

INTRODUCTION

Following the landing of Vasco da Gama in Calicut in 1498, the Portuguese built their permanent base in Goa. From 1510 after Afonso de Albuquerque defeated Ismail Adil Shah of Bijapur, Goa served as capital of Portuguese Indian possessions, until its abandonment in the 18th century AD due to a plague. Under Portuguese rule, it is said to have been a city of nearly 200,000 people. It was declared a World Heritage Site by the UNESCO.

During the mid-16th century, Velha Goa, was the center of Christianisation in the East. Lofty churches and equally large convents were built by various religious orders, the Franciscans being the earliest to arrive. The architects took inspiration from their Italian counterparts. The churches of Rome were imitated with a touch of Renaissance with Baroque interiors. It continued to be the de jure capital of Goa until 1843, when the capital was shifted to Panjim in 1759. The abandoned city came to be known as "Velha Goa" (in Portuguese, 'Old Goa'), to distinguish it from the new capital Nova Goa.

AIM & SCOPE OF THE EXHIBIT

The One-Frame Exhibit using Picture Post cards, shows the Churches and Convents of Old Goa built during Portuguese rule of Goa during the sixteenth to twentieth century. The pictures give the antique feel of the monuments before the present beautification and landscaping was done.

TREATMENT AND CHOICE OF MATERIAL

Only picture postcards have been used in exhibit, either mint or used. Most of the picture postcards were issued during the Portuguese rule of Goa. The cards have been chosen to illustrate the best possible examples to illustrate the story. The key aspects of the postcards are written in Purple and the details of the publisher are provided in black.



400 years of the landing of Vasco da Gama in India in 1498
1 Tanga, Univerasal Postal Union

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GOA DOURADA (GOLDEN GOA)

The monuments of Goa, "Rome of the Orient", exerted great influence from the 16th to the 18th century on the development of architecture, sculpture and painting by spreading forms of Manueline, Mannerist and Baroque art throughout the countries of Asia where Catholic missions were established. The wealth of the ensemble compares with the Latin American ensembles. At the Church of Bom Jesus, Goa conserves Saint Francis-Xavier's tomb. Beyond its fine artistic quality (commissioned in 1665 by the Grand Duke Ferdinand II of Tuscany, it was executed in Florence and includes admirable bronze work by Giovanni Battista Foggini),



General View of Old Goa
Souza & Paul Fotografos,
Nova Goa

The Franciscans were the first religious order to arrive in Goa. They accompanied Albuquerque in 1510.

They were followed by the Jesuits (1543), the Dominicans (1548), the Augustinians (1572), the Carmelites (1612) and the Theatines (1640)



Basilica of Bom Jesus
Ink Sketches by Ratin Mitra

BASILICA OF BOM JESUS

The Basilica of Bom Jesus, enshrining the mortal remains of St. Francis Xavier, is an imposing edifice of Ionic, Doric and Corinthian pilastered facade. Despite the opposition the Jesuits faced, the building was completed in 1585 and consecrated in 1605. Part of the building was accidentally burnt down in 1663 and was rebuilt in 1783. The church was raised to the rank of a minor Basilica by Pope Pius XII in 1946. When the Jesuits were expelled in 1759, it was placed under the care of the Archbishop.

Within the church are two chapels, a main altar and a sacristy, besides a choir at the entrance. The belfry is at the back. Except for the richly gilded alters, the interior of the church, which is 55.77 mtrs long, 16.76 mtrs broad and 18.59 mtrs high is remarkable for it's simplicity.

On the northern wall is the cenotaph of the benefactor of the church, Dom Jeronimo Mascarenhas, the Captain of Cochin who died in 1593. On the southern side of the transept is a chapel with gilded twisted columns and floral decorations of wood, where the sacred relics of the body of St. Francis Xavier are kept.

*Convento de Bom Jesus.***Convent of Bom Jesus**
Christovam Fernandes, Nova

The church is considered to be one of the best examples of Baroque architecture and Portuguese Colonial architecture in India.

The monuments of Goa, "Rome of the Orient", exerted great influence from the 16th to the 18th century on the development of architecture, sculpture and painting by spreading forms of Manueline, Mannerist and Baroque art through-

Convent of Bom Jesus
Christovam
Fernandes,

In the year 1953, Pope Pius XII gifted a Golden Rose plant to the Church. It was a symbolic way of thanking the Church in Goa for its work towards evangelisation. In India this is the only church which has this plant of Golden rose. The top rose has a veil that has pure musk in it. It symbolizes perfume of the gospel which is spread throughout the world.

