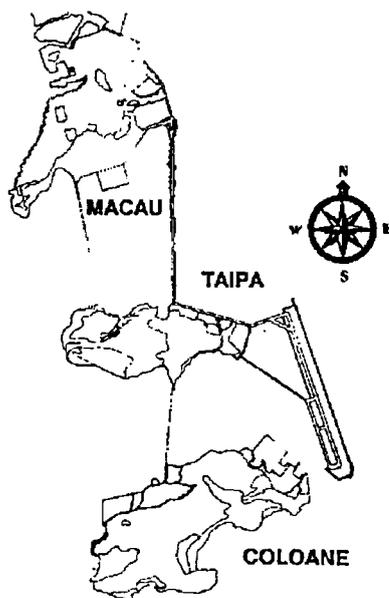


## Symbols of Macau

### Roman Klimes



The last Portuguese possession outside of Europe is Macau. Macau is located on the southeastern coast of China at latitude 21° 11' North and longitude 113° 33' East.

The territory comprises a peninsula, on which is built the city of Macau, and just to the south, the islands of Taipa and Coloane. A bridge of 1.6 miles connects the peninsula to the nearest island of Taipa, which in turns is linked to Coloane by a 1.4 mile-long causeway. At the extreme northern end of the peninsula, a narrow isthmus marked by an imposing gateway the *Portas do Cerco* (Border Gate) joins Macau to China -the island of Chung Shan in Kwantung Province.

Some 40 miles to the east-northeast, across the mouth of the Pearl River, is the British Crown Colony of Hong Kong.

The peninsula is 4 km (2.5 miles) in length and 1.68 km (1.04 miles) wide at its greatest breadth, with a total area of 5.4-sq. km (2.1 miles). The islands of Taipa and Coloane are respectively 3.5 sq. km (1.4 sq. miles) and 6.6 sq. km (2.5 sq. miles) making an overall area of the territory of 15.5 sq. km (6 sq. miles). The total population is estimated to be over 350.000.

Macau was officially founded in 1557 during the great era of Portuguese exploration initiated by Prince Henry the Navigator. Vasco de Gama had made his historic voyage to India at the

end of the 15th century, and early in the 16th century the Portuguese explorers moved further east and then turned north. Jorge Alvares became the first Portuguese to set foot in Southern China in 1513 and this visit was followed by establishment of a number of Portuguese trading centres in this area. These were eventually consolidated at Macau which boomed with a virtual monopoly on trade between China and Japan and between both nations and Europe.

Macau also served as a vital base for the introduction to Christianity to China -and Japan- an activity, which provided the City with some of its most glorious -and tempestuous- moments in history. Because of the prosperity it was enjoying and its privilege location, other European nations began casting covetous looks at Macau and plotted to seize it from Portugal. The Dutch actually tried to invade the city during the years of 1604, 1607, 1622 and 1627 -but were repulsed.

As time passed and other trading nations from the West sent missions to China, Macau became the summer residence for the "taipans" (great-traders) who retreated from their "factories" in Canton to await the opening of the trading season.

In 1813 Macau together with Timor became an overseas province of Portugal under the control of the Governor-General of Goa. Since 1843 the Chinese sovereignty over the territory was

no longer recognised. The administration over the Portuguese Asian possessions was reinstated in the year 1844. Timor and Macau have independent governor from the one in Goa. However in the year 1896 Macau became independent governor. Since 1951 Macau was a Portuguese Overseas Province. The last reform of the status of Macau accrued from the year 1975. Macau is now officially a territory under the Portuguese Administration. It enjoys administrative and financial autonomy, according to the Organic Statutes published in 1975.

The President of the Portuguese Republic appoints the Governor. The principal governing body is a Legislative Assembly of 17 members, 12 of them being elected (6 by direct suffrage and 6 through local associations) and the remainder being appointed by the Governor.

As with Hong-Kong, Macau will also be given back to the People's Republic of China in 1997. This is called "solu o sincronizada" (Synchron solution).

Although it has witnessed many changes during its 400 years of existence, Macau has always been a stronghold of Portuguese presence and culture in the Far East. Macau has proudly flown Portugal's flag even when the Motherland's throne was occupied by a foreign King, in the 17th century.

