

MACAU



1952 - 1 PATACA - OBVERSE

MACAU, Overseas Province of Portugal
LISBON MINT

1 PATACA 19MM .720 FINE 3.0 GRAMS

1952 521,600

^OV: Portuguese Arms, REPUBLICA • PORTUGESA
(Republic Portugal) around, ◇ 1952 ◇ below.

^RV: Arms of Macau, ★ MACAU ★ (above)
Chinese inscription left and right, ★ 1 PATACA ★ below.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: (no mintmark) = LISBON

REFERENCE: Y-4, KM-4

FOOTNOTE: Macau is the oldest European outpost in the East, with a history of China trading and Jesuit Missionary activity dating from the mid sixteenth century. The first treaty between China and the United States was signed in its Kwan Yin Temple in 1844 when it was declared a free port. China recognized its independence in 1887. It was proclaimed an overseas Province of Portugal in 1951. Macau occupied six square miles embracing the tip of a peninsula of mainland China and two islands. Hong Kong is 40 miles to the east across the Pearl River estuary and 90 miles southeast of the City of Canton. Macau has 300,000 inhabitants of whom 98 per cent are Chinese. The Temple of Ma Kon Miu contains a special shrine to Ama, a Chinese Goddess from whence came Macao's name; it first was "Amagao", the first "A" was later dropped, and the "G" replaced by a "C"; the Portuguese still call the place Macau, the English version is Macao.



1952 -1 PATACA - REVERSE

FOOTNOTE: Arms of Macau: Colonial Coat of Arms, left five shields of the Quinas Cross which notes Victory over five Moorish Princes during the Christian reconquest of the Iberian Peninsula from the Arabs of North Africa. To the right the Emblem of Macau, the Chinese dragon with Portuguese shield of five roundels, below the waves which emphasize the Overseas Colony. According to the census of 1950 the population is 187,772. The other Overseas provinces included; The Cape Verde Islands, The Islands of San Tome and Principe, Angola, Mozambique, Goa (Portuguese India), and Portuguese Timor.

FOOTNOTE: Macao is the favorite resort for the European residents of Hong Kong who are addicted to gambling. The gentlemen of our party went to observe the proceedings, but tonight there were only a few natives playing at 'Fan-tan' a game which, though a great favorite with the natives, appears very stupid to a European. The croupier takes a handful of copper cash and throws it upon the table; he then with chop-sticks counts the coins by fours, the betting being upon the possible number of the remainder. It takes a long time to count a big handful, and you have only one, two, three or four to back - no colors or combinations, as at Rouge-Et-Noir, or Trent-Et-Quarante. *A Voyage in the 'Sunbeam' by Mrs. Brassey, 1881.*

FOOTNOTE: Macau, in China, situated on an island of the same name at the mouth of the Canton river, forms with the two small adjacent islands of Taipa and Coloane, a province, the city being divided into two wards, one inhabited by Chines and the other by non-Chinese, each having its own administrator. The population in 1910 is 74,866. The whites 3,919. There are 3,780 Portuguese, 60,057 Chinese and 154 of various nationalities. The trade, mostly transit, is in the hands of Chinese. The port of Macau was visited by 1,486 merchant steamers and 6,437 junks. The Statesmen's Year-Book, London, 1916.