

Nomination form International Memory of the World Register

1.0 Checklist

Nominees may find the following checklist useful before sending the nomination form to the International Memory of the World Secretariat. The information provided in italics on the form is there for guidance only and should be deleted once the sections have been completed.

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Summary completed (section 1) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Nomination and contact details completed (section 2) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Declaration of Authority signed and dated (section 2) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | If this is a joint nomination, section 2 appropriately modified, and all Declarations of Authority obtained |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Documentary heritage identified (sections 3.1 – 3.3) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | History/provenance completed (section 3.4) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Bibliography completed (section 3.5) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Names, qualifications and contact details of up to three independent people or organizations recorded (section 3.6) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Details of owner completed (section 4.1) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Details of custodian – if different from owner – completed (section 4.2) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Details of legal status completed (section 4.3) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Details of accessibility completed (section 4.4) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Details of copyright status completed (section 4.5) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Evidence presented to support fulfilment of the criteria? (section 5) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Additional information provided (section 6) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Details of consultation with stakeholders completed (section 7) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Assessment of risk completed (section 8) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Summary of Preservation and Access Management Plan completed. If there is no formal Plan attach details about current and/or planned access, storage and custody arrangements (section 9) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Any other information provided – if applicable (section 10) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Suitable reproduction quality photographs identified to illustrate the documentary heritage. (300dpi, jpg format, full-colour preferred). |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Copyright permissions forms signed and attached. Agreement to propose item(s) for inclusion on the World Digital Library if inscribed |

Nomination form International Memory of the World Register

“Official Records of Macao During the Qing Dynasty (1693-1886)”

ID Code [2016-28]

1.0 Summary (max 200 words)

Give a brief description of the documentary heritage being nominated and the reasons for proposing it.

*This is the “shop window” of your nomination and is best written **last!** It should contain all the essential points you want to make, so that anyone reading it can understand your case even if they do not read the rest of your nomination.*

The Collection, predominantly records written in Chinese (with a large portion in Portuguese) comprises over 3,600 documents created and received by the Procuratura of the Leal Senado (Office of the Procurator of the Loyal Senate of Macao) in the course of its official business transaction with the Chinese Authorities from Guangdong from 1693 to 1886.

This Collection testifies to the importance of the port of Macao in serving as a center for the West to meet with the East and for facilitating international interaction and cross-cultural intercourse. It also documents the intensified colonial expansion of the West and the rapid transformation of the Asian societies in its wake, especially in China.

The Collection is a major and perhaps the only original source for the understanding of Qing’s peculiar “foreign policy” on dealing with the “barbaric” West from its heyday to its decline in the late 19th Century and the unique role Macao played in this historical process.

2.0 Nominator

2.1 Name of nominator (person or organization)

Arquivo Nacional da Torre do Tombo (**National Archives of Portugal**) and Archives of Macao (Formerly known as the Historical Archives of Macao before 1 January 2016)

2.2 Relationship to the nominated documentary heritage

The originals of the nominated heritage are owned and managed by the Arquivo Nacional da Torre do Tombo with copies (mainly microfilms) held in the Archives of Macao

2.3 Contact person(s) (to provide information on nomination)

Dr. Silvestre de Almeida Lacerda

Dr.^a Lau Fong

2.4 Contact details

Name:	Address:	
Silvestre de Almeida Lacerda	Direção-Geral do Livro, dos Arquivos e das Bibliotecas, Edf. Torre do Tombo; Alameda da Universidade, 1649-010, Portugal	
Telephone:	Facsimile	Email
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Name:	Address:	
Lau Fong	Arquivo de Macau, Av. Cons. Ferreira de Almeida, n.º 91-93, Macau	
Telephone	Facsimile	Email
+853 8598 6516	+853 2856 1495	laufong.ah@icm.gov.mo

3.0 Identity and description of the documentary heritage

3.1 Name and identification details of the items being nominated

If inscribed, the exact title and institution(s) to appear on the certificate should be given

In this part of the form you must describe the document or collection in sufficient detail to make clear precisely what you are nominating. Any collection must be finite (with beginning and end dates) and closed.

The Collection is originally given the name «Chapas Sinica» meaning “Chinese Documents” by the Custodian. For the purpose of this nomination and in order to have the subject matters of the Collection reflected more appropriately, it is officially renamed as :

“Official Records of Macao During the Qing Dynasty (1693-1886)”

清代澳門地方衙門檔案(1693-1886)

3.4 History/provenance

Describe what you know of the history of the collection or document. Your knowledge may not be complete, but give the best description you can.

