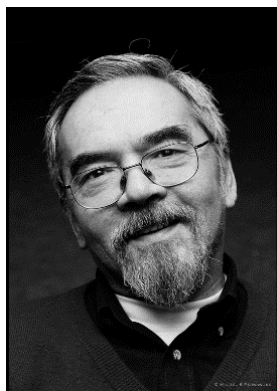


Dr. Alfredo Maria Sales Ritchie -- 李治醫生

President 1987-1988/2001-2002 of Macau Rotary Club

By Herbert K. Lau (劉敬恒) (Rotary China Historian)

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Dr. Alfredo Maria Sales Ritchie (李治醫生) passed away on 27 August 2019 after a tough fight against a prolonged illness, leaving Rotary, the Macanese community, family and friends with whom he shared the local culture and pronunciation of Patuá in mourning.

“Partiu o nosso Fredo” (our Fredo left) was the phrase with which the local Portuguese community woke up in that morning. The facebook page of the Macanese theater group Dóci Papiaçám di Macau (澳門土生土語話劇團) was in mourning, in a text published by Miguel de Senna Fernandes about his friend and stage colleague. “For years he fought with courage against the disease that plagued him, but now it was for good. He had the spirit of a fighter, one of the toughest I had the privilege of knowing,” Miguel wrote.

Dr. Alfredo Maria Sales Ritchie (1946-2019), a Rotarian with classification “Medical Doctor”, was President of the Rotary Club of Macau (澳門扶輪社) in 1987-1988 when Herbert K. Lau (劉敬恒) was the same class of presidents. Dr. Raymond C. Wong (黃志偉醫師) (*Kowloon East, Hong Kong*), a Macanese Cantonese surgeon, was that year District 345 Governor of Rotary International. This Rotary District, since 1 July 1987, was a tiny one with less than 30 clubs located in 2 international cities: (1) The Portuguese Territory Macao (葡萄牙屬地澳門); and (2) The British Crown Colony Hong Kong (英國殖民地香港).

Alfredo served as the Club President one more time in 2001-2002. In this year, it was already Rotary International District 3450 which was compiled with 2 countries: (1) China (中華人民共和國---the portion of Hong Kong and Macao SARs); and (2) Mongolia (蒙古國).

Alfredo’s wife, Anabela Fátima Xavier (林綺濤), was also an Honorary Rotarian of the Rotary Club of Macau for more than 2 decades. They married to each other on 23 December 1971. This Rotarian couple has 2 children: André and Alexandre.

Actor and Essayist

Alfredo was born in 1946 into a traditional Macanese family, knowledgeable about the local culture and the Creole language of the Territory. “He was a cultivator of Patuá, which he also spoke as his home language, in addition to Portuguese, of course. But the mother, Dona Ester, who is still alive, speaks Patuá well and this language was used in the family”, Miguel Senna Fernandes told the press, among the many facets he remembered about his old friend. About the years in which he participated in the local theater scene, the press reads that he was the “actor who honored us for the longest time with his energy, humor, persistence, sense of duty and above all, friendship for all the members of the Group, with special emphasis on all the new ones”.

“His life was not limited to the medical profession, He was a person with very varied interests. He was a person of culture and a lot of fun. He was an athlete when he was young, played hockey, and always participated in numerous activities. He was a lover of bridge and poker games, a collector of model cars. He was a prominent member of the first Rotary Club of Macau, of which he became president. He was a multifaceted person,” Miguel highlighted.

But above all, Alfredo Ritchie “was a cultured man who loved to read”, recalled Miguel, for whom his friend will be missed in a very personal way. “We talked a lot, I spent a lot of time with him and Anabela [Ritchie], and we had deeper conversations, which weren’t just about theater. We argued about many things for a long time. It is with great sadness that we lost him.”

The theater group also learned to rely on their company, the teachings, the knowledge that they printed in the texts, performances and monologues that they wrote for the plays. Alfredo entered Dóçi Papiçám’s first show in 2001, at the invitation of Miguel Senna Fernandes. “I sent him the invitation to play a role, and he immediately accepted. The play was “Siára Zinha” ---in Patuá siára is a married woman, therefore she is a little woman---and, since she joined, she has never left the Group. He represented a lot of things. He was a very versatile person on stage. He played everything from the hero to the evil one.”

“He had a very natural grace. He was very fun. He told me ‘despite my frown, I make you laugh!’ and he made a big deal out of it,” Miguel added. “So I think this loss hits us all. From what has been written here on social media, we can see how dear he was to everyone. and how remarkable it was for the Group and the community.”

澳門土生土語話劇團在 facebook 是這樣寫的：

「2001 年，他應邀參與土生土語話劇團的演出，自此成為了團中不可惑缺的明星。致力於保育土生文化和土生土語，李治成為了很多年輕一代的土生土語話劇團團員的啓蒙老師，尤其把土生土語獨特的發音特色傳承下去。

對他的印象，是他既能盡情玩樂，同時知道何時要認真起來。歡樂是土生土語話劇團的中心氛圍，幸好有李治醫生的提醒，大家會牢牢記住擔起的文化責任。他不是嚴厲的監督者，他更像一個和藹的前輩領著小孩走上正道。」



Alfredo Ritchie in the drama



National Drug Congress of Portugal -- September 1977

Scene of a session of the National Congress to Combat Drugs held in Lisbon --- in the Macao delegation is Dr. Alfredo Ritchie (front row right 2), of the SSA and clinical director of the C.R.S.

