



# V O Z D O S M A C A E N S E S D E V A N C O U V E R

Official Newsletter of the Casa de Macau (Vancouver) since 1995

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## A TRIBUTE

by Alex King

On November 9<sup>th</sup> of this year, one of the Casa's members, Humberto Pires, celebrated his 105<sup>th</sup> birthday. We would like to congratulate him on this special occasion and offer this article as a tribute to his dedication to the Casa de Macau and Macanese heritage in general.

Mr. Pires was born in Macau in 1900, son of Francisco Xavier Pires and Maria Da Rozario. He was raised with his brother Elisio and adopted sister Natalia, and educated in Portuguese, English, and French. In early adulthood, he moved to Hong Kong, where he met his wife Evelyn Rosalie and worked as an accountant at Cable and Wireless up until his retirement in the 1960's. From there, he moved to Vancouver and lived with his wife Evelyn until her death in 1995; since then, his daughter Diana Pires has helped care for him.

I personally went to interview Humberto Pires on December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2005, and heard a first-hand perspective of his life experi-

ences. I asked him what it was like being my age in the early 1920's, and he spoke about how he enjoyed partying with his friends in Hong Kong and going drinking with them at Club Lusitano. Evidently, some things never change. He also said that growing up in Macau and Hong Kong were wonderful times, with great memories and numerous friends. When I mentioned my grandmother, Marie Antonio (née Da Roza), he remembered they had both worked at Cable and Wireless in Hong Kong years ago during the 1940s. Hong Kong was also the place where he met and married the love of his life, Evelyn, his wife for over sixty years. Together, they had seven children, and currently Mr. Pires has over thirty grandchildren, over thirty great-grandchildren, and at least one great-great-grandchild.

I also talked with Reggie Rocha, Humberto Pires' friend for the last forty years. The two men met in North Vancouver

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**TRIBUTE— (CONT'D)**

around the 1960's and have remained friendly ever since. Reggie describes Mr. Pires as friendly, sociable, and jovial, who can be reserved around those he doesn't know, but rather outgoing to his circle of friends. He often used to throw parties and enjoyed the odd drink; there was little Humberto enjoyed more than his scotch, which he still has on a nightly basis. Besides his gregarious nature, Mr. Pires was a loving and devoted husband. Since his wife passed away ten years ago, he would visit the cemetery every Saturday with a dozen roses. He brought a fresh bouquet every week. Every picture of his wife in his home is given its own frame, and one would be located by the light switch in every room.

Listening to Humberto Pires and those who know him well, I gained a better understanding of his character and life experiences. He is a caring man, who puts emphasis on his family with a positive and personable outlook on life. It's a pleasure to write this article about Mr. Pires, and I can only hope that it does him justice. Initially, I felt concern that my article was too personal, but realized that Mr. Pires is a man who puts more importance on the company he keeps rather than his achievements. He prides himself on his Macanese heritage, often attending numerous Casa functions. More importantly, he is a gentleman and a true romantic; a true "superman" of admirable character.

I salute you, Mr. Pires, and your innumerable life achievements. It has been more than a pleasure talking to you, your family, and your friends, and the Casa thanks you for your many years of dedication to the Macanese community.



Mr. Humberto Pires and Mrs. Evelyn Rosalie (née Sousae) Pires.

This picture is a favourite of the Pires' family - taken in Vancouver in the mid to late 80's.

## IN MACAU FOR THE 4TH ASIAN GAMES

by Antonio Amante

I would like to thank Mr. Manuel Silverio, one of the organizers of the 4th Asian Games, for the kind invitation to this superb event held in Macau October 29 to November 6, 2005. The guests of MEAGOC (Macau East Asian Games Organizing Committee) included representatives from our Casa and Casas from around the world. Meals and accommodations were included, and we stayed at the Landmark, Mandarin and Westin Hotels.