*Velha Goa - India Portuguesa. Convento de Bom Jesus.
Convent of Bom Jesus.*

EXPOSITION OF THE BODY OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

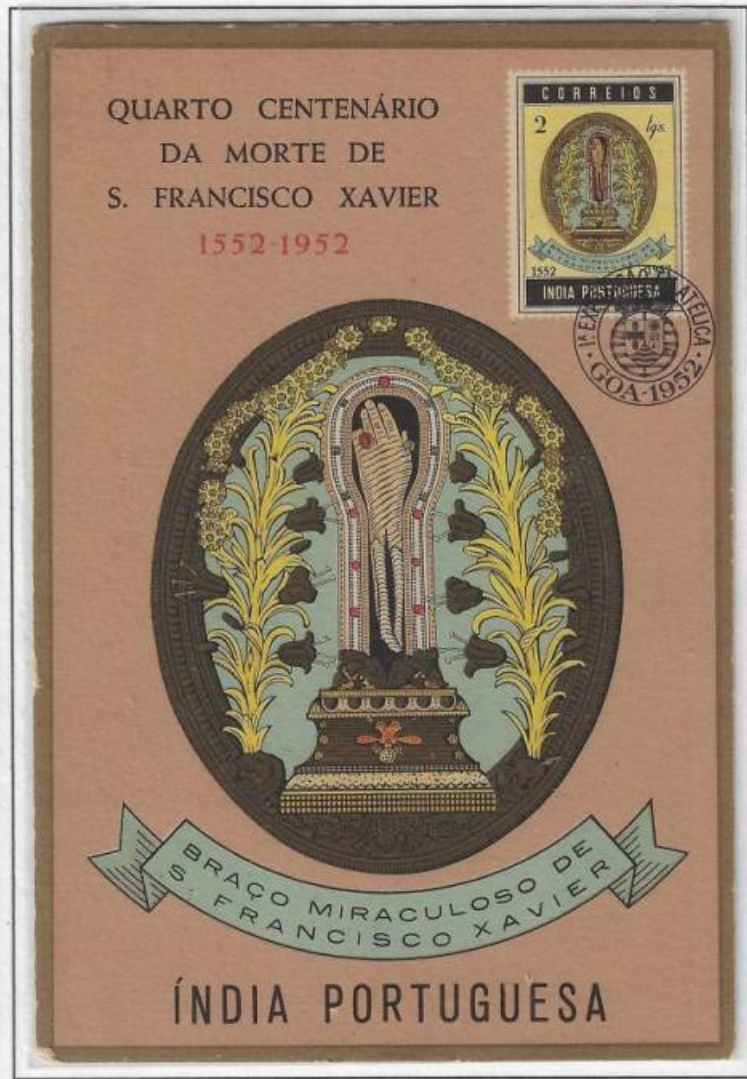
St. Francis Xavier (1506-1552) was considered a saint during his lifetime. After a careful study of his life and apostolate he was canonized. King of Portugal, Dom Pedro II (1683-1706) proclaimed Francis Xavier 'Defender of the East' on 24th March 1699.

Francis Xavier's body was exhibited for public veneration for the first time in the Church of St. Paul in Goa, from 16 to 18 March 1554, shortly after his arrival in the western Indian city. He was then moved to the current Basilica, built in 1594 and placed in a silver and glass sepulcher in 1637. Since then, the silver case has been opened every ten years for the awaited event of the public exposition, which lasts six weeks

In the 17th century there was a great craze for relics which were supposed to be the link mortals with the supernatural. Several people took pieces of the body or vestments of the saint and some distributed the relics as gifts. During the first exposition a Portuguese lady bit off the fifth toe of the right foot.



Image of St Francis Xavier
Exposition of St Francis, 1952
Lito Nacional, Porto



Miraculous Arm of St. Francis Xavier
Exposition of St Francis, 1952
Lito Nacional, Porto

At the end of 1698 the body was transferred to the new Italian mausoleum offered by the Grand Duke of Tuscany Cosimo III. In 1955 the relics of the body were placed in a crystal glass urn manufactured in Rome. The glass urn was placed in a silver casket.

Francis Xavier died in 1552 not far from China, but the body reportedly did not decompose. The revered right arm, which did all the baptizing, was severed at the request of the head of the Jesuit order and sent to Rome. Bishops refer to the arm as "uncorrupted." At the time, it was considered evidence of his saintliness. The rest of his body was transferred to Goa, India, where Francis Xavier carried out much of his work, converting more than 100,000 people



**Tomb of St Francis Xavier
Exposition of St Francis, 1952**
Lito Nacional, Porto



SHRINE OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER IN GOA. (OLD CITY).
TUMULO DE S. FRANCISCO XAVIER GOA. (VELHA CIDADE).

*Túmulo em prata maciça lada
e sobre pedestal de madeira
de Tocaça.*

**Silver Casket (Sarcophagus) of
St. Francis Xavier.**
Souza & Paul Fotografos, Nova Goa



Interior of the Convent - St. Francis Xavier Goa (old city).

**Interior of Convent of
St. Francis Xavier**
Christovam Fernandes,
Nova Goa

CHAPEL OF ST. FRANCIS

In the enclosure of the College of St. Paul, is a chapel where according to tradition, St. Francis used to say mass. Built of laterite and plastered with lime-mortar, with a tiled roof supported by wooden rafters. The original chapel existed in 1545. Consequent upon the abandonment of the College of St Paul, in 1570 it fell into ruins. The present chapel was built in 1884. As the chapel was used by St. Francis Xavier, it was rededicated to him after his canonisation in 1622

According to tradition this was the place where St Francis spent the nights praying. Some say he built the chapel; others say it was built in his honour after his death. This chapel was used to celebrate the feast of the saint on 2nd December



**Chapel of
St. Francis Xavier**
*Christovan Fenandes,
Nova Goa*

The saint was said to have planted a jackfruit tree in the compound of the college. The images carved out of the wood of jackfruit tree were held in great veneration.

SE CATHEDRAL

Se Cathedral
*Ink Sketch by
Ratin Mitra*

The **Se Cathedral** is the largest church in Old Goa measuring 76 mtrs in length, 55 mtrs in width and 35 metres in height. Built on a raised plinth of laterite, covered with lime-plaster. The church was built over three quarters of a century beginning 1562. The main body was completed in 1619 and the alters in 1652. It was built by the Portuguese government.

A bell tower is located on the southern side of the facade. A corresponding tower on the northern side of the facade collapsed in 1776.

The church has, besides the main alter, eight chapels along the aisles and six alters in the transept. The main alter is dedicated to St. Catherine of Alexandria. The richly decorated gilded panel shows the martyrdom of the saint. There are also paintings from the life of St. Catherine

Architecturally, Portuguese-Gothic in style, the exterior is Tuscan and the interior Corinthian. The bell in the existing tower is referred to as the 'Golden Bell' because of it's rich sound immortalised in a Portuguese poem.