When Portuguese rule was re-established, after 60 years, the city of Macau was granted the official name of:

CIDADE DO NOME DE DEUS DE MACAU, NAO HA OUTRA MAIS LEAL (City of the Name of God, Macau, There is None More Loyal).

The territory of Macau is administratively divided into two units: 1) Town of Macau (concelho) and 2) Islands (Taipan and Colone). Town of Macau is divided into four town-municipalities (freguesias).

The flags of the Territory of Macau is the flags of Portugal. Since June 30th, 1911 it has been green (on the hoist) -red (on the fly). The green part is 2/5 of the length of the flag. The ratio is 2:3. In the centre, on the line between the green and the red field is placed the central emblem from the coat of arms of Portugal. It consists of a shield, which is placed on the golden armillary sphere -the personal symbol of King Manuel I (1495-1521) that had been innovator of exploration. The shield is silver with five small blue shields bearing five silver discs -quinas (Nails of Christ) in the form of Andrew's Cross. The shield is red bordered with seven golden castles (Fig. 1).

The coat of arms of the Territory of Macau was granted on 8 May 1935. It consists of a shield divided per pale ploye. The dexter part of the shield contains the armorial bearings of Portugal

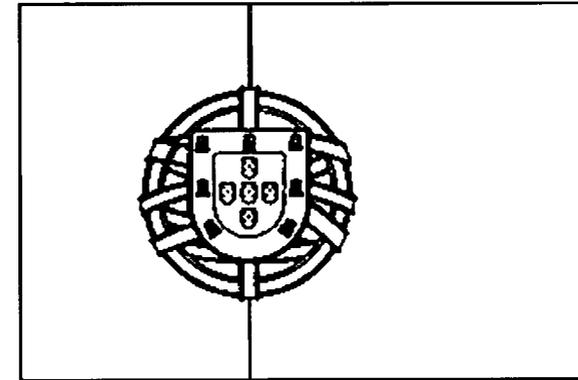


Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

itself -five blue shields each bearing five silver discs in the form of the Andrew's Cross, all on silver background. The sinister part of the shield is the arms of the Territory of Macau consisted of a local emblem. It is a golden dragon bearing on his breast the blue shield with five silver discs in the form of the Andrew's Cross, all on blue field. The two parts are linked by the lower part of the shield, bearing alternately five green and silver wavy lines indicative of the oceans between motherland Portugal and Territory. The shield is placed on the golden armillary sphere which is crowned with golden mural with five golden towers. Each tower bears a red armillary sphere and is separated from one another by silver shields on which the red cross of the Order of Christ is emblazoned. Below is a white ribbon with black inscription COLONIA PORTUGUESA DE MACAU (Fig. 2) Since 1951 Macau was an "Overseas Province". Therefore was changed the old inscription to PROVIN. PORTUGUESA DE MACAU (Portuguese Province of Macau) (Figure 3). After 1975 Macau became a "Territory under Portuguese Administration" and therefore was changed again the inscription on the ribbon. It now reads as follows: GOVERNO DE MACAU (Government of Macau) (Fig.4).

A little known fact exists a proposition for a flag of Macau. It was the idea of the portuguese Heraldry-Man Franz Paul Almeida Langhans, which

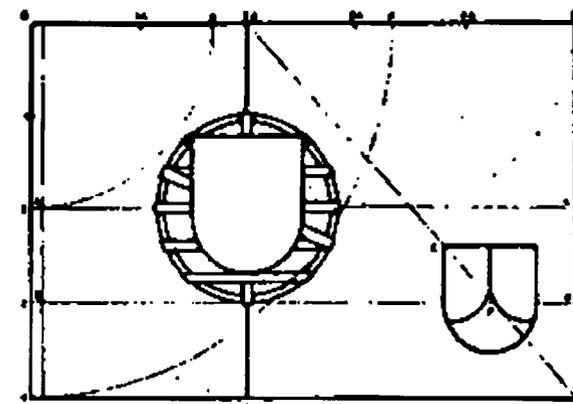


Fig. 5

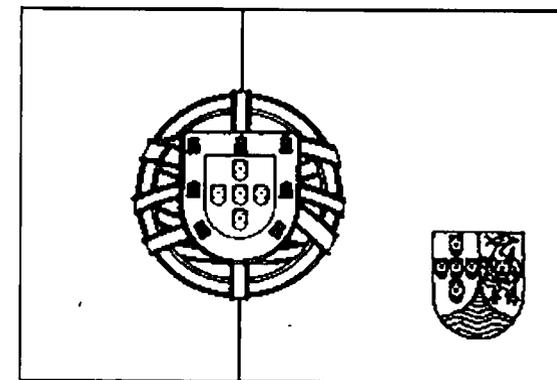


Fig.6

was inspired by the british colonial flags. The projects are different dates. Czech sources giving a date in 30th of this century, Flag Bulletin gives a dating of 1966. It exists projects for every portuguese overseas territory (Fig. 5). The flag could be a flag of Portugal bearing a shield from the coat of arms of the territory (colony) in lower fly (Fig. 6). Mr. F.P.A. Langhans said in 1968 that these flags were not introduced. In figure 7 you see the details of the shield.

The coat of arms of the City of Macau are two angels with black hairs in white cloth (the drawing of the angels is golden), which bears golden flowers, supporting the shield of Portugal (silver shield with five blue shields every with five silver discs all on silver field; seven golden castles on red bordering). Above the head of the angel on the left is a green globe with golden geographical network and red diagonal stripe representing the Portuguese explorations of the world and crowned with a Christian Cross, The angel on the right bears on his head the white (in the middle narrow red cross) Cross of Christ, used by Prince Henry, the Navigator, during the era of the Portuguese discoveries. The shield of Portugal showing on red bordering the seven golden moorish Fortresses conquered by Alphonse the Third, King of Portugal during the process of christianization. The shield is topped in the middle by a golden crown, showing

the Senate's former Royal patronage. Beneath is the white scroll with the motto of the city in black "CIDADE DO NOME DE DEUS DE MACAU, N O H A OUTRA MAIS LEAL" (City of the Name of God, Macau, There is None More Loyal). The latter part of the inscription "There is none more loyal", was added to the original name of Macau after the restoration of the Portuguese Monarchy following the period of Spanish occupation on the Motherland from 1580-1640. Throughout 60 years of Spanish occupation Macau defiantly flew the Portuguese flag and thus earned the designation "There is None More Loyal" (Fig. 8)

The flag of the City of Macau is light blue with full coat of arms in the centre. Ratio is 2:3 (Fig. 9)

Another flag, which is used in the territory, is the flag of governor. It is white with two vertical narrow green stripes and emblem in the centre of the flag. This emblem consists from carmine Cross of Christ (in the centre of it is placed narrow white cross) which is outside and inside golden bordered. On this cross is placed a golden armillary sphere. On this sphere is placed shield of Portugal (silver shield with five blue shields, each with five silver discs, a red border with seven golden castles). Ratio is the same as for a flag of Portugal (2:3) (Fig. 10). This flag was introduced on December 4th, 1933.

