

abstracts

The Art of Writing and its Magic

Ana Cristina Alves

(pp.319)

In the West, there was a time during which calligraphy was an art, that is, an act in which beauty and spirituality preponderated. However, those days are already gone and today, in the Occident, the science of writing matters more than the art in itself.

It seems that it is not so difficult to build up a science relating to the writing, when you have scientific material such as the letters of our alphabet, which can be easily standardized or normalized.

Let's compare the Western systems with the Chinese characters, which are the only ones not only in the Western History but also in that of the East until now. Our system seems to exist to translate in an unequivocal way our thoughts, and in addition to that it transmits the illusion that it depends entirely on the individual's brain.

The Chinese characters, according to a current version, are divided at least into six categories, and this diversity is highly disadvantageous in terms of scientific analysis, as we can easily conclude. They are also inconvenient in what concerns the scientific point of view; it seems that they do not depend exclusively on the brain, on the contrary, the first thing that we can note is the motor activity that they imply, that is, the necessity of performing a lot of gestures to write them.

The diversity of calligraphic forms and the manual activity necessary to accomplish them were the main reason, undoubtedly, why calligraphy in China occupied an outstanding place not in the field of science, but in that of the art.

However, in the West, since an early stage, the uniformity of the forms and its clear relation with the brain drew calligraphy near the scientific disciplines.

So it is not surprising the uncountable treatises of graphology, as well as the scientific definitions used in the said treatises to enlighten the scope of this discipline.

Thus, in this article the science and art connected with calligraphy are broached as well as the differences existing in the various epochs and categories, such as pictograms, ideograms, composed ideograms among others.

Education for Citizens and Educational Cities

Roberto Carneiro

(pp. 347)

The author starts this article by discussing the theme “city”, developing it according to a perspective of the history of civilizations and mankind. From the concept of the Mesopotamian city and that of the Greek polis to the Roman civitas, all the great utopia of the history of the civilization were remembered, so that the contemporary urban problem could be dealt with.

Afterwards, the problem of the city in a transition period is broached, a concept based on the intense changes geared by the information society, the globalization phenomenon, the multicultural issue, the crisis in the political representation systems, the social exclusion and the neo-poverty, the disintegration of the processes of socialization, and by the demographic concentration.

As a consequence of the above-mentioned changes, it was defended the necessity of a new concept of citizenship which should be based on five fundamental pillars: the democratic citizenship, the social citizenship, the citizenship endowed with parity, an intercultural citizenship and the environmental or ecological citizenship. Considering as a key point the emergence of the cognitive society, which is the social and economic architecture prevailing in the end of the century, the author is dealing, in a sequential way, with the theme of education throughout one's life and the theme of the city as the strategic value of the civic education.

To conclude, the author defends in a sound and lively way the concept of educational cities, as a manner of regenerating the cities of the future and of bringing into existence a real school for citizens. The educational city is analysed in three complementary fields: as an ambience or a natural and educational context, as a propeller and as the dynamics of education, as the subject of education.

The Meaning of the Portuguese Territorial Expansion in the World

Luís Filipe Barreto

(pp. 367)

In the beginning of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, a new era of territorial expansion commenced in the World, and the starting point was the extreme west of Europe. Throughout the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries the Dutch and the English continued the action started by the Portuguese and the Spaniards, opening in this way the World to Europe and Europe to the World. This was a very important happening to the Portuguese, as their country was a small one, its financial resources were scarce, and its population was small in number, that is, about a million and a half.

When we refer to the Portuguese territorial expansion we should bear in mind four major categories: Temporary Pioneerism, Spacial Expan-

sion, Civilizational Plurality, and Cultural Universality.

In this article, the history of the Portuguese expansion is described in its distinct phases, being stressed that one of the consequences of the said expansion was the creation of a new world-wide culture.

Linguistic Law: Rights and Duties in the Words Used in Law

Pedro Pereira de Sena

(pp. 385)

The local juridical linguistic community started paying more attention to the linguistic policy thanks to the process of Macau's political transition. The multiplicity of norms related in any way to the linguistic issues was the main reason that led to the building up of a systematic group of juridical norms and principles concerning the languages, being named Linguistic Law.

The achievement of the official model resulting from the Sino-Portuguese Joint Declaration on the Question of Macau and The Basic Law of the Future Special Administrative Region of Macau is a key task belonging to the local linguistic Law. However, the consolidation of the rights of the linguistic minorities living in the Territory, or in a broad sense, the defence of a basic law regarding the linguistic determination are no minor tasks, not only in the present but also in the future.