The collection comprises over 3,600 documents from the Procuratura of the Leal Senado (*Office of the Procurator of the Loyal Senate*) of Macao. It recorded the Portuguese - Chinese interaction between the Procurator on one side and the Chinese authorities, basically in Guangdong Province, on the other. The Collection covers the period between 1693 and 1886.

The Office of the Procurator

The position of the Procurator was established in 1583 (11th year of the reign of Wanli of the Ming Dynasty) when the Portuguese had obtained a lease of Macao from the Chinese Authorities and set up an autonomous institution (the Senate) for the administration of all sorts of affairs in the Portuguese community resided therein.

The Senate when set up was composed of three councilors, two regular judges and the Procurator (Head of the Senate). As Head, the Procurator was initially in charge of taxation, finance, customs, general administrative duties, as well as dealing and negotiating with the Chinese Authorities in Guangdong.

With the growth of Macao as an important hub for international trade and missionary activities,

especially during the early days of the Qing Dynasty, the position of the Procurator had become increasingly important and he began to undertake a wide range of diplomatic, political, fiscal, judicial, and commercial duties and responsibilities on behalf of the Portuguese Governor (sent by and representing the Portuguese King in Macao), as well as the Portuguese community in Macao.

By the Decree of 20 August 1847, the position of Procurator was made official, responsible to the King's Representative, i.e. the Governor of Macao.

The Procurator (Office of the Procurator) was further designated as The Procurator of the Chinese Affairs by the Decree of 5 July 1865.

The Composition of the Collection

The Collection is composed of two parts. The first part comprises documents in Chinese characters, the so-called "Chapas Sínicas", and consists of official correspondence that the Chinese authorities sent to the Portuguese authorities in Macao.

The second part of the collection is basically the translated copies of the Chapas Sínicas in Portuguese prepared for the Portuguese authorities, as well as copies of correspondence sent by the Leal Senado (Loyal Senate) of Macao through its attorney to the Chinese authorities. This part consists of 5 books and 4 packets, dated 1749-1836.

Custodian History of the Collection

It remains unknown on how and when the collection, originally created in Macao, made its way from Macao to Portugal (Lisbon). However, there are records showing that the collection was transferred to the custody of National Archive of Torre do Tombo with other documentations from the Nossa Senhora da Graça Convent in the late 19th century. Therefore, it is believed that the Collection had been assembled by concerned missionaries, who recognised the values and treasured these records, and had them brought back to Lisbon and put in the safe custody of the Convent.

4.0 Legal information

4.1 Owner of the documentary heritage (name and contact details)

Name	Address	
Arquivo Nacional da Torre do Tombo	Arquivo Nacional da Torre do Tombo, Alameda da Universidade, 1649-010, Lisboa, Portugal	
Telephone	Facsimile	Email
+351210037100	+351210037101	secretariado@dglab.gov.pt

4.2 Custodian of the documentary heritage (name and contact details if different from the owner)

Name	Address	
Telephone	Facsimile	Email

4.3 Legal status

Provide details of legal and administrative responsibility for the preservation of the documentary heritage

The nominated heritage is owned and managed by the National Archive of Torre do Tombo (National Archives of Portugal).

4.4 Accessibility

Describe how the item(s) / collection may be accessed

All access restrictions should be explicitly stated below:

Presently the entire collection is microfilmed and available for public access and use at the National Archive of Torre do Tombo and Archive of Macao. A digitalization project is under consideration in order to further expand the worldwide accessibility of the documentation.

The documents are published in the books referred to in 3.5 Bibliography.

Encouraging accessibility is a basic objective of MoW. Accordingly, digitization for access purposes is encouraged and you should comment on whether this has been done or is planned. You should also note if there are legal or cultural factors that restrict access.

For preservation purpose, access to the original collection of documents is restricted but microfilms are available for the public. Presently only 4 documents from the collection are digitized and available online, retrievable at the following address: <http://digitarq.arquivos.pt>

4.5 Copyright status

Describe the copyright status of the item(s) / collection

*Where copyright status is known, it should be stated. However, the copyright status of a document or collection has **no bearing** on its significance and is not taken into account in determining whether it meets the criteria for inscription.*

According to Portuguese law, Article 17.º, Decree Law n.º 16/93, 23 January, the documentation is in the public domain and public access and use are guaranteed and regulated by law.

5.0 Assessment against the selection criteria

5.1 Authenticity.

Is the documentary heritage what it appears to be? Have identity and provenance been reliably established?

Experts who had examined the records in Lisbon had no doubt as to its authenticity. Despite the fact that it was not clear as to exactly when and how the records made their way to Lisbon from Macao, but according to research undertaken by Dr. Isau Santos, former Director of the Macao Archives, the Collection was sent to and guarded by the Convento de Nossa Senhora da Graça (Nossa Senhora da Graça Convent) until its transfer to the National Archive of Torre do Tombo in Lisbon in late 19th century. Since then, custody has not been broken.

