

The Birth of the Rotary Club of Macau in 1947

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

15 October 2015



The landmark of Macao

聖保祿學院天主之母教堂遺址 (大三巴牌坊)

Ruínas da Antiga Catedral de São Paulo (Ruins of Saint Paul's)

“Macao” in English, or “Macau” in Portuguese, or “澳門” in Chinese, was formerly a Portuguese Colony. The territory of Portuguese Macao was first leased to the Kingdom of Portugal by the Ming Empire (大明國) as a trading post in 1557. Portugal paid an annual rent and administered the territory under Chinese sovereignty until 1887.

Portugal later gained perpetual colonial rights in the 《Sino-Portuguese Treaty of Peking》《中葡和好通商條約》 signed with the Ch'ing Empire (大清國) on 1 December 1887. The Colony remained under Portuguese rule until the 1999 handover to the People's Republic of China (中華人民共和國). The unique blend of Portuguese and Chinese architecture in the city's historic centre has resulted in its inscription on the UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) World Heritage List in 2005.

The desire of having Rotary extension in Macao was much earlier when Rotary International had decided to create 3 Rotary districts within the Republic of China (中華民國) on 1 July 1937---the 96th, the 97th, and the 98th Districts---for southern, central, and northern China respectively. Macao was a member territory compiled in the 96th District.

The territorial limit of the 96th District was like this:

China 中華民國 [that portion including the Provinces of Fukien (*Fujian*) 福建省, Kwangtung (*Guangdong*) 廣東省, Kwangsi (*Guangxi*) 廣西省, Kweichow (*Guizhou*) 貴州省, Yunnan 雲南省]; Hong Kong 香港; Macao 澳門.

The idea of setting up a Rotary Club in Macao was raised for the first time in 1938 by a small group of friends, among them Dr. Pedro Guimarães Lobato (洛巴托博士), lawyer, and Dr. Hermann Machado Monteiro (蒙特羅博士), owner of the newspaper 《Notícias de Macau》《澳門消息報》. However due to insufficient knowledge of the basic fundamentals of Rotary and limited support, the idea did not become a reality at the time.

Though provision had been made to have Rotary extension in Macao, there was not any progress in the next 9 years. Until 1946 when Macao and Hong Kong began to recover from the effects of the World War II, the idea of forming a Club in Macao was resurrected.

Henrique Nolasco, Jr. (殷理基), then a resident of Macao, during one of his frequent visits to Hong Kong was invited by Robert Choa (蔡永興) (later President 1966-1967 of Hong Kong Rotary Club; Governor of Rotary International District 345 in 1971-1972) to attend the weekly meeting of the Hong Kong Rotary Club (香港扶輪社). He was very impressed by the fellowship and the ideals of Rotary. On his return to Macao, urged on by his enthusiasm, meetings were held with Dr. Arthur W. Woo (胡惠德醫生), OBE, JP (President 1940-1941 of Hong Kong Rotary Club) and other Rotarians who gave their assistance and advice for setting up a Club.

The interest and passion of the Macanese gained the support of Hong Kong Rotary Club to be the sponsor. The Club's Board of Directors then appointed Dr. Woo to be the Special Representative and be responsible for the Rotary extension in Macao. Dr. Woo visited Macao and hosted a lunch at the Fat Siu Lau Restaurant (佛笑樓餐室) where he gathered 16 people from various professions and disciplines. Talks on the objectives and ideals of Rotary were thoroughly preached.



The birth place of the Rotary Club of Macau --- Fat Siu Lau Restaurant

Here came the first organization meeting. On 11 January 1947, a dinner was held at the Fat Siu Lau Restaurant at which the 36 founding members elected their first Board of Directors, with Augusto de Castro Rodrigues, Harbour Master (船政廳長羅德基), the first Club President, and Henrique Nolasco, Jr., the Secretary. The charter membership list was prepared. “The Rotary Club of Macau” (Rotary Clube de Macau) (澳門扶輪社) was thus organized and began functioning as a Provisional Club, and English be the official language.

Acknowledging the favourable report from Dr. Woo, the Governor of 96th District, Dr. Chengting Thomas Wang (王正廷博士) (Rotary International Director 1944-1946; 2nd Vice President 1945-1946), gave his Recommendation of Membership to Rotary International President Richard C. Hedke (*Detroit, U.S.A.*). On 30 May 1947, Wang wrote:

Macau Rotary Club was organized through the sponsoring of Hong Kong Rotary Club and the guidance of Rotarian Arthur Woo, the immediate past president of the Hong Kong Club and Special Representative of the District Governor. The Club started with 33 charter members. The inaugural meeting, presided by Rotarian Arthur Woo, on behalf of myself and attended by a Hong Kong delegation, was held on January 11th, 1947. Club officers were duly elected as follows: Commander Augusto de Castro Rodrigues, President; Mr. Kuo Tse Fan, Vice-President; Mr. Henrique Nolasco, Jr., Secretary; Captain J.V.T. Bragança, Treasurer; and Messrs. J.G.C. Hill-Murray, Pedro José Lobo, Herman M. Monteiro, Horácio P. Larangeira and Tze Fan Chau. The officers are all able men. The members are very enthusiastic in the Rotary cause, and well represent their respective classifications, though Macao is a small colony.

