

**Portuguese Missions Ordinance
(CHAPTER 371)**

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PORTUGUESE MISSIONS ORDINANCE

(CHAPTER 371)

(Original Enactment: Ordinance 2 of 1910)

REVISED EDITION 1985

(30th March 1987)

An Ordinance to incorporate the Agent of the Commission for the Administration of the Estates of the Portuguese Missions in China and Singapore. ¹

¹ *Note: This private Ordinance is reproduced in the form it appears in the 1955 Revised Edition.*

[8th April 1910]

Whereas an Institution, known as the Cathedral of Pekin, was founded in the year 1690 by the Holy See of Rome through the solicitation of Dom Pedro II., then King of Portugal, and dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, and was administered by the successive bishops of Pekin until the date of the Ordinance next hereinafter named:

And Whereas another Institution, known as the Mission of St. José, at Pekin, was established by the Portuguese Jesuits before the year 1650 under the patronage of the Kings of Portugal:

And Whereas another Institution, known as the College of St. José, at Macao, was founded in or about the year 1747 by the Portuguese Jesuits in order to prepare missionaries for China under the patronage of the Portuguese Royal Crown:

And Whereas by a Royal Charter of the then King of Portugal, dated the thirteenth day of February, 1800, the property of the Cathedral of Pekin and of the College of St. José at Macao and that of the Mission of St. José at Pekin was entrusted to the Congregation of the Mission, which was the congregation of St. Vincent de Paul, established in Portugal

under that name:

And Whereas by an indenture of assignment, dated the fourteenth day of December, 1831, and made between James Clarke of the one part and Isaiah Zechariah, attorney to and for Joaquim Jozé Leite, therein called Liete, and Nicholao Rodrigues Pereira de Borja, “Superiores” of the Cathedral of Pekin, of the other part, the lands and hereditaments comprised in Schedule *A* were assigned unto the said Isaiah Zechariah, attorney, as aforesaid, his executors, administrators and assigns, nevertheless to the proper use and behoof of the said Joaquim Jozé Leite, therein called Liete, and Nicholao Rodrigues Pereira de Borja, “Superiores” of the Cathedral of Pekin, and their successors to the title and office of Superiores as aforesaid during the residue of the term of years created by the indentures of lease mentioned in Schedule *A*:

And Whereas by an indenture of assignment registered No. 116, dated the eleventh day of August, 1831, made between Lim Chye, attorney, to and for Lim Si Ong of the one part and Isaiah Zechariah, attorney, to and for Joaquim Jozé Leite, therein called Liete, and Nicholao Rodrigues Pereira de Borja, “Superiores” of the Cathedral of Pekin, of the other part, the land and hereditaments described in Schedule *C* and comprised in indenture of lease, No. 34, therein mentioned were assigned to the said Isaiah Zechariah, attorney, as aforesaid nevertheless to and for the use and behoof of the said Joaquim Jozé Leite, therein called Liete, and Nicholao Rodrigues Pereira de Borja, “Superiores” of the Cathedral of Pekin aforesaid, and their successors to the title and office of Superiores for the residue then unexpired of the term of years created by the said indenture of lease, No. 34:

And Whereas by an indenture of assignment, registered No. 113, dated the thirteenth day of July, 1831, and made between Si Hoo Keh of the one part and Isaiah Zechariah, attorney, to and for Joaquim Jozé Leite, therein called Liete, and Nicholao Rodrigues Pereira de Borja, “Superiores” of the Cathedral of Pekin, of the other part, the land and hereditaments described in Schedule *C* and comprised in the indenture of lease, No. 36, therein mentioned were assigned unto the said Isaiah Zechariah, attorney, as aforesaid nevertheless to and for the proper use and behoof of the said Joaquim Jozé Leite, therein called Liete, and Nicholao Rodrigues Pereira de Borja, “Superiores” of the Cathedral of Pekin as aforesaid, and their successors or assigns for the residue then unexpired of the term of years created by the said indenture of lease, No. 36:

And Whereas by a memorandum of transfer, registered No. 114, dated the thirty-first day of October, 1828, under the hand of S. G. Bonham and endorsed on the indenture of lease referred to in Schedule *B*, the said S. G. Bonham thereby made over all his right and title to the lands and hereditaments comprised in that Schedule to Isaiah Zechariah and the Reverend Padre Francisco da Silva Pinto a Maya, Sacerdote da Congregação da Missao: And by another memorandum of transfer, registered No. 131, dated the eighth

day of April, 1829, and under the hands of the said Isaiah Zechariah and Francisco da Silva Pinto a Maya and endorsed on the said indenture of lease, the said Isaiah Zechariah and Francisco da Silva Pinto a Maya thereby made over all their right and title to the said lands and hereditaments to the Reverend Nicholao Rodrigues Pereira de Borja, Superior of the College of Saint José at Macao:

