

SOME NOTES ON DR. STREET : THE ENGLISH
PHYSICIAN-IN-ORDINARY TO QUEEN CATHERINE OF
BRAGANÇA, WIFE OF KING CHARLES II

(Compiled by Mrs. E. Rosenthal from records in the possession of
Dr. Street's descendants).

Among the distinguished families of Portugal of partially English descent is that of the Condes de Carnide, whose extensive property comprises the beautiful Quinta of Carnide, near Bemfica. The ancestor of the Condes of Carnide was a certain Dr. Street, physician-in-ordinary to Queen Catherine of Bragança. When this Queen returned to Portugal as a widow in the year 1693, Dr. Street was one of the English members of her suite who accompanied her. He settled permanently in Portugal and in recognition of the many benefits which he received at the hands of Queen Catherine he introduced into his coat of arms three Catherine-wheels.

Dr. Street married a very wealthy heiress from the Azores whose family name was Arriaga. The son of this marriage also married a very rich bride, a member of the aristocracy. This lady's name was da Cunha. To fulfil the legal requirements for the registration and inheritance of his wife's estates, he adopted her surname which he added to his own, and the coats of arms of the two families were united to form one escutcheon.

In 1787, a descendant of the first Senhor Street-d'Arriaga e Cunha vacated his palace of Ramalhão near Sintra, to enable

the famous English traveller William Beckford to spend the summer in this cool retreat. Beckford remained at Ramalhão for about two months, and from there wrote several of his interesting letters. Later, this Senhor Street-d'Arriaga e Cunha, who was an intimate friend of the royal family of Portugal, bestowed the property of Ramalhão upon Queen Carlota Joaquina, wife of King John VI. According to the etiquette of the Portuguese Court, it was inadmissible for the Queen to accept such a gift from one of her subjects, so to overcome this difficulty, Carlota Joaquina paid Dr. Street-d'Arriaga e Cunha the sum of two vintens (or four centavos) for it.

On various occasions, the Kings of Portugal wished to bestow titles on the Street-d'Arriaga e Cunha family but these proposed honours were always refused. Proud of their ancestry, the descendants of Dr. Street preferred to be known by their family name. It was the grandfather of the present Conde de Carnide who was persuaded to accept this title, in recognition of his services as Portuguese Ambassador to Turkey and Spain, by Prince Ferdinand of Saxe-Coburg Gotha. This prince was the consort of Queen Maria II of Portugal and cousin of Queen Victoria of Great Britain and of her husband Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha.