

Hong Kong Portuguese Community Artefact Collection Campaign (April 2019)

Anthony Stephen da “Tony” Cruz is a familiar name among horse racing enthusiasts. Son of amateur rider Johnny M. da Cruz, he began his career as a professional jockey in the 1973/74 horse racing season. In 1971, Hong Kong horse racing was turned into a professional sport, and Tony Cruz was among the first locally trained professional jockeys. He won his first Hong Kong Champion Jockey title in the 1978/79 race season; by the time he retired from professional horse racing in 1996, he had won 946 races and was named Champion Jockey six times.

After retiring from professional horse racing, Tony Cruz continued to excel as a horse trainer. He was named Hong Kong Champion Trainer in the 1999/2000 and 2004/05 race seasons. Over the years, he trained many winners, including the greatest Hong Kong racehorse of all time, *Silent Witness*. The thoroughbred was named Hong Kong Horse of the Year and Hong Kong Champion Sprinter in 2003/04 and 2004/05, respectively. He also won a record-breaking 17 consecutive races.

Tony Cruz and Arthur Antonio da Silva, the owner of *Silent Witness*, have loaned a number of relics to us. They will be showcased in the new permanent exhibition to underscore the contribution of the Hong Kong Portuguese community to horse racing.



Tony Cruz's first Hong Kong Champion Jockey trophy, 1978/1979 race season.



Tony Cruz won the Queen Elizabeth II Cup in the 1982/1983 and 1983/1984 race seasons. This is one of the trophies presented to him.



Tony Cruz won the Lusitano Challenge Cup in the 1983/1984 and 1986/1987 race seasons. This is one of the trophies presented to him.



Trophy from the 2003/2004 season for the “Most Popular Horse of the Year” awarded to *Silent Witness*, which was owned by Arthur Antonio da Silva.



Bronze statue of *Silent Witness*, presented to Tony Cruz by the horse owner Arthur Antonio da Silva in 2008.



Professional jockey Tony Cruz in the 1970s.