

Hong Kong Portuguese Community Artefact Collection Campaign (July 2019)

In post-Second World War Hong Kong, the local Portuguese community ran a temporary kindergarten at Club de Recreio in 1947 to fill the immediate schooling needs of their children. Owing to an increase in the number of students, in November 1951, the Portuguese Consul in Hong Kong, with the support of the Hong Kong Government and local Portuguese institutes and individuals, such as Club Lusitano, Club de Recreio, Colonel Botelho and Mr A. de O. Sales, put forward a plan to raise funds for a school mainly for local Portuguese. The Portuguese Community Schools, Inc. Escola Camões (Escola Camões) on Cox's Road, Kowloon was inaugurated on 29 June 1954, which was an educational milestone for the local Portuguese community. Only in 1996 did Portuguese management of the school come to an end.

Mrs Edna Chow, who started teaching there in the mid-1960s, said that the premises accommodated a kindergarten and a primary school. Nearly half of the students were Portuguese, while the others were Eurasian, Indian, Filipino and Chinese. Besides regular subjects, like English, history, geography, hygiene and religious knowledge, the school taught Portuguese. Although the number of local Portuguese students fell in later years, the school still put a lot of effort into preserving the Portuguese cultural legacy, with Portuguese poems recited at the annual Speech Day, and emphasis on important Catholic festivals, like Christmas and Easter, for example.

If you would like to learn more about the education received by the local Portuguese, stay tuned to our revamping Hong Kong Story. We will share with you artefacts and stories of the school life of the Portuguese in Hong Kong.



The school emblem of Portuguese Community Schools, Inc., Escola Camões.
(Courtesy of Po Leung Kuk Camões Tan Siu Lin Primary School)



The students sang carols at the Christmas party in 1971. (Courtesy of alumna Ms Maria Roliz)



The school bell of Portuguese Community Schools, Inc., Escola Camões. (Courtesy of Po Leung Kuk Camões Tan Siu Lin Primary School)



Students dressed in traditional Portuguese costumes to celebrate Dia de Camões, on 10 June 1970. (Courtesy of alumna Ms Maria Roliz)



Classroom during a lesson in 1984. (Courtesy of Mrs. Edna Chow)



Students of different ethnic groups enjoyed Sports Day together in 1970. (Courtesy of alumna Ms Maria Roliz)