

abstracts

From oral tradition to writing

José Oliveira Barata

(pp.489)

Since some years ago, a special importance has been rendered to the issue on the establishment of the literary cânon, which is no longer considered as a closed structure but as a literary field open to all forms of expression presented in a literary way.

In this article, the author refers to the existing oral tradition and its change from that form to a written cânon. In this context, the author also mentions the increasing difficulties in establishing the clearly defined frontiers between what is considered popular literature and what is ultimately considered the Standard corpus of a literary history.

Chinese literature in Macau between the eighties and the beginning of the nineties

Cheng Wai-Ming

(pp. 501)

The purpose of this article is to give an idea about the Chinese literature of this region, its past and present, specially in the Territory, comprising authors of different age-groups, who can be considered Macau's residents or not. The author also deals with all the literary genres, places where works are published, publishers, newspapers and magazines which have been contributing to the production and diffusion of the said works. The University of East Asia, later called University of Macau, has much contributed to put an end to its stagnating condition.

Usually due to the economic development and political evolution, the arts undergo a qualitative and quantitative improvement. However, as far as Macau is concerned, the arts' development took place before that of the economic and political sectors.

The author hopes that the evolution of the Chinese literature will continue in the course of the years, and he also expects that new critics, aware of the importance of their role, will emerge, and that new opportunities for new talents and consecrated authors will be given.

Careers in Macau's Public Administration and Macau's Higher Education

José Hermínio Paulo Rato Rainha

(pp. 527)

In this text the author refers to the importance of the levels of academic qualifications in the careers's system of Macau's Public Administration's

personnel. Macau's Civil Service comprises various careers at different levels based on functions to be performed and for which specific level of academic qualifications are required. Personnel working in the civil service is divided into careers of craftsmen and handymen, clerical staff, technicians, officers, and senior officers, according to the required academic qualifications. As for the officer and senior officer careers, the minimum academic qualifications required is licenciatura (four years higher education courses) or some other higher education course,

The author makes a comparison between the duration of high school and higher education courses and the development of the careers of officers and senior officers in Macau's Public Administration. Generally speaking, and bearing in mind the duration of the courses lectured in the Territory, that is, higher education courses (licenciatura—four years) run by the University of Macau, and bacharelato (three years) run by Macau's Polytechnic Institute, we can conclude that the difference of duration between the two former courses is of one year of studies and in some cases it is of two years.

The difference between the aforementioned academic qualifications establishes the distinction between officers and senior officers and the development of the respective careers in the same period of time. It is worthwhile noticing that the top of both careers is reached within the same working period and that at this stage, a senior officer earns 19 per cent more than an officer, though the difference between the duration of their courses may be just of one year.

The author concludes his article by suggesting that the differences between both kinds of higher education courses, that is, licenciatura and bacharelato should not be the reason for defining two different careers in the Civil Service. It should be established that the access to the career of senior officers could be open to candidates irrespective of their academic qualifications, either they have taken a higher education course of four years (licenciatura) or of three years (bacharelato), provided that the courses are adequate to the duties to be discharged. He also suggests the establishment of higher education courses, with a possible duration of two schooling years (or four semesters) to meet the demand for qualified personnel in the Civil Service and in the labour market as well, with an intermediate level between that of a senior officer and the groups of personnel whose requirements of academic qualifications correspond to high school level.

Prospects of Air Transport in Macau

Pedro Pinto

(pp. 545)

As soon as the International Airport of Macau is inaugurated, the population of the Territory will benefit from rapid and direct access to air transport. This paper is an attempt to present the prospects of this means of transport for Macau. Based on the experience of several neighbouring Asian countries, on local information and deduction as well, it has been elaborated a simple plan which has enabled us to assess the adherence of Macau's population to this means of transport. Notwithstanding the simplicity of the

said analysis and in spite of lacking deep scientific rigour, the conclusions indicate good prospects for Macau's passenger air transport assuming that the emergent situation will be stable.

The new Administrative Procedure Code and Macau's citizens guarantees

(Notes and several considerations)

Sérgio de Almeida Correia

(pp. 559)

When the new Macau's Administrative Procedure Code came into force, stimulated the juridical order of the Territory to upgrade and to make more efficient the Public Administration's services.

Macau's Administrative Procedure Code besides enshrining rules of a procedural nature oriented towards debureaucratization and transparency, it also compiled a series of principles into a group of norms that the Administration is bound to follow while exercising its powers.

The author, by means of a language that can be understood by those who do not have juridical training, and specially by those who work in the public services, attempts to summarize the aforementioned principles, pointing out some of the fundamental ideas, its meaning and scope.

Bearing in mind some questions that had been arisen, the article also tries to reflect the point of view of those who have served the Administration in Macau and who, later on, have become private lawyers both in the Territory and in Portugal.

Concepts and Organization of Forensic Medicine

J. A. Baptista Pereira

(pp. 577)

In the Portuguese juridical system, and therefore, in that of Macau as well, Forensic Medicine is almost indispensable. Nevertheless, its organization, extent, concepts and procedures are unknown by a great number of jurists. On the other hand, and contrarily to a common belief, Forensic Medicine is rather oriented to the living than to the dead. Its extent is so large and its social importance so considerable that it goes beyond the mere use in the juridical scope. Within this context, and in a brief and pedagogic way, my paper focus on some concepts, which are defined, and on Forensic Medicine's history, teaching, extent and organization, not only in Portugal but also in Macau. The latter aspects are based on the most recent legislation and practical application as well.

An approach to the improvement of supervision of hygiene in Macau's catering industry

Iao Sok Foi

(pp. 589)

The supervision of hygiene in Macau's catering industry should be one of the main concerns of the government. In order to strengthen the referred supervision, bearing in mind the reality of Macau, and knowing the law and

regulations in the neighbouring regions, the author makes some suggestions to improve the existing system.

- Government should enhance the present legislation on this matter;*
- The licensing system should be improved having in mind hygiene in the catering industry;*
- Emphasis should be given to the system of health certification for workers engaged in catering industry;*
- The vocational training system should be enhanced;*
- A system of supervision within the catering industry (or within each company) should be implemented.*

The pinyin in the translations made in Macau — advantages and difficulties

Maria Trigo

(pp. 597)

This paper aims at showing how translations made in Macau deal with the question of the romanization of Chinese names, both of people and places.

Although the pinyin system has been adopted by various administrative departments, Chinese translators, whose mother tongue is Cantonese, sometimes, in spite of their good knowledge of spoken putonhua, often have difficulties in using pinyin, hesitating both, in the orthography, and in the linking of syllables/morphemes in order to form words.

After a brief history of the pinyin system and of those preceding it, both of Chinese and foreign origin, the author tries to «solve» some problems of romanization, with the help of rules, which were set for that purposes proving how hard the task can be, for a conscientious translator.

The paper tries to distinguish two kinds of difficulties. Some, considered fundamental, are due to the fact that personal names do have their own «sounds», in their own dialectal phonetics, being difficult, if not impossible, to have them changed into different ones, to attain uniformity, either of an article glossary or the official documents issued by an official department. Others, maybe the majority, can be solved, as they originate only in the lack of knowledge, or lack of practise of the pinyin system, on the part of the translators.

Therefore, it is desirable to draw the attention of Macau's translators to the importance of the correct and uniform romanization of Chinese characters, both in names of places and persons, as well as in quotations from Chinese texts. Translators cannot accomplish this work properly unless they have a perfect knowledge of the pinyin system.