.casademacau.ca.

Welcome Spring

We could not have asked for better weather on Sunday, May 8, 2005 – Mother's Day. 46 members boarded our bus and thanks to their punctuality, we even managed to leave 10 minutes ahead of schedule. Because of the light traffic, good time was made. Our first stop was the Casino, and after those who wished to try their luck were dropped off, the others headed to the Rossi Glass Blowing Factory where they were treated to a demonstration by an artisan. In the adjoining showroom, there were numerous examples of the exquisite workmanship of the artisans. Many could not resist leaving without purchasing a souvenir. The group then reunited and enjoyed a very tasty and ample buffet at the Table Rock Restaurant overlooking Niagara Falls. After lunch it was off to the Niagara Botanical Gardens and Butterfly Conservatory where members walked off some of the lunch. Unfortunately, due to the rather strange and unseasonably cold weather we have been experiencing, whereby the previous weekend we had sleet, not many of the trees were in bloom yet. However, some of the early blossoming trees, such as the magnolias and early crab apples were in bloom, which was a delight to see. After strolling through the gardens, it was back on

the bus headed to Kurtz's Farmers Market where we purchased preserves and the like. The final stop was the Magnotta winery where members could sample and purchase some of their product.

We thank all those who signed up for this trip and especially the mothers who chose to spend their special day with the rest of us. In recognition and appreciation Casa presented every mother with a vase of flowers. Our thanks also to David Brander and Mike Rose for donating 3 bottles of their homemade wine. A lucky draw was held and Cleo Ozorio, Frances 'Honey' Rozario and Humberto Viana won a bottle each. The group received a gift at the Glass Blowing Factory, which we raffled off on the bus. Annie Barradas held the lucky number.

Great weather, good food, lovely company all the best ingredients for a perfect Mother's day. To view the photos taken on the trip, please visit the casa website: www.casademacau.ca

Upcoming events



Dia de Macau (Saturday, June 11)

For those wishing to attend Mass, it commences at 6 pm. This will be followed by registration beginning at 7 pm in the Church Hall where dinner will be served by the Portuguese caterers. "The Ecos de Macau," comprising of Carlos de Lemos, Armando Santos, Alfredo Badaraco and Bijou Heterland Santos will supply the music - they have been practicing for the last few weeks. Last but not least, Cintia do Serro has undertaken to arrange a 'sweet table'. Cintia advises that the mouthwatering sweets will be mostly Macanese.

As there is still space and if you

now wish to join us, please call any of the Executive. We have met the caterers required numbers and they will take additions at this time.

Line Dance resumption

The last session of Line Dance classes were suspended after the 4th class due to a variety of reasons that resulted in attendance dropping to below the point of acceptability. It has been decided that classes will resume Tuesday, June 14 and continue for the balance of the 6 classes. If anyone new would like to join the group for the remainder 6 lessons, please let Naomi Baltazar know at 416-281-4057. The cost will be \$18. It is a good workout and lots of fun.

Fun and Games Afternoon

As many of you may remember, David and Elizabeth Tavares were in charge of the Casa's Thursday Socials some years ago. You will all be pleased to hear that Elizabeth will be organizing a special event for members on July 16 at the Casa. She has many surprises and games planned for an enjoyable afternoon. Sign up early !!! Please refer to the *Calendar of Events*.

Woodbine Races

Thanks to Celsa Larcina, arrangements have been made for Casa's annual outing to Woodbine Race Track. The date is Saturday, August 27, 2005. For the price of \$ 36.25 you will enjoy a lovely buffet lunch served in the Post Parade Room on the 4th Floor. Our reservations are from Noon – 5 pm. Try your luck on the horses or if you prefer, your luck in the Casino. Please refer to the *Calendar of Events*.

AGM/EGM

As mentioned in our previous newsletter, this will be a dual-purpose meeting. Your Executive is currently drafting some proposed

amendments we feel Casa's Constitution is in need of. Once the final draft is ready, members will receive an Official Notice. Suffice to say, a booking for the venue has been made for Saturday, September 17, 2005 so please mark that date on your calendars.