*Velha Goa - India Portuguesa. Sé Primarcial.
Cathedral.*

Se Primarcial Cathedral

*Christovan Fernandes,
Nova Goa*

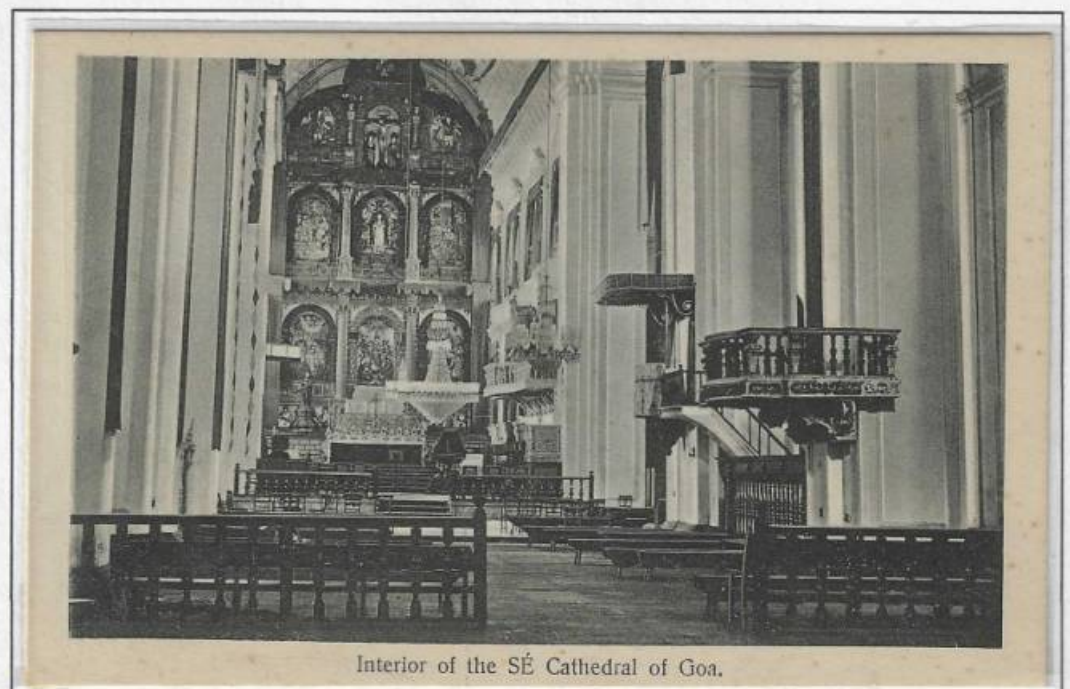
Alters of:

1. St. Anna
2. Our Lady of Doloures
3. St. Peter
4. Our Lady of Sorrows
5. Our Lady of Three Necessities
6. Our Lady of Hope

Interior of Se Cathedral

*Cliche Souza & Paul,
Nova Goa*

Printed in Germany



Interior of the SÉ Cathedral of Goa.

Chapels of:

1. The Holy Ghost
2. The Cross of Miracles
3. St Bernard
4. St Anthony
5. Our lady of Virtues
6. St Sebastian
7. The Blesseed Sacrament
8. Our Lady of Life

CONVENT & CHURCH OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

The Convent and Church of St. Francis of Assisi is connected to the Se cathedral through the former palace of the Archbishop. The origin of this church and the attached convent can be traced to the humble beginnings made by eight Franciscan friars, who, on their arrival in 1517. In a few houses that belonged to a deceased thanadar, they constructed a small chapel with three altars and a choir. A church consecrated to the Holy Ghost, built in 1521, was later pulled down. The present church as built on the same spot in 1661 retaining only the entrance of the earlier church.

The structure is built of laterite blocks and is lime-plastered. The church faces west and has a nave with three chapels on either side, a choir, two altars in the transept and a main altar. To the north of the main altar is a belfry and a sacristy. The convent, which forms an annexure to the church, now houses ASI's museum.

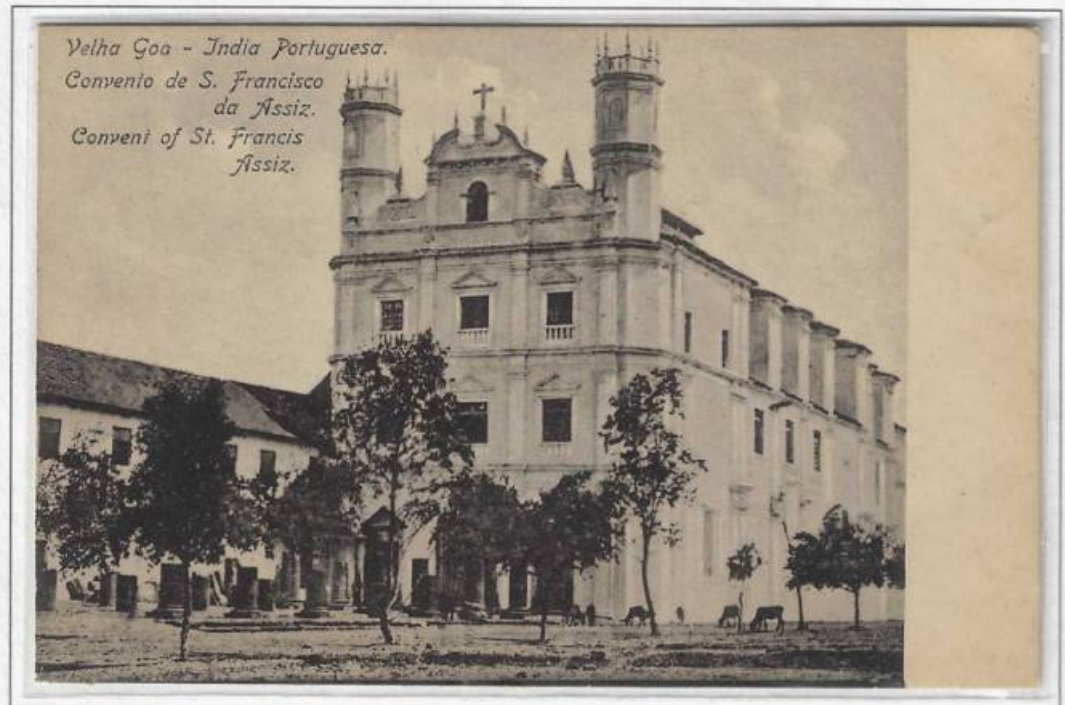
The exterior of the church is of Tuscan Order while the main entrance is in Manuline style. The main altar is Baroque with Corinthian features. One of the chapels once contained the statue of Our Lady of Miracles brought from Jaffna in Sri Lanka. A wooden statue of St. Francis of Assisi adorns a pedestal bearing the

