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FAMILY ARCHIVES AND
HISTORICAL RESEARCH

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**THE HOUSE OF BELMONTE ARCHIVES: DOCUMENT
PRODUCTION, CONSERVATION, AND RETRIEVAL
(FIFTEENTH TO NINETEENTH CENTURIES)**

ABSTRACT: Documents in family archives were primarily produced and kept so they might be presented as evidence. Additionally, they met the need to attach/memories and transfer patrimonial and symbolic estates among early modern families. Document preservation and retrieval are part of a production *continuum*, which requires archival practices involving, among others, the creation of retrieval tools such as inventories. In fact, inventories created for a specific need — the retrieval of documents within an archive — in this case connected with the need to preserve the estate and the memory within socially rising families, such as the Figueiredo family. The archive of the house of Belmonte (ACBL), nowadays perceived as a historical collection, resulted from practical concerns in its origins, which led to the amassing of documents since the late fifteenth century. This article aims to briefly introduce the production, conservation and retrieval of documents by the Figueiredos' lineage. The process was build up gradually after the family's social status evolution inside the nobility itself.

Keywords: family archives; documents production; inventories

RESUMO: Os documentos conservados em arquivos de família foram primeiramente produzidos e mantidos, com o intuito de servirem de provas de actos jurídicos, religiosos ou outros. A necessidade de transferir propriedades, vínculos e património simbólico dentro da família levou a que estes documentos se conservassem por várias gerações. Portanto a acumulação, preservação e recuperação de documentos fazem parte de um *continuum* de produção documental, que requer práticas arquivísticas envolvendo, entre outras coisas, a criação de inventários, ferramentas de recuperação de informação imprescindíveis. Os inventários, criados devido a uma necessidade específica — a recuperação de informação — neste caso estão também relacionados com a necessidade de preservar a propriedade e a memória dentro de famílias socialmente ascendentes, como a família Figueiredo. O Arquivo da Casa de Belmonte (ACBL), hoje entendido como uma coleção histórica, resultou de preocupações muito práticas na sua origem, que levaram à acumulação de documentos desde o final do século XV. Este artigo tem como objetivo apresentar brevemente a produção,

conservação e recuperação de documentos pela linhagem de Figueiredos, com especial enfoque na produção de dois inventários produzidos com um intervalo de cerca de 100 anos. O processo foi gradual e como que acompanhou a mobilidade social ascendente da família.

Palavras-chave: arquivos familiares; produção documental; inventários

Documents preserved in family archives resulted mostly from an awareness of the need to attach/memorize and transmit the patrimonial and symbolic estate. Especially after the *morgadio* institution was abolished, they became sites for identity and memory, bridging the past and future within each family. The aristocratic family, as a building space for identity and memory, produced, preserved, inventoried and, hopefully, transferred its archive to future generations. Each heir assimilated the archive, obtaining a genealogical perspective on the family's past, as bequeathed by the ancestors. Therefore, the heir was infused with nobility's material, symbolic and spiritual values¹.

But who was the Figueiredo family? We have notices of this family in royal chancelleries at least since the thirteenth century and there are evidences that their members produced and kept documents at least since 1460². But who were these Figueiredos? Beginning in the fifteenth century, we highlight Henrique de Figueiredo, treasury clerk of kings Afonso V and João II. The eldest son of Henrique of Figueiredo, born in the last quarter of the fourteenth century, Rui de Figueiredo, was “founder” of an autonomous lineage branch. He bought, in 1499, Quinta de Ota, an important estate near Lisbon, and he was married to Maria Correia, daughter of Brás Afonso Correia, one of the king's counsellors. In 1517 this couple, Rui de Figueiredo and Maria Correia, made a testament through which the first *morgado* (*entail*) was founded (Morgado da Lobagueira). During the sixteenth century the family got benefits from Brazil — obtaining a *Capitania* — and participate in a major event, the Alcácer-Quibir battle, in 1578, where Rui de Figueiredo Correia, Rui de Figueiredo and Maria Correia's grandson died. In the second half of the seventeenth century, his grandson, Rui de Figueiredo de Alarcão — one of the plotters of

¹ KETELAAR, 2009: 14; GUILLÉN BERRENDERO, 2009: 109; ROSA, 1995.