Ever mindful of the fact that the Macanese community is but a small part of a much larger community and that there are less fortunate people all around us, your Executive is proposing that every member who attends this meeting bring a non-perishable item of food. This will be collected at Registration and arrangements will be made to deliver the items to the Food Bank.

Members will be notified of the details of the amendments and particulars of the meeting under separate mailing closer to September.

Bazaar

Have you started "crafting" and "preserving"? Remember that in October, Casa will be holding a Bazaar at the clubhouse. It is not too early to prepare. Details will be included in the next issue of the newsletter.

Congratulations

- **Long time members, David and Elizabeth Tavares are delighted at the fact that granddaughter Jackie has just graduated from MacMaster University with a Bachelor of Commerce Degree.** Jackie is currently looking for an opportunity to put all that knowledge to work particularly in the area of marketing. Casa wishes her luck in her endeavours.
- May 10, 2005 marked the 90th Birthday of Reinaldo "Walla" Vieira-Ribeiro.
- July 13, 2005 will mark the 90th Birthday of Mercedes Sousa.
- May 9, 2005 marked the 80th Birthday of Lydia Ozorio.

From the Executive and Casa

'family', we wish them all muitos parabens.

Please advise your Executive of any special celebrations you would like to share with your fellow members.

Did you know?

Year of the Veteran

The Canadian Federal Government has declared 2005 the Year of the Veteran to pay special tribute to Canadian veterans of wars of the last century and to coincide with the 60th Anniversary of the end of WWII.

As the saying goes: "Old soldiers never die, they just fade away". We must never forget the great sacrifice many members of the Macanese community made in Volunteering in the defence of Hong Kong. Time marches on and their numbers are indeed dwindling.

The new War Museum officially opened its doors May 8, 2005, to coincide with the 60th Anniversary of the celebration of VE Day May 8, 1945, and from all reports, it is a 'must' visit if you ever are in Otawa.

Father's Day

The idea of Father's Day was first proposed in 1909 by Mrs. Sonora Dodd, as a way to honor her father William Smart. Mr. Smart was a civil war veteran who was widowed with six children. On June 19, 1910 Sonora held the first Father's Day celebration in Washington State. She chose the month of June, as it was the month her father was born in. This celebration spread to other towns and cities across the United States. In 1924 Calvin Coolidge supported the idea of a national Father's Day. In 1956 Congress recognized fathers day. In 1966 President Lyndon Johnson recognized Father's Day and finally in 1972 President Nixon signed it

into law. Father's Day in Canada, the UK and the United States is celebrated on the third Sunday in June. In Australia, it is celebrated on the first Sunday in September. Today Father's Day is celebrated to honor all men who are fathers or father figures, including fathers, stepfathers, uncles, and grandfathers. This year Father's Day falls on Sunday, June 19. To all 'fathers', a Happy Father's Day!

Maquista Alphabet Book

By George Remedios

(Published in Vol.15 Lusitano Bulletin Spring 2005)

This is an alphabet book of memorable Maquista (Macanese) words and colloquialisms. Some words are in English or Cantonese because like English, Maquista borrows words from foreign languages. Most Macanese are multilingual (English, Cantonese, Maquista, Portuguese...)

Maquista or Macaista is the creole language of the Macanese "filhos de Macau". It is usually referred to as a "patua". Maquista is also affectionately referred to as "Maquista chapado" (chapado = flattened or crushed) to reflect the humble origins and roots of the language.

The word "chapado" can be found in a big Portuguese dictionary (eg. Dicionario de Portugues-Ingles, Porto, Porto Editora, 1986). This dictionary gives these examples - "tolo chapado" (perfect fool), "doido chapado" (stark mad), "tolice chapada" (downright nonsense). Do these examples tell you anything?

This is not a picture book but please use your imagination and try to visualize the objects as you read. By visualizing this becomes an imaginary picture book.

In the text (PV) means "Please visualize".

A

Amah. The Portuguese first used

this word for maid or servant or domestic help. In Portuguese "ama" means "nurse, house-keeper, governess". Many Macanese children learned Cantonese from their amahs. (PV)

Aiyaa! Cantonese expression adopted by the Macanese. "Aiyaa! The "ah mui" (a young amah, a coy and demure maiden) dropped the Christmas empada (fish pie) on the floor!"