Convent of St. Francis of Assisi

*Christovan Fernandes,
Nova Goa*

Giovanni di Pietro di Bernardone, better known as St. Francis of Assisi (c.1181-1226) was an Italian mystic and Catholic friar who founded the Franciscans.

Canonized by Pope Gregory IX in 1228, he is usually depicted in a robe with a rope as a belt.



*Velha Goa - India Portuguesa.
Convento de S. Francisco
da Assiz.
Convent of St. Francis
Assiz.*



CONVENT OF ST. FRANCIS DE ASSISI, BUILT IN 1521 GÔA. (OLD CITY).
CONVENTO DO S. FRANCISCO DE ASSIZ, CONSTRUÍDO EM 1521 GÔA. (VELHA CIDADE).

Convent of St. Francis of Assisi

*Souza & Paul Fotogros,
Nova Goa*

In 1979, Pope John Paul II declared Francis the Patron Saint of Ecology



INTERIOR OF THE CONVENT OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI, GOA (OLD CITY).
INTERIOR DO CONVENTO DO S. FRANCISCO DE ASSIS GOA. (VELHA CIDADE).

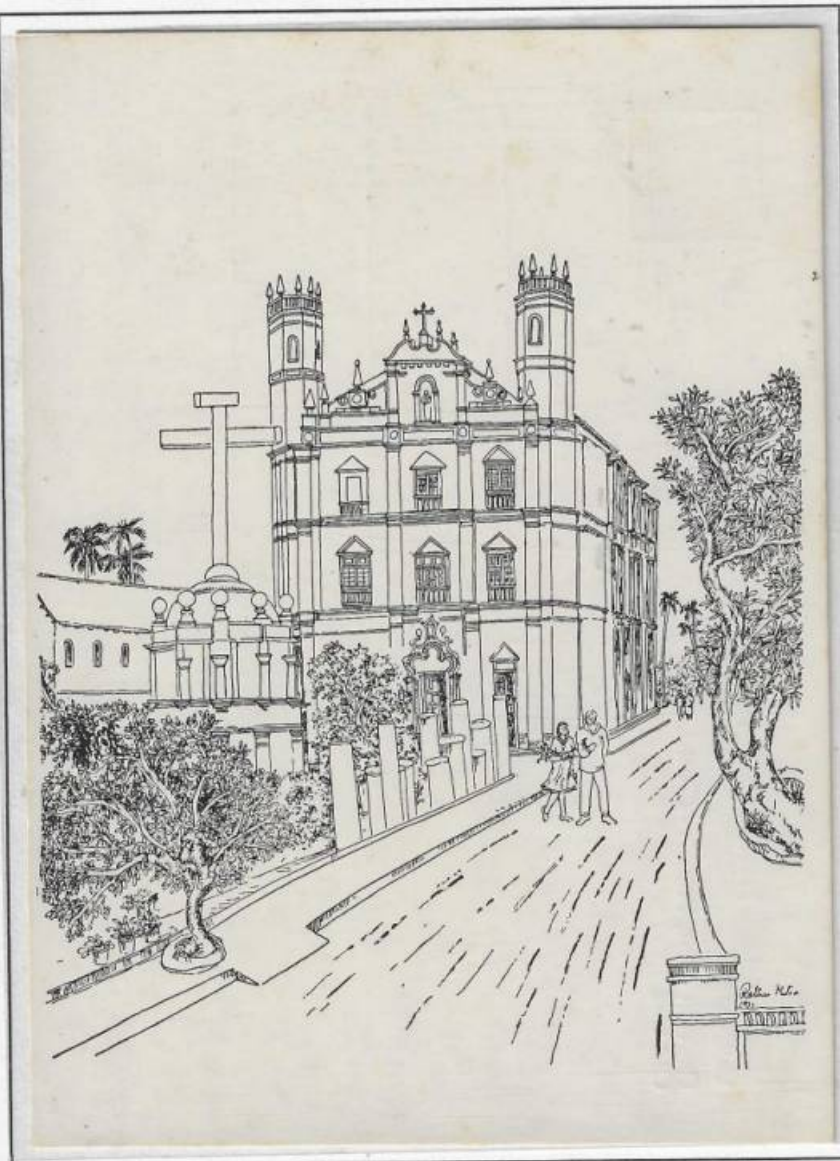
Convent of
St. Francis of Assisi
Souza & Paul Fotografos,
Nova Goa

Francis is associated with patronage of animals and environment. Churches hold ceremonies blessing animals on his feast day of October 4th.

