

ESTUDOS DE MACAU



J.M. Braga, The famous journalist

# The English broadcast of J.M. Braga in Macao

TANG IO WENG\*

**ABSTRACT:** During the Japanese occupation of Hong Kong (1941-1945), many European people, American residents and Portuguese immigrants in Hong Kong came to Macao to escape the war. Macao, having the advantage of being a neutral area, offered them a temporary place to stay during the war time, and supplied them with war news and information through local radio broadcasting. The famous historian of Macao, J.M. Braga, was a journalist and broadcaster at that time, and produced an English program every Friday evening. This radio program comforted the heart of the refugees and allowed them to stay updated on social affairs. After the war, J.M. Braga was awarded by the Chinese government for his contribution to the Chinese intelligence service in Macao.

**KEYWORDS:** J.M. Braga; Macao journalist; broadcasting during wartime

After the Opium War in 1842, some Portuguese resided in Macao went to Hong Kong to develop the new city, and participate in different areas. But they were forced to return to Macao by the War of the Pacific Ocean, looking for a safe living place during the wartime. In the first century after the establishment

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st of Macao during wartime. In: O Homem e sua Obra. Braga, José Maria. Instituto Cultural, 1993.

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## HONGKONG GAZETTE.

Vol. 1. SATURDAY, MAY 1st, 1841. No. 1.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Captain William Caine, of Her Majesty's 26th (or Cameroonian) Regiment of Infantry, is appointed Chief Magistrate of the Island of Hongkong, pending Her Majesty's further pleasure, and all persons requiring Orders are required in respect the authority in this respect, agreeably to the annexed Warrant.

CHARLES ELLIOTT,  
Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary.

Charged with the government of the Island of Hongkong.  
WARRANT.

By CHARLES ELLIOTT, Esquire, Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary, &c., &c., charged with the government of the Island of Hongkong:

Pending Her Majesty's further pleasure, I do hereby constitute and appoint you, William Caine, Esquire, Captain in Her Majesty's 26th (or Cameroonian) Regiment of Infantry, to be Chief Magistrate of the Island of Hongkong; and I do further authorize and require you, to exercise authority, according to the laws, customs and usages of China, as near as may be (every description of torture excepted), for the preservation of the peace, and the protection of life and property, over all the native inhabitants in the said Island and the harbors thereof.

And I do further authorize and require you, in any case where the crime, according to Chinese law, shall involve punishments and penalties exceeding the following scale in severity, to remit the case for the judgment of the Head of the government for the time being.

Scale:—Imprisonment, with or without hard labor, for more than 3 months; or penalties exceeding \$400.

Corporal punishment exceeding 100 lashes.

Capital punishment.

And I do further require you, in all cases followed by sentence or infliction of punishment, to keep a record, containing a brief statement of the case, and copy of the sentence.

And I further authorize and require you, to exercise magisterial and police authority over all persons whatever (other than natives of the island, or persons subject to the mutiny act, or to the general law for the government of the fleet), who shall be found committing breaches of the peace, on shore or in the harbors of this island, or breaches of any regulation to be issued from time to time by this government, according to the customs and usages of British Police Law.

lice purposes herein-before specified, to arrest, detain, discharge, and punish such offenders, according to the principles and practice of general British Police Law.

And all persons, subject to the mutiny act, or the general law for the government of the fleet, found committing police or other offences, shall be handed over to their proper military superiors for punishment.

And I do further authorize and require you, to detain in safe custody any person whatever, found committing crimes and offences within the government of Hongkong, amounting to felony, according to the law of England; forthwith reporting your proceedings herein, and the grounds thereof, to the Head of the government for the time being. And for all your lawful proceedings in the premises, this Warrant shall be your sufficient protection and authority.

Given under my hand and seal of office at Macao, this thirtieth day of April, in the year 1841.  
CHARLES ELLIOTT.

## PUBLIC NOTICE AND DECLARATION.

\* \* \* The following notice is published for general information. But the necessary particulars not having yet been obtained regarding the portions of land already surveyed, the blanks relating to number and extent of allotments, and period of sale, cannot yet be filled up.

Arrangements having been made for the permanent occupation of the island of Hongkong, it has become necessary to declare the principles and conditions, upon which allotments of land will be made, pending Her Majesty's further pleasure.

