

ABSTRACTS

Introduction

In this text, the organiser discusses the origins of this project to mark the bicentennial year of the newspaper *A Abelha da China*, as well as the general direction and topics relevant to this anniversary.

(Author: Duarte Drumond Braga, pp. 6–9)

***A Abelha da China*: A Seminal Historical Landmark**

The *Provisions*, enacted in 1783 by D. Maria I, constituted a profound defeat for the *Leal Senado*, which lost prerogatives enjoyed since the beginning of the establishment of the Portuguese settlement in Macao. Around 1807, the disintegration of the Portuguese *ancien régime* began, whose existence was definitively called into question by the Liberal Revolution. One of the first priorities of the new rulers was the elaboration of a *Constitution* that established norms based on the new values proclaimed by Liberalism. In Macao, society split before this divisive document: the progressives supported it unconditionally; the conservatives did everything to ensure that it was not applied, registering the defeat of the latter. In order to better publicise their political and

social achievements and combat their opponents, the liberals founded *A Abelha da China*, a newspaper of unequivocal value that was only published for a little over a year. Meanwhile, D. Manuel da Câmara, Governor of India, on which Macao depended, alleging high treason, sent a frigate to put an end to the hegemony of the liberal forces in the *Leal Senado*. Once these were undone, that newspaper was closed shortly afterwards and those responsible were persecuted.

(Author: Daniel Pires, pp.10–23)

Constitution, Senate and Press in Macao: The Contribution of *A Abelha da China*

This work seeks to emphasise the importance of *A Abelha da China*, the first newspaper printed in Macao, as a source of the greatest importance for the Portuguese constitutional history of the early liberalism, as well as for the study of matters of political science and public administration, specifically related with that territory. This work tries to demonstrate this assertion by analysing some of the questions that arose around the constitutional oath in 1822. (Author: Luís Cabral de Oliveira, pp. 24–41)

The Research History of *A Abelha da China*, China's First Foreign Newspaper

Founded in 1822, *A Abelha da China* is regarded as the first modern newsprint of Macao. With a history of 200 years, however, the research history of this weekly newspaper only started in 1965, with Father Teixeira. Research articles on *A Abelha da China* were first published in Portuguese and English. *A Abelha da China* first appeared under the Chinese name 'Mifeng Huabao' (蜜蜂華報) in *History of Chinese Newspapers and Magazines* written by Gou Gong Cheng in 1927. However, *A Abelha da China* was briefly covered in only a few lines. It was only at the end of 1995 that an opportunity for an in-depth study of *A Abelha da China* emerged when Prof. Fang Hanqi from Renmin University was presented with a fac-simile edition of the newspaper. In 1996, Prof. Cheng Manli from Renmin University of China researched *A Abelha da China* for her doctoral dissertation. This article explores the following: the introduction of preliminary research and evaluation of *A Abelha da China* by Chinese scholars, the miraculous relationship between Prof. Fang Hanqi and *A Abelha da China*, and the difficulties Cheng encountered when she researched the newspaper. The article also touches on several

controversies that arose from the study of *A Abelha da China*.

(Author: Tang Io Weng, pp. 42–53)

Navigating Ideologies: Nineteenth-Century Journalism in Macao and Hong Kong

Well before Portugal, Spain, the Netherlands, and England sailed the seas to compete for colonial wealth, the diffusion of printing after 1450 in Europe became a major stimulus to development. Like ripples on a pond, economic and social ‘spillovers’ led to increased literacy, public knowledge, commerce, and mass migrations across the continent.

Printing soon moved through Portuguese territories as well. The earliest moveable-type press in Goa was imported from Lisbon in 1545, producing religious and scientific manuscripts. Production increased when another press arrived in Macao from Lisbon in 1588 at the Jesuit residence. As the Portuguese Empire faded in the seventeenth century and Macao declined, printing entered a period of stasis until the British East India Company was permitted by Macao’s Loyal Senate to build factories and take up residence in 1738. Following the Opium Wars, a new era began in nineteenth-century Macao, Hong Kong, and other European ‘treaty ports’, signalling a

turning point in which journalism, ‘free trade’, and liberal discourse gained prominence.

This paper discusses the uses of print journalism in nineteenth-century Macao and Hong Kong, moving from religious origins through the advocacy of new social ideas and commercial interests that marked these early years. The focus will be on *Macaense* trained in Macao as printers and compositors, who migrated to Hong Kong after 1841 to set up their own businesses. As evident from their personal histories, these entrepreneurs were well aware of the tensions between liberal and conservative factions in Lisbon and Macao, as well as the rising dogma of ‘free trade’ in Hong Kong, which both attracted and repelled them as they asserted a unique cultural identity under British rule. As publishers and journalists, many from humble origins, their stories provide examples of how they navigated spaces between prevailing ideologies.