As someone who saw God reflected in nature, "St. Francis was a great lover of God's creation"

In the Canticle of the Sun he gives God thanks for Brother Sun, Sister Moon, Brother Wind, Water, Fire, and Earth, all of which he sees as rendering praise to God.

Convent of St. Francis of Assisi
Ink Sketch by Ratin Mitra



St. Francis of Assisi was the first recorded stigmatic in Christian history, meaning he bore the wounds of Christ on his body. He received the stigmata in 1224 while fasting and praying on Mount La Verna. His stigmata is commemorated on September 17th by the Franciscan communities. According to legend, one morning near the feast of the Exaltation of the Cross, a six-winged angel appeared to Francis while he prayed.

Stigmata are marks, scars, or pains on the body that resemble the wounds of Jesus Christ from his crucifixion. They are mostly associated with Roman Catholicism and Christian mysticism, and are considered a sign of mystical union with Christ's suffering.

According to the Roman Catholic Church, the presence of stigmata is a sign of mystical union with the suffering of Christ, and a genuine stigmatic must have lived a life of heroic virtue

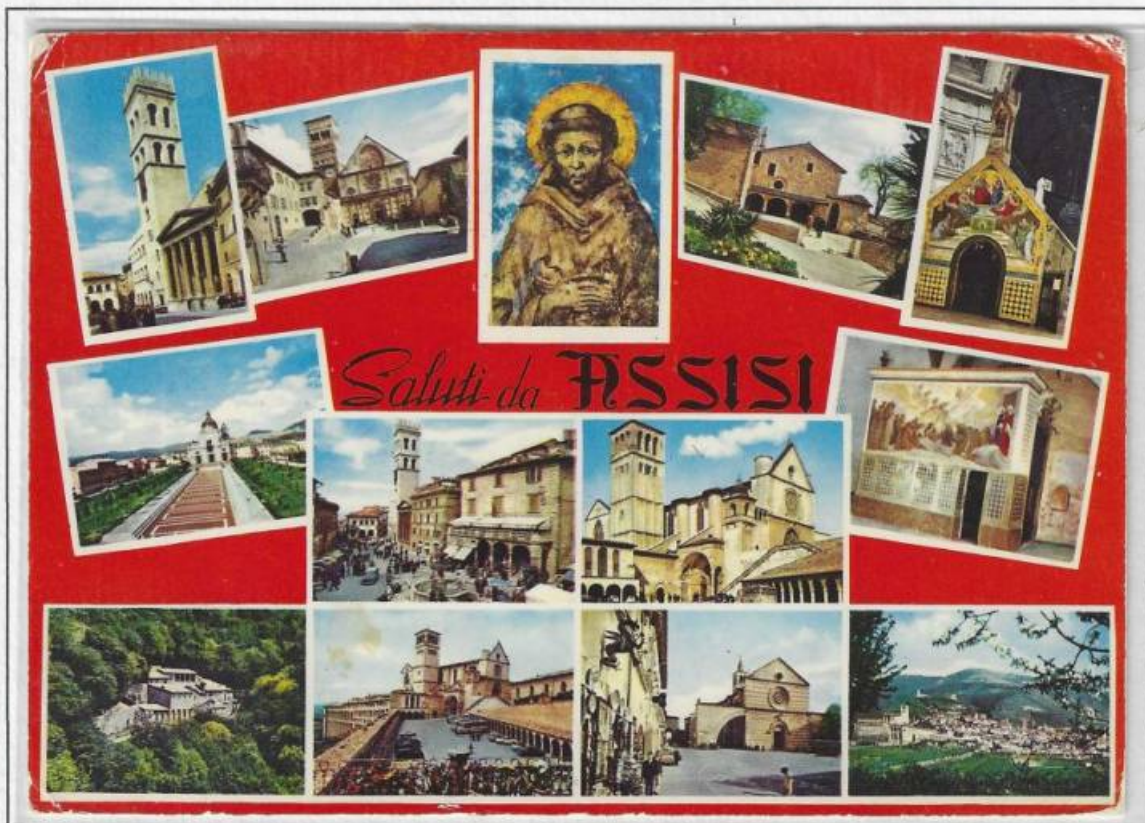
Franciscan Order promoted devotion to the life of Francis from his canonization onwards. The order commissioned many art works for Franciscan churches, either showing him with sacred figures, or episodes from his life.

In 1939, Pope Pius XII named Francis a joint patron saint of Italy along with Catherine of Siena



B. 171.
 Harl. MS. 2967, f. 218. Missal of the Franciscans of Mons.
 Franco-Flemish, late 15th cent.
 Printed by Waterlow & Sons Limited, London.
 British Museum.

Death of St. Francis
 British Museum
 Missa; of the Franciscans of Mons, Franco-Flemish, Late 15th Century



Salute to St. Francis of Assisi
 Fotorapidacolour, Terni

CHURCH OF ST. CATEJAN

Church of St. Cajetan, modelled on the original design of St. Peter's Church in Rome, is architecturally Corinthian, while the gilded altars with rich carvings are in Baroque style. The church was built by Italian friars of the Order of Theatines who were sent by Pope Urban III to preach Christianity in the kingdom of Golkonda. As they were not permitted to work there, they settled down in Goa in 1640. They obtained the site in 1655 by a Royal Order and the church was built in the seventeenth century.



Convent of St. Caetano built 1655, Goa (old City).

Convent of St. Caetano

*Cliche Souza & Paul,
Nova Goa*

Built of lime-plastered laterite blocks, the facade, having two towers on either side to serve as belfry, has Corinthian columns and pilasters supporting a pediment. The main body of the church is shaped like a Greek cross on the plan internally, oblong externally, with a nave ending in an apse and aisles marked by four massive piers faced by Corinthian pilasters.