With a view to the reservation to the crown of as extensive a control over the lands as may be compatible with the immediate progress of the establishment, it is now declared, that the number of allotments to be disposed of, from time to time, will be regulated with due regard to the actual public wants.

It will be a condition of each title, that a building, of a certain value, hereafter to be fixed, must be erected, within a reasonable period of time, on the allotments; and there will be a general reservation of all Her Majesty's rights.

Pending Her Majesty's further pleasure, the lands will be allotted according to the principles and practice of British law, upon

Hong Kong Gazette on May 1st of 1841.

of Hong Kong, the Portuguese became the public servant, banker, and even developer of the livestock industry and plantation. Among these explorers, four generations of the Braga family lived in Hong Kong relating closely to the contemporary history of Hong Kong and Macao. They were involved in the activities of mass communication, journalism, politics and historical research. José Pedro Braga (1871–1944) and his son José Maria Braga (1897–1988) set example for the Portuguese immigrants. The two Braga tell the story of both Hong Kong and Macao through newspaper, magazine, radio program and writing book.

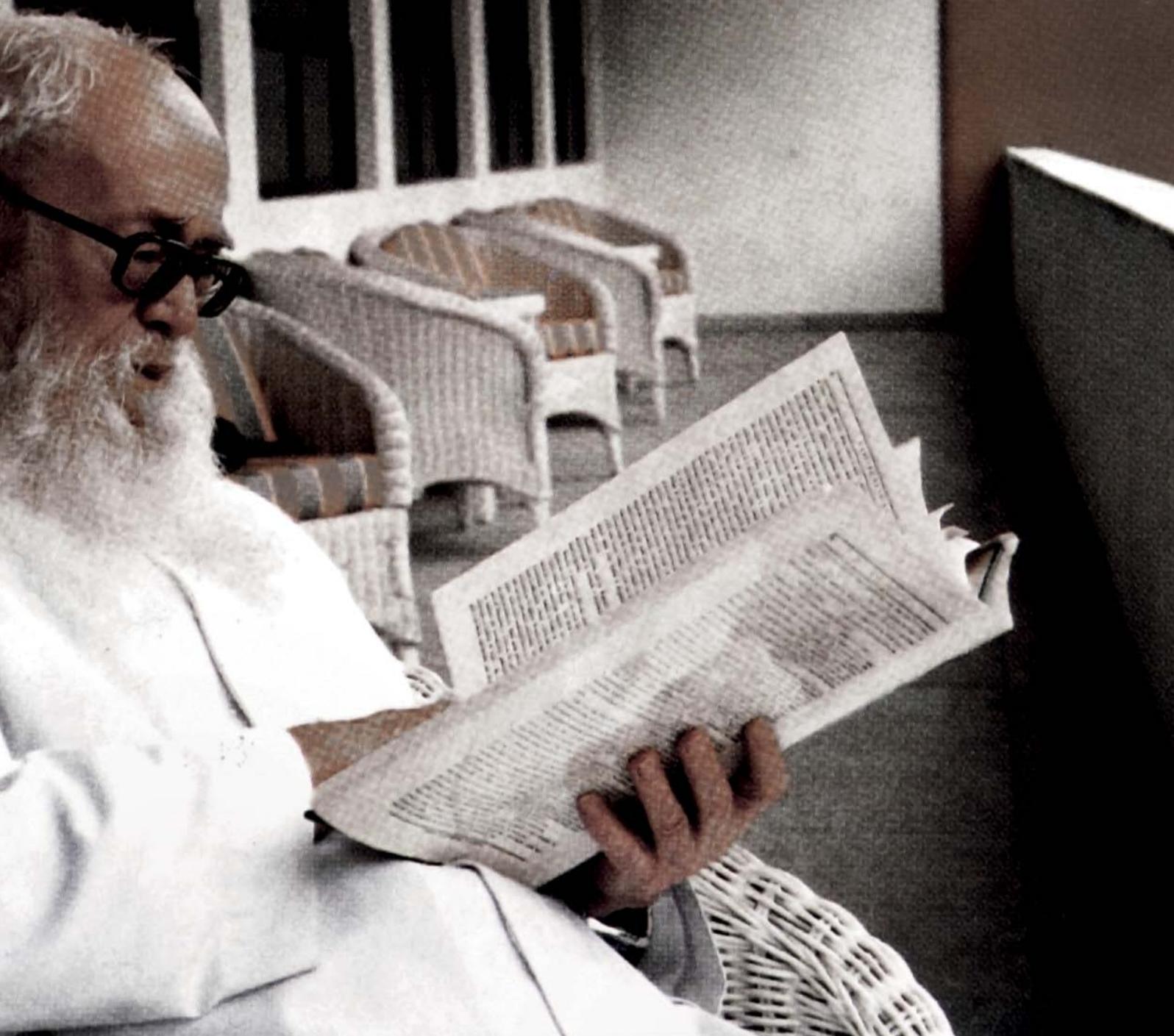
After his secondary study in Hong Kong, J.M. Braga returned to Macao in the 1920s. He had a significant advantage in his career because of his fluency in English, education background and personal relationship established in Hong Kong. His weekly English radio broadcast in Macao Radio Club



Portuguese historian Padre Manuel Teixeira in Pousada de Mong Ha. In Macau Magazine, Chinese edition.

from 1939 to mid-1940s is the essential part of the wartime broadcast, supplying a significant amount of social information to the English listeners in Macao, Hong Kong, and South-East Asia. The trilingual radio broadcast in Macao from 1941 to 1945 is the only radio broadcasting not controlled directly by the Japanese authority in South-China.

Delfino Noronha<sup>1</sup>, one of the Portuguese immigrants to Hong Kong in the 1840s, is the first generation of the Braga family. The Hong Kong governor highly appreciated the publishing company



on, 3rd issue, page 23.

founded by Noronha because of the excellent quality. The company was appointed the official printer of the weekly government gazette, and other government documents, envelope and letter paper. According to J.M. Braga, Delfino Noronha is the grandfather of his father (J.P. Braga), but he never mentioned the second generation of the Braga family in his publication.

#### BRAGA FAMILY AND THE MEDIA

The third generation of the Braga Family

continued the career of the ancestor<sup>2</sup>, running publishing factory, and taking up the position as the board member and chairman of the Hong Kong Electricity Company. J.P Braga managed the *Hong Kong Telegraph* for Sr. Robert Ho-Tung during eight years. He also worked as the correspondent of the influential news agency Reuter and Associated Press (AP). Besides the media involvement, he became famous in the political field, serving as the committee member of the City Council and Legislative Council.<sup>3</sup> Radio Hong Kong started to broadcast on June 20<sup>th</sup>,



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1928, and the government nominated 12 members to form the Broadcasting Programme Committee. J. P. Braga became its member since the establishment and held this position until 1937. This committee was influential to the broadcasting policy of the Hong Kong government. It exercised considerable influence on the policy of Radio Hong Kong before the War of the Pacific Ocean.<sup>4</sup>

J.P. Braga made a historical broadcast in Radio Hong Kong on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 1941. It was a unique radio program to commemorate the establishment of Hong Kong, the city found one hundred years ago because of the Opium War. The British did not want to irritate the Chinese community and send out the message of commemoration through other communities and cultural programs. Radio Hong Kong broadcasted special programs consecutively for three days in Chinese, Indian and Portuguese language to commemorate the centennial of the city.

The English speech of J. P. Braga broadcasted on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 1941 was published by the Portuguese Club in Hong Kong later. The International Institute of Macao got the text and photos of the family archive from Dr. Stuart Braga, the daughter of J.M. Braga, and published a small pamphlet named *Portuguese Pioneering: a hundred years of Hong Kong*. This article introduces in details, the contribution of the Portuguese in different areas since the establishment of Hong Kong. The text and the photos together form a precious and historical document. J.P. Braga is not only a businessman and politician but also a communicator and cultural man. His broadcasted text was substantial and was written in a simple style.