Asunguh (this one). Angusa (thing). Typical Maquista words. Did you hear about the filho de Macau who walked into a boutique in Lisbon and said "Kee bonito! Yo quero comprar asunguh angusa" (I want to buy this thing). The shopkeeper was bewildered and ignored him.

Auntie. The Macanese "Auntie" is unlike the North American "Aunt". Auntie is the preserver of Macanese culture, the arbitrator of refinement, the mediator of good taste, the intercessor of "maneira" and "boa educacao", the exterminator of "asneira", the terminator of "boborisa", the "cozinheira" of Macanese food and the advocate of all things Macanese. Auntie is Ann Landers, Oprah Winfrey, Martha Stewart, Julia Child and Jennifer Lopez rolled into one. In our youth we saluted her, "Hello Auntie" a million times (pronounced only in a Macanese accent)

B
Batadada. This is a potato cake that uses ingredients from East and West (coconut and potatoes). Macanese culture blends East and West so this could be our "national cake". (PV)

Balichao (Balichung) The Macanese people identify themselves with this shrimp paste. Even if you do not eat it you keep a bottle in the refrigerator so that people will know yours is a Macanese household (PV)

Beefy. An Englishman or "eenglesh". Sort of the FM equivalent of the Cantonese "kwai lo".

Please note the same bovine metaphor as in Ngau sook under "N" below. Is it because they eat too much "carne de vaca" (beef)?

Bicho. Insect. A child who wants to eat "bicho bicho" does not necessarily want to eat many insects because "bicho bicho" can also be a merenda snack. (PV)

Bafo comprido. "Long breath" or long-winded or "cheung hei" in Cantonese. This expression is a literal translation of the Cantonese. It is Maquista chapado and not standard Portuguese.

C
Caracol. This is a snail or curly swirl of hair at the back of the head. Also pronounced as "caricol" by garotos (kids). Anthropologists say that the Macanese are the only ethnic group whose children check out each other's caracol as a childhood ritual. (PV)

Chico. This is the short form of "Francisco". It also means "nosey" (or "nosy"). The female equivalent is Chica. "Chico is chico" could be a pun. Similar to chuchumecco and chuchumecca (gossiper)

Cha Cha. Some people called their grandmother "cha cha". Cha cha is also the red bean "chook" (porridge) made with red beans, "wu tao" (taro), sago and coconut. The sentence "Cha Cha loves cha cha" does not mean that Grandma is sick of self-love like Malvolio in Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night". It just means she loves this version of "hung tao chook" (red bean porridge)

Chipir e Chubir. Squeeze and Pinch. When you see a garoto (kid) who is also "amor chai" (Portuguese-Cantonese word for "cute, charming") and "Kee amor!" and "ting chiste" (has natural grace, wit and ability to jest) and is "chistoso" (witty, sharp-witted, humorous, jocular) then you want to chipir and chubir his or her cheeks.

D
Dali. This means to "hit" or "beat". This is an example of the evolution of words from Portuguese to Maquista. In Hong Kong you "dali" someone but not in Lisbon.

Demonio. Demonia. Devil, demon. A popular word for scolding someone. eg. "Kee demonio!" or "Kee demonia!" depending on the gender of the person being scolded. Similar to the Cantonese "Sei kwai!"

E
Escola Camoes or Portuguese Community School in Hong Kong, breeding ground of young FM's.

Estupido. Stupid. That is the way the dictionary spells it but don't pronounce the first "e". Pronounce it as "shtoopidoo" in Macau, Hong Kong and Portugal. Typical expression - "Iou sa marido muito shtoopidoo".

Eurasian. Though most FM are Eurasian either biologically or culturally, "nossa gente" (our people) generally do not use this word to describe themselves. Nor do we use "Mestizo" as the Spanish-Filipinos do. We prefer "Macanese", which implies "Eurasian" and "Mestico". In colloquial (jook yu) Cantonese we are "chap chung" and this term can be derogatory or impolite. An educated Chinese gentleman would ask you "Are you "wun huet"?", which is a more literary and elegant (mun ngar) way of saying it. If you are asked this question you know the answer.

F
FM or Filhos de Macau. Children of Macau, that is the Macanese people. This includes persons of both genders. Also known as Filomacs. Are Filomacs in Scotland known as MacFilo?