INTERIOR OF ST CAJETAN'S CONVENT GOA. (OLD CITY).
INTERIOR DO CONVENTO DO S. CAETANO EM GOA. (VELHA CIDADE).

**Convent of St. Caetano
Interior**

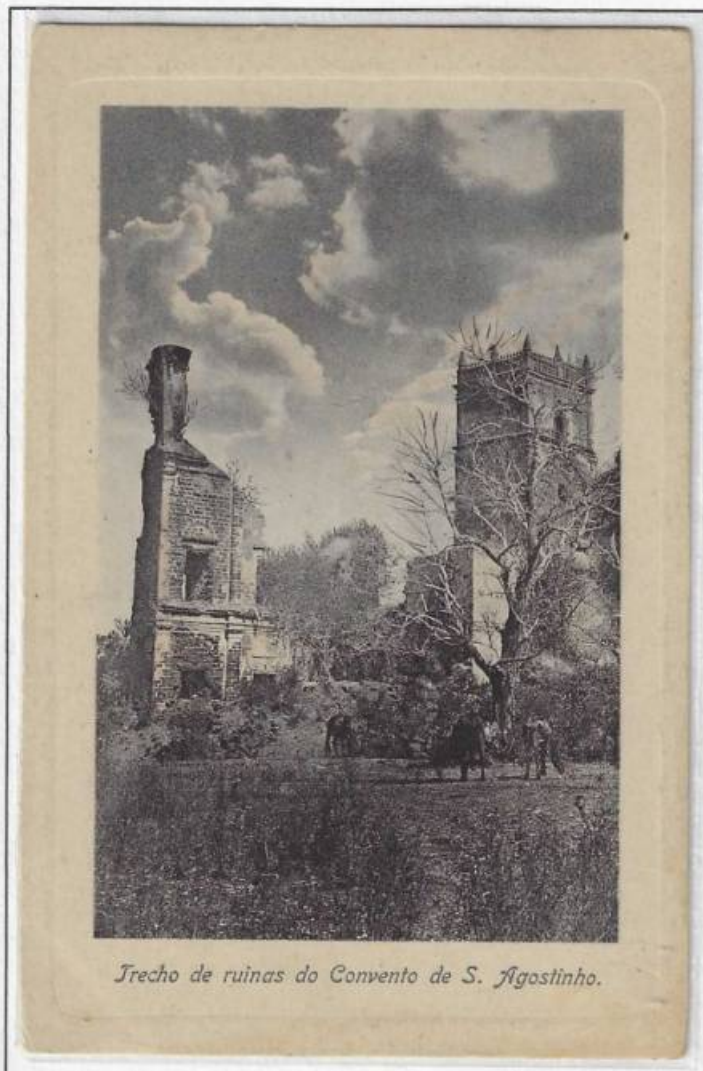
*Souza & Paul,
Nova Goa*

There are six altars, besides the main one, which are dedicated to Our Lady of Divine Providence. These altars are profusely carved and gilded in Baroque style with twisted shafts and figures of angels dominating in each. The altars also have paintings on canvas of the Italian school, some depicting scenes from the life of St. Cajetan. The niches running along the sides of the vault have wooden statues of saints.

As one enters, three altars on the left side are dedicated to the Holy Family, Our Lady of Piety and St. Clare, while to the right are those dedicated to St. John, St. Cajetan and St. Agnes. There is a deco-

TOWER OF THE CHURCH OF ST. AUGUSTINE

This tower, also on the Holy Hill, has four storeys with an arch in each. It is built of laterite and evidence of lime plaster is visible. Nearly 46 m high, this tower was meant to serve as a belfry and formed part of the facade of the Church of St. Augustine, which was facing west. The church is now in ruins. There were eight richly adorned chapels and four altars, and a convent with numerous cells and artistic columns attached to the church.



Trecho de ruínas do Convento de S. Agostinho.

Ruins of Tower of St. Augustine

*Christovan Fernandes,
Nova Goa*

The tower and the church itself, were built in 1602 by the Augustinian friars who arrived in Goa in 1587. With the religious suppression in 1835, the Augustinians deserted the church and the convent. The latter was used for some time by the charitable institution of the Misericórdia.

