

MACAU

澳門

BRIEF SUMMARY OF GAMBLING

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Located in the south coast of China, Macau comprises a peninsula and the islands of Taipa and Coloane, with a total surface of 17,42 Km².

The portuguese settlement in Macau goes back to the XVI century, being the territory under portuguese administration since 1557. Macau shall be aggregated to China in 20th March 1977, according to the agreement established in 26th March 1977 between Portugal and the Republic of China.

Gambling is a secular chinese passion and has been in use in Macau since ancient times.

Originally, it was only permitted chinese games, special mention to FAN-TAN and PAI JIN.

In the beginning of the century, chinese people began to play CUSSEC also, locally known as CLU-CLU, name given due to the shaking noise of 3 dices inside a porcelain or metal cup.

In the XIX century, there were several fan-tan gambling houses, where the rich chinese people and also europeans, in orger not to mix themselves with the others, used to play in the upper floor around a balcony. Betting money went up or down in straw baskets suspended by ropes.

Clu-Clu (cussec) was played on the streets, in every festive day of the new chinese year, during which, everyone could be granted a small gambling licence, to explore clu-clu gambling tables. Almost every rick-shaw coolies used to do so.





Fan tan gambling house in Macau (1873)

As from 1875, there was a considerable game expansion and in 1877, fan-tan was declared a free game, although subjected to payment, by means of a government by-law. The highest bidder of a fan-tan exclusivity, payed to the Public Treasury was 120000 patacas/year.

In the beginning of the century, roulette was played at Bela Vista Hotel, when in July 1913, the police authorities forced its owner to suspend the game. Still in the thirties, roulette was played at "Costa de Jade", in the east side of Taipa. Nevertheless, it did not get too sucessfull and soon was ended.

In 1934, government granted the exclusivity rights to all casino games. First agreement was granted by Macanese Government to TAI HING Co trade union against payment of 1900000 patacas, having its renewal rethead 2,5 million patacas during 2nd World War. This trade union rented, remodelled and instaled at HOTEL CENTRAL. With this opening, the Fortuna Palace-a show and recreation house where there was an independent game house-, closed its doors.

In TAI HING time, gambling in Macau knew a great development, mainly after game inside China has been declared forbidden by chinese government in 1949. During this period, only fan-tan, cussec and p'ai kao were played.

TAI HING Co trade-union managed to ensure the game exclusivity for many years, due to a skilled and ingenious distance from others potencial owners. This practice was sucessful until 1962, when gambling in general passed to the control of S.T.D.M. (Sociedade de Turismo e Diversões de Macau - *Macanese Entertainment and Tourism Association*), which signed the exclusivity gambling's contract with Macanese Government in 1962, March 30th.

Although this contract was only legally signed in above mentioned date, truth is, gambling's franchise began in 1st January 1962 in a improved limited area, where Hotel Estoril is nowadays installed. This hotel was finished in 1963 and has opened under the name of CASINO ESTORIL.

STDM introduced western games, like roulette, baccarat and black-jack.

Also in 1962, STDM adapted a junk to a floating casino, which was replaced later by MACAU PALACE, the Floating Casino located at the inner harbour.

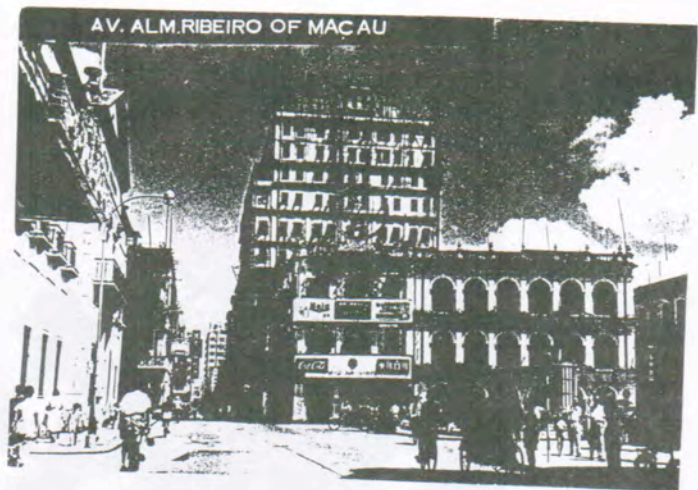
In that floating junk was filmed part of a James Bond - Man with a Gold Gun serial.

In 1963, KAM PEK CASINO was installed- a small casino where one can only play chinese games.

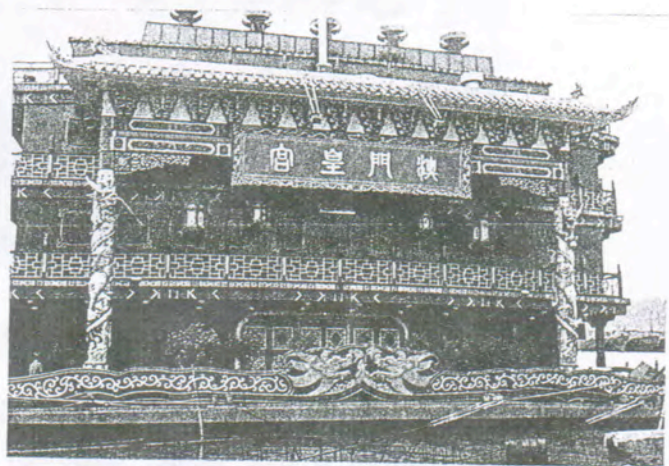
First stage of CASINO HOTEL LISBOA was begun in 1964 and finished in 1970.

In 1975, was installed a Casino in the "Pelota Basca", the JAI ALAI CASINO, to substitute the casino fonctioning in Hotel Estoril.