² SOUSA, 2007: 36; SOUSA, 2017: 13.

the Portuguese Restoration in 1640 — married to D. Margarida of Meneses Cabral, daughter of Pedro Álvares Cabral, *alcaide mor*³ of Belmonte. This marriage brought the name and the title — count of Belmonte — to the family in the beginning of the nineteenth century⁴. The eldest surviving son of Rui de Figueiredo de Alarcão, Pedro de Figueiredo de Alarcão, on his death in 1722, left his estate in will to his own son, Rodrigo António de Figueiredo. Rodrigo António was the first member of this lineage to feel the need to know both the origin of the properties and their incomes, as well as the existing documents in the archive and in 1722 first inventory of the archive was produced. On his death without offspring, in 1762, Rodrigo António willed his house to his sister, Madalena Luísa de Lencastre, married to Vasco da Câmara. A few years later, Madalena Luísa would see the incorporation in her patrimony of the so-called house of Belmonte, from the want of legitimate heirs to the Cabral family. The firstborn son of Madalena Luísa and Vasco da Câmara, Pedro da Câmara de Figueiredo Cabral, secretary of king Pedro III, inherits the house of his parents and his eldest son, Vasco Manuel de Figueiredo Cabral da Câmara, grew up in the palace — his mother was maid of honor of queen Maria I — and he was a childhood friend of prince João, future king João VI. Vasco Manuel de Figueiredo Cabral da Câmara benefits from this proximity relation. He was appointed *porteiro mor* (king's porter), belonged to the king's council, he was gentleman of his chamber, chairman of the *Junta do Tabaco*, and he was deputy of the *Junta dos três Estados*. In 1805, he received the title of count of Belmonte. He accompanied the prince to Brazil in 1807, in the context of Napoleon's Wars. It is interesting from an archival point of view that, before his departure to Brazil, Vasco Manuel ordered an inventory of the archive (as we will see): through the organization of his archive and the production of an inventory, his assets were easily identified and would be perfectly recognized, even in the other side of the Atlantic⁵ (see Table 1).

³ Captain-general, commander, governor of a city/village with a castle, who had military and judicial functions.

⁴ SOUSA, 2012: 491

⁵ SOUSA, 2017: 259.

Generations	Social level of the consort	Post/Functions	Estate inheritances
15th century	Daughter of a wealthy man from Santarém	Treasury clerk; ambassador	<i>Morgadio</i> enforced; Primogeniture not enforced;
15th -16th centuries	Married to illegitimate daughter of appellate judge	Treasury clerk	Distribution of the <i>morgados</i> /royal lands/donations among secondborns
16th century	Queen's lady and close friend; collateral lines connect families	Treasury clerk; donatary captain of Ilhéus, in Bahia, Brasil	
16th century	Manuel de Sousa de Vasconcelos and Filipa de Castro	Treasury clerk; soldier in Alcaêr-Qulbir	
16th -17th centuries	Daughter of a treasury judge	Commander of the order of Santiago Patron	<i>Morgadio</i> ; Primogeniture enforced;
17th century	Daughter of Pedro Alvares Cabral	Member of the <i>Forty Conspirators</i> ; soldier; governor of the Trás-os-Montes province;	Full enforcement of the <i>morgadio</i> and primogeniture; estate acquisition; inheritances from collateral lines; female inheritance upon death of male heir;
17th -18th centuries	Daughter of the count of Valadares	Special envoy; soldier; governor of Portalegre	
18th century	Daughter of the count of Ribeira Grande	Chambermaid of the prince; queen's lady	The lord of the House, while still living, entrusts management to his eldest son.
18th -19th centuries	Daughter of José de Meneses Silveira e Castro and Luísa Gonzaga de Rappach	Gentleman of King Pedro's chamber	
	Daughter of José de Noronha and Mariana Castilho.	King's porter; count of Belmonte; king's advisor	

Table 1. Legenda: Socioeconomic evolution of the Figueiredo lineage (fifteenth-nineteenth centuries)

The informative wealth of the archive is owed to a complex production/amassing process, as well as to document conservation/transmission strategies. Document conservation is not incidental: it is, indeed, a crucial act, based on a specific social reasoning⁶. The archive of the house of Belmonte holds about ten linear feet of documents, the oldest of which dating from 1499 and it was recently the subject of a profound study⁷. We have started by analyzing the family and its genealogy between the fifteenth and nineteenth centuries, after which the main document producers within each generation can be identified. We also applied the *modelo sistémico*, or systemic model, which implies an in-depth historical knowledge on every document producer in the family, since the information flow does not always coincide with the *linear* succession of generations⁸. In this study, document production has been rebuilt in an organic way and arranged according to each “family system” and generation.

An analytical corpus was created so as to contemplate the entire documentary output, regardless of its presence in the collection. The process was based on the descriptions inserted in three essential documents: a list of every currently existing documents and two *tombos* (inventories) dated from 1722 and 1807, which will be mentioned shortly. This resulted in a table⁹ that indicates each description source (the two inventories from 1722 and 1807; the current list of documents supplemented with data from public archives, with particular focus on the documents coming from the royal chancelleries) the producer name, document’s date, type, scope and contents, as well its context. The corpus features 1,975 items. This table revealed each person/generation’s output, as well as which documents were preserved in the archive and the losses it suffered. Moreover, it was possible to conclude that several documents disappeared between 1722 and 1807 and that many others were lost only after 1807¹⁰.

⁶ MORSEL, 2008: 8.

⁷ SOUSA, 2017.

⁸ SILVA, 2007.

⁹ Available online at: <https://run.unl.pt/handle/10362/26855>.

¹⁰ SOUSA, 2017.

The analysis of this *corpus* demonstrates how estate management was at the heart of document production. Conservation, too, has always arisen out of a need to provide evidence of possession of properties and entails, defense against judicial actions or illicit appropriation, proof of payments done or due, support for the claiming of assets and inheritance — including the right to certain *morgado* or chapel assets — and, closely connected to the latter, the establishment and perpetuation of family identity and memory¹¹. Although the Figueiredo family produced documents beyond the ones we know — namely in the first generations — only a minimal percentage of those have been preserved. Some of the first king's clerks generations' records can be found in the chancelleries but not in the private collection and some of those documents were mentioned only in the first inventory and preserved until 1722. Unfortunately, some of these were no longer part of the collection by 1807, the date of the second inventory's production. We also know that most of the early documents focused mainly on assets which were lost by the family at a later date. Content obsolescence may have led to the relinquishing or destruction of some documents. This could explain their scarcity, since the family no longer needed to hold on to those documents. It is also possible that the absence — as far as is known — of a stable household for the family until the first twenty years of the sixteenth century will have contributed to disperse these first producers' documents. Conversely, the family's subsequent settling in a permanent home (near São Jorge Castle, in Lisbon), from that period onwards, may have helped establish conservation practices. It is particularly interesting to verify that several document sets belonged to second born sons and were inscribed in the archive only when the firstborn descendants of the Figueiredo family inherited the assets associated with the documents. As an example, the documents related to the *morgado do Seixal* — whose origins lay in the sixteenth century — were only incorporated in the second half of the eighteenth century. This explains why they were not included in the archive's first inventory, only to be referenced later, in the *Tombo de 1807*. It was also possible to ascertain the generation/producer

¹¹ ROSA, 2012d; ROSA, 1995; CALLEJA PUERTA, 2010: 123; FIGUEIRÔA-RÊGO, 2015: 49-54; GUILLÉN BERRENDERO, 2015.

responsible for document sets from other archives (subsystems). As far as the ACBL is concerned, these were mostly associated to inheritances.