(Author: Roy Eric Xavier, pp. 54–68)

Review of “A Abelha da China” nos Seus 200 Anos: Casos, Personagens e Confrontos na Experiência Liberal de Macau

This is a review of the recent book (2022) on *A Abelha*

da China that inaugurates the history collection of the publishing division of the Macau Scientific and Cultural Centre, under the management of journalist and scholar Hugo Pinto and academic Duarte D. Braga. This volume includes a series of studies of the aforementioned newspaper, by Jin Guoping, Cátia Miriam Costa, Pablo Magalhães, Jorge Abreu Arrimar and Tereza Sena. It explains how this book seeks to open doors and offer new perspectives onto the cultural and political history of Macao.

(Author: Rodrigo Barros, pp. 69–73)

The Canton Register: The First English-Language Newspaper on the China Coast

The Canton Register played an important role in the development of the China trade. Many of the private traders did not have the means to collect information about China and the trade in Asia, other than what they needed in order to carry on their business. As a result, everyone involved in the trade tended to have a different view of how business was managed and conducted and why things developed as they did. This situation changed when *The Canton Register* was established in November 1827. For the

first time in the history of the China trade, everyone could get access to the same information by just purchasing a copy of the *Register*. The newspaper provided a wide range of data to the foreign community in China, from articles about Chinese society and politics, to trade practices in ports throughout Asia. Prior to the 1820s, the foreign community was not large enough to support such a paper. By 1825, however, there were more than 100 ships arriving each year, most of which were privately owned. The demand for a common source of information was strong, and *The Canton Register* filled that need. Although there were many controversies surrounding the paper, such as its support of the opium trade and its opposition to the English East India Company's monopoly, the paper supplied its customers with what they needed to carry on their commerce in China.

(Author: Paul A. Van Dyke, pp. 74–89)

A Mão de Deus? What Really Happened on Midsummer Day

Even if in the first half of the seventeenth century the Dutch East India Company relieved the Portuguese *Estado da Índia* of most of its possessions in Asia in a series of hard-fought

campaigns, the much-coveted Macao remained an elusive prize. On basis of the memoirs of the Swiss mercenary Elie Ripon, the present paper provides some new insights into the failure of the Dutch invasion of Macao on 24 June 1622. The explosion that ended the attack has traditionally been credited to a 'lucky' shot from a Portuguese cannon. However, another account has emerged suggesting that it was caused by a 'clumsy' mercenary working for the Dutch.

(Author: Leonard Blussé, pp. 90–99)

Jiuxing and Jiuxingyang in Ming Records: Geographical Notes

There are several islands along the east side of Zhuhai. One small archipelago bears the name Jiuzhou (Liedao) (九洲列島), which means 'Nine Islands'. In ancient times, its name was Jiuxing (Zhoushan) (九星洲山), literally 'Nine Stars'. The sea near this archipelago is known as the Jiuxingyang (九星洋) or Jiuzhouyang (九洲洋). Traditional Chinese texts and maps provide information on both the islands and the sea, but they do not always record their geographical positions correctly. Thus, in some cases, they locate these entities at some distance from old Xiangshan (香山), in the open sea, and not near

the Lingdingyang (伶仃洋). The present article examines references to these toponyms in local chronicles, maps and other works, mainly of the Ming period. This involves the discussion of various names, the symbolic dimensions associated with the 'Nine Stars', and the possible conceptual relations between two worlds: the islands near the Xiangshan coast and those in the South China Sea.

(Author: Roderich Ptak, pp. 100–126)

Trade Networks in Malacca

Malacca, situated in the strait of the same name, on the western coast of the Malayan peninsula adjacent to the island of Sumatra, started as a small fishing village that gained importance due to its privileged geographic position during the 14th century — an almost mandatory point of passage for maritime connections between the Indian Ocean and the Far East — and, at the time, being able to guarantee navigational safety, which was threatened by Chinese and Malayan pirates. Founded as a Hindu city-state in 1403 by Parameswara, it transformed afterwards into a Muslim sultanate in c. 1414.

With the generalised intensification of commercial trading, new routes appeared

and the generalised use of coinage gave rise to great riches and increased wealth. The region had a tendency to organise itself around an inner sea that functioned more and more like the Mediterranean.

Three trade networks competed with each other: a Chinese network, a Muslim network and, lastly, a Christian network.

The official policy of the sultanate was to favour the establishment of foreign traders

in the city and the Portuguese continued with this policy after their conquest of the city for at least the first half of the 16th century.

With the conquest of Malacca by the Portuguese in 1511, a new group appeared in the city: the *casados* (married), Portuguese soldiers married with local women. These *casados* took an active role in coastal trade, as they were not accepted in the long route trade, which was exclusive

to the Crown and the nobility.

Malacca's dominance of long-distance trade went into decline in large part because of the steady rise and growth of ports like Aceh, Johor, Pattani and Sunda, to where some trading ships had been rerouted, mostly through the initiative of the Gujaratis as well as descendants of the previous sultan of Malacca and his successors.

(Author: Leonor Diaz de Seabra, pp. 127–135)