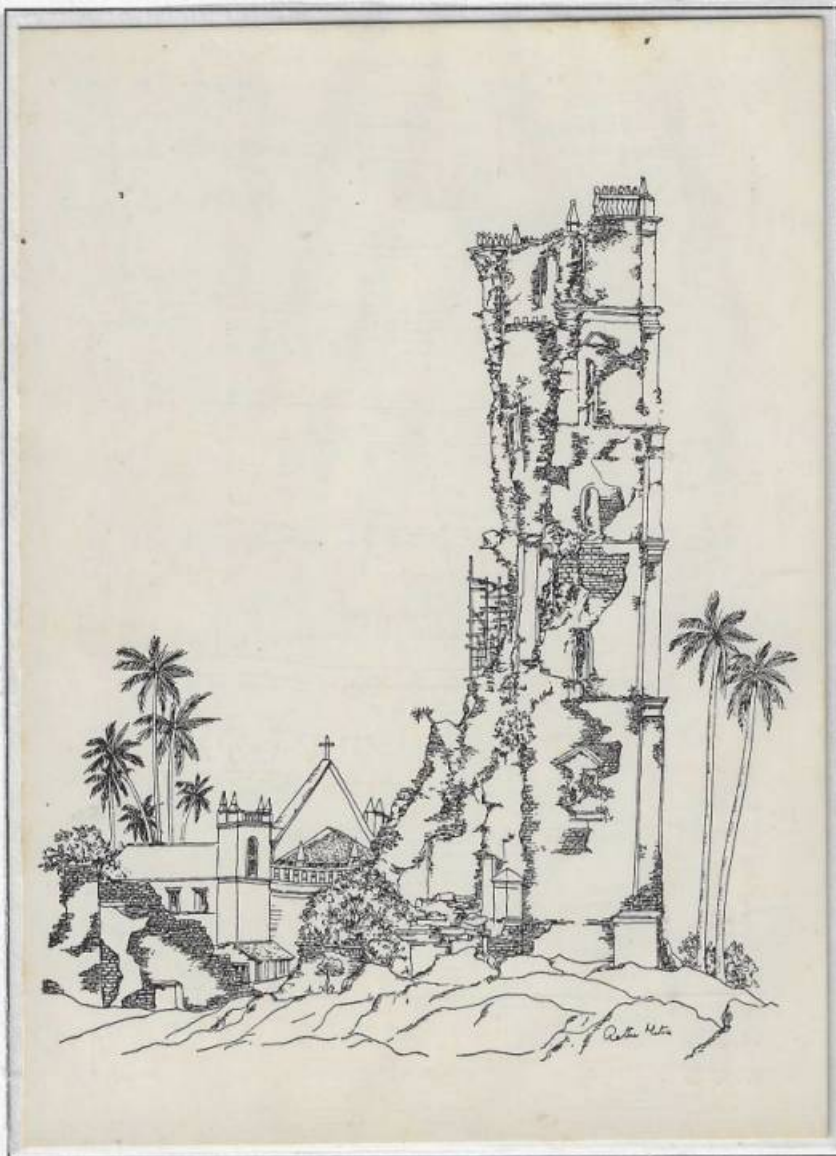
The buildings fell into neglect resulting in the collapse of the vault on 8 September 1842. The Government appropriated the property, selling the materials the following year. The facade and half of the tower fell in 1931 and some more parts of it collapsed in 1938.



*Velha Goa - Índia Portuguesa.
Ruínas do Convento de S. Agostinho.
Ruins of St. Augustin's Convent.*

Ruins of the Tower of St. Augustine

Christovan Fernandes,



Ruins of the Tower of St. Augustine
Ink Sketch by Ratin Mitra

GATE OF THE COLLEGE OF ST. PAUL



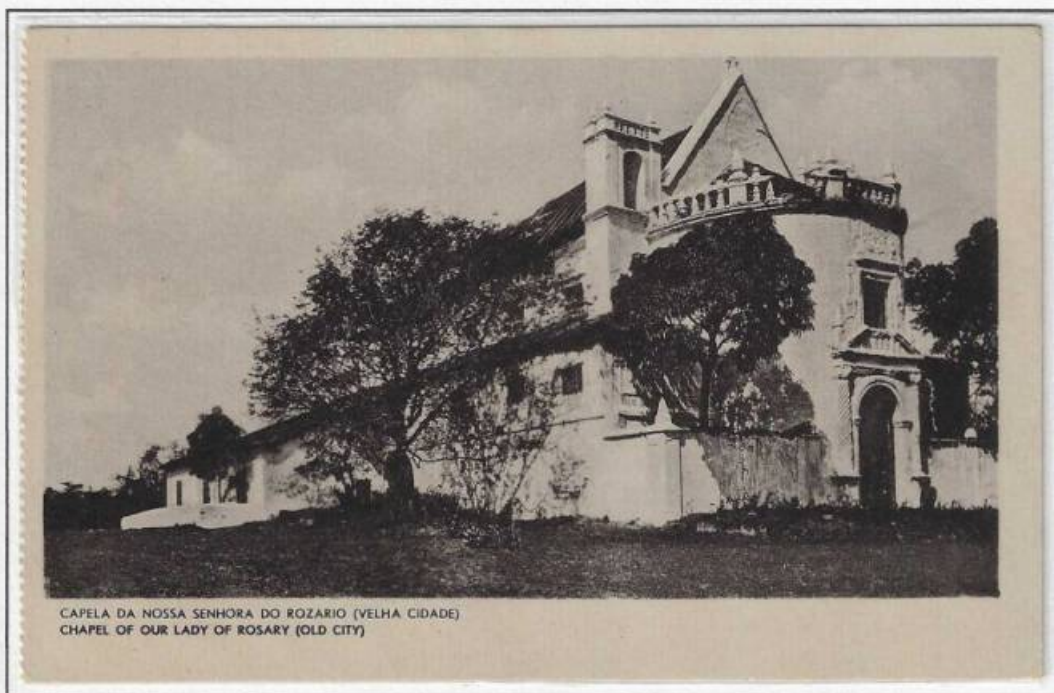
RUINS OF THE CONVENT OF ST. PAUL IN GOA. (OLD CITY)
RUINAS DO CONVENTO DE S. PAULO, EM GOA. (VELHA CIDADE).

Ruins of the Convent of St. Paul
Souza & Paul, Nova Goa

The College of St. Paul was completed in 1542 and the Collegiate Church consecrated on 25 January 1543, the day of the conversion of St. Paul. What remains is only the facade in the shape of an arch with a niche at the top and a cross crowning it. The arch led to the College of St. Paul of which nothing remains today. It is said that the college was built over the ruins of a mosque.

CHAPEL OF OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

This is one of the first churches built by the Portuguese whose construction started in 1543. It belongs to the first period of church building activities in Goa. It's design is completely different from the churches we see today, with only one tower and the characteristic cylindrical turrets for its facade. The belfry is on the top storey of the central and only tower. It is said to be the pure copy of the Graca in Evora (Portugal) drawn by famous French sculptor Nicolas Chanterene.