The first generations of this lineage (in the fifteenth and the sixteenth centuries) produced but slightly diverse document types, most of them relating to property. As time went by, as the family produced and preserved more documents its typologies tended to become more diverse¹².

Initially, documents were arranged in bundles and retrieved using short synopses on the back of each document, with annotations regarding type and geographical location. There are also indications in the first inventory on the existence of different lists of documents. The documents might have been stored in a single container — a safe, a chest or a trunk. Eventually, as document preservation and management grew in complexity, during the early eighteenth century a specific retrieval tool (the inventory) became necessary. This tool allowed the family to better handle a significant amount of information. Still, it is possible to claim with no reservations that the Figueiredo family's documents were not set together as an archive prior to 1722. In fact, the inventory, the *Tombo de 1722*¹³ commissioned by Rodrigo António de Figueiredo, is a representation of the archive's first known structure and signaled the awakening of an *archival* consciousness within the Figueiredo lineage¹⁴. Unfortunately, the *tombo's* author remains unknown.

The *Tombo de 1722* features four individual sections, specified in the titles given to each of them¹⁵. The first section describes the properties, mentioning their status — either *arrendadas* (rented) or *emprazadas* (an emphyteutic lease) — and identifying the tenants and rent value. The second section of this inventory indicates the values of collected rents and the tenants to whom they corresponded. The third section of the *tombo* records the liabilities attached to each asset. The fourth and last section features the actual inventory of the archive's documents. The inventory was produced after originally collecting *todos os papeis que se acharão* (“all the papers found”). Exhaustiveness was

¹² SOUSA, 2017: 142.

¹³ ACBL, cx. 47, nr. 1.

¹⁴ MARCUS, 2016.

¹⁵ SOUSA, 2015: 130-131.

essential for the description and numbering of each document. These tasks, in turn, were instrumental in making the inventory an effective document retrieval tool¹⁶. This retrieval instrument allowed the addition of new descriptions, as documents were produced, providing some blank space between descriptions. It featured several supplementary summaries, with additional information and more recent data than in the original summary, as well as different handwriting. As a particularly interesting example, the first bundle description¹⁷ originally featured nothing but the word “Maço 1º” (first bundle). The rest was left blank, for subsequent inscription (Table 2). This folio had been reserved for a specific document type: five *padrões de juro* (a type of sovereign bonds) and *cartas de comenda* (charters of commandery) belonging to Rodrigo António de Figueiredo. The first bundle of the collection featured some of the most important documents of the archive and, as they reported to important sources of revenue, their preservation was critical¹⁸.

Furthermore the text in this folio is informative as far as the inventory’s construction is concerned. The later insertion of a description for these *padrões* is also related to the fact that the family was attempting to claim those documents from the royal archive. This explains why the folio was left blank. It also evidences the desire to keep these *padrões* available — by placing them in the first bundle — and to preserve the “right” order between the document number and the documents’ storage site.

As we previously mentioned, documents were first separated and arranged into bundles. Meanwhile, one more step was taken in order to (re)organize the collection; the placing of the bundles inside sixteen drawers of two cabinets. The transferring of the documents to drawers is quite relevant, since it was prompted, on one hand, by the need to optimize storage space, and, on the other, by the need to keep the documents separate, relying on a more sophisticated classification scheme¹⁹. However, we cannot be sure if the docu-