Medical Doctor and Politician

Alfredo Ritchie was graduated in General Medicine from the University of Lisbon (Universidade de Lisboa), Portugal, and ended up returning to Macao to practice his profession, even before the 25 April 1974, as a militia doctor ensign.

He began by settling in Taipa (氹仔), where he worked as a clinician posted to the Islands. He later studied abroad for a specialization in Upper Endoscopy, a new technique in the 1970s, which he pioneered in the Territory and to which he dedicated himself throughout his profession. He later practiced medicine at the Hospital Conde de São Januário (仁伯爵綜合醫院/山頂醫院), and then opened his own private clinic.

Among the people who have lived in Macao for the longest time, perhaps there are few who have not visited his old office, there on Rua de Pedro Nolasco da Silva (伯多祿局長街). “He brought great added value in terms of health, and for years until his retirement he always worked in this area”, explained Macanese doctor and colleague Fernando Gomes.

“I knew Dr. Ritchie in many ways, but most closely as a colleague. I had just returned in 1991 and he was already working at the hospital. Before that, I naturally knew him and knew who he was, because his wife, Dr. Anabela, was my English teacher.” He met him several times, “he was an affable, conversational person and also supported his younger colleagues”, and again had the opportunity to participate with him in a civic initiative in 1992, “when we were part of the reconstitution of a list, headed by Miguel Senna Fernandes, for the elections in Macao. Dr. Carlos Assunção had just passed away.”

“At that time we worked all night on preparing the program, the electoral strategy and the campaign. And I ended up getting to know Dr. Ritchie better, in this facet that few people know about, a person who collaborated in the evolution and political involvement of the Macanese community, always behind the scenes as a strategist, because he was a great friend of Dr. Carlos Assunção, since 1970s and 1980s. He followed the electoral campaigns of ADIM (Associação para a Defesa dos Interesses de Macau) (Association for the Defense of Macau’s Interests) (澳門公民協會), which was Dr. Assunção’s list, and later Dr. Anabela Ritchie ended up heading that list”, Fernando Gomes recalls well.

For all this, “it is very sad news, we have lost a person who distinguished himself as a beloved identity of Macanese culture”, lamented the colleague.

The ADIM was a Portuguese conservative and localist political association based in Macao. Founded on 19 June 1974 by Delfino José Rodrigues Ribeiro (李德勳) and Carlos Augusto Corrêa Paes d’Assunção (宋玉生), ADIM collaborated politically with CDS in Portugal, as both shared similar ideology. Unlike the liberal Democratic Centre of Macau (澳門民主協會), ADIM aimed to prevent Macao to be rapidly decolonized like the Portuguese colonies in Africa and to defend the status quo of Macao as a Portuguese Territory, instead of focusing on the democratization of Macao. With the formation of ADIM, local pressure also increased to transform the colonial structures that still existed in Macao.



The Rotarian Wife -- Anabela Fátima Xavier Sales Ritchie



Anabela Fátima Xavier Sales Ritchie (林綺濤) is a Macanese politician in Macao. She served as President 1992-1999 of the Legislative Assembly of Macao (Presidente da Assembleia Legislativa de Macau) (澳門立法會主席), the first woman to hold such position.

Anabela was born in Macao to a family with both Chinese and Portuguese ancestry; both of her grandmothers were full-blooded Chinese. Her parents, both Macanese, were civil servants. She gained a master's degree in Germanic Philology from the University of Lisbon, Portugal, in 1971, following with a Diploma in Pedagogic Sciences from the same institution. She was a teacher in Lisbon from 1971 until 1974 before returning to Macao, where she continued teaching from 1975 until 1986. In that year she was appointed to a seat on the Legislative Assembly, of which she served as Vice-President.

In 1992 Carlos Augusto Corrêa Paes D'Assumpção, then serving as President of the Assembly, died suddenly in Hong Kong due to serious sickness. Anabela was elected to succeed him. She served in the post until the handover of Macao to China in December 1999, when she was required to relinquish the position because she opted to keep her Portuguese nationality.

Anabela was succeeded by Susana Chou (曹其真) as president, but remained a member of the Assembly until 2001, serving six terms in total. During her career in the Assembly, Anabela was often accused of being too pro-Chinese in her outlook. Since the end of her political career she has remained involving in local affairs---acting as a Council Member of the University of Macau; Member of the Curators Council of the Macau Foundation; Member of the Consultative Commission for Women's Affairs; Member of the Judiciary Magistrates Council; and 1987 Grand Prix Organizing Committee Chairman, etc.

Anabela's services was recognized by the Portuguese Government in conferring Medalha de Valor (英勇勳章) on 25 May 1999 by Macao Governor Vasco Rocha Vieira.

Map of Macao as on 1 July 1987 when was the partial territory of the District 345 Rotary International

