

The last two chapters cover the two main economic factors in Macau, namely tourism and trade. P. Haberzettl describes in depth the development of tourism and the hotel sector which was initiated and still maintained by various casinos. At its beginning in the 1980s tourism reached a new dimension as China opened its doors for tourists. To provide an appropriate infrastructure several first-class hotels were built and, remarkably enough, a hotel school was set up to provide sufficiently trained personnel. In 1987 Macau saw c. 8 million visitors, about 1.8 million of whom were not from Hong Kong.

The development of Macau's foreign trade under special consideration of the EEC forms the topic of the fifth and last chapter of the book (written jointly by R. Ptak and P. Haberzettl). As a traditional trading centre Macau developed strengths in the production of goods, since the situation in China after 1949 no longer allowed very much exchange of goods. In the 1960s and 1970s Macau exported mainly textile goods to other Portuguese overseas provinces. The great dependency on the textile sector prevails even today, and the resulting vulnerability could not be reduced. The path towards more diversification will doubtless be difficult as the necessary structures and skills still have to be developed.

The book was completed at the time of the terrible events in Beijing in June 1989. Certainly this was not the best time to look at the prospects until 1999 when Macau is finally handed over to China. In terms of "next steps" towards exploring further topics on Macau, the development options during the next decade would certainly be worth considering. An other interesting topic would be (to explore) the reasons why Macau's industry failed to diversify more and the preconditions necessary for developing a more balanced industrial structure.

Thomas Jetter

AUSTIN COATES, *Macao and the British, 1637-1842: Prelude to Hong Kong*. Hong Kong, Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 1988. xi + 232 pp, £ 5.95 (ISBN 0-19-582782-1)

When this book was first published by Routledge and Kegan Paul in 1966 under the title *Prelude to Hong Kong*, it appeared at a time when the evil effects emerging from the ultra-leftist ideology in mainland China were just about to seriously disrupt the quiet and peaceful life in Europe's first outpost on the China coast, the Portuguese settlement of Macao. The present edition has come out under different auspices: Lisbon, in 1987,

agreed to hand over to Peking the last possession of its former overseas empire at the end of 1999. Whatever one may think of this, it cannot be denied that, although Sino-Western relations have been improving at a remarkable pace during the last decade, there still prevails a somewhat biased attitude among the historians of the People's Republic of China as far as the past of Macao and, for that matter also, of Hong Kong is concerned. In view of the disturbing possibility that - if mainland Chinese publishing activities continue with the same vigor as is presently the case - little or nothing might be left of the glorious sides of that past in the mind of a new and restless business population in urban Macao, the reprint of this handy book certainly helps to counterbalance some of the absurd Marxist "story-telling" with which we are still faced today.

However, one should keep in mind that much of what is to be found in Coates' elegantly written account would have to be cross-checked against various sinological standard works which have appeared since 1966, if a more accurate and detailed version is to be sought of what occurred in the days of Wedell, Anson, Macartney, Morrison, Elliot or Lin Tse-hsü at the mouth of the Pearl River, between Canton, the Bocca Tigris, Lin Tin Island, and the Macao barrier gate. M. Teixeira, C.R. Boxer, J.E. Wills, G.B. Souza, contributors to *The Cambridge History of China*, to name but a few, and Coates himself of course - particularly in his *A Macao Narrative* (1978) - have turned out a large number of books and articles since then which have suitably complemented the fascinating story of Sino-Western contacts in the pre-Hong Kong period. While some of these works tend to be rather scholarly and therefore slightly dry, *Macao and the British* is comparatively easy reading with occasional and highly instructive changes of viewpoint - from behind the scene to the purely European (English) way of looking at things and back. This clearly enables the reader to understand many of the underlying reasons for the difficulties encountered in those days by the political and economic representatives of both sides in their diplomatic and business dealings with each other. Moreover, the reader is left with the impression that China was as much guilty or innocent in matters of mutual distrust and war as were the greedy European money-makers and the East India Company. There is certainly truth in the observation that corruption within the Chinese bureaucracy was as much at the root of the problem as was the Chinese "ideology" towards the "barbarians" with its built-in mechanism of, as one might call it, "Ah Q-istic" self-deceit.

The role Elliot played in the days of the Opium Crisis is, of course, a more controversial one than Coates makes us believe; I also have some

doubts as far as Lin Tse-hsü's ignorance of the western world is concerned (pp. 182 *et seq.*); and Cheng Ho's ships sailed *beyond* the Arab peninsula, the last of the great Ming naval expeditions under his command ending in 1433 and not in 1431 (pp. 37-38). While these and other small matters do not cause concern, I felt uneasy about certain lines, for example the statement that nothing would be more perplexing to the Chinese than altruism (pp. 102-103). Such slips, in my opinion, are no longer appropriate today and disturb an account otherwise flavoured with a good grain of humor.

This book, essentially the story of how the British made use of Macao to enter China, and of how, in the course of time, they more and more did without the Portuguese, tells us comparatively little about Macao itself - contrary to what one is perhaps tempted to conclude from the title of the present edition. Nevertheless, it is generally fair towards the role of the Portuguese, stressing their neutrality between the rest of Europe and China, describing their dexterity in evading British diplomatic and military threats, their reluctance to get too deeply involved in the opium business, and their generally humanitarian outlook on things (whether true or pretended), fostered, to some extent at least, by the Church and its charitable institutions. However, there remains the question, why, after all, were the Portuguese, given what little resources they had, tolerated in China for so long, even during periods when the material profits drawn from their presence by the mandarins must have been close to nil (in the period immediately following the end of the Japan trade, for example). Even though various answers to this question are suggested here and there and in between the lines a more systematic presentation might have helped. For that the specialist may now be referred to the works of K.C. Fok and others.

Suitable for both the general, learned reader and for the China historian who, for a day or two, wishes to get away from the arid sphere of academic argument, Coates' book does, however, reveal a deep understanding of the psychology of the protagonists, whether the rich merchants such as Jardine and Matheson or the mysterious interpreter Norette whose role is brilliantly described in the opening chapter. In preparing this lucid and lively account, Coates certainly undertook careful research of the sources and, therefore, we ought not find fault with him, all the more since this book, some twenty years after its first publication, still makes good reading today.