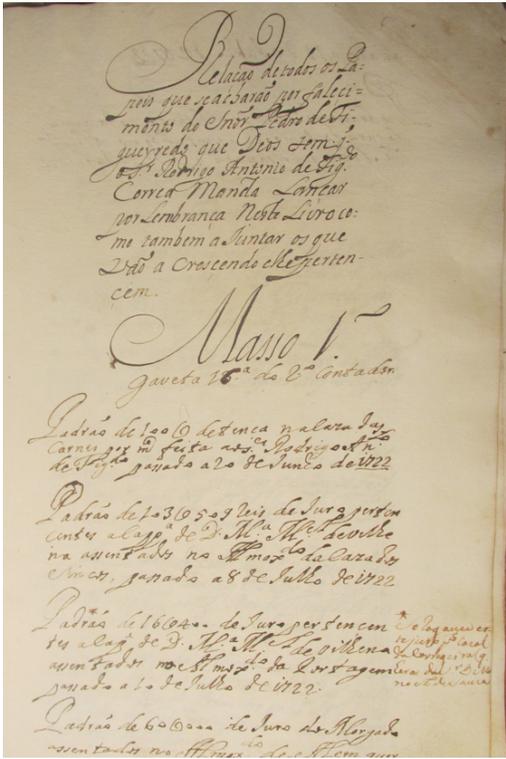
¹⁶ SOUSA, 2015: 53,130.

¹⁷ Corresponding to folios 31 and 31 *verso* of the *Tombo de 1722*.

¹⁸ FERREIRA, 1981: 512-513; MONTEIRO, 1992.

¹⁹ SILVA; RODRIGUES, 2012: 614-615.

ments were stored in the two cabinets prior to the inventory's production and, on the other hand, we cannot set the date of the drawers' numbering.



Initial page of the document inventory in the *Tombo de 1722*

Use, preservation and retrieval of documents is also well evidenced in a document, probably produced in the second quarter of the eighteenth century, entitled “Notes and admonitions on what *Senhor* Rodrigo Antonio de Figueiredo ought to do and upkeep regarding the particulars of his household and homesteads”²⁰. The document claims that “proper” preservation and guardianship are crucial for household management. It points out the necessary “housekeeping” tasks, as well as the information control process carried out through the archive’s documents and all sorts of copies/certificates. In

²⁰ “Apontamentos e advertencias do que he necessario ao Senhor Rodrigo Antonio de Figueyredo fazer e por corrente sobre os particulares de sua caza e fazendas” (ACBL, cx. 20, nr. 6 (4th)).

this process, notaries, with their authentication capacity duly acknowledged by political authorities, were crucial for the production of copies and certificates which compensated for any documentary losses or shortcomings of the archive²¹. This document corroborates the importance of producing and preserving certificates: it is an example, most certainly not by accident, of the most prevalent document type in the collection at the time of Rodrigo António de Figueiredo.

Another example of document usage by the family in the eighteenth century can be found in a document named “Account of the homesteads owned by the late *Senhor* Pedro de Figueiredo, which were in his possession at the time of his passing, both free and held in bond, the types of allowances paid, and titles, and papers related to them”²². Items in this document follow a standard structure. They begin by identifying the property and its origin, either through purchase or inheritance. The property is then classified according to type: *morgado*, *vínculo* (bond) or *prazo* (emphyteutic lease). Then follows a list of documents kept in the ACBL concerning each property, making reference to their typology and the producers. Finally, whenever documents important for proof of ownership were missing from the archive, such absence is noted.

This *Account of the homesteads* includes marginalia. Just like the *Tombo de 1722*, it appears that this document was supplemented with additional information obtained later. Since the annotations were penned in a different hand, the authors are different from the main text’s. Part of the notes were inserted on the left side of the main text for better/quicker visibility and contain the name and yield — rent paid in money or payment in kind — of each property. The annotations, placed on the right side of the text, mention the liabilities associated to the property. Each note references the item described, highlighting, clarifying or adding information to it, including the worth of assets and liabilities, the type of asset, the tenants of each asset, and sometimes the information that the corresponding deed was (not) available at a given moment.

²¹ CAMMAROSANO, 1991: 267.