Though the Membership Application was still in process with Rotary International, the Provisional Club was already action in setting its course to fulfil the ideals of Rotary by creating “The Welfare Fund of the Rotary Club of Macau” which was to help many worthy causes in the Macao community such as Homes for the Destitute and Aged, the Portuguese Red Cross, the inhabitants of Taipa (氹仔) and Coloane (路環), the Canossian Institute, the Salesian Orphanage (慈幼孤兒院), Pang Man School, Kiang Wu Hospital (鏡湖醫院), the Tong Sin Tong Association (同善堂), primary and commercial schools, and the St. Rafael’s Hospital (聖辣菲醫院/白馬行醫院/醫人廟) Maternity Ward. The Rotary Children’s Library was also set up for the benefits of primary school learners.

On 16 June 1947, the Rotary Club of Macau was admitted to Rotary International with the Charter No. 6662 granted. Certainly, the Club became the youngest member in the 96th District with these fellow clubs listed in chronological order:

Hong Kong (香港) 1931; Canton (廣州) 1932; Foochow (福州) 1933; Amoy (廈門) 1933; Swatow (汕頭) 1936; Wuchow (梧州) 1936; Kunming (昆明) 1937; Kweilin (桂林) 1944; Kweiyang (貴陽) 1945; and Macau (澳門) 1947.

A congratulatory telegram was received from Ernesto Santos Bastos (*Lisbon, Portugal*) Director 1945-1947 of Rotary International, of which conveyed the warmest greetings in welcoming the new Club and its members.



ROTARY is making strides in the Orient today. Here the new Club of Macao turned out to greet Chengting T. Wang (seated front center), 1946-47 Governor of District 96-97-98.

List of Charter Members

- (1) Commodore Augusto de Castro Rodrigues 羅德基 (President)
Harbour Master of the Harbour Office 船政廳長
Classification: Government – Public Defense – Navy
- (2) Mr. Kuo Tse-Fan (郭則範) (Vice President)
Special Delegate of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs
中華民國外交部駐澳門專員
Classification: Government – Foreign Diplomatic Services
- (3) Mr. Henrique Nolasco Jr. 殷理基 (Secretary)
Manager, H. Nolasco & Co. Ltd.
Classification: Distribution for Dry Goods and General Merchandise
- (4) Captain João Vicente Teixeira de Braganca (Treasurer)
Captain, Portuguese Army
Classification: Government – Public Defense – Army

- (5) Mr. John George Colvin Hill-Murray (Director)
British Consul in Macao
Classification: Government – Foreign Government Consulate Service
- (6) Dr. Pedro José Lobo (羅保博士) (Director)
Director, P. J. Lobo & Co.
Classification: Transportation – Aviation Service
- (7) Mr. Hermann Machado Monteiro (蒙特羅) (Director)
Manager, Navegacao & Comercio Ltd.
Classification: Buying Agent for Dry Goods and General Merchandise
- (8) Dr. Horacio P. Larangeira (Director)
Barrister at Law
Classification: Law Practice
- (9) Mr. Charles Chau (Director)
Civil Engineer, Public Works Department, Macao Government
Classification: Civil Engineering – Electricity Industry
- (10) Dr. A. Barros Lopes
Medical Doctor
Classification: Eye, Ear, Nose & Throat Medical Doctor
- (11) Mr. Chung Chi-Kwong
Director, Lei Yuen Hong
Classification: Food Industry – Rice Milling & Distribution
- (12) Mr. Kenneth P. Fletcher
Manager, Macao Water Works Company
Classification: Municipal Water Supply & Waste Disposal
- (13) Dr. Cassiano Fonseca
Director, St. Rafael's Hospital (聖辣菲醫院)
Classification: Hospitals

- (14) Mr. Frederick Johnson Gellion (嘉理仁)
Managing Director, Macao Electricity & Lighting Company (澳門電燈公司總經理)
Classification: Electricity, Light and Power Service
- (15) Dr. Horacio Garcia
Deputy Commissioner, Maritime Department, Macao Government
Classification: Government – Maritime
- (16) Dr. Adolfo A. Jorge
Barrister at Law
Classification: Criminal Law Practice
- (17) Mr. J. Grave Leite
Manager, Banco Nacional Ultramarino (大西洋銀行)
Classification: Finance – Commercial Banking
- (18) Mr. F. de Lara Reis
Teacher, Lyceum School (Liceu de Macau) (利宵中學)
Classification: Education – High School
- (19) Dr. Carlos de Mello Leitao
Barrister at Law
Classification: Law – Notary Public
- (20) Mr. Loo Wing-Sik
Director, Hing Cheong Yeung Hong
Classification: Tobacco Industry – Cigarette Distribution
- (21) Dr. Pedro Guimaraes Lobato (洛巴托博士)
Barrister at Law
Classification: Civil Law Practice
- (22) Mr. Lourenço Bernardo da Costa Martins
Postmaster General, General Post Office
Classification: Communication Service – Postal and Telecommunication

