

VIVA QUEIMADA

A unique Coffee Table book covering those glorious 500 years which changed the history of the world. Years which saw the East Indian community rise up to great heights and become the celebrated "Children of the soil".

The book was launched at a high profile event at St Andrew's Auditorium, Mumbai after private readings at the Sheraton, Philadelphia and the heritage Chanler Hotel at Rhode Island.

The book has crossed the seas from UK, USA and Canada to the Middle East, New Zealand and Australia and has raised a tidy sum for charity.

Here are a few highlights:

1. The story begins with the volcanoes which ripped North Konkan from the Indian mainland and created some of the best harbors in the world where trade and commerce thrived. Egyptians, Phoenicians, Jews, Greeks, Romans, Arabs, Venetians, Portuguese, French and finally the British found their way here.
2. "Bombay" inherited Celtic 'Queimada' from the Portuguese. Even today in Galicia or Valdelavilla, Spain you can take part in this heady celebration of the Queimada ritual. (Page 24)
3. The fort at Bacaim (Bassein) has a full size replica in Upstate DeWitt, New York (Page 9)
4. Bandra church had an earning of one pound of gold a day (Page 23)
5. Tribute to two beautiful ladies through heritage monuments built in the same year: The Taj Mahal, Agra and Mount Mary's Basilica, Bandra (Page 26)
6. 'High Tea' was introduced by the Infanta Catarina de Braganza, who also brought Bombay as a 'dowry' to the British monarch Charles II. (Page 29)
7. How Yale got its name: the Indian connection (Page 35)
8. Ships built on the West coast of India make history as American patriots toss 342 chests of tea in the Boston harbor – a landmark known as the Boston Tea Party (Page 41)
9. How the tasty 'Bombay Duck' got its name (Page 44)
10. The American Civil War results in Bombay becoming the hub for cotton supplies. City's population and property prices zoom (Page 54)
11. Mother Teresa leaves a lasting footprint in the city (Page 92)
12. Rice growing in Bombay's swamps is identical to the money spinning 'Carolina Gold' (Page 119)

Finally:

This unique keepsake took 4 years to complete. There are some 350 re-created images including monuments, cuisine and lifestyles shared by East Indians from all over the world. The book is a tribute to Sandra Gomes who started the book but did not live to see her labor of love come to fruition.