The Opening ceremony began on Saturday, October 29, with a Cocktail Reception, followed by a spectacular show. There was a different schedule each day, and transportation to the games was provided. A reception dinner was held on Saturday, November 5 and the final day

of the Games was on Sunday, November 6, after which we all went our separate ways, heading for home.

This event was very well organized - large crowds of people helping and entertainment by performers from all over China. A truly unforgettable and pleasant memory.

A big congratulations and Muito Obrigado to the organizers and to Mr. Manuel Silverio.



Antonio Amante with Dr. Rita Santos (Coordinator, RAEM\*) and Dr. Jose Coutinho (Newly Elected Deputy, RAEM\*)



Antonio Amante with Mr. Manuel Silverio (Chairman of the Board of Directors of Macau 4th Asian Games Organizing Committee)

\* RAEM - Special Administrative Region, Macau

**CASA NITE**

by Pat de Albuquerque

What an evening! Despite the low attendance, the group that was present on Saturday, October 22, at the Holy Family Parish Hall certainly knew how to party!

The menu consisted of catered Chinese cuisine and Minchi (eight varieties) made by our own Chefs – Rebecca Amante, Fernanda Baptista, Evelyn Florendo / Mac da Roza, Mickey da Roza, Catriona Haslam, Fernanda Ho, Mabel Ozorio and Angelina Rozario. Their generosity and time are much appreciated. It certainly brought me back to childhood days when practically every other day, Minchi was served for lunch! It was gratifying to see the enjoyment of this Macanese specialty by all.

Now to the dessert - the choices were marvelous and a special “thank-you” to our guest, Elga da Roza (Maria King’s Aunt) for her generous contribution of bagi and chocolate tai choi. Our other bakers, Rebecca Amante, Hercia

Delgado, Tessie Delgado, Aleixa Haslam, Catriona Haslam, Fernanda Ho, Gilly Marshall and Rita Rocha certainly did a marvellous job. Ladies, thank you, thank you! As most remarked, it was worth “waiting” for (the desserts, of course). If anything else, this should certainly entice one to participate in a Casa de Macau’s function. From Chinese egg rolls and almond cookies to chocolate “tai choi” (two contributors), batatada, bagi, bebinca de leite, cassava cake, coquéra, pão de leite, squares, orange, marble and walnut cakes plus hot sweet yam and root. This should certainly whet one’s appetite even after a hearty meal.

Mouthwatering? Well you certainly missed a great event as when Macaenses get together, we certainly know how to have a great time - good camaraderie and the variety of gourmet cuisine.



Minchi, minchi and more minchi!  
What more can a Macaense ask for?



To complement this plethora of minchis?  
What else - Chinese food.

At our next event we hope to see more members, who perhaps will share some of their expertise with us - a national dish or dessert!!!

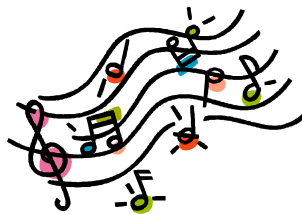
I would like to take this opportunity to extend our sincere thanks to Leonard Rivero, from Blaine, who faithfully attends our meetings and functions; and without fail, he always has his camera with him. We appreciate all those great photographs you took, Leonard!

Last but not least, to Margie Rozario who (before she had her fall) donated the center-pieces which added greatly to the table décor and lit up our evening! At time of writing, Margie is progressing well.

Hope to see you all at our next gathering in February 2006 – Chinese Banquet to celebrate “Everybody’s Birthday” (Yun Yat).



Working it off.



Photos - Leonard Rivero

And the perfect ending to a Minchi / Chinese dinner? Great Macanese desserts of course.

**FOOD AT CHRISTMAS**

by Boca Tanto

How many times have you found yourself planning the next meal while enjoying one? I guess you could call it a Macanese trait. Food is indeed a significant aspect in our Macanese culture.