The diversity of experiences, at an international level, similar to those of Macau, and the quality and originality of the concrete solutions aiming at solving the difficult problems in the linguistic area make possible that the Territory benefits from the experience of other countries or territories such as Hong Kong, Singapore, Spain, Russia or Canada.

The Deliberative Procedures and the Joint Stock Companies

General Meetings

Ilídio Duarte Rodrigues

(pp. 401)

In this article, the different types of deliberative procedures relating to the joint stock companies, enshrined by the Law in force in Macau and in the preliminary Project of Macau's Commercial Companies Law are analysed.

After the enumeration of the several kinds of deliberative procedures and after comparing each other, the author focus on the analysis of the general meeting, its bases and elements.

The problem arisen by the elements, which constitute the general meeting, is also broached. Thus, regarding the presence of all the partners in the meetings, the author reflects upon the following questions: must all the partners be physically present in the meetings or can they have a representative ? Must all the partners be present or just those entitled to vote? Must be compulsory or not the presence of the partners

during the entire meeting or can a third party, who has the right to vote, represent them? Relating to the authorization of all the partners to deliberate on any matter, the advantages of a previous deliberation about it was discussed.

And the last two points to be analysed are the following: the necessity of the directors, presence and that of the members of the audit office in the general meetings and the number of votes (unanimity or majority) which are demanded, so that a deliberation may be considered as a definite one.

Civil Responsibilities Relating to Third Parties, on Surface, in the International Air Traffic

José Tomás Baganha

(pp. 427)

The subject is undoubtedly contemporary. However rare aviation accidents may be when considering the volume of traffic, the number of passengers and amount of cargo conveyed world-wide, the damages caused by such accidents, even minor ones, are always extensive and at times catastrophic, causing great pain to victims, relatives and friends. The principles applicable to the liability related to the damages on third parties on surface by aircraft in flight are provided for in the 1952 Rome Convention, intended at the unification of the international rules. The Rome Convention, albeit being binding on a small number of States only (39), has a considerable influence on national liability systems that address such problems; on the other hand, the forecast growth in the volume of traffic around the globe increases the mathematical likelihood of accidents world-wide, even assuming that the present flight safety ratios remain stable.

The Rome Convention establishes a uniform liability system in respect of damages caused to persons on the surface, where such damages are caused by aircraft in flight or by a person or object falling from such aircraft. It is based not on fault but on risk, with the proviso that there are exceptions where the principle of subjective liability based on fault prevails. The person liable for those damages is, in the first place, the aircraft operator, i.e. whoever makes use of the aircraft at the moment the damage occurs. In order to facilitate the victims defence, the registered owner is presumed to be the operator. The Rome Convention provides that the owner and the operator are jointly and severally liable subject to the terms and limits set forth in the Convention.

As said before, the Rome Convention influences other countries' legislation. The most significant case, from the point of view of direct and indirect involvement in air transportation in this region of the world, is the Chinese legislation whose main aspects concerning liability on third parties on the surface are addressed in the article. A brief reference is made to the Macanese legislation on that matter.

Throughout the decades the Rome Convention has played a commendable role in the harmonisation of the law applicable to damages on the

surface, but is now utterly out of line with reality. The Author voices his belief in the need for a new international regime to replace the Rome Convention, based on criteria analogous to those shaping the future ICAO Convention on passenger's liability, eliminating once and for all the double standards applied to death, personal injury or property damage depending on whether or not they occur under the protection of an air carriage contract.

The Economic Reforms of the Post-Mao Era

António Manuel de Almeida Serra

(pp. 449)

This text is a synthesis of the evolution of the Chinese economy and of the Chinese economic policy since 1978 that is, the beginning of the period of reforms operated by Deng Xiaoping. The author draws our attention to the oscillations occurred in the variation of the product and that are strictly related with the processes of fight against inflation, which have affected the economy of the People's Republic of China as a result of the rapid growth underwent by this country.

The latter has been mainly characterised by the deepening of “the four modernizations”, particularly the transformation of the rural zones and the growing connections of the Chinese economy with the international economy - namely with that of the Eastern Asia - not only through trade but also through the foreign investments in the country, specially the trade carried out in the Special Economic Zones by the overseas Chinese and by the international enterprises.