- (23) Mr. Henrique Nolasco da Silva
Director, Farmacia Popular (便民藥房)
Classification: Chemical Industry – Pharmacy
- (24) Mr. Frederico Nolasco
Assistant Manager, H. Nolasco Ltd.
Classification: Mineral Oil Industry – Distribution of Refinery Oil Products
- (25) Dr. Gustavo Nolasco
Land Registrar, Macao Government
Classification: Law – Land Registry
- (26) Dr. H. de Barros Pereira
Dental Surgeon
Classification: Dentistry
- (27) Mr. H. C. Poon (潘慶祥)
Secretary to the Special Delegate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of China
中華民國外交部駐澳門專員公署秘書
Classification: Government – Foreign Government Representative
- (28) Captain Domingos Gregório da Rosa Duque (杜格上尉)
Proprietor & Editor, 《A Voz de Macau》(澳門之聲)
Classification: Printing & Publication – Newspaper Publication
- (29) Mr. Jaime Salinas de Moura
Secretary to the Finance Department, Macao Government
Classification: Fine Arts – Literature
- (30) Mr. Carlos H. da Silva
Secretary of the Municipal Council, Macao Government
Classification: Municipal Service – Municipal Administration
- (31) Dr. Jose Vidigal
Veterinarian, Municipal Council, Macao Government
Classification: Animal Husbandry – Veterinary Medicine

(32) Dr. Joao Vila Franca

Barrister at Law

Classification: Corporation Law Practice

(33) Mr. Ko Fook-Yiu

Classification: Transportation – Coastal Shipping

(34) Dr. Manuel Maria Metello (米泰羅博士)

Colonial Secretary, Macao Government

Classification: Government – Civil Administration

(35) Lieutenant Engineer Mário Augusto da Silva

Engineer-in-Chief, Naval Yard, Macao Government

Classification: Mechanical Engineering

(36) Mr. Wai Chong

Manager, Grand Central Hotel (新中央酒店)

Classification: Hotels & Restaurants



The administrative center of the Portuguese Colony Macao as in 1947



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

CHICAGO 1, U.S.A., 35 East Wacker Drive
ZURICH, SWITZERLAND, Borsestrasse 21
BOMBAY, INDIA, Brabourne Stadium
LONDON, W.C1, ENG., Tavistock House, Tavistock Sq.

No application for membership in R. I. will be considered unless accompanied by this form duly filled in and signed by the District Governor.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL
CENTRAL OFFICE
RECEIVED
JUN 10
INDEX 1

Recommendation of District Governor

Transmitting Application of Provisional Club for Membership in Rotary International

To the Secretary of Rotary International:

Herewith I transmit the following documents, duly completed and signed, comprising the application of the newly formed Provisional Rotary Club of Macao

for membership in Rotary International:

- 1) Application form including information re constitution and by-laws
- 2) List of charter members
- 3) Check for \$100 (USA Currency) in favor of Rotary International

Date Club Organized January 11th 1947
 Number of Charter Members 33 Population _____
 Special Representative Dr. Arthur W. Woo
 Sponsor Club Rotary Club of Hongkong

Brief History of Organization:

Macao Rotary Club was organized through the sponsoring of the Hongkong Rotary Club and the guidance of Rotarian Arthur Woo, the immediate past President of the Hongkong Club and special representative of District Governor. The Club started with 33 charter members. The inaugural meeting, presided by Rotarian Arthur on behalf of myself and attended by a Hongkong delegation, was held on January 11th, 1947. Club officers were duly elected as follows:- Commander Augusto de Castro Rodrigues, President, Mr. Kuo Tse Fan, Vice-President, Mr. Henrique Nolasco Jnr., Secretary, Captain J.V.T.Braganca, Treasurer, and Messrs. J.G.C.Hill-Murray, Pedro Jose Lobo, Hermann M. Monteiro, Horacio P. Larangeira and Tze Fan Chau. The officers are all able men. The members are very enthusiastic in the Rotary cause, and well represent their respective classifications, though Macao is a small colony.

I recommend the admission of this club as a member of Rotary International.

Respectfully submitted,

May 30, 1947

Signed

Anthony T. Wong

Governor, District No. 96-97-99

The Year of 1947 in Macao

1947 was a pivotal year for Macao, marking its recovery from the shadow of World War II and the re-establishment of its social and diplomatic order. At that time, Macao was still under the regime of the Portuguese Republic, and society was undergoing a transition from wartime neutrality to postwar development. Based on historical context and data from previous years, the estimated population at that time was between 200,000 and 300,000. Below are the main events and social overview of Macao in 1947:

Diplomatic and Political Status:

- Exchange of Memorandum between China and Portugal and the Revocation of Privileges:
On 1 April 1947, the Republic of China and the Portuguese Republic governments exchanged memorandum regarding the revocation of Portuguese consular jurisdiction in China and the abandonment of privileges in the Shanghai and Amoy International Settlements. However, the memorandum did not address the most crucial issue at the time—Macao’s sovereignty---maintaining the status quo.
- Postwar Sovereignty Pressure:
Following the end of World War II, the Republic of China government attempted to regain control of Macao, leading to a new political crisis.

Social Development

- Implementation of Anti-Opium Policy:
Following the “Complete Eradication of Opium” decree promulgated in 1946, the Macao Government continued to crack down on opium dens in 1947, imposing severe penalties on drug users and dealers in an attempt to eradicate opium.