At Christmas time, we remember the Birth of Christ, and in celebration of His Birth, we make special kinds of food: for example, Farte (pronounced far-tea) is Jesus' pillow, Cuscurão (pronounced cus-cu-rung) is Jesus' blanket and Alua (pronounced ah-lu-ah) is Jesus' mattress. My Mom would prepare her own crib scene using these goodies, and I only wish that today I still have that adorable porcelain Baby Jesus. We kids had our own nativity scene, but Mom's was special because we could eat the stuff later – that is, if there was any left, because more often than not, we would find ourselves picking at it!

Christmas Eve used to be a day of fast and abstinence and so everyone ate Impada (pronounced im-pa-da), which is a codfish pie. Although Christmas Eve is no longer a day of fast and abstinence, we continue to eat this pie during the Christmas season!

My grandmother's philosophy was - always to have more than enough to feed your guests – we do not want to perde cara, so obviously there were tons of leftovers after Christmas dinner which were "recycled" and turned into diabo. This is what diabo is – a dish of leftovers all tossed into one casserole with a delicious gravy made with sweet sherry – no wastage!

Also, my Mom would place many tangerines

(better known as "kum" – which is gold in Chinese) atop our wine cabinet. We were told that the significance of the KUM is that the fruit is representative of a good harvest which we offer up to Baby Jesus in celebration of His Birth, and of the gold which was given to Baby Jesus by the Wise Men.

I am sure that every family has its own special festive dishes. In our family, my grandmother used to make a salad, and through the years, my Mom would make it, and now we make it. We always make this salad because it is yummy and unlike any other. In fact, everyone calls it "Avó Mimi's salad" since it was her very own creation. Avó Mimi's salad represents her presence and no festive occasion is complete without it! So too is the oxtail ("rabo de boi") which my Mom used to make and I now make, from her recipe book! Her recipe book is probably the most precious thing when it comes to feeding my family.

I do not know exactly what the significance of our Macanese Christmas Cake is, but hey, it is delicious! (My Mom's recipe calls for one bottle of brandy per portion so one can immediately imagine how delicious it is!) Only good and fresh ingredients are used and my Mom always told me that one will never go wrong with good and fresh ingredients so that even if the finished product does not look the greatest, the taste and quality is there! Generic ingredients are a definite no-no! While I do not know its exact significance, what I do know is that it is a very special cake because we serve this same cake at weddings, christenings, first communions, as well. Can anyone fill us in?

## WHAT IS A PARLIAMENTARIAN?

by Aleixa Haslam

A Parliamentarian is one who advises officers, boards, committees and members of an association on matters relating specifically to parliamentary procedures.

The prime purpose of a parliamentary procedure is to provide a way in which an association can work out solutions to questions in the least time. It makes meetings go smoothly when everyone is in agreement, and it also allows decisions to be made fairly if there is a disagreement.

Structure of Meetings:- Simplified Order of Business

Agenda:-

- Calling the meeting to order and stating the time
- Reading, Adoption and Approval of Minutes of last meeting
- Reports from the Officers and various Committees
- Unfinished Business
- New Business
- Adjournment and time recorded

The agenda is carried out by the executive council and the parliamentarian plays no role in it, except if the proper procedure is not followed, e.g. people speaking out of turn, or putting forth a motion and voting without prior notification of the full membership.

Normally, a parliamentarian is silent, and just oversees that the meeting is run as scheduled and that all topics are covered. On a month to month basis his / her role is minimal, but at any meeting where changes are proposed then the role of the parliamentarian is important because he / she has to ensure that the procedures are followed in accordance with the Robert's Rules of Order.

e.g.

- change of association name
- change of by-law
- change of anything registered in Victoria

Above is a very brief description of what is expected of a parliamentarian, and how a meeting should be conducted.