J.M. Braga also called Jack Braga, had married Miss Augusta in 1920 and moved back to Macao. The famous Portuguese historian Padre Manuel Teixeira is the student of J.M. Braga. Teixeira mentioned in an article that J.M. Braga came to Macao at the beginning of the 1920s, teaching English language and literature in Saint Joseph's Seminary. J.M. Braga was also a contributor to other English publication in Macao, Hong Kong, and Shanghai for a long time. He was the English editor of the English weekly *Macao Review* (1929- 1930), also the news correspondent of Reuter and *South China Morning Post* in Macao<sup>5</sup>. Since he was born and grown up in Hong Kong, therefore he can speak Cantonese, English, and Portuguese. During the two decades in Macao, he had been working as



Ricardo Pinto, local Portuguese journalist. Photo by author

a teacher, manager of the water company, unofficial consultant of the Macao governor, export and import businessman, journalist, and radio broadcaster.<sup>6</sup>

#### WAR IS IMMINENT AND ENGLISH BROADCASTING

In the middle of 1937, the Sino-Japanese conflict in North China was not yet spread to South China, but war seemed imminent to Macao. Padre Manuel Teixeira pointed out that refugees flooded in Macao

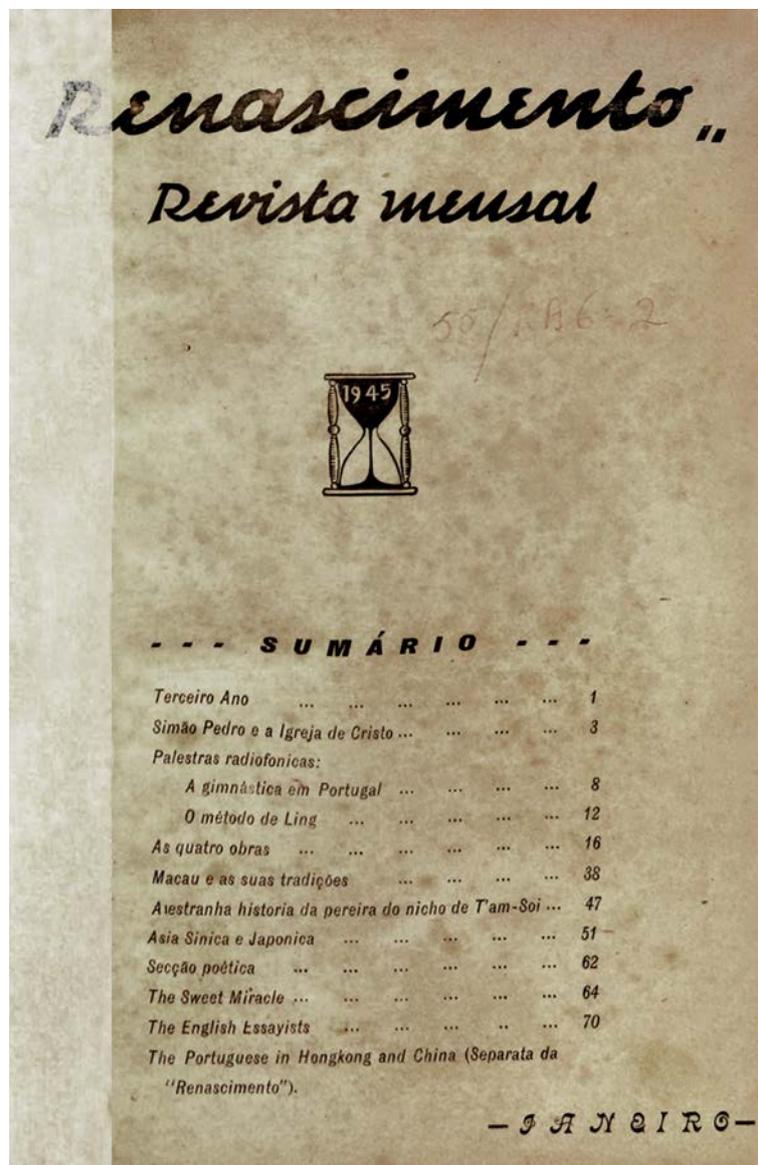


The document shows that this is not the first interference from the air force of Japan. The Macao Governor Artur Tamagnini de Sousa Barbosa had made a detailed report to Lisbon in 1937. The report stated that the military force of foreign country had dug trenches and built artillery position along the border of Macao. In the same time, the Japanese bombers bombed the neighboring area of Macao, and the fighter plane invaded the airspace of Macao.