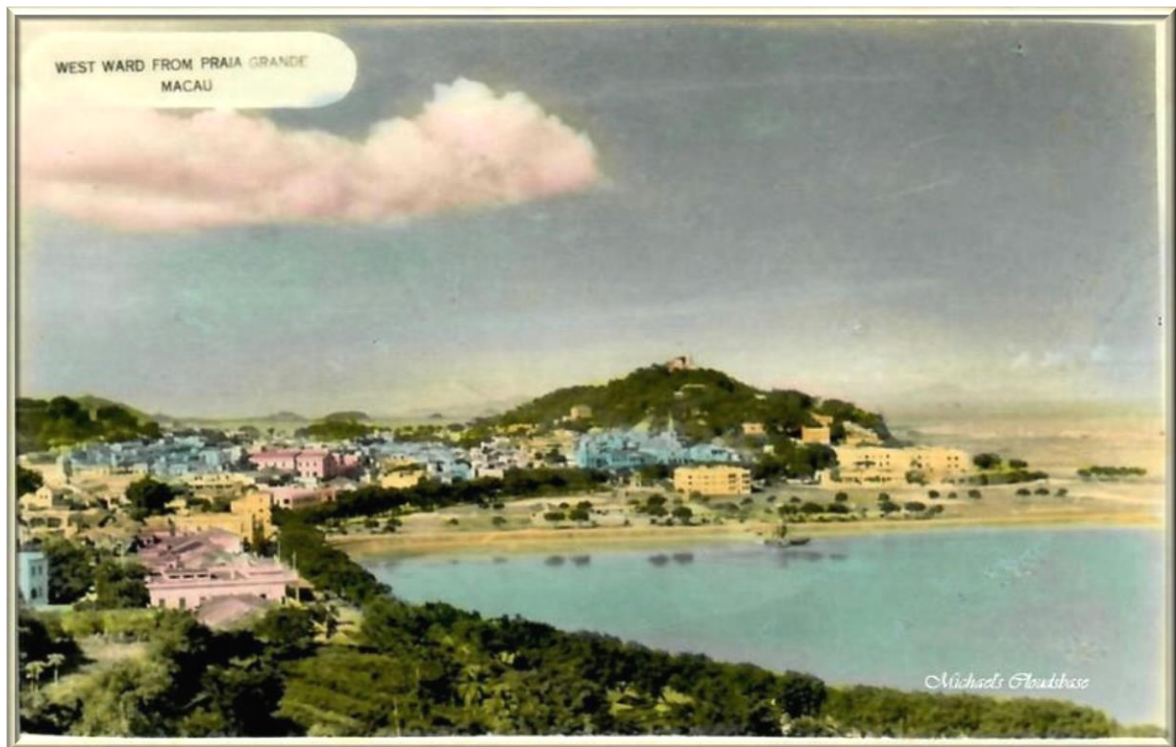
Transportation and Infrastructure

- Cathay Pacific’s Inaugural Flight Accident in Macao:
On 1 January 1947, Cathay Pacific Airways (國泰航空) was scheduled to hold an inaugural flight ceremony from Hong Kong to Macao. However, during landing, the C47 “Niki” aircraft experienced a shift in its center of gravity due to passenger movement, causing its landing gear to collide with a reservoir wall, resulting in an accident.
- Seaplane Service:
In the same year, Cathay Pacific Airways also began using Catalina seaplanes to provide services on the Hong Kong-Macao route, carrying approximately 23 passengers.

Social Welfare

- Daylight Saving Time:
Macao implemented Daylight Saving Time in 1947, which ended at 11 pm on 30 November 1947, reverting to standard time.

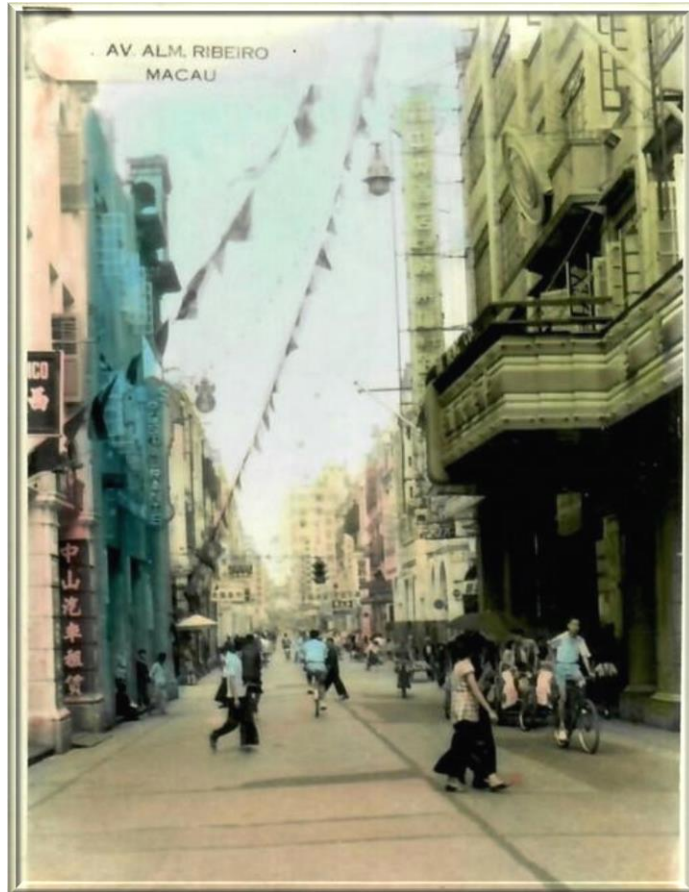
Scenes of Macao as in the 96th District of Rotary International



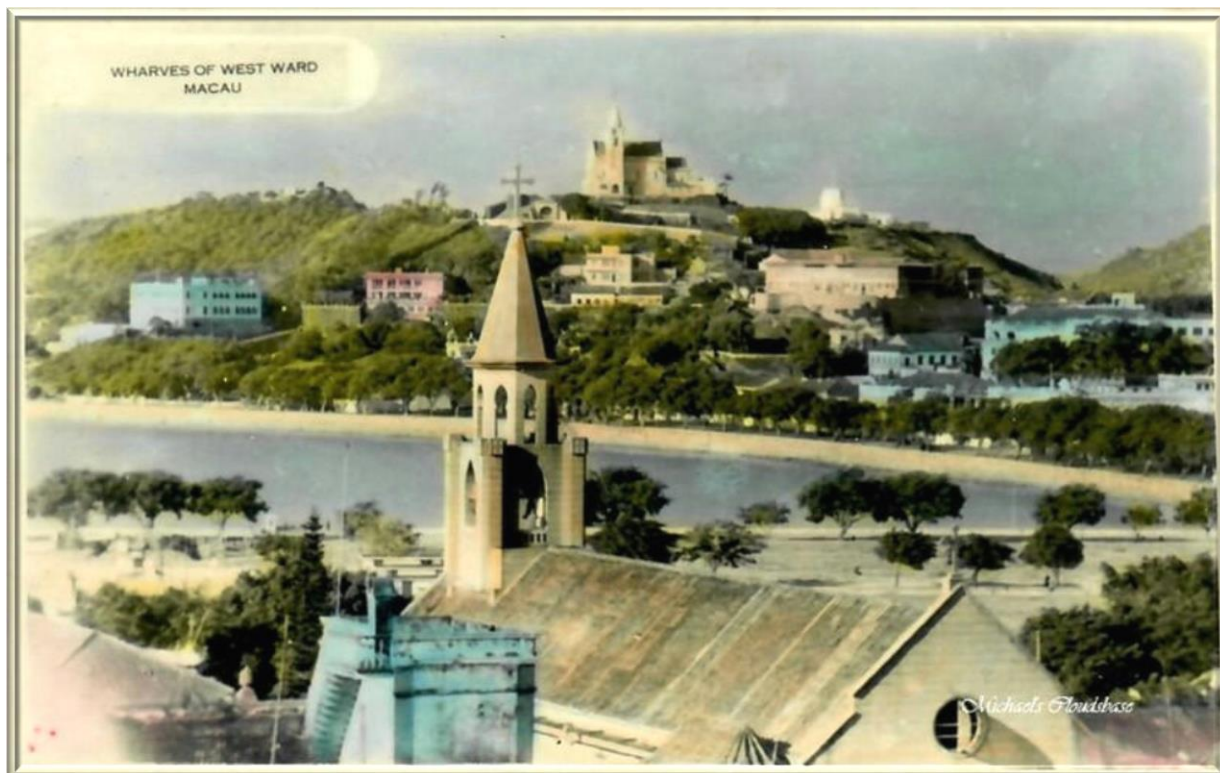
Westward from Praia Grande 從西區望向南灣，遠處是東望洋炮台及燈塔。