Feijoada. A stew of meat (galinha or chicken for example), beans (preferably kidney beans) and Portuguese "pau" or

"chourico" (sausage). One of our national dishes. (PV)

Fussy Pot. An example of FM use of English in Hong Kong. It has nothing to do with gardening. It means a fussy person, someone who is "garrida". Why "pot"? (PV)

Fuzo. Horny. Or what we say in Cantonese "harm sup" (salty wet). "Dirty old man" would be "harm sup lo" or "velho velho fuzo". Popular expression - "You are bloody fuzo, you know!" This human characteristic is found in all ethnic and social groups and is more commonly found in the male of the species.

G

Galinha. Macanese eat galinha (chicken) but Portuguese eat "frango" (chicken) (PV)

Gente. People. The highest compliment you can pay is to include someone in the FM tribe by declaring him/her "Nossa gente" (Our people).

Gung doong. A swelling in the head caused, for example, by a "pancada" (a blow, a hit) from a woman scorned (Hell hath no fury as a woman scorned)

H

Homem. When I was young I heard "homee" for "man". So this is how you spell it! Do not confuse with the Spanish "Hombre".

I

Ingles. English language. Macanese people in Hong Kong speak ingles (eenglish) (English). In North America people tell us "You speak English very well!" and we reply "So do you!"

Igreja. The church is a very important place for many Macanese. eg. St. Teresa's Church. Every week Avo (grandma) would ask "Ja vai Missa nunca?" (Did you go to Mass?)

Impostor. Pronounced as "eem-pos-tor". Every social and ethnic group has people who are "eem-

pos-tor" or put on airs. When you meet them you curl your lips and sneer "Kee eem-pos-tor", dragging out the "eem" for emphasis if required

Iou. Pronounced by Macanese more like the Spanish "Yo". This means the subject pronoun "I" ("eu" in Portuguese). Also used to mean the object pronoun "me" in Maquista. eg. "Voce quer matar iou?" (Do you want to kill me?)

J

Janota. When you go to pot luck dinners at FM clubs you have to be "janota" or well dressed. Janota is janota and you cannot "feenjee" (fingir = to pretend)

Jogar. That means to play or to gamble. Popular pastimes among FM eg. Jogar mah jong, jogar dado farinha, jogar bola.

Joao. John. This name is usually mispronounced as "Jowl" by North Americans who are not used to the "ao" in Portuguese spelling. It rhymes with "balichao", "pao" (bread), "cao" (dog) and so on. I cringe everytime I hear the famous Portuguese pianist "Maria Joao Pires" pronounced on the radio as "Maria Jowl Pires"

K

(There is no K in the Portuguese alphabet. Only for foreign words used in Portuguese and in international symbols and abbreviations. So I have to settle for the following non-dictionary words)

Karaar. A mixture of sweat and dirt on the body when it is hot and humid. In the Diaspora the Macanese people went through further Darwinian evolution and now no longer produce karaar. (PV)

Kapi. eg. "Nos kapi soong with our fie chee" (We "grip" or pick up food with our chopsticks)

Kee. Written as "Que". Macanese like to use "kee" exclamations. "Kee sortee!" (How lucky). "Kee valee!" (How worth it!). "Kee ramede!" (How awful, dreadful!).

"Kee medonho!" (How terrible, awful). "Kee coitado!" (How pitiful, you poor thing!). "Kee barato!" (How cheap). "Kee feder!" (How stinky).

The all time classic is "Kee sai-yung!" (saiam, sayao, saiao) (Aiyaa! What a pity! Woe is me! It is fate! What a bloody shame!)

L

Lamber (laam beh). This is the verb "to lick". Also referred to as "lamber ku". Has the connotation of metaphorically but not literally "kissing ass" (beijar rabo). This activity is found in all social groups especially those climbing the social ladder. (PV)

Luso and Lusitano. This is the adjective that means "Portuguese". For example, Lusitano Club and Luso Apartments in Hong Kong, better known as "The Bank Flats", from which the pride of Macanese youth came. Also, check out "Lusitania" in an encyclopaedia.