After the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 1941, the Japanese planned the attack on Hong Kong immediately. The fighting dragged on for three weeks. Thousands of refugees from different countries and Canton Province of China flooded in Macao. From the book *Macao During the War* by Padre Teixeira, and the broadcasted text of J.M. Braga, we can conclude that there were refugees at least from six countries besides the Portuguese resided in Macao, Portuguese immigrants from Hong Kong and Shanghai. For these foreigners, the best media to get news is to listen to the English broadcast. According to the frequency table of the broadcast from other cities in the magazine *The Supplement of the Renaissance* (Chinese magazine published every two weeks), Macao can receive radio signal from London, Sidney, San Francisco, Berlin, Lisbon, Chongqing, and Tokyo.

In the summer of 1944, the director of Macao Radio Club Mr. Cunha said in an interview by *The Supplement of the Renaissance*: "It is nothing wrong to say that the wireless broadcasting occupies a crucial position in the modern science. Every country tries hard to install this facility and to improve the quality. The wireless broadcast not only makes the world more communicative but also applies in education, culture development and self-promotion of a country."<sup>10</sup> The history of radio development shows that war has accelerated the development of radio broadcasting. The radio broadcasting of Macao during the wartime had performed more function than it was designed in the very beginning. The broadcast served not only for Macao people and the promotion of the Portuguese culture, but also other audience, including the immigrant community of many countries in Macao, and the English listeners of Hong Kong and the Asia Pacific.

The exact date of the first English broadcasting in Macao Radio Club is not known, but the manuscript of J.M. Braga proves that an English radio program was



Cover of the trilingual magazine *Renascimento*.

once transmitted on June 10<sup>th</sup> 1939<sup>11</sup>. The Portuguese version of *Macao Magazine* published a feature in August 1994, introducing the broadcasting history of Macao. A technical report of the Macao Post Office (CTT) included in the featured shows that Macao Radio Club did broadcast in Portuguese, Chinese and English daily from 8 to 11 PM up to 1949.<sup>12</sup>

Another source is *The Supplement of the Renaissance* published in 1944 in Macao, a magazine to promote the radio program at that time. The radio

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program forecast of this magazine (August 1<sup>st</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> 1944) showed that English news was broadcasted daily from 8:30 to 8:45 pm. The English news mentioned here is not the same as the English program of J.M. Braga, because the document of the National Library of Australia indicated that the program of Braga was broadcasted on every Friday at 8:30 pm. The text was read out by Braga with background music, and the program lasted for fifteen minutes. Compared the different sources of information, the conclusion is that The Macao Radio Club had produced English program until 1949. Regarding the program of Braga, it may be suspended before the August of 1944, because no similar English program was found in the half month forecast of *The Supplement of the Renaissance* from August 1<sup>st</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> 1944.

### THE ENGLISH BROADCAST OF J.M. BRAGA

No tape of the mentioned radio program recorded 78 years ago can be found in the archive, library and even in Radio Macao. The only source to study the content of his program is the manuscript and typescript drafts of writings of J.M. Braga. The researchers clarify the timing of the Chinese, Portuguese, English and Japanese news with the help of the radio program published in the magazine (*The Supplement of the Renaissance*, 1944), but the exact duration of each news bulletin before the August of 1944 is not known.

Not even the name of the English program of Braga is known yet; therefore, it is called “The broadcast of Braga” in the meantime. Among the manuscript and typescript drafts of writings of Braga (1939-1942) for the English program produced in Macao Radio Club, only 24 of them have the exact date written on the script. Twenty-two of them came from the Collection of Braga in the National Library of Australia. The rest two texts were found in the Portuguese magazine *Renascimento* published in the 1940s.