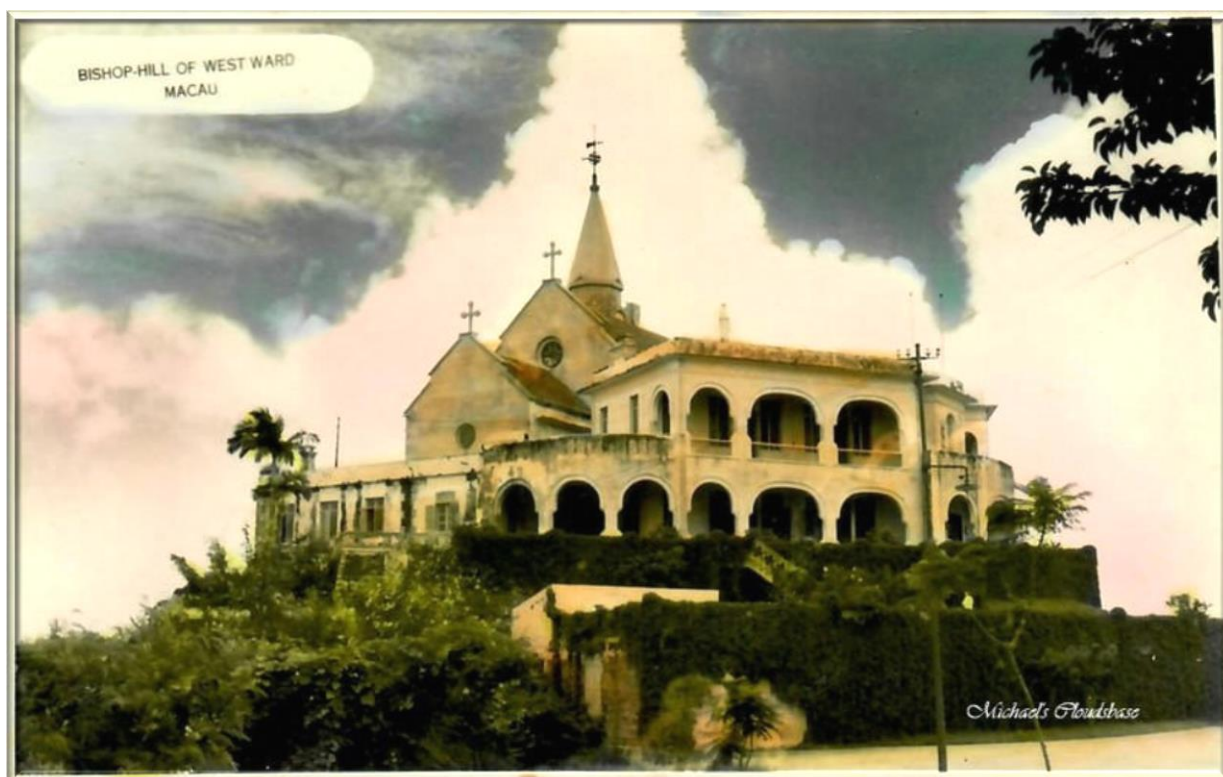
Public Library in Praia Grande 澳門中華總商會附設的閱書報室（八角亭圖書館）



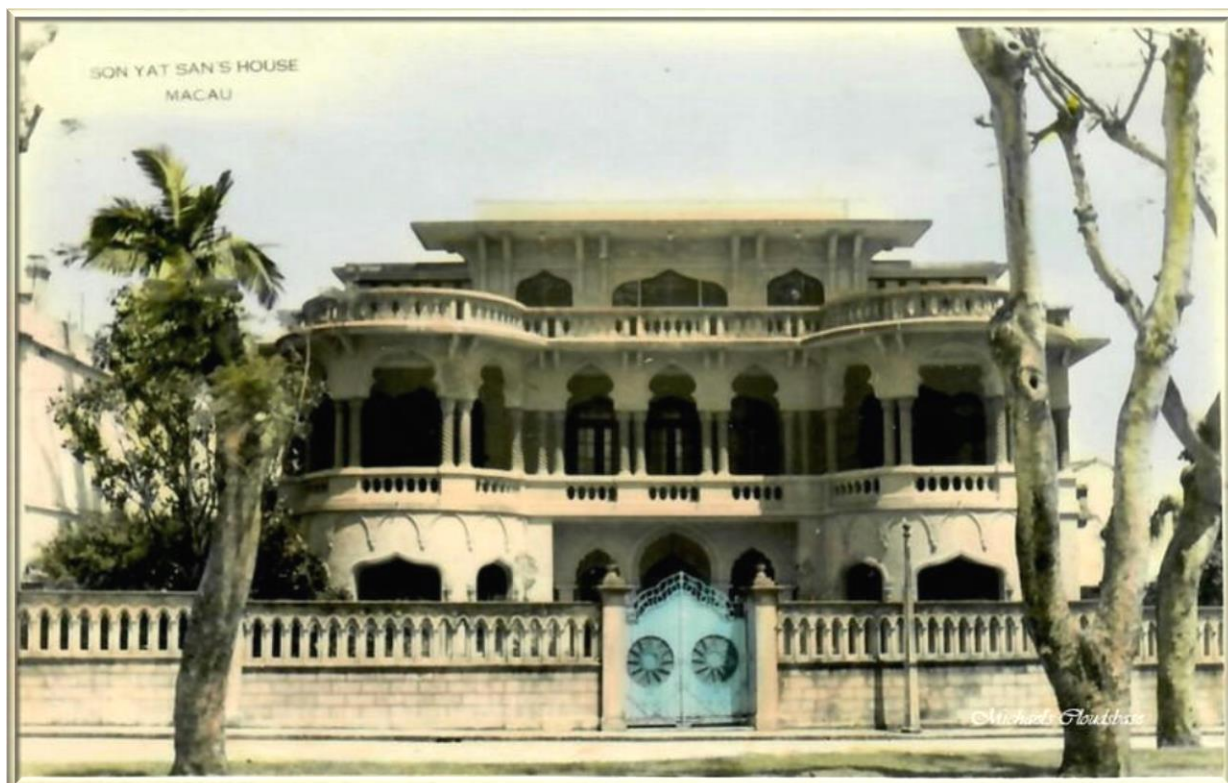
Avenida de Almeida Ribeiro 亞美打利庇盧大馬路(新馬路)