M

Mato Mouro. The oldest Macanese stomping ground (neighbourhood) in Hong Kong. For Hong Kong FM to trace their ancestry back to Mato Mouro is like Bostonians tracing their ancestry to the Mayflower. Some will make claims to enhance their social status. If you are FMM (filho de Mato Mouro) that is like having Macanese "blue blood".

Meesar. To pee. Everyone has done this. "Meesar na cahlung" (calcao) (pee in your pants). Everyone has done this too though few will admit to it. (PV)

Minchee. Ground beef/pork cooked with onions and diced potatoes and thick soya sauce (dik yau). Hardly haute cuisine but FM consider this one of our national dishes. (PV)

Merenda. Snacks. A merenda man used to go door to door selling chilicote, pao recheado, appa bico, bicho bicho, coqueira etc. (PV)

Mufino and Mufina. A jerk, a

wretch, whatever. This is the male and female of this undesirable species. When you wish to "scompor" (descompor = to scold) someone you use these words. This is an archaic word not found in a Portuguese dictionary. Young Macanese mothers in the Diaspora should beware that "Mufina" is definitely not a cute girl's name like Angelina, Tina, Thumbelina etc. Nor should you name your muffin shop "Mufina's Muffins"

N
Ngau sook. Literally, sweaty and smelly cow. FM affectionately refer to "europeu" Portuguese in this fashion because in the hot and humid weather in Macau one tends to get "sook sook" (sweaty). Of course, we use the Cantonese phrase "ngau sook" instead of "vaca de mau cheiro" or "vaca suada" so that they will not understand. Please note the same bovine metaphor as in "Beefy" under "B" above.

Nojo (nojoo). Nausea. FM use this word to mean nauseating or disgusting. At some time or other everyone is guilty of this. I prefer the Cantonese word "yuk suen" because the sound of the words suggests the meaning.

O
Ongsung. I love this typical Maquista word. When a socialite from Lisbon invites you to tea, you say "Iou ving ongsung" (I come by myself). That will baffle her.
Ooi di. Another typical Maquista word used to emphasize "very". eg. "Ooi di saboroso!" (So very very delicious!)
Obrigado. Thank you. Some FM forget and sometimes say "Gracias" (Spanish) instead.

P
Patua. The literature refers to Maquista as a "patua". Do not ever refer to Maquista as "Pidgin Portuguese". That is derogatory and in-

sulting. By the way, it is not "Pigeon Portuguese" either. Pigeons don't speak.

Papa. This is boiled rice, not as watery as "chook" (congee) but more "molhado" (wet) than the bowl of rice at dinner. Cooked with bones or meat balls for example. It is not part of Macanese "haute cuisine" and is usually eaten by children. If you hear a filho de Macau exclaim "I love papa" he is not necessarily talking about his father or the Pope. (PV)

Poofis. Classic Macanese exclamation. eg. "Poofis! Who cooked this?" (implies the food is not saboroso). It is one of the 3 "P" exclamations in Macanese. The other 2 are "Porra" and "Putá", which some may think not too "polite" but in an exclamation they are quite harmless.

Peido. Fart. FM "tirar peido" in Hong Kong but in Portugal they are more inclined to "soltar um peido". This is in the dictionary (Portuguese Dictionary. London, Collins, 1986. Collins Gem dictionary). In the horror movie "Macanese Psycho" the most scary moment is not the "shower scene" as in Alfred Hitchcock's "Psycho" but the "crowded elevator scene" where a breathless voice, gasping for air, barely manages to ask "Keen ja tirar peido?" (Who farted?) (PV)

Q
"Quem sa?" (Whose) (pronounced as "kayng" or "keen" in Maquista). When you gossip about strangers you always ask in Maquista "Quem sa filho?" (Whose son?). You can also say "Filho de quem?". It is important to be socially connected to the right person even if by "six degrees of separation".

R
Recreio. Recreation. Clube de Recreio, a famous FM club in Hong Kong. Because of this club a community of 3,000 "filhos de Macau"

dominated lawn bowls, field hockey and softball in Hong Kong. (PV)
Real. The English word "real". Sometimes we say that Filhos de Macau are not "real Portuguese". (When you pronounce "real" emphasize it by dragging it out) Are we then an illusion or a hallucination or a dream? If you prick us, do we not bleed? If you tickle us, do we not laugh? If you poison us, do we not die? (Apologies to Shakespeare's Shylock).

It is also said that we do not speak "real Portuguese". Do we then speak "false" Portuguese? What we speak is in fact a creole language, known as Maquista (chapado), which is derived from Portuguese, which is derived from Latin. I assure you it is all quite "real" and that Maquista is a "language" in its own right and not a matter of scorn or derision.

S
Senhor. I always "scompor" (descompor) (scold) Filhos de Macau who write the Spanish "Senor" instead of the Portuguese "Senhor". Of all people they should know better. After the scolding they tell me I am "waah dee fierce" (FM use of English in Hong Kong)

St. Michael's Catholic cemetery in Happy Valley, Hong Kong. Before World War II and up to the Sixties this was practically a Macanese/Portuguese cemetery.

Singlet. In North America most people do not know what a singlet is. It is an undershirt, athletic shirt or tank top. The defining feature is that the "kar laak tai" (armpit) is exposed, otherwise it is not a singlet. The singlet was the national costume of the FM male in Hong Kong in summer. On hot days the singlet was rolled up to expose the midriff and belly button, much to the delight of the senhoritas. (PV)
Sapeca. Money. When dining in Portugal and you cannot pay the bill

do not say "Nung ting sapeca" (I have no money). The waiter will not understand. Try using "dinheiro" instead. If the waiter knows Macau he might understand "Nung ting pataca" (I have no Macau dollar)

T
Tacho. A stew with chicken, pig skin, cabbage and lap cheung (Chinese sausage). Served with balichao (balichung) To be a true FM you must eat it all including the chu pei (pig skin). Please note the Asian ingredients. One of our national dishes. (PV)

Toc Toc. Crazy. Every family has a toc toc person in the family tree but will not admit to it. You go through these stages : preocupado, ansia, nervoso, neurotico and finally to toc toc (worried, anxiety, nervous, neurotic and finally to toc toc)

Tifim. Pronounced "teefeen" meaning "tiffin", a word from colonial India. We used to have tiffin in Hong Kong. Now in North America we have "lunch".

U
Umquinho. Very little. Typical Macau word. Not in the dictionary. Same as "um pouquinho". At Casa de Macau pot luck dinners FM love to eat umquinho of this and umquinho of that until all the umquinho add up to "tanto" (much)

Uncle. The Macanese Uncle does not have the stature of Auntie in FM matriarchal society. Uncle's purpose in life is to bring home the "pao e manteiga, arroz e balichao" (bread and butter, rice and shrimp paste). During the Golden Age of Macau Uncle chased pirates in the South China Sea, "fazer negocio" (do business, wheel and deal) from Japan to Malacca to Goa to Timor and defended Macau from foreign invasion.

V
Vinho. Wine. When Hong Kong FM visited Macau they brought

back a bottle of Portuguese vinho and a tin of Portuguese "paio" (sausage) (PV)

W
Waah! Cantonese expression adopted by the Macanese to show amazement. "Waah! Your home made chilibote (merenda snack) is so good meh!"

X
Xavier. A common surname among the Macanese. Also, St. Francis Xavier's School, known as SFX, in Hong Kong, which many Macanese boys went to.

Xarope. Syrup. Pronounced by FM as "sharopee" or "shiropee". The Macanese make a cool refreshing syrup drink from fig leaves. In the Garden of Eden Adam did not know this so he used fig leaves as a fashion statement.

Y
(There is no Y in the Portuguese alphabet. Used only for foreign words used in Portuguese and in international symbols and abbreviations)

Ya. Not in the dictionary. FM love to end their sentences with "Ya". eg. "Never mind ya!" or "Pode ya!" (It's OK, it will do, it can be done!) or the quintessentially Macanese phrase "Falar sao ya!" (If you say so! I am resigned to it!)

Z
Ze. This is short for "Jose". If your name is "Jose" you may be called "Ze" or "Ze Ze".