5.2 World significance

Is the heritage unique and irreplaceable? Would its disappearance constitute and harmful impoverishment of the heritage of humanity? Has it created great impact over time and/or within a particular cultural area of the world? Has it had great influence (positive or negative) on the course of history?

The records in this Collection are official correspondence exchanged between the Chinese Authorities in the Guangdong region of China during the period in question and the Portuguese Authorities based in Macao. There are also a number of non-governmental records.

These official records cover a wide spectrum of topics including district administration, finance and taxation, justice and jurisdiction, law and order, land and population, customs and excise, debt disputes, sino-foreign negotiations, shipwreck rescue, piracy combat efforts, overseeing of Christian missionaries, prohibition of opium commerce, etc..

The records also touch upon people's lives in Macao, its urban development, industrial and agricultural growth, trade and commercial activities with China and the Western world. The Collection also testifies to the development of multiculturalism in Macao over the centuries. For example, interracial romance and marriage between Portuguese in Macao and people from other countries, mainly those from around South China Sea and also from China, gave rise to the so-called ethnic group called the "Macanese" who later in history played an important role in bridging the gap between the East and the West.

Records about marine traffic between Macao and China and other foreign countries such as the United Kingdom, France, Russia, the United States of America, Sweden, the Netherlands, Denmark, Spain, Japan, North Korea, Vietnam, Brunei, Philippines, etc. are also included, demonstrating the significance of Macao to the world in serving as a center for cross-cultural intercourse and international interaction.

Of particular importance was the infiltration of western idea of science and democracy, as well as Christian ideal of equality (introduced by increasing missionary activities) to China through this contact which later transformed the whole Chinese society and was inspiration behind the later demand for social and political reforms from the Qing Authority.

The contact also revealed the political impotence and the social and economic backwardness of the Qing, especially when later she could no longer resist the forcible entry of the West via Macao and coastal port like Canton (Guangzhou), as well as her inability to stop the opium trade which had brought huge profits to Western traders while drained the Qing's national treasury. Ironically, as

records show, the interaction with the Portuguese and later reluctantly with other western powers had brought about the demise of the Qing.

The West were also affected and benefited by this contact. European life-style had been seasoned with a touch of oriental flavor and Chinese tea cultivation was making its way to some territories of Portugal and later to Brazil. In the area of thought, Confucianism, with its teaching in altruism, social justice, governance with virtue and talent, etc, was brought to Europe and had influence especially on the Enlightenment philosophers.

What makes this Collection of records and the Portuguese activities it documents unique and significant in this part of the world is because of the special status Portugal enjoyed in dealing with China. One of the main concessions granted to the Portuguese in Macao by the Chinese Authorities in Guangdong was the control over other foreign merchants who came to China for trade. Macao was then the major and only gateway to China, where foreign merchants had to obtain a passport and approval for their goods, and hire an interpreter, a pilot and a buyer (comprador) before they were allowed to enter and trade in the Guangdong market.

Another restrictive measure taken by the Chinese Authorities in Guangdong to control the number of vessels entering Macao was the implementation of the so-called "quota ship" system. The records in this Collection offer a picture of international trading under the "quota ship" system that was unique to Macao. Quota ships were Portuguese-flag-flying ships which were permitted by the Chinese government to conduct trading in Macao. The records document the quota ships' area of activities (including Portugal, Goa and Bengal of India, Portuguese colonies along the West Coast of Africa, Spain, Manila, Timor, Annam and others) as well as the import and export of goods carried by them.

Thus, this Collection is a major and perhaps the only original source for the understanding of Qing's policy on treating the "barbaric" West from its heyday to its decline during the most important period of western colonial expansion in the East. The Collection is a testimony to the historical process of the Qing Dynasty from prosperity to decline and the unique role played by Macao in the process.

5.3 Comparative criteria:

Does the heritage meet any of the following tests? (It must meet at least one of them.)

1 Time

Is the document evocative of its time (which may have been a time of crisis, or significant social or cultural change? Does it represent a new discovery? Or is it the "first of its kind"?

The heritage was created mainly from the mid-eighteenth century to the mid-nineteenth century. It was the time when the Western Powers accelerated its pace in colonizing the "East" which also coincided with the deterioration of the Qing Dynasty. The Correspondence (which is the bulk of this Collection) exchanged here on one hand demonstrates this historical process of the Qing Dynasty going from prosperity to decline, and on the other provides vivid records of international intercourse (be they economic, cultural, ideological, religious, etc.) radiating from the port of Macao.