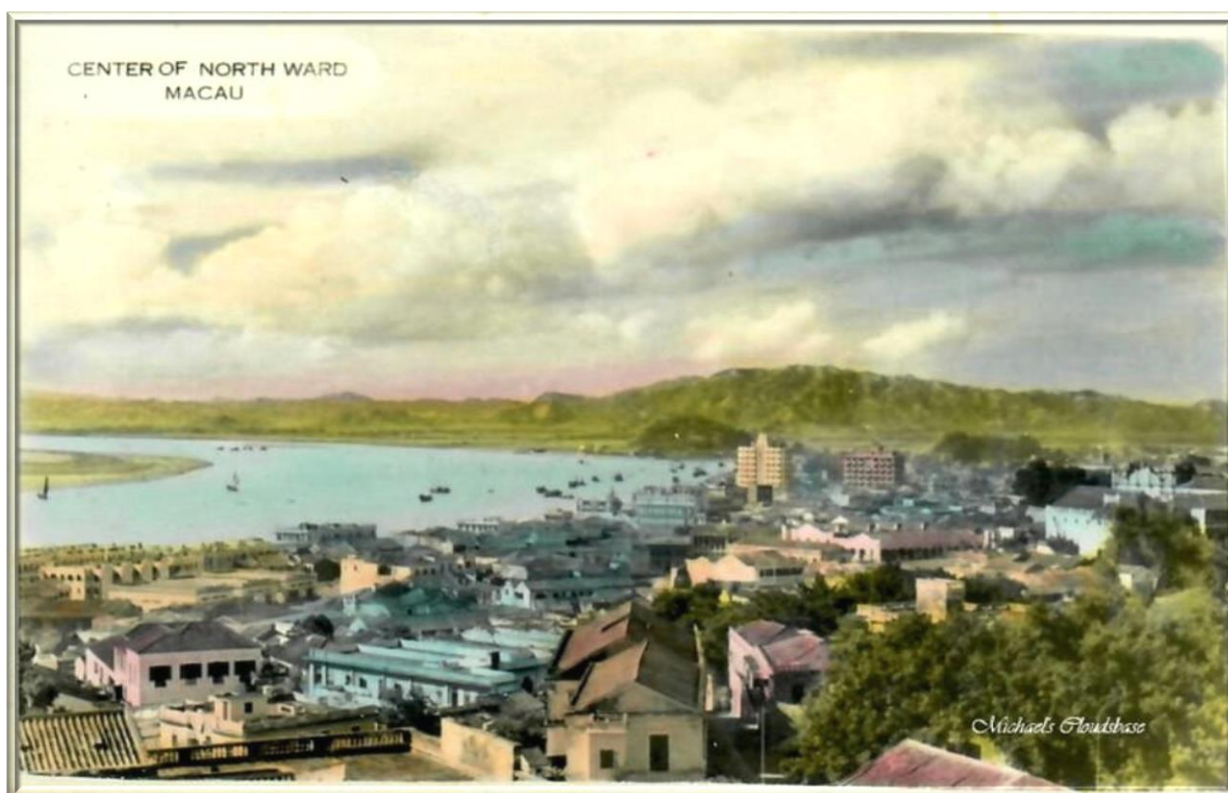
Colegio de Santa Rosa de Lima 聖羅撒女子中學



Bishop Hill (Capela de Nossa Senhora da Penha) 卑拿聖堂(西望洋聖堂)



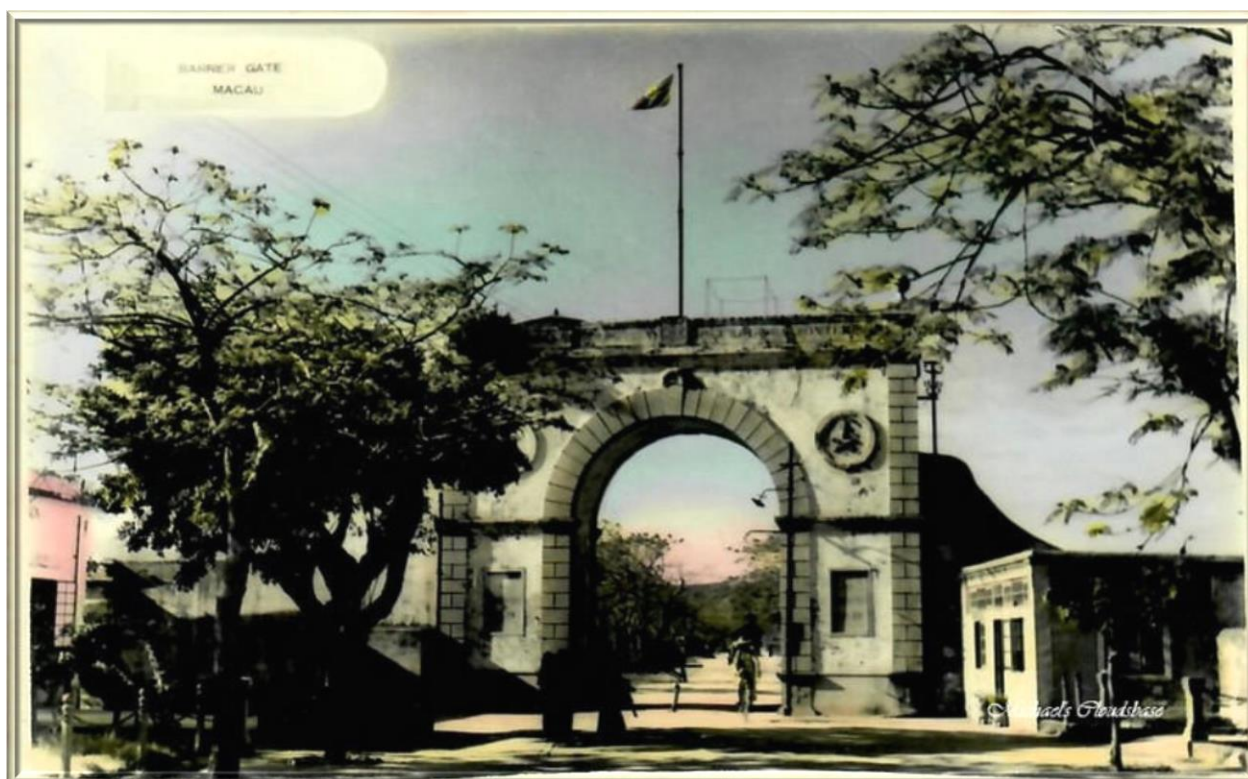
Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Memorial Hall (Casa Memorativa Sun Yat Sen) 國父紀念館