The another administrative unit are the

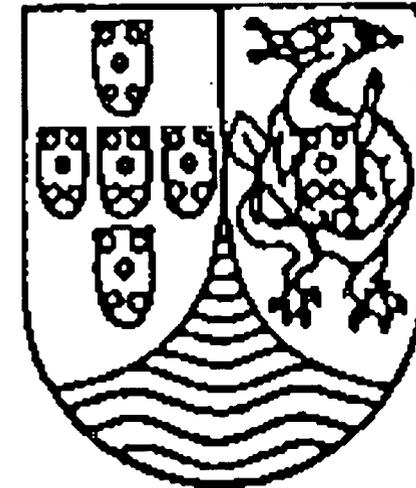


Fig.7



Fig.8



Fig. 9

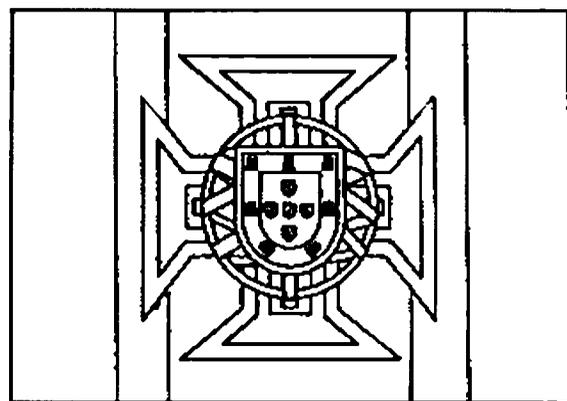


Fig. 10

islands (Taipa and Coloane). The coat of arms consists from light blue shield with five green waves. In the upper part of it are placed two white stylised islands (Taipa and Coloane) in the form of triangle, in background a red rising sun. Left and right from it, are two carps in natural colours (white with blue drawings, white and blue stripes on tail and fins; the eyes are red with blue pupils), The carps symbolise sea and his natural resources. Below a white ribbon with blue inscription CAMARA MUNICIPAL DAS ILHAS (Municipal House of the Islands) (Fig. 11).

The flag of the "Islands" is red and bears the coat of arms in the centre (Fig. 12)

The flags was introduced before 1976, no exact date is available.

The armed forces are commanded by the Commander-in-chief of the Overseas Province (territory), who also has a flag (standard) of its own. The flag (standard) is in the form of a square. It is green (the same colour as on the flag of Portugal) with Cross of Christ Order in the centre. The cross is carmin (yellow bordered) with a white narrow cross in the middle. Below the cross is placed a white ribbon with black inscription on portuguese A LEI DA VIDA ETERNA DILATANDO (The law of the

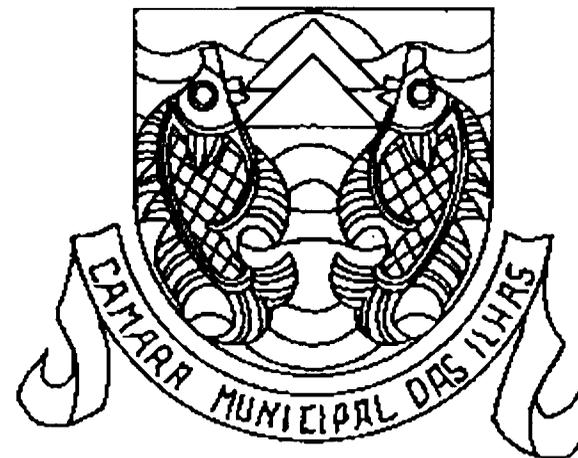


Fig.11

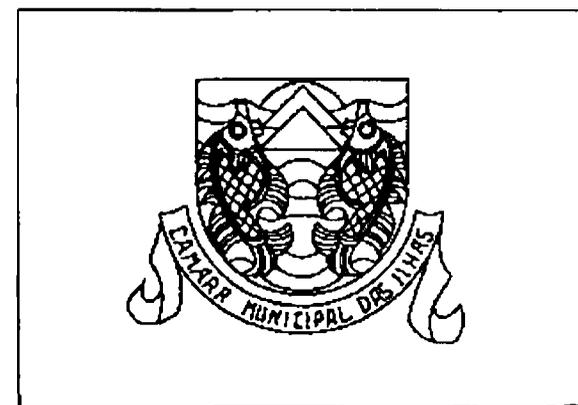


Fig.12

eternal life extensioned). The canton is black bearing the shield from the coat of arms of the Territory of Macau (description see above, illustration Figure 7).

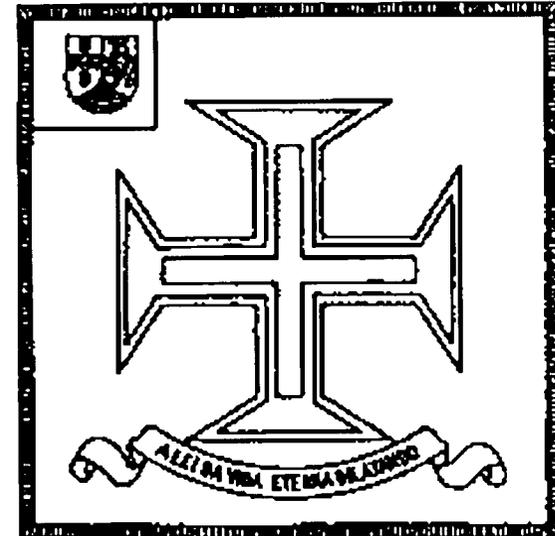


Fig.13