²² Original title: “Memoria das fazendas que pessuya o Sr. Pedro de Figueiredo que Deos tem, e de que se achava de posse athé seu falecimento assim Livres como de Morgado qualidade dellas penssoens que pagão e Titollos , e papéis que se acharão a ellas pertencentes” (ACBL, cx. 20, nr 6 (2nd)).

At the end of the text, the author clarifies that the information provided “is as much as could be found in the papers and accounts, such as commissioned by Rodrigo António de Figueiredo.”²³ That is, Rodrigo António de Figueiredo had ordered the compiling of all available data on his house, resorting to the documents in the collection. The *Account of the homesteads* was a result of the search for such data, presenting it in a way that was relatively simple and easy to read, as if it to summarize it. Although it is not a retrieval tool, but rather an informative file on properties, income, liabilities, it gives essential information over the documents, either available or missing and it still is a good example of the use of documents in this family archive.

At the dawn of the nineteenth century, the family left to Brazil and found it fitting to carry out a new inventory, the *Tombo de 1807* requested by Vasco Manuel de Figueiredo Cabral da Câmara, whose author is still unidentified²⁴. The *Tombo* consists of two volumes bound in fabric in an unassuming fashion, since they were most likely destined for “everyday” usage, providing for frequent consultation. A third volume might have been produced at the time, yet was left unbound. The first volume features a description of each *morgado* and chapel, identifying its origin and founder, the process through which it was assimilated into the house’s estate, its income and corresponding liabilities. Additionally, it describes all other properties, the *alcaidaria mor* (castle governorship) of Sertã and Pedrógão, five commanderies, crown assets and *tenças* (stipends) belonging to the house. Moreover, the author of the *Tombo de 1807* indicated the importance of each *morgado* within the set, resorting to a “scale”. Some *morgados* were deemed more important in view of their antiquity and size, thus earning the “*Solar desta caza*”²⁵ (family manor) classification. These were two *morgados* (in Lisbon and in Mafra), as well as the Quinta de Ota, which were all part of the Figueiredo family’s estate since early sixteenth century. Genealogy is an innovation introduced in the *Tombo de*

²³ Translation from the original: “He o que se pode saber pelos papéis e memorias que se tem achado pela deligencia que o Senhor Rodrigo António de Figueiredo tem mandado fazer” (ACBL, cx. 1, nr. 15, fl.10-10v).

²⁴ SOUSA, 2015: 142-143.

²⁵ ACBL, Liv. 51, p.1 (*morgado* of Castelo); p.11 (*morgado* of Lobagueira); p.157 (Quinta de Ota).

1807. It is presented via family trees, which supplement the textual information. Each family tree clarifies the documentation, since it comes associated with the corresponding *morgado(s)*. In fact, genealogy was crucial since the correct kinship's knowledge provided the families information about the right to inherit an ancestor's entail estate. Besides that, each family tree establishes an important connection between the heirs and their ancestors and each one with family memory.

The second volume of the *Tombo de 1807*, the "Index of Every Paper in the House's Archive" ("*Index de Todos os Papéis do Arquivo da Casa*"), contains the actual inventory of the collection. It begins with an index, mostly with typologies of documents. Analysis of other inventories from that period has revealed that such a structure was quite common²⁶. Most of the actual document descriptions identify the producer, beneficiaries, notaries, magistrates and other parties involved in the act recorded. Each description also indicates where and when the document was produced. They also state whether it was a copy, a transcript or a certificate. At the end of each description, the number of the bundle in which the document was filed, the type or name of the corresponding property, and the number ascribed to the document within the bundle (where items were filed in chronological order) are all mentioned. The bundle's physical organization did not match the order of the documents in the inventory. Hence, the physical placement of some bundles associated to properties was left untouched, yet their description was fitted into some category. As an example, documents related to the Quinta de Ota were physically preserved in bundles number 7 and 8, yet they might be described in different sections. At this time, the method for storing documents also underwent considerable changes. In the *Tombo de 1722*, as mentioned before, documents were folded and tied together into bundles. In 1807, they were unfolded, levelled out and inserted in appropriate sleeves, which, in turn, were arranged in bundles²⁷. The sleeves were produced by the author of the *Tombo de 1807*, since the handwriting on them is identical to that of the *Tombo* and they feature each document's description, matching the one in the inventory. Each

²⁶ ROSA; HEAD (eds.), 2015.