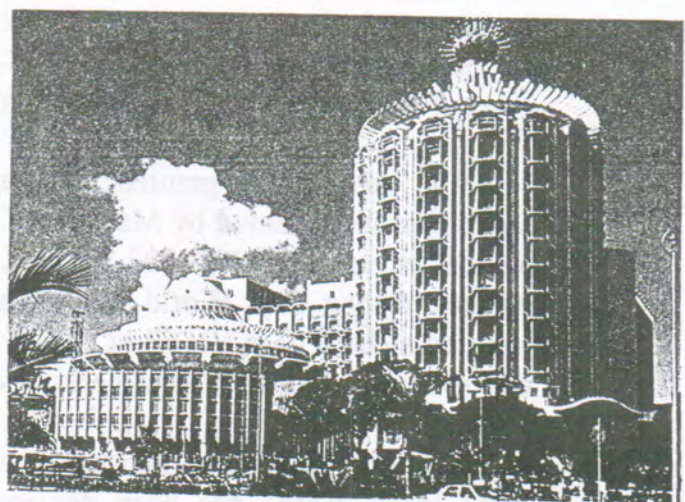
In the end on 1984, STDM opened a new luxury casino at HOTEL



Hotel Central



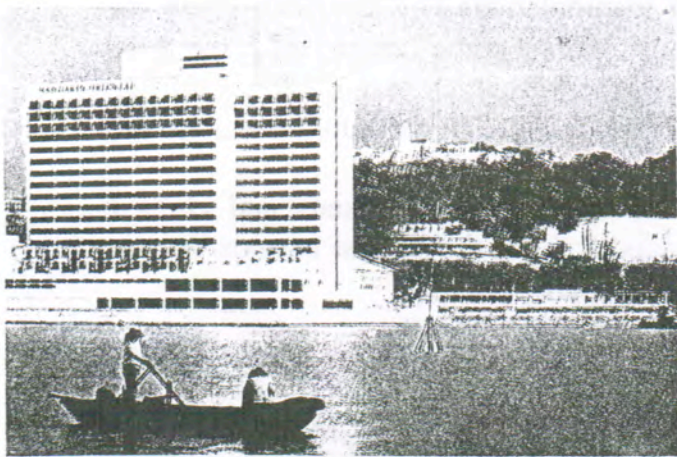
Macau Palace(Floating Casino)



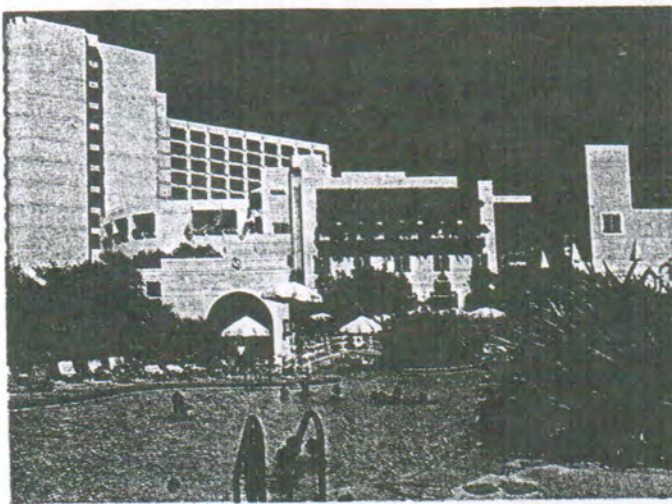
Hotel Casino Lisboa



Casino Jai Alai



Hotel Mandarin Oriental



Hyatt Regency

EXCELSIOR, nowadays HOTEL ORIENTAL.

In 1988, was installed a casino at HYATT REGENCY and TAIPA ISLAND RESORT.

Actually there are eight casinos in Macau, all of them under control of STDM.

Gambling Features in Macau

In Macau, the main gambling purpose is to assure the maximum public revenue and afterwards, to increase tourism and to satisfy the demand.

Gambling's franchise is given under exclusivity terms. Besides a tax payment(30% of games gross revenue), the concessionaire has also to perform some tasks, like to built luxury hotels, to increase and develop both commerce and industry, to assure fast sea connections between Macau and Hong Kong, to ensure harbour's dredgings, to built habitational blocks, etc.

STDM has renewed twice the franchise agreement, which is valid up to 2005.

Gambling established as from the sixties, was the main responsible for the great development Macau has been facing ever since.

More than 4 million gamblers/year try their luck at Casino's tables, open 24 hours/day; this fact being no doubt due to the gambling's interdiction in Hong Kong.

Thousands of gamblers come daily from Hong Kong, which gattered with the macanese population, makes the group of small and medium gamblers.

On the other hand, high rollers come from Hong Kong, Tailand, Japan, as well as from another asiatic countries.

The "gambling fever"has so great proportions, that we can find three or four persons, coming from Hong Kong together and then book a room at Hotel Lisboa, sleeping and playing by shifts.

The CASINO LISBOA-Lisbon Casino is one of the worlds' biggest casino, and the biggest in Asia.

In terms of territory economy, gambling constitutes a great revenue source, once gambling revenues make 52% of direct taxes and more than half of total macanese revenues.

Casino games, chips and tokens

In Macau Casinos one can play chinese and western games : cussec, fan-tan, p'ai kao,boule, roulette, black-jack, baccarat, 12 numbers,craps and slot machines.

The chinese are highly suspicious of manipulations.The favourite game for chinese people is baccarat, considered the "fairest game", as in this game there are two groups facing each other.Some games, in which casino takes part, like roulette or black-jack, although favourites in Europe and United States, are considered "not fair".

All casinos in Macau are under STDM control, being tokens and chips (european and american styles) used indistinctly in the several casinos.We are reproducing below some of STDM tokens and chips.

