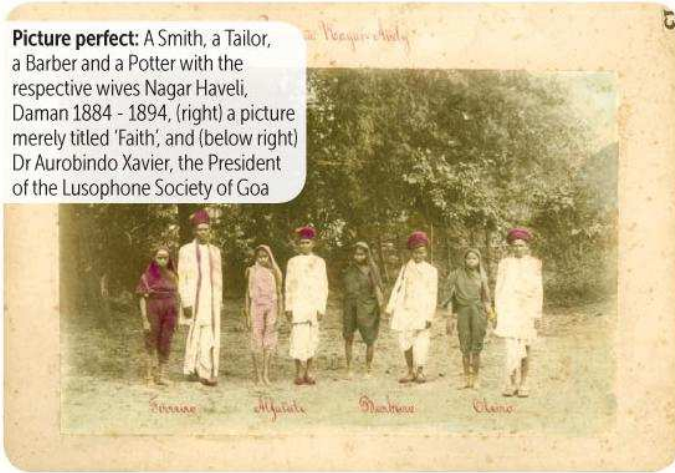


A 19th century photographic voyage from Lisbon to Goa

Picture perfect: A Smith, a Tailor, a Barber and a Potter with the respective wives Nagar Haveli, Daman 1884 - 1894, (right) a picture merely titled 'Faith', and (below right) Dr Aurobindo Xavier, the President of the Lusophone Society of Goa



COURTESY: LUSOPHONE SOCIETY OF GOA

PIC: SANKET CHAVAN

The Lusofonia Festival 2015 will host a unique photography exhibition, 'Voyage to the East in the 19th Century', tracing the history from Lisbon to Goa. Alongside, it will also host another exhibition, 'A Glimpse of Macau'. In an interview with Café, President of the Lusophone Society of Goa Dr Aurobindo Xavier highlights the various aspects of the exhibitions

Patricia Ann Alvares cafe@herald-goa.com

Team Café: Why did Lusophone consider holding this exhibition?

Dr Aurobindo Xavier: (a) The 'Voyage to the East in the 19th Century' (Voyages) – These photographs were taken between 1884 and 1894 with the earliest techniques. The exhibition includes many photographs of Goa with some pictures of historical buildings that no longer exist, for example, the Seminary of Chorão or the Convent of Saint Paul. This is an extraordinary collection of photographs from the time of earliest photography techniques. It traces the passage of time from Lisbon to Timor, crossing the Suez Canal and passing through Egypt, Mumbai, Goa, Daman, Nagar Haveli, Sri Lanka and Indonesia.

(b) 'A Glimpse of Macau' (Macau)

We are aware that modern pictures of Macau have not been exposed publicly in Goa in recent years. But Goa and Macau, who have a long common history during the Portuguese colonial epoch, should come closer to each other via Lusophonia. This exhibition is a contribution of the Lusophone Society of Goa for this approach between Macau and Goa.

TC: Are these from private collections or various photographers?

AX: (a) Voyages – These are from different photographers like the French Hyppolite Arnoux, Italian Antoine Beato or Adolpho Moniz (probably from Daman). They were collected by the Museum of Lamego (Portugal) from the private collection of the very traditional Portuguese family Mascarenhas

Gaivão, based in North Portugal close to River Douro.

Of the 39 photographs in this section, a major number are in black and white, while some are manually coloured.

(b) Macau – These were made in 2013 by Margarida Fernandes. All the 34 photographs here are in colour.

TC: What do these photographs focus on?

AX: (a) Voyages – these photographs were made by the authors to supply the Europeans with photographs of Africa and Asia. People in Europe, especially those well-off families, were at that time very keen to have such 'exotic' photographs. Therefore there are several types of photographs in this collection – the local people, historical buildings, etc. A lot of them are related to the former Portuguese colonies in Asia, as also those of Goa, Daman or Nagar-Haveli.

(a) Macau – gives us a good perspective of the daily life in Macau.

TC: On whose initiative have these exhibitions been brought to Goa? Will they also be shown at other cities?

AX: The exhibition is organised by the Lusophone Society of Goa (LSG), in collaboration with the Directorate of Culture North, Museum of Lamego (Portugal), Directorate of Art and Culture (Goa), Goa Tourism Development Corporation and Fundação Oriente.

Specifically (a) Voyages – was brought to Goa by the LSG with the support of the Cultural Directorate

North Portugal – Museu de Lamego. This exhibition was showcased in Lamego, North Portugal in 2014. After Goa, the next exhibition is likely to be held in London.

(b) Macau – was brought to Goa by the LSG with the support of the author of the photographs, Margarida Fernandes.

Voyage to the East in the 19th Century

Venue: Fundação Oriente, Fontainhas, Panjim

Inauguration on February 20, 5.30 pm

Time: February 21 to March 10, 2015 from 10am to 5pm

A Glimpse of Macau

Venue: Art Gallery, Sanskruti Bhavan, Patto, Panjim

Inauguration on March 7, 2015 at 7.30pm

Time: 10am to 5pm

TWEETS @PATRICIAANNEALV