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## THE INTEGRATED STUDY OF THE NOBLE HOUSE IN PORTUGAL. THE CASE “CASAS ARMORIADAS DOS ARCOS DE VALDEVEZ”: A MULTIPLIER RESEARCH MODEL OF CONCRETE ACTIONS

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### Abstract

This communication presents the origin and evolution of a research project presented to the Municipality of Arcos de Valdevez (in Alto Minho), as a counterpoint to an invitation, then formulated, to carry out an inventory of the stones of arms of that county. In the counter-proposal, a different approach was designed, inspired by the seminal work of Carlos de Azevedo “Solares Portugueses” (Lisbon: 1969) and completed, in terms of inspiring sources, by studies (surveys) of family heraldry and by genealogical studies within an approach of History of the Noble Family or local elites. Over more than thirty years, eight volumes were published that contain an integrated study of 12 noble houses in armor (a small number compared to the total number of houses generically identified in the municipality, but appreciable if we take into account the systemic and in-depth nature of each study). During this period, other actions naturally emerged: a complementary collection was created (“Documentação Casas Armoriadas”), which already produced three volumes, each monographically dealing with a specific type of document that was found in the collection of the Families studied and began, with full support from the Municipality of Arcos de Valdez, an International Congress Casa Nobre: a heritage for the future, starting in 2005 and with six editions held every three years. It is intended, in short, to take stock of an ongoing project and also to expose the essential lines of a possible research model for this type of historical reality and heritage with tourism potential and sustainable development in the future.

### Keywords

Armored Houses; Civil Architecture; Heraldry; Family History; Arcos de Valdevez municipality.

### Short bio

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