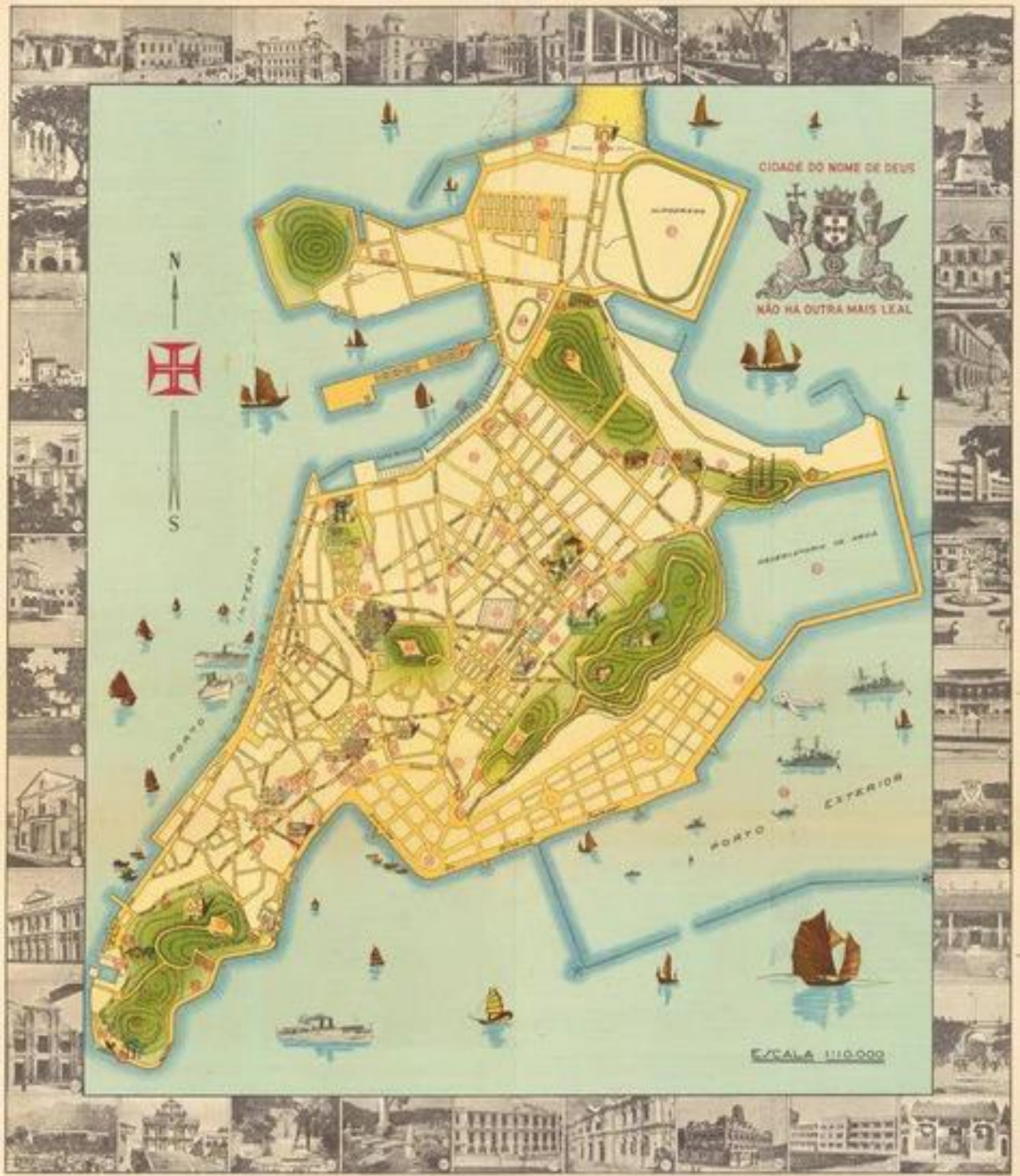
Fai Chi Kei 筷子基



Bronze statue of Macao Governor João Ferreira do Amaral 澳門總督亞馬喇銅馬像



Macao Border Gate (Portas do Cerco) 關關拱門



Map of Macao in 1949