Across the wires



'One day this street will have no character'

VIVIENNE CHOW

Friday, May 20, 2005

The South China Morning Post,
Hong Kong

Operators lament that government is driving 'old Hong Kong' to extinction

"We have tourists taking pictures of us making wonton," says Li Kin-kwan as he contemplates the imminent demise of his Man Yuen noodle shop in Elgin Street, an icon of the SoHo area for 80 years, at the hands of government policy.

"This is part of Hong Kong culture and the heritage of the city. Why can't they keep us as the main tourist attractions?"

Mr Li says the dai pai dong of the area have helped turn SoHo into the tourist attraction and upmarket entertainment area it is today. The noodle shop was ordered to close by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department after its licensee died on May 5. Under the present policy, if the holder of a "fixed pitch (cooked food or light refreshment) hawker's licence" dies, only the spouse can inherit it. Central and Western District councillor Yuen Bun-keung has raised Mr Li's plight with the Tourism Board, but Mr Li is just one of many near-century-old businesses on the chopping block.

"I always said you would see us in museums in 10 years' time," says Mandy Li Wun-ching, operator of Elgin Street's Yuk Yip Dessert, which has been trading for 90 years. The licence holder of Ms Li's shop is her mother, who is more than 70. "We have been running this business since my great grandfather's days," says Ms Li.

"Now only the spouse can inherit the licence. Can you ask my mother to marry some young guy just for the shop? It's not possible. This is very unfair. The government keeps talking about protecting Hong Kong's heritage. Hong Kong doesn't have many traditional dai pai dong

left. Why don't they protect us?"

Famous for its low-priced sweet soup, Yuk Yip Dessert and the dozen or so other dai pai dong along Peel and Elgin streets are among the oldest in the city.

May Lui Lai-yee, who runs an antique jewellery store in the area, says most licensees are more than 70 years old.

"One day this street will have no character. There might be another place built to imitate this area but it won't be the same thing," she says.

Dominic Chan Choi-hi, a Central and Western District councillor, says the food stalls should be preserved: "It's the public's collective memory and a great tourist attraction. Such a policy should be reviewed."

But catering-sector legislator Tommy Cheung Yu-yan says the public has diverse opinions on dai pai dong. "I hope they can stay but I can't see this is the majority's opinion," he said. "It's a very difficult dilemma as the public are also concerned about hygiene conditions."



For your Information

Your Executive just received this notice via email. If you are interested and have any questions please contact the institution directly.

Mapping Your Roots in Macau...

How much do you know about your family's past and your links to Macau's rich cultural heritage? A new summer course at IIUM aims to help you answer these questions.

Mapping your roots in Macau will take you through historical itineraries along Macau's cobbled streets and alleys still full of reminiscences. The course is designed to guide you along the fascinating journey of discovering your ancestry. This course also appeals to participants who would like to record their own stories for future generations. The program is designed to provide participants with the necessary tools for historical research, and to enable them to discover the history of Macau's communities through activities, experiences and joy.

School of Arts , Letters and Sciences – The Macau Inter-University Institute.

For further details and to apply online visit <http://www.iium.edu.mo/summercourse/>

Dear Casa de Macau Toronto Newsletter,

Please find attached a letter of introduction and poster about our Macau Diaspora Summer School. We very much hope that you can support this activity by promoting it to your members.

The Macau Inter-University Institute is a private university in Macau closely affiliated with the Catholic University of Portugal. The Macau Diaspora Summer School is a way for people of all ages, but especially younger people, to trace their family roots in Macau. It is also a way for us to research the distribution of Macau's Diaspora.

For the Summer School we ask participants to collect oral history and other information about their family since it has left Macau. Then participants visit Macau to trace their family's history within Macau. Participants receive a certificate from

IIUM on successfully completing the Summer School.

We hope that you agree that this is an excellent way for the Diaspora to strengthen its links with Macau, and will promote Macau Diaspora Summer School strongly among your membership.

You can gain more information about our university and the Macau Diaspora Summer School from our website www.iium.edu.mo and www.iium.edu.mo/continuingeducation/ALS/MacauDiasporaSS. If you have any questions you can also contact us through a dedicated email address: sc-diaspora@iium.edu.mo

Thanks for your cooperation, and, please, come to Macau and discover yourself,

Richard Whitfield PhD
Pro-Rector for Organizational Development

Dean of Students
rcw@iium.edu.mo +853 682 5994