

José Inocêncio dos Santos Ferreira

President 1977-1978 of Macau Rotary Club

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José Inocêncio dos Santos Ferreira, CvIH, (Macao, 28 July 1919 - Hong Kong, 24 March 1993), better known as “Adé” (阿德), was a poet from Macao and a great defender of Patuá Macanese, the region’s Creole language. He is so far the only Rotarian in Macao honoured with a bronze statue installed in Jardim das Artes (Garden of Arts) at the business district of the Special Administrative Region. Adé was President 1977-1978 of Macau Rotary Club (澳門扶輪社), in the District 345 Rotary International. The Rotary District, then until 30 June 1978, was compiled with 3 different territories of 3 different countries: (1) The Portuguese Territory Macao (葡萄牙領地澳門); (2) The British Crown Colony Hong Kong (英國殖民地香港); and (3) Taiwan Province of the Republic of China (中華民國臺灣省). The Macau Rotary Club in 1977-1978 was supervised by District Governor Ira Dan Kaye (紀艾華), MBE, (Kowloon, Hong Kong).



Adé was born and lived in Macao for most of his life. His father Francisco dos Santos Ferreira was a Portuguese from Portugal, and his mother Florentina Maria dos Passos was a Macanese.

In addition to being a poet and defender of Patuá, Adé was a civil servant, having served as Head of the Secretariat of the Liceu Nacional Infante D. Henrique (澳門利宵中學). After

retiring, he was General Secretary of the Sociedade de Turismo e Diversões de Macau, S.A. (STDM) (Macau Tourism and Amusement Society) (澳門旅遊娛樂股份有限公司). Concurrently, he taught Portuguese to Chinese students. He was also a frequent contributor to the Hong Kong newspaper 《China Mail》, the North American news agency 《Associated Press》 and many Portuguese newspapers published in Macao, such as the weekly《O Clarim》.

Being a great lover of sport, he was also the founder and leader of several associations, organizations and sports clubs in Macao, such as the Macau Football Association, the Hóquei Clube de Macau (Macao Hockey Association) (澳門曲棍球總會), and the Provincial Council of Physical Education, which he presided over. In his capacity as a sports director, he organized and directed several championships and tournaments of various sports.