CAPELA DA NOSSA SENHORA DO ROZARIO (VELHA CIDADE)
CHAPEL OF OUR LADY OF ROSARY (OLD CITY)

Chapel of Our Lady of the Rosary

*Souza & Paul,
Nova Goa*

CHAPEL OF ST. CATHERINE The chapel was rebuilt in 1952 on the remains of an earlier structure, built in 1510 by Afonso de Albuquerque to commemorate his entry into the city on St. Catherine's Day. The chapel was built on the spot where stood the gates of this city under the Muslim rule.

The earlier chapel was enlarged in 1550 by Governor George Cabral, who put up an inscribed slab, which reads: 'Here in this place was the doorway through which Governor Afonso de Albuquerque entered and took this city from the Mohammadans on the day of St. Catherine in the year 1510 in whose honour and memory the Governor, George Cabral, ordered this chapel to be built in the year 1550.'



CHAPEL OF ST. CATHERINE BUILT 1510 GOA. (OLD CITY).
CAPELA DE STA. CATARINA EDIFICADA EM 1510. (VELHA CIDADE).

Chapel of St. Catherine

Souza & Paul, Nova Goa

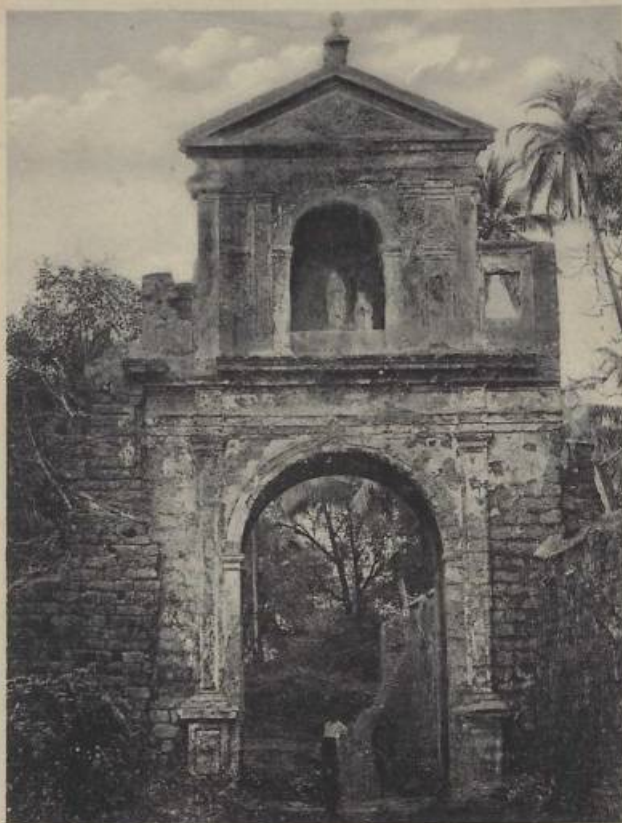
RUINS OF THE CONVENT OF OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL


RUINS OF THE CONVENT OF OUR LADY OF M. CARMEL IN GOA. (OLD CITY).
 RUINAS DO CONVENTO DE N. S. DE CARMO EM GOA. (VELHA CIDADE).

Ruins of the Convent of our Lady of Mount Carmel

Souza & Paul Fotografos, Nova Goa

Nothing remains of the Church of the Carmelites built in 1621, except the facade and a raised pavement which served as an altar. It is located to the south-east of the Church of St. Cajetan on a hill more or less contiguous to the hill on which the Chapel of Our Lady of the Mount stands. The Carmelites, upon their refusal to take the oath of allegiance to the king, were expelled from Goa in 1707. The church fell into disuse and ruins soon after.

ARCH OF OUR LADY OF CONCEPTION


ARCH OF OUR LADY OF CONCEPTION BUILT 1679 GOA. (OLD CITY).
 ARCO DE N. S. CONCEIÇÃO CONSTRUÍDA EM 1679, GOA. (VELHA CIDADE).

Arch of our Lady of Conception

Souza & Paul Fotografos, Nova Goa

In the mid-17th century the gate was renamed after Our Lady of the Conception and it was probably restored as a result of the alarm generated by the imminent invasion of Tiswadi Island in 1683-84. The city of Goa was eventually abandoned, but the Arch of Our Lady of the Conception has survived until present.

VICEREGAL ARCH

The main road in front of the Church of St. Cajetan leads to the river Mandovi through an archway known as the Viceroy's Arch. The facade has a niche at the top with a statue in stone of Vasco da Gama. Though the original structure was built soon after the conquest of the city by the Portuguese, the arch was completely rebuilt in 1954 retaining the statues but excluding the bronze statue of St. Catherine, which was at the top of the structure in a separate niche.

The original inscription recording that the arch was rebuilt by Governor Francisco da Gama (1597-1600), in the memory of his great grandfather, Vasco da Gama, can still be seen on this arch. Another inscription is dedicated to the Immaculate Conception of Virgin Mary, commemorating the emancipation of Portugal from Spain in 1656



Vice-Regal Arch „Facing the Pier“ erected in 1599, Goa (old City).

Viceregal Arch "Facing the Pier"

*Souza & Paul Fotografos
Nova Goa*

CONCLUSION

The architectural styles followed those in vogue in Europe during the contemporary period, but were adapted to suit the native conditions through the use of local materials and artefacts. The buildings represent the roots of a unique Indo-Portuguese style that developed during Portuguese control of the territory, which lasted for 450 years until 1961. This long period deeply influenced the way of life as well as the architectural style of the place, which spread to missions beyond Goa, creating a unique fusion of Western and Eastern traditions.

The inclusion of the Churches and Convents of Goa as a World Heritage site makes India an unique country where monuments of four major religions - Buddhist, Hindu, Islamic and Christian are listed by the UNESCO in the World Heritage list emphasising the Diverse, Multicultural and Pluralistic character of India as country.