The introduction of the article *The Discovery of Zipangy* in *Renascimento*, explained the reason why the magazine want to publish those text, and put the full text of radio show on September 18th, 1942. “Many talks have been broadcast from the Radio Club in the past twelvemonth, some of them of exceptional interest. We propose to include some of those talks in the pages

of the present publication. The first of these talks to be published is one that was given on the 18<sup>th</sup> September, 1942; it contains reference to the discovery by the Portuguese of the Islands of Japan.” ( *Renascimento Vol-1*, page 103)

The program of Braga was broadcasted every Friday at half-past eight and lasted for fifteen minutes. Braga read the written text with background music. The earliest program on air was the one on June 10<sup>th</sup> 1939<sup>13</sup>. Among all the 24 files, 21 of them came from the production of the year 1942. The content of his program can be classified roughly into four groups:

Classification	Content
Portugal	Culture, travel notes, poet, singer.
Macao	Local history study, culture, and newspaper, Chinese community and temple, western churches.
The relationship between Hong Kong and Macao	Portuguese participation in the exploration of Hong Kong, The activities of the Portuguese community in Hong Kong.
War	Conflict in East Asia, How the Macao government react to the situation in the surrounding area, the life in the refugee camp, Announcement of the names of those people died during wartime.
Others	The reportage to commemorate the second years of the mandate of the Macao governor, speeches of the celebrity, history study, and international relationship.

The broadcasting on October 30<sup>th</sup>, 1942 presented the speech of Governor Gabriel Teixeira on 29<sup>th</sup>, relating to the second anniversary of his mandate. This broadcast has rich content. Six representatives from different countries spoke at the ceremony, expressing their gratitude to the local government for the residence of Macao during the wartime. These countries include Holland, England, Italy, Japan, Norway and the Soviet Union. The interesting point is that both countries in conflict (Japan and Great Britain) were presented in the same event, expressing gratitude to the contribution of the Macao government. The program on October 30<sup>th</sup>, 1942 quoted four paragraphs from the speech of Governor Gabriel Teixeira on October 29<sup>th</sup>, 1942.

The first two paragraphs are to wish the population of Macao prosperous and happy and made toast to all nations.

“All of you have honored me with your toast, and I reciprocate them, wishing, in the persons of yourselves, all prosperity and the happiness to the entire population of Macao.”

“But besides this toast, and since it is impossible for me to thank each one individually, I request that you join me in a toast that extends to all nations.”<sup>14</sup>

The third and fourth paragraphs are about the war.

“I drink to the peace of the world—a peace understood in a better spiritual sense than could be defined by International Legislation: “Common understanding between belligerents that will have for its purpose a stoppage of military operation.”

“I drink to the peace of the world stamped in the hearts of men of all nations since only in such would be found the one true, genuine and enduring peace.”

The manuscript and typescript drafts of writings of Braga’s broadcasts are mainly related to social and cultural information and have little concern of local public affair. The only exception is the coverage of the ceremony to commemorate the second year of Governor Gabriel Teixeira in Macao. This manuscript on October 30<sup>th</sup>, 1942 is full of political and social message. Although the topics mentioned in the radio program of Braga are so different from the scene described by the article of Ricardo Pinto *The Fire of the Neutral Area*, the broadcasted content was from daily life which was closely related to war. Braga transmitted continuously through his program many messages about the war, including the conflicts in East Asia, government’s reaction to the situation in the surrounding area, the life inside the refugee camp and the announcement of the names of the dead.

#### THE INTELLIGENCE SERVICE OF J.M. BRAGA

J.M. Braga left us with a vast and precious patrimony which is the Collection of Braga. He also left a multi-identity to the late coming researchers. He was a historian, intellectual and communicator, working for the Macao Radio Club, Hong Kong *South China Morning Post*, and Reuter News Agency. Braga was associated with Great Britain because of his Hong Kong background and fluency in English. Many books published after the war all pointed out that Braga had

a close relationship with the British army. The King of Great Britain conferred upon him, by the president of Portugal, the Chevalier of the Order of Saint James of the Sword in 1950, awarding his contribution to Great Britain during the wartime.

Shortly after the victory of the Sino-Japanese war in 1945, the Central Investigation and Statistic Bureau of The Republic of China<sup>15</sup> conferred him a certificate of merits<sup>16</sup>. This proved that Braga once worked for the intelligence agency of China, and had achieved excellent result in the fighting against the Japanese. The awards from both England and China are the strong proof that Braga had been working as an intelligence agent during the war of the Pacific Ocean. The nature of Braga’s service was kept secret, and he never mentioned this unique experience in any publication.