As for the latter investment, it is to be noted that China is undergoing a transition period. There is the idea that China is a country that just produces goods to be exported. However, the output for the internal market is a determining factor for those who decide to make investments and for the national economic authorities as well, as the latter are specially preoccupied in assuring the progressive technological upgrading of the output.

The author also refers that as the foreign investment benefits from a growing decrease of the protection for the internal market, as a consequence of the dismantling of tariffs barriers in course, the capital-ists's interest, in what concerns their presence in China, is greater and greater to trade in imported goods rather than to produce them in the country.

The article closes with the analysis of the recent economic framework.

Technological Development as the Core Support of Economic Development: Macau' Weaknesses

Arnaldo Gonçalves

(pp. 497)

The least developed economies of East Asia are facing a tremendous challenge placed by the enlarged competition and the globalization of intertrade and companies operations.

Looking for new comparative advantages, these economies regard technological development as a specific tool to reinforce their capacities and expectations and minimize core fragilities.

Macau is one of these small economies trying to resist the overall competition, minimize its weaknesses and find its own place in China's next decade development.

In a three years time to the transfer of Macau's administration to PRC, the author summarizes the main policies and measures adopted by the Portuguese authorities in the last ten years, to defend Macau's low-techno industry and sow the seeds of its everytime delayed reconstruction. It stresses, too, the main fragilities of Macau industrial sector and the problems, arising in the future, from the merging of its small economy with the South China's booming market economy.

China — Perspectives of Evolution and Dialogue

António Quinteiro Nobre

(pp. 517)

China and its millenary culture are in such a way important that cannot be forgotten.

It is impossible for us to be indifferent to the fact that the Chinese were the inventors of the gunpowder and the compass and the creators of the porcelain, paper and silk manufacture as well. Tea is also one of the things originated in China, which like the aforementioned products, were and are still used in the West.

Due to the proximity of the handover of Macau to China, that is, about in two years time, the theme of this text is opportune and significant.

Thus the various aspects hereby dealt with are important and of the major interest to understand this great country: China today, China's prospects for the future, changes in the model of economic development aiming at the future, perspectives of change and dialogue, the political evolution, possibilities of dialogue with China.

The author tries to broach all these topics in a clarifying way, as they are of great importance not only for us but also for the international community. China, thanks to its importance as a country, cannot be forgotten.

The Portuguese Behaviour in View of the Transition Period and the Regional Integration of Macau in the Pearl River Region

Moisés Silva Fernandes

(pp. 529)

Contrarily to the contentious process of the political transition in Hong Kong, the transition process of Macau aiming at its handover to China and integration in the region where has is situated been characterized by the total absence of conflicts, that is, it has been a peaceful transition. This situation can be explained through three main factors. Firstly, because the interests of Portugal not only in Macau but also in

the region are few and minor ones. Secondly, there are reasons of an historical nature which reveal that both governments policies regarding Macau have been essentially characterized by a great pragmatism and realism, since the foundation of the People's Republic of China, in 1949. Thirdly, there are several aspects that lead the Portuguese Government to opt for an external policy which places its emphasis on the co-operation between both parties, stressing in a paradoxal way the difference between the transition process in Macau and that of Hong Kong. In this way it is symbolically assured in the chronicles of the international diplomatic history, that Macau is, in fact, a political entity distinct from the former British colony. Based on these three premises, we believe that the last years of the transition period will be highly peaceful.

The Origins of Macau and the Macanese's Role

Johny Si Tou

(pp. 543)

Some problems concerning the Macanese community still remain unsolved in spite of the approaching date of Macau's handover to the People's Republic of China, in December, 1999. The nationality issue and the localization process are the most important aspects. The author tries to justify and clarify some questions, and advises the Macanese to get information regarding these matters, before they make their final decisions. He hopes that, in future meetings, those who remained in the Territory and those who left to other countries are by then satisfied with the reached decisions.

The Ideology of Social Work for the Youth

Lok Vai Chong

(pp. 557)

Social Work for the youth is one of the fields of social work which demands a specialized knowledge. It gives particular attention to the youth and teenagers's problems by means of the existing social resources (schools, youth centres, community centres etc.) as well as through specialized techniques such as individual work, group work and community support. In this way, social work for the youth achieves its objectives within the framework of social work.

In this article several concepts and techniques are broached which, if they are put into practice, will contribute to a greater success of the goals to be achieved.