2 Place

Does the document contain crucial information about a locality important in world history and culture? For example, was the location itself an important influence on the events or phenomena represented by the document? Does it describe physical environments, cities or institutions that have since vanished?

Macao, a lucrative port of strategic importance in the development of international trade, was first

settled by Portuguese traders in the sixteenth century. As a crucial meeting point of East and West, Macao has been playing a major role in international trade and cultural exchange. In 2005, The Historic Centre of Macao was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List on the merit of its outstanding cultural value. The nominated heritage is a collection of authentic records that document the administration of local Chinese authorities over a port city in the Qing Dynasty. This heritage, on one hand, reflects the peaceful and inclusive coexistence of eastern and western cultures on a Chinese land in the mid-eighteenth century to the mid-nineteenth century, and on the other, depicts the connection between Macao and the United Kingdom, France, Russia, United States of America, Sweden, Netherlands, Denmark, Spain, Japan, North Korea, Vietnam, Brunei, Philippines and many other countries when it became a port where foreign ships docked and a place where the East and West interacted.

3 People

Does the cultural context of the document's creation reflect significant aspects of human behaviour, or of social, industrial, artistic or political development? Or does it capture the essence of great movements, transitions, advances or regression? Does it illustrate the lives of prominent individuals in the above fields?

The most important and influential “players” in modern colonial history are, among others, traders, missionaries, compradors (middle men in trade and other business) and of course those officials who wielded power. This Collection, taken together, is the story of these characters.

4 Subject and theme

Does the subject matter of the document represent particular historical or intellectual developments in the natural, social and human sciences? Or in politics, ideology, sport or the arts?

The thematic of the documentation are related to various aspects of the relations between the Portuguese authorities and the Chinese authorities, and the most frequent issues are: justice and jurisdiction (application of the Chinese justice in Macao, jurisdiction over Macao foreigners, legal cases and public order), economic and trade issues (taxation, namely the jurisdiction of the floor, prohibition of opium commerce, smuggling and merchants), religious problems (illegal mission in China, the crackdown on Chinese Catholics, selection of missionaries and evangelization), diplomatic relations (between Macao and the Asian and European countries, including England and its presence in Macao, foreign circulation, sending embassies), navigation of the seas and use of harbors (piracy combat, ships, shipwrecks and castaways, tributes to navigation). Also frequent are cases relating to works in buildings, both civil and military, and illegal construction.

There are references to Guangzhou, Manila, Goa, Beijing, Mumbai, Brunei, Korea, among many others.

Mentioned among others the following commodities: sugar, cotton, rice, tea, sulfur, opium, tobacco, salt and saltpeter.

5 Form and style

Does the document have outstanding aesthetic, stylistic or linguistic value? Or is it a typical exemplar of a type of presentation, custom or medium? Is it an example of a disappeared or disappearing carrier or format?

The nominated heritage consist of communications written in genres specific to Chinese official correspondences, namely *yu* (edict), *shi* (instruction), *pai* (document of proof) and *zha* (note) under the category of “*xiaxing*” (writing from superior to subordinate) and *bing* (report) and *cheng* (petition)

belonging to the genre of “shangxing” (writing from subordinate to superior).

Specifically speaking, official correspondences sent by the Chinese authorities in Guangdong belong to the genre of "xiaxing" and those sent by the Portuguese authorities based in Macao belong to the genre of "shangxing". These official correspondences between the two sides together reflect the special relations between the Chinese and Portuguese authorities and the particular status of Portuguese as a "leaseholder" from mid-eighteenth to mid-nineteenth century. The heritage is also an evidence of Chinese being the official language in the communication between the Chinese and Portuguese authorities at that time.

6 Social/ spiritual/ community significance:

Application of this criterion must reflect living significance – does documentary heritage have an emotional hold on people who are alive today? Is it venerated as holy or for its mystical qualities, or revered for its association with significant people and events?

(Once those who have revered the documentary heritage for its social/ spiritual/ community significance no longer do so, or are no longer living, it loses this specific significance and may eventually acquire historical significance.)

6.0 Contextual information

6.1 Rarity

The nominated heritage is a collection of official records of Macao in its original Chinese manuscript and Portuguese versions. Spanning the last years of the Qing Dynasty (1693-1886), the heritage comprise official records that illustrate the interaction between Chinese government and Portuguese autonomous institution in Macao (the Loyal Senate). The heritage is a unique collection of historical records and the only of its kind that has been preserved.

6.2 Integrity

The documentation is complete and suffered no alterations since its transfer to the national archives. However natural degradation is observed. A strategy for its conservation and restoration is planned in order to ensure its sustainability.
