

Water Company Gifts Two Fountains to the Local People

Locations in Macao:

**Jardim de Sao Francisco on Macao Peninsula
Rua do Regedonat in Taipa**

These Wallace Fountains are meant to symbolize the well-being and harmony of Macao. From the 1930's to early 1980's piped water was still a luxury. Most Macao citizens relied on public water sources to satisfy their daily consumption and washing needs. As popular meeting points for social acquaintances, the public water sources also served to foster a sense of community.

In order to increase public awareness about the excellent quality of local tap water, The Macao Water Supply Co. Ltd. donated two, new Wallace Fountains, one in 2004 and one in 2005. Macao was a Portuguese territory until 1999 and it reflects a mix of cultural influences. A large plaque to commemorate the new drinking water fountains, written in Chinese, Portuguese and English, was posted near each fountain.

The first Fountain is located in the Jardim de Sao Francisco on Rua de Santa Clara. The European style garden, named for the convent that once stood there, is the oldest in Macao. The fountain stands near a small, octagonal Chinese pavilion, which serves as one of Macao's busiest public libraries. This Wallace Fountain was inaugurated by the honorable Mr. Edmond Ho, Chief Executive of Macao, Special Administrative Region (SAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC) on 23 July 2004.

The second Wallace Fountain is located in the old village of Taipa and it was inaugurated by Mr. Ao Man Long, Secretary for Transport and Public Works of the Macao, SAR of PRC on 22 March 2005.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, rather drastic steps were taken to prevent the spread of the disease, including putting the four caryatids temporarily in "jail."

Sources for Text and Photos: The Macao Water Supply Company Limited, TripAdvisor, Kurt's guide to Macau (kurtsmacau.com), and research by Suzanne Vyvyan.