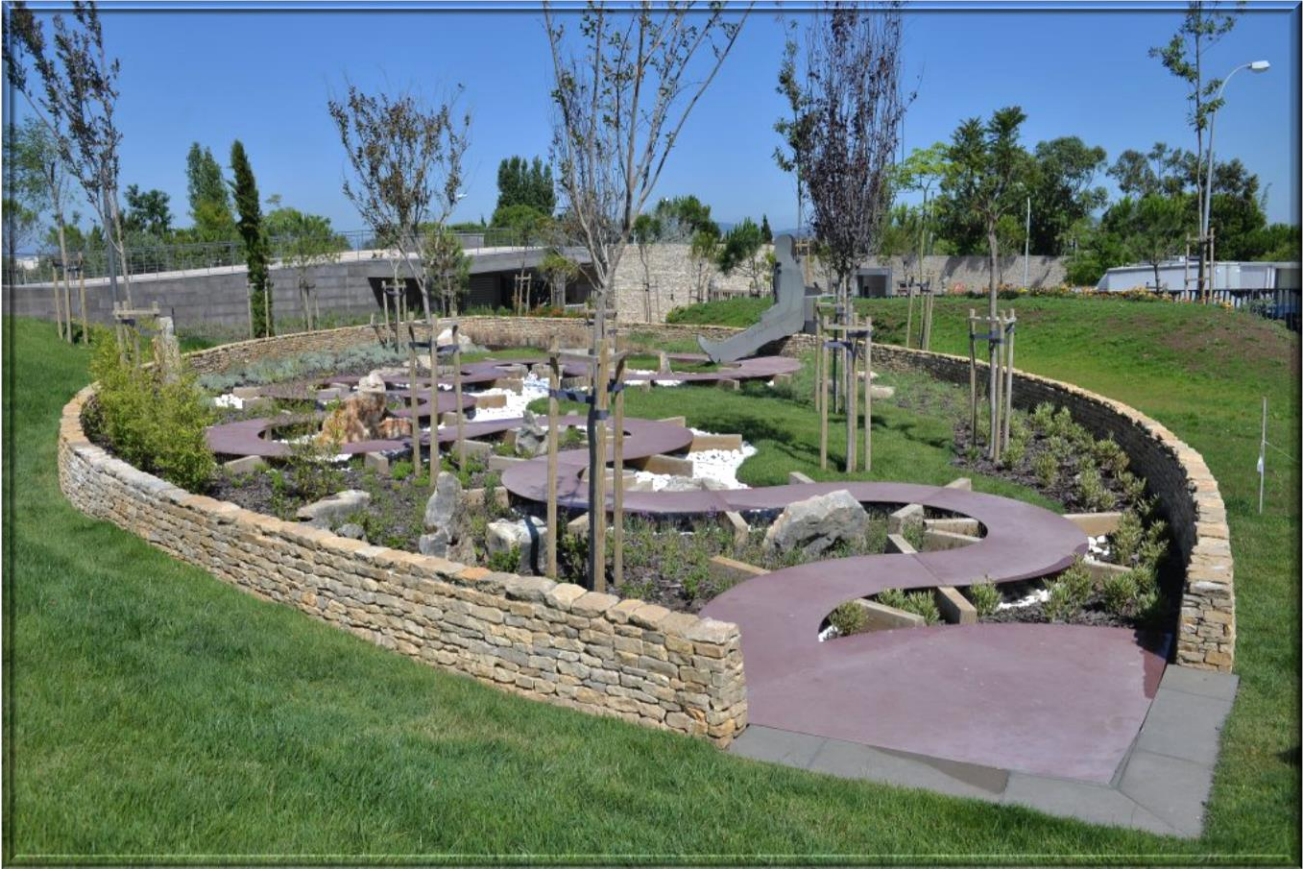
In addition to Rotary and sport, Adé also dedicated himself to philanthropy, being member of the Board of Directors of Santa Casa da Misericórdia (Holy House of Mercy of Macao) (仁慈堂).

For a large part of his life, Adé dedicated himself to the dissemination of Macanese Patuá, being the last Macanese popular poet who left a vast work composed of poems, recitals, plays, books, radio programs and operettas in Macanese Patuá. He was also the founder of Tuna Macaense (澳門人樂隊).

Adé's service to the Macanese community was well recognized by the Portuguese Government. On 3 September 1979, he was conferred Knight of the Order of Infante D. Henrique by the President of the Portuguese Republic. Later in 1983, he was decorated Medalha de Mérito Desportivo (Medal of Sports Merit) (體育功績勳章), and in 1984, Medalha de Mérito Cultural (Medal of Cultural Merit) (文化功績勳章), by Macao Governor Rear Admiral Vasco de Almeida e Costa (澳門總督高斯達海軍少將).



Adé at the Poets Park in Oeiras, Portugal



José Inocêncio dos Santos Ferreira was born in Macao on 28 July 1919. The man who became known as “Adé” dedicated much of his life to the dissemination of the Macanese dialect, Patuá, being the author of a vast bibliography and recitals, plays, operettas, etc., which he also rehearsed and directed. He was a son of Portuguese father and a Cantonese mother. He was the last poet of distinction to write in Macanese (Patuá), the Portuguese-Cantonese creole.

Adé also had relevant intervention in sports (tennis, hockey, football) and in radio programs. He passed away in Hong Kong, on 24 March 1993 at the age of 73, leaving behind his wife Alba Bárbara Boyol (married since 1943) and his children Rita and José.

Adé lived all his life in Macau and left behind a great body of work consisting of 18 books of poetry, prose, plays, operettas, and radio shows in Patua. Adé wrote, directed, and acted in his own productions. Macao already had a statue in his honor and since July 2015 the same has happened with Portugal. The sculptural profile of the poet is by Carlos Marreiros and is included in the Parque dos Poetas (there are 60 from the Portuguese-speaking world) in Oeiras, whose second and final phase was recently opened to the public.

The “installation” evokes the meandering bridge of the Lou Lim Ioc Garden (Jardim de Lou Lim Ioc) (盧廉若公園) in Macao and includes the “Poem of Macao”.