²⁷ SILVA; RODRIGUES, 2012: 601.

sleeve includes the following data: the bundle's number, at the upper-left corner; the name of the *morgado* or property, should the document correspond to one, at the top; and the document type, at the upper-right corner. The document number appears a little below these items, at the center. The summary is located immediately below the number. The sleeve served a number of crucial purposes: providing a summary of the document, for easy identification; gathering documents under the same case/subject in a file; simplifying storage; offering the possibility of (re)arranging the document within the corresponding bundle. By highlighting the document type, the bundle and document numbers, it was provided an immediate visibility, which simplified the process of restoring the document to its original location, after consultation.

The *Tombo de 1807* presents another interesting feature in the description of the documents, which is also applicable to the text in the first volume. The parents of Vasco Manuel de Figueiredo Cabral da Câmara — the inventory's requester — were identified by their names and by the titles of “*Senhor*” or “*Senhor D.*” and the closest relatives were usually named after their kin relation to the requester, which resulted in a very personal tone, like “my father” or “my mother”. This sort of appellation occurred more frequently while describing documents produced by Vasco's closest relatives up to the third generation, such as “*Ofícios de meu avô*” (my grandfather's deeds) or “*Testamento de minha avó*” (my grandmother's last will). It was also employed for more distant ancestors, who were identified by the number of generations separating them from the requester: “*meu 6º Avô*” (“my sixth grandfather”)²⁸ or “*meu 7º Avô*” (“my seventh grandfather”)²⁹.

This habit raises the issue of the inventory's authorship, introducing the possibility of collaboration. Even though it is not possible to verify how the documents' descriptions were written, two hypotheses should be considered: either Vasco Manuel participated in their production — by presenting written notes or dictating summaries, for instance — or he gave the cartulary precise instructions for his parents to be described as presented above.

²⁸ ACBL, Liv. 51, p.1.

²⁹ ACBL, Liv. 51, p.11.

As previously stated, a third volume was planned for this *tombo* in addition to the two bound volumes. Although finished, this third volume was left unbound³⁰. It is likely that it would have consisted of a set of quires of a similar format, dimensions, paper type and handwriting. As far as the contents are concerned, in the quires documents are no longer arranged by type, but rather according to the numbering in their bundle. This would allow immediately to identify the documents collected in each bundle.

Production of the *Tombo de 1807*'s three volumes required deeper insight on the archiving method, presenting new avenues for document search and retrieval — by type or by bundle, in addition to all the information gathered and made available on each property.

It seems clear that the Figueiredo family's document production was connected to property and the entail model, which reflects the increasing complexity and financial burden associated to property systems. The need to provide evidence before the Crown's institutions and the courtrooms, as well as the latter's growing role in settling property issues, rendered document preservation increasingly common and essential. Document preservation was associated to the storing of the collection in a house and inside a chest, cabinet or cupboard. The various document storage techniques were also exemplified. In the Figueiredo family, transmission within the house usually involved the transference of the lord's archive to his heirs. With each generation, inheriting the house meant that the heirs were responsible for its maintenance and improvement — both economic and social — which demanded a profound knowledge of its assets. The need to control information and, consequently, property and income, prompted the need for inventories. By the early nineteenth century, these were no longer mere document retrieval tools, with informative contexts and a practical approach. They encompassed and materialized genealogy and family memory. Finally, as the nineteenth-century law which disentailed the *morgados* and chapels rendered document contents obsolete, this collection became a haven for family memory, effectively materializing it.

³⁰ ACBL, cx. 117, nr. 819-1.