



The American Overseas Community in Nineteenth-Century Macao

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Masters of Arts
in History at the University of Macau

Author: Patrick Connolly
Student I.D.: MB0-4133-2
Supervisor: Barry Crosbie

Department of History
Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities
University of Macau

August 2012

Copyright

Copyright 2012 by
Patrick Connolly



Declaration

I declare that this thesis represents my own work, except where the acknowledgment is made, and that it has not been previously included in a thesis, dissertation or report submitted to this University of any other institution for a degree, diploma, or other qualification.



Contents

Acknowledgments	p.i
Abstract	p.ii
Chapter 1: Introduction	p.1
Background	p.1
Applied Theory	p.7
Previous Studies	p.9
Chapter 2: The Origin of American Presence in Macao	p.15
Introduction	p.15
American Beginnings in Macao	p.19
Increasing American Numbers, Merchant Families	p.22
Arrival of American Missionaries	p.29
Chapter 3: From Increased American Numbers to Weakened Consular Power	p.40
Introduction	p.40
Merchant Families	p.40
The U.S. Consulate in Macao	p.46
Chapter 4: Relationships Founded by the Absence of Support	p.62
Introduction	p.62
Gideon Nye Jr	p.64
The U.S. Consulate at Macao in the 1860's	p.73
Conclusion	p.83
Chapter 5: Conclusion	p.85
Bibliography	p.90
Curriculum Vitae	p.93

Acknowledgements

While working on this study, my supervisor, Dr. Barry Crosbie, has consistently supported my work and continued to build my confidence in my writing while still providing constructive criticisms to keep me balanced. He was able put form to my ideas when I had originally struggled with the direction of this paper and helped me narrow my topic to the American community in Macao. His understanding of networks and the theory that was necessary for my study supported its development and its eventual completion. I would also like to thank Dr. Paul Van Dyke who provided me with the initial material that gave me the opportunity to study the American community in Macao. He continually stimulated my thoughts on history in my first year of study at the University of Macau promoting my interest in the history of Americans in South China. My classmates from the Masters program at the University of Macau also have my thanks for their support of my ideas and the ability to bounce opinions off of one another, which provided me with multiple angles to observe this history.

Lastly I would like to thank my parents who have supported my studies and never seem disappointed when they read an unedited draft. Without the encouragement of my mother I may have never come to study at the University of Macau and for that I am grateful. She has always taught me to try my hardest at whatever it is I do, and while I may procrastinate at times, I would not have achieved as much as I have without her guidance.

Abstract

As the Americans began to establish themselves as a world trading participant their goals of equality to the ‘most favored nations’ had them look towards China. In order for them to ascertain a presence in China they required a place that could act as a foothold for their position in China. By 1820 that foothold was the Portuguese colony of Macao. While Macao is the most significant port city to the Americans’ establishment of trade in China, surprisingly little has been written about the relationships and networks that Americans were able to build in order for Macao to function as their foothold.

This study observes the relationships that the Americans formed in Macao from before the establishment of the American Consulate in 1849 to the end of it in 1869. Before the American Consulate was established the Americans were low in number and highly dependent on foreign assistance, but as the population and political influence grew, so did their interdependence on their own expatriates. After the Consulate was founded, the dispatches and letters from missionaries, merchants, and diplomats alike, displayed how they were able to maintain and expand their American community through their family, business, and social relationships with one another. By observing the three groups of merchants, missionaries, and diplomats, the importance of Macao to the American community throughout the Pearl River delta region is displayed.

Macao was their home while abroad and as the years passed the primary sources showed a remarkable perseverance and the importance of Macao to the wellbeing of Americans in China. This study discovered the American identity in China was best shown through the relationships they created among one another and developed networks that held their goals and patriotism together.