### Reminder



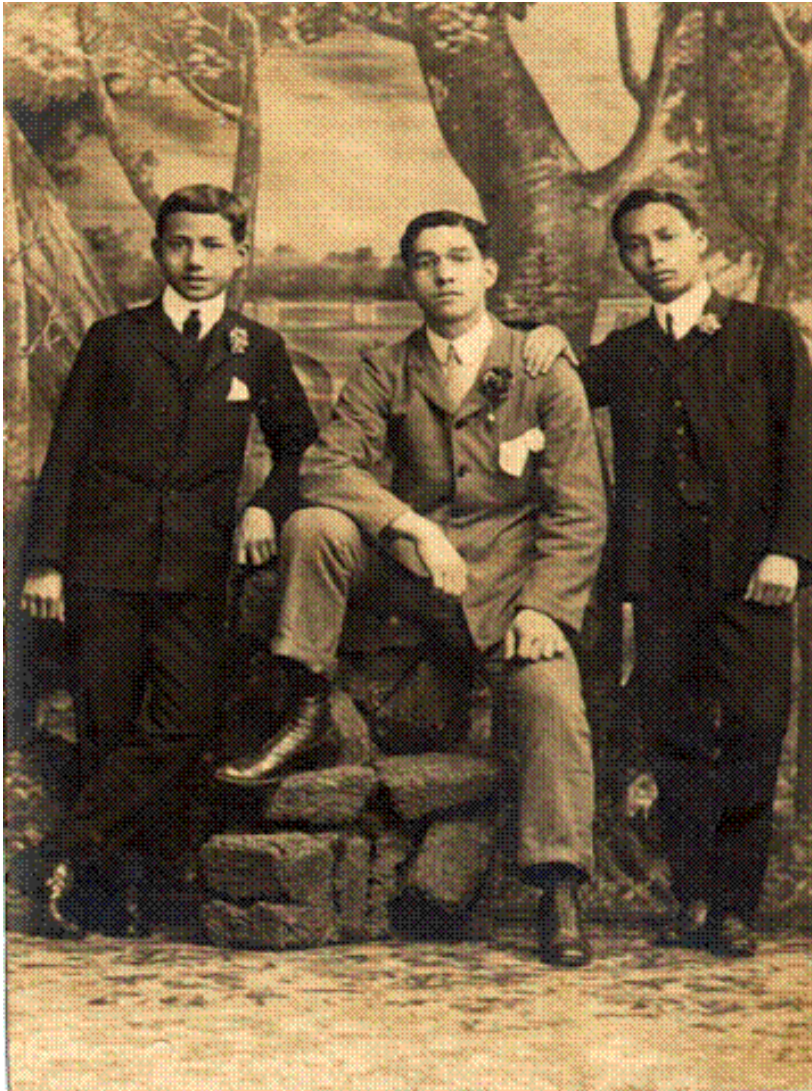
The \$15 annual membership renewal fee for 2006 is due April 30, 2006. After a three month grace period (July 30) the fee will increase to \$25 (\$15 plus the \$10 new member initiation fee). These fees are not large but they are our main source of cash flow which allows the Casa to carry out its regular functions and activities. Prompt payment is therefore appreciated. Muito Obrigada!

**Margie Rozario** sends a big muita obrigada to everyone for their prayers and warm wishes.



Get well soon Margie! We miss you.

## MACANESE MYSTERY MEN HONG KONG—CIRCA 1906



### Who are these dapper young men?

We know the gentleman on the far right is Ernesto Antonio - Maria (Antonio) King's grandfather.

Anyone know who the other two gentlemen are? If you do, please call Maria at home (604) 299-2521 or at work (604) 292-1960.

### Dates to Remember



### Events

'Yun Yat' Chinese Banquet

Feb 4, 2006

April Showers Dinner / Dance

April 22, 2006

Casa Picnic

Aug 12, 2006

Casa Nite

October 28, 2006

### Next Meeting (AGM)

March 11, 2006

### 2006 Election



At our annual general meeting on March 11, 2006, we will be electing a new 1st Vice-President. You will be receiving nomination forms in the mail. Your nomination can be sent to the address on the form and **must be received by February 18, 2006.**