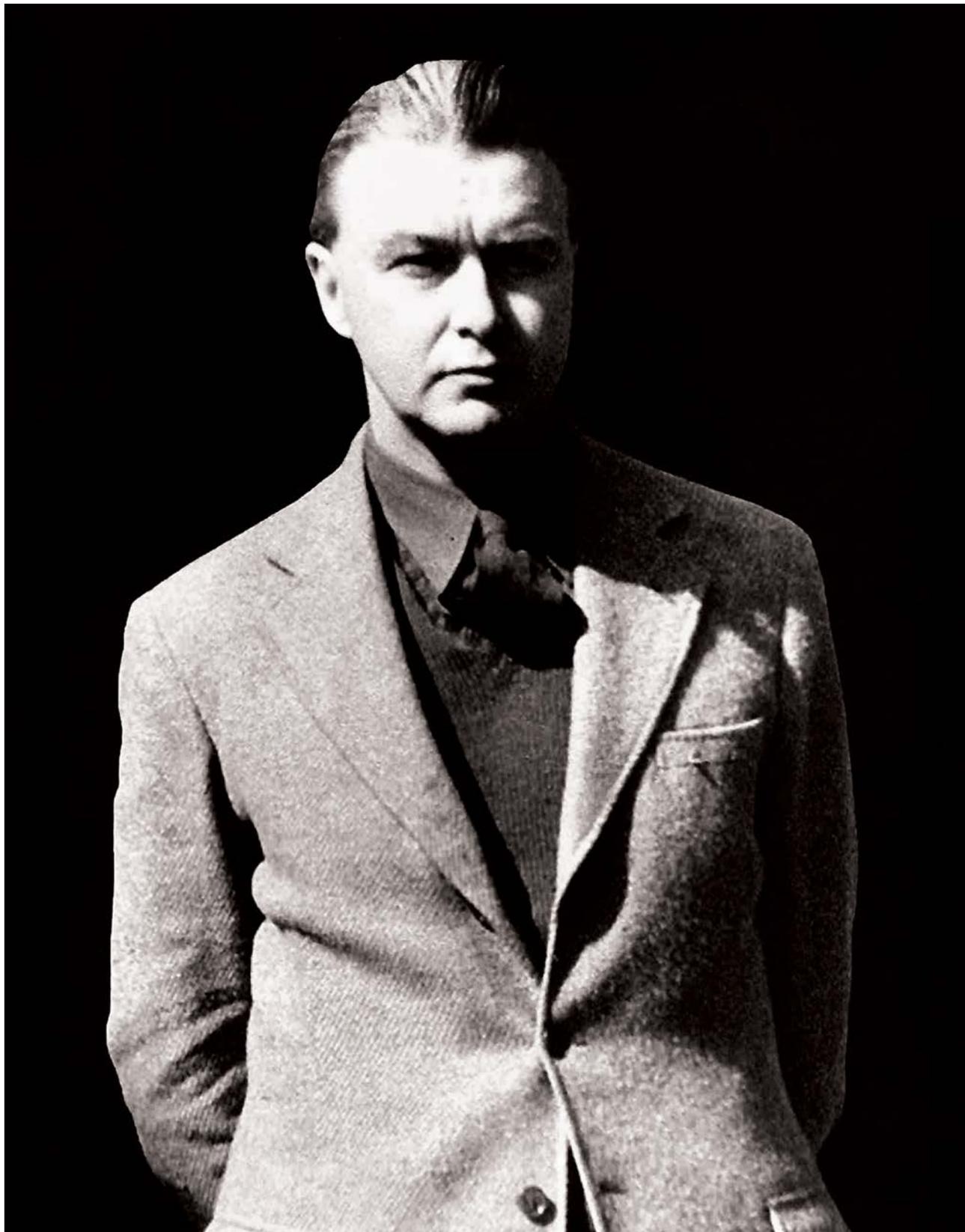
An article written by Wong Man Loong of the Institute of Modern History, Academia SINICA of Taiwan, pointed out that Macao was the main intelligence center of East South Asia during the Second World War. The Allied nations, the Axis powers, the Nanjing KMT government, and the Chongqing KMT government all collected intelligence in Macao. Wong considered that the branch of the Chongqing KMT party had the following missions: collect information of the Japanese and the Nanjing KMT government; collect information of Macao society; do promotion work; make contacts with the Japanese government and Nanjing KMT government in order to know their will to reach a peaceful negotiation with Chongqing government<sup>17</sup>. The Macao Radio Club as a platform will sure help J.M. Braga in collecting and circulating intelligence. You may ask if Braga has made use of his radio broadcasts to transmit intelligence. No concrete answer can be given before more detailed study of the text of his radio program kept in the National Library of Australia.

#### CONCLUSION

Four generations of the Braga Family lived in Hong Kong and testified the development of the first hundred years. This family had a close relationship with the publishing industry, communication, journalism and broadcasting, especially the father J.P Braga and the son J. M. Braga. They were involved in the managing of the newspaper, opening new magazine, and working

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J.M. Braga was a good friend of Charles Boxer, the famous English historian, and intelligence agent during wartime. In *Review of Culture*, International Edition 47, page 6.



The certificate of merits by the Central Investigation and Statistic Bureau of China.  
In "O Homem e sua Obra", Braga, José Maria, Instituto Cultural, 1993.



as the news correspondent and writer. In the field of radio broadcasting, J.P. Braga had great influence in the developing policy of Radio Hong Kong in the early stage. The son J.M. Braga made English program for Macao Radio Club for a long time, contributing a lot to the English broadcasting of Macao, the broadcast in the wartime, international communication, and cross-culture communication. Both father and son spent the whole life to write or to narrate about Hong Kong and Macao. They offer a very special perspective to study the contemporary history of these two cities. J.M. Braga donated the nine thousand files of the family archive to the National Library of Australia at the end of the sixty in last century. The Collection of Braga supplies the most precious historical material to the researchers all over the world to study the social history of these two cities. **RC**

## NOTES

- 1 According to the preface by J.M. Braga, in the book of his father *The Portuguese in Hong Kong and China*, Delfino Noronha is the great-grandfather of J.M. Braga. Delfino Noronha is the father of the mother of J.P. Braga.
- 2 Hong Kong government named a street in Kowloon Braga Street (布力架道) in memory of J.P. Braga who is the third generation of this family. The name of his son was translated to Chinese character 白樂嘉 in Macao.
- 3 J.P. Braga was the member of the HK Legislative Council from 1929 to 1936.
- 4 李少嫻，從1928年說起—啟動香港聲音廣播的幕後英雄[J].傳媒透視，2013年9月，第6-7頁。
- 5 Pe. Manuel Teixeira, *Gazeta Macanese* [J] 1986(9):p.4.
- 6 *DIETA*, Volume 1:p.208.
- 7 Pe. Manuel Teixeira, *Macau Durante a Guerra*, Biblioteca Nacional, Macau:pp.5-6.
- 8 Ricardo Pinto, 中立區的炮火，*Macau Magazine*[J] 2nd issue, 1997(2), p.74-75.
- 9 Ricardo Pinto, 中立區的炮火，*Macau Magazine*[J] 2nd issue, 1997(2), p.74-75.
- 10 The Magazine 《復興雜誌副刊》(The Renaissance) published an interview with Mr. Cunha, the director of the Radio of the Macao Radio Club from August to September 1944. The magazine was kept in the Central Library of Macao.
- 11 Papers of J.M. Braga, file number P1010850.
- 12 *Macau Magazine*, August of 1994: p.17.
- 13 June 10th was the Day of Camões, in memory of the Portuguese poet Luis de Camões. The date was then renamed the Day of Portugal, the day of the Portuguese Immigrants and the Day of Camões.
- 14 Papers of J.M. Braga, file number P1011449 in the National Library of Australia.
- 15 Chungtung, the abbreviation for the Central Investigation and Statistic Bureau which is an intelligence agency of ROC.
- 16 In the certificate of merits conferred upon J.M. Braga by the Central Investigation and Statistic Bureau, it was written "Comrade Braga served this unit and contributed a lot to the war against Japan." The book *O Homem e sua Obra* has no page number.
- 17 Wong Man Loong, 王文隆：《戰時中國國民黨在澳門情報工作初探(1941-1945)》[J].Studies on The Historical Materials of China's Resistance War Against Japan. 1st issue of 2012,p78-83。