ABSTRACTS

The Pirates of Macao in Historical Perspective

The history of Macao is closely associated with piracy. It is often said that the Portuguese acquired Macao as a result of helping the Chinese Ming government suppress piracy in the area in the 1550s. Yet some Chinese sources claim that actually the Portuguese were pirates who kidnapped Chinese women and children to sell into slavery. While there is a good bit of truth in both stories, the undeniable fact is that the waters around Macao had always been notorious for piratical activities. Even centuries before the Portuguese settled Macao neighboring islands served as pirate bases. One of the earliest pirates was Huang Yi, who had strongholds on Montanha and Dom Joao islands in the 14th century. But perhaps the most notorious pirate was Zhang Baozai who operated out of bases in Taipa and other nearby islands in the first decade of the 19th century. In the early 20th century a female pirate known as Lai Choi San was dubbed the "Queen of Macao pirates" in Western accounts. While Macao is certainly important for its multiculturalism and as a bridge between East and West, nonetheless piracy reveals another important but darker side of the city's history.
[Author: Robert J. Antony, pp. 6-15]

Coolies, Pirates and Secret Societies: Narratives of Chinese Underclass in Hong Kong, Macao and the Straits Settlements as Revealed in British Colonial Office Records, 1838-1938

The purpose of our paper is to introduce the British Colonial Office records pertaining to Hong Kong, Macao, and the Straits Settlements in the century between the First Opium War and the Second World War (1838 and 1938). We begin with a general introduction to the British Colonial Office records, explaining where they are located, how they are organized, and what they contain. Our focus will be on two collections: (1) Colonial Office, Hong Kong, Original Correspondence (commonly referred to as CO129), and (2) Colonial Office, Straits Settlements, Original Correspondence (commonly referred to as CO273). Because these two archival collections are quite huge, we will limit our scope to descriptions about the Chinese underclass in these port areas, namely coolies, pirates, and members of sworn brotherhoods. Despite that there are few primary sources in the Chinese language on these topics for the period under discussion, the British Colonial Office records are essential documents not only because they can help us fill in the gaps, but also because they provide us with a new perspective for studying China's history from below. These foreign records reveal much new information about how coolies, pirates, and brotherhoods organized themselves, what roles they played in local society, as well as how the British colonial governments viewed, regulated, and criminalized the Chinese underclass during the heydays of colonialism.
[Authors: Wong Wei Chin, Robert J. Antony, pp. 16-33]

From Trade to Plunder: The Setting of Portuguese Robberies in the Asian Seas

As is well known, the arrival and installation of the Portuguese in Maritime Asia were determined by the conveniences of the Crown. As a promoter, financier and administrator of the expansionist process, the Crown left little room for manoeuver to private initiatives and to the satisfaction of its economic gains. The practice of maritime seizures, which had been established in the waters of the West Indian Ocean as a result of competition with trade and Muslim routes, was also regulated and thus constituted a legal framework for corsair activity. Although the written sources available on the subject are not abundant, the parallel development of piracy by Portuguese subjects throughout the sixteenth century was evident. There were several cases of this type of situation. First of all, the

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violation of rules in the course of naval missions carried out under the aegis of the Portuguese Estado da Índia, but also defections from the official service, motivated by problems with justice or by mere personal ambition, followed by the free exercise of robberies. It is also worth noting the trajectories of other men who, in a delayed or definitive way, settled in areas of the so-called Shadow Empire, including piracy in their action. [Author: Alexandra Pelúcia, pp. 34-45]

Sino-Vietnamese Pirates and British Invaders: Maritime Crises, Oceanic Governance and Sovereignty in Mid-Qing China

At the turn of the nineteenth century, the Qing state confronted its most serious maritime threat since the conquest of Taiwan in 1683. From the 1790s to 1802, huge Chinese pirate fleets allied with the newly unified Vietnamese state (Tayson regime, 1778-1802) and ravaged the coastal frontier of South China. Worse yet, Britain, hoping to grab a much-needed foothold in East Asia, launched two naval expeditions to occupy Macao, a long-time Portuguese settlement under Chinese ownership, in 1802 and 1808. This paper takes the Sino-Vietnamese pirates and British intruders as a prism to view the complexity of the Qing's oceanic governance. Furthermore, it examines how this dramatic combination of transna-

tional and global crises affected the Qing's notions of maritime sovereignty and suzerainty before the full onslaught of Western aggression in the first Opium War. As the first step, this paper studies the contested constructions of oceanic space in late imperial China and how those constructions shaped government policies and precipitated violence at sea. It also throws new light on the contingent, piecemeal and experimental nature of British imperialism in China.
[Author: Wensheng Wang pp. 46-65]

Maritime Prowess: Zheng Zilong and Zheng Chenggong Shaping the Political Landscape in the Ming-Qing Cataclysm

The Macau-baptized Zheng Zhilong took the opportunity of the Ming-Qing transition and emerged as a compelling Ming official and an invincible pirate king rivalling the elusive Dutch. He forged a huge piratical empire and helped install a shadow government of the defunct Ming court in South China. Immersed in Ming Loyalism, his son Zheng Chenggong ousted the Dutch from Taiwan and established the Kingdom of Dongning to challenge the ruling power of the new Qing regime.
[Author: Christina Miu Bing Cheng pp. 66-89]

An inquest about an enigmatic navigator: Francisco Gali and his transpacific travels

The Portuguese chronicler Diogo do Couto, in one of his Décadas da Ásia, completed in 1600, includes a chapter entitled «How Francisco de Gale went on the orders of the King to discover the Coast of New Spain from 40 degrees up, and the course that he followed from the port of Acapulco to Japan, and from there to the same port again», indicating that he would have had access to a travel account written by the navigator himself, which had been sent to the viceroy of New Spain. Who was this Francisco Gali, who in 1584-1585 committed the singular prowess of sailing a ship across the Pacific Ocean in both directions, following routes not frequented by Spanish vessels, on their travels between Acapulco and Manila? And how did his report reach the hands of Diogo do Couto? Is there any relation to a manuscript preserved at the Biblioteca Nacional de Portugal, which coincides with the version that Couto transmits of the voyage? This is the purpose of this text: Systematize the information available on Francisco Gali, to contextualize his adventurous wanderings, and to unveil the routes of circulation of the rutter that he produced, which met an extraordinary European success through the publication in the Reys-gheschrift of Jan Huygen van Linschoten in 1595. Complementarily, the manuscript of the Biblioteca Nacional de Portugal is published as an appendix.
[Author: Rui Manuel Loureiro pp. 90-103]

The Macao-Manila Route under the Iberian Union (1580-1640)

The union of the crowns of Spain and Portugal in 1580 affected the relations between Macao and Manila and gave rise to new possibilities of cooperation and mutual trade. This paper will analyse and give new evidence to the political and economic role of the Macao-Manila route throughout the period of the Iberian Union (1580-1640), according to the developments of the Portuguese trade network via Luzon and the fight against the Dutch and English East India Companies.
[Author: Ubaldo Iaccarino, pp. 104-123]

English Dreams and Japanese Realities: Anglo-Japanese Encounters Around the Globe, 1587-1673

The first phase of Anglo-Japanese relations, 1587-1673 was, unlike the second 19th phase, characterized by English desires to reach Japan and East Asia. The English developed the technology and invested the time, money, and lives needed to traverse the globe and supplicate themselves before Japanese rulers. Japan was seen as a potential key ally against Spain and Japanese trade as a source to strengthen the English economy, also with an eye on defending the realm against Spanish aggression. This phase of relations was charac-terized not only by encounters in Japan, as is normally discussed in the literature, but also by world-wide encounters, including in England itself. It is these encounters that this paper will, in the main, discuss, with the aim of shedding a more global light upon this earliest phase of Anglo-Japanese intercourse.
[Author: Thomas Lockley, pp. 124-139]

History in Objects: Historic Chinese Presentation Silver Pieces

Presentation silver is one of the most enduring forms of the art of silver-making, which succeeds in blending style and aesthetics with a pure human need to express appreciations or to offer congratulations. For the sake of scholarship, so little attention has been paid to the Chinese presentation silver pieces with some crucial historic figures that firmly connect the history of China with internationally its engaged past. This article will introduce such silver pieces of three people that would shed new light on the material cultural history about silver and some relevant people and events. We hope this paper will be the beginning of many to focus specifically on historic silver pieces so that we gain a better understanding of the roles they play in the undocumented history of China and its study.
[Author: Huang Chao and Zhaosu, pp. 140-147]