And Whereas by an indenture of assignment, dated the fifteenth day of July, 1845, and made between Joaquim Jozé Leite, therein called Letta, at that time residing in China, of the one part and the Reverend Joaquim Jozé Leite, Superiore and Principal of the Cathedral of Saint José at Pekin, of the other part, after reciting the said indenture of lease and memorandum of the thirty-first day of October, 1828, it is thereby further recited that the said Isaiah Zechariah and Reverend Padre Francisco da Silva Pinto a Maya, da Congregação da Missao, by a certain other endorsement bearing date the eighth day of April, 1829, did assign, transfer and set over the lands and hereditaments comprised in Schedule *B* unto the said Joaquim Jozé Leite, Superior of the College of Saint José, and it is witnessed that the said Joaquim Jozé Leite thereby assigned the said land and hereditaments unto the said Reverend Joaquim Jozé Leite, Superior and Principal aforesaid, for the residue then unexpired of the term of years created by the indenture of lease in such Schedule mentioned:

And Whereas by a memorandum, registered No. 130, dated the eighth day of April, 1829, under the hand of the said Isaiah Zechariah and endorsed upon indenture of lease, No. 35, referred to in Schedule *C*, the said Isaiah Zechariah thereby made over all his right and title to the lands and hereditaments described in Schedule *C* and comprised in the said indenture of lease to the said Reverend Nicholao Rodrigues Pereira de Borja, Superior of the College of Saint José at Macao:

And Whereas by a memorandum, registered No. 129, dated the eighth day of April, 1829, under the hand of the said Isaiah Zechariah and endorsed on the indenture of lease, No. 12, referred to in Schedule *D*, the said Isaiah Zechariah thereby made over all his right and title to the lands and hereditaments described in Schedule *D*, and comprised in the said indenture of lease, No. 12, to the said Reverend Nicholao Rodrigues Pereira de Borja, Superior of the College of Saint José at Macao:

And Whereas the lands and hereditaments comprised in Schedule *E* were by the indenture of lease, No. 300, dated the seventh day of May, 1841, therein mentioned demised to the said Reverend Joaquim Jozé Leite as attorney for the Mission of Saint José of Pekin for the term of years therein mentioned:

And Whereas by a subsequent Ordinance of the State of Portugal, dated the twelfth day of August, 1856, in the reign of Dom Pedro V., the College of Saint José at Macao was reconstituted under the title of the Diocesan Seminary of Macao:

And Whereas by an indenture of assignment, dated the ninth day of June, 1865, made between Edward Maher Smith of the one part and the Reverend Father Manuel Lourenço de Gouvêa, of Macao, Superior of the Diocesan Seminary of Macao and trustee of the Missions, including that of Singapore, of the other part, the lands and hereditaments described in Schedule *D* and comprised in the indenture of lease, Lot No. 2 of Lease No. 1577, therein mentioned were assigned unto the said Reverend Father Manuel Lourenço de Gouvêa as such trustee as aforesaid and his successor and successors in the office of trustee as aforesaid and his and their assigns to his and their own proper use and behoof for the residue then unexpired of the term of years created by the said indenture of lease, Lot No. 2 of lease No. 1577:

And Whereas by another Ordinance of the State of Portugal, dated the twenty-first day of September, 1870, it was enacted that all the properties of the said Institutions, the Cathedral of Pekin, the College of Saint José or Diocesan Seminary at Macao and the Missions of Saint José at Pekin, should be held and administered by certain persons thereby nominated and constituted as a commission, under the title of “The Commission for the Administration of the Estates of the Portuguese Missions in China”, *viz.*, the Bishop of Macao for the time being, or his Vicar-General for the time being as President and 4 other persons, *viz.*, a Canon of the See of Macao, to be appointed by the Portuguese Government or by the Bishop of Macao, the Rector of the Diocesan Seminary at Macao for the time being, an officer of the State Treasury at Macao and another officer from the Colonial Secretariat at Macao, both of which latter to be appointed by the Governor of the Colony of Macao:

And Whereas the aforesaid Reverend Nicholao Rodrigues Pereira de Borja died on the twenty-first day of March, 1845, at Macao, and the aforesaid Reverend Joaquim Jozé Leite died on the twenty-fifth day of June, 1858, at Macao, and the aforesaid Reverend Father Manuel Lourenço de Gouvêa died on the nineteenth day of August, 1885, at Macao, but no administration has been granted to the estate of any of them in this Colony, and it is not known who are their respective legal personal representatives:

And Whereas since the said Ordinance of the twenty-first day of September, 1870, the properties of all the abovementioned Institutions have been managed by and in the possession and occupation of the said Commission, through the medium of their agent for the time being in Singapore, under the title of “The Agent of the Commission for the Administration of the Estates of the Portuguese Missions in China at Singapore”:

And Whereas the present Agent of the aforesaid Commission is the Reverend Antonio Augusto Cardozo, and his predecessors in title to the said office of agent have since the twenty-first day of September, 1870, as such agents as aforesaid been in uninterrupted possession and receipt of the rents and profits of the lands, hereditaments, messuages and premises comprised in Schedules *A* to *E* for and on behalf of the said Commission: