

Other titles of the collection:

The Farga Rossell.
An exemple of catalan
forge

Areny-Plandolit



Govern d'Andorra
Ministeri d'Affers Exteriors,
Cultura i Cooperació



Crèdit Andorrà
al vostre servei i al servei del país



The Areny-Plandolit house. From manor house to noble residence



Col·lecció **Quies** del Patrimoni Cultural d'Andorra

Lost historical memory is recovered through research and a part of it is materialised in museums. This is the case with the Casa d'Areny-Plandolit Museum. Considering the household as a place of learning and perpetuation of customs, the museum shows us how a family evolves and transforms itself in parallel with the rooms of the house, in order to convey to us a peculiar form of life that helps us better understand the social and economic changes of the time.

Tracing the family's line of heirs, one sees the progression of a family that, from Ordino, achieved an important economic, social and political role on both sides of the Pyrenees.

The development of the family's economic activity indicates to us its importance within the country's economic structure. On the one hand it controlled livestock networks that extended from Andorra to the plane of Urgell; on the other it managed dozens of shepherds and thousands of cattle heads. At the same time the family was active in the main markets of Urgell, and worked with businessmen from the cities of Lleida and Barcelona. Meanwhile, the family also conducted business with merchants from Toulouse, and its commercial activity (textiles, clothing, etc) reached the Ebre river. From livestock farmers they became businessmen and finally, forge owners.

In short, the expansion of Areny's house dominions (Andorra, Alt Urgell, Cerdanya, Osona, Pallars) allowed the family's heirs to live off their private incomes. This was especially true in the case of Guillem de Plandolit, who led most of the changes in the family's economic structure. Areny's house came to be known as Don Guillem's house, of which it was said that its members could travel from Andorra to Barcelona without ever spending a night on property that it did not own.

Aside from the economic changes, the social and political development of Andorra can also be tied to the prominence of the family's heirs. The resources and activities they developed allowed Areny-Plandolit's house to play a major role in Andorran society. They became among the major contractors in the Valleys and had customers of relative importance. It is no surprise that the family was able to establish family ties with Catalan nobility, even without ever breaking its attachments to Andorra.

This development took the Areny-Plandolit's lineage to adopt a leading role in the politics of the Valleys. In the XVIIIth and XIXth centuries it was among the main families managing the country's foreign affairs. This leadership reached a high point in the XIXth century when it participated in the New Reform of 1866. Still, the family was driven to exile when it tried to find new ways to challenge the economic crisis that affected Andorra (casino, springs, blocked access to the Valleys).

Despite its unique character, the Areny-Plandolit family's evolution illustrates to us from a very interesting perspective the evolution of Andorran society from the modern to the contemporary world, as it integrates many of the human activities that developed on this side of the Pyrenees.

The walls of Areny-Plandolit's house have seen splendour as well as hardship. Now they want to tell us their stories, the stories of the family's golden age, and to elicit nostalgia over that which the passage of time tends to cover in myth. The story of Areny-Plandolit's house is the story of the Areny and the Plandolit families, but it is also a setting of Andorran history, thus constituting a cultural landmark in the Rural Habitat Itinerary together with the museums of Casa Rull and Casa Cristo.

You have with you the second number Guides to the Cultural Heritage of Andorra, a collection that will become a basic instrument for the cultural dissemination of our history and our collective memory. Produced in collaboration with Crèdit Andorrà, it should allow us to better understand our most recent past.

Juli Minoves Triquell
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Culture and Cooperation

It's a great pleasure for Crèdit Andorrà to contribute, with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Culture and Cooperation, to the set Guides to the Cultural Heritage of Andorra. The aim of this set is to recover our historical memory as well as the cultural background of Andorra. This second publication is a monographic study to the Areny-Plandolit house, which belonged to one of the most influential noble families of our country.

In a very comprehensive and structured way, this guide synthesizes material from a rigorous investigation by the Historical Research Department of the Government of Andorra. The work proposes a tour through our political and economic history, as well as through the iron industry in our forges, the architecture, the ways and customs, the alliances, and the community relations of the inhabitants of rural settlements in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

Crèdit Andorrà has the full conviction that this new edition will contribute to the dissemination of knowledge about the history of our country. We trust that it will become an useful tool not only for teachers and students, but also for anyone interested in knowing a little more about the origins of Andorra.

Antoni Pintat Santolària
Chairman of the Board of Directors
Crèdit Andorrà



Don Guillem.

Throughout the period 1600-1900, the Arenys of Ordino were one of the most important families in the valleys of Andorra. Little is known of their origins, the first well-documented heir being Guillem Areny Vidal, son of Peirona Vidal de Segudet and Guillem Areny. Regarding his father, several hypotheses exist. These range from his having been an *anfoch*, that is, the head of one of the more established families of the parish, to the suggestion that he might have been a *younger*, a second-born son who had managed to establish himself. According to other scholars, the first head of the house was a son of the owners of the house “ca l’Areny” in Encamp or, perhaps, a foreigner who had married the daughter of a house in Ordino. The surviving documents from the first decade of the 17th century do not allow us to confirm any of these possibilities.

When speaking of the Areny family, it is more common nowadays to refer to the “Plandolits” or “Areny-Plandolits”. The best known member of the family, and the person most often referred to, is don Guillem Areny-Plandolit. He made a profound impression on 19th century Andorra, though he was far from being the first member of the family to be involved in the politics of the valleys. Through a series of *matrimonial alliances* and a process of *drawing close to the nobility*, the family rose to importance, and not just within Andorra but also beyond its borders. A convergence of interests had led to the establishment of regular relations with the other leading families in this part of the Pyrenees (Castellarnau in Pallars, Gudanes in Ariège, etc.) and, during the 18th century, ever closer links were forged with the Diocese of Urgell. The bishop, co-prince of Andorra, was designated by the King of Spain and, thus, good relations with the Episcopal See were of great importance in obtaining swift and sympathetic treatment from the authorities in Madrid. The complex network of relations thus established transformed the Areny family into one of the key players in Andorran foreign policy.

The social rise of the family is reflected in the house itself. At the beginning of the 17th century a building in Ordino had been acquired. However, the present house is the product of an *organic architecture*, that is, rather than being the result of a single planned project, the building is the sum of the modifications carried out to adapt the initial structure to the changing needs of the family over the years. Nevertheless, the greater part of the building we see today dates from the *new restructuring* undertaken during the 19th century and the later reforms aimed at converting the house into a museum.

Ordino (ANA/AXAP-181P39).



“Hoc est primum manuale mei Guillermi Areny, loci de Ordino, autoritate apostolica per universum orbem notari publicii.”

ANA/NMV, N° 60. Introduction to the first notarial manual of Areny d'Ordino, 16/12/1657.



The Areny collection

Despite not including all the historical documents the family possessed, the 22,300 documents, 121 parchments and 139 books that form it make the Areny collection the second most important to be conserved in the National Archive of Andorra, after that of the Rossells (53,100 documents and 161 parchments). In addition, an important **photographic collection** of almost 4,000 negatives has survived while the family library contains a **bibliographic collection** of some 5,000 publications. This archive, which was already of a considerable size, in both Pyrenean and Catalan terms, has been enlarged with the addition of the Xavier Areny-Plandolit collection, previously kept separately in Barcelona. The Areny archive covers the period 1334-1984 and includes all the documents acquired through the marriages of the family heirs (from estates in **Osona**, **Pallars** and **Barcelona**). In terms of the documents that deal solely with the house in Ordino, the time span is more limited, starting at the beginning of the 17th century. The diversity of the documentation allows us to analyse different aspects of the life of the family at the same time as offering a broad-ranging view of the economic and political life of the valleys of Andorra during a period of some three hundred years. This lengthy occupation of the house is also reflected in the important number and variety of **pieces** that form the basis of the museum's collection.



(AT).

The bibliographic collection (IS)

The library of the Areny-Plandolit house constitutes a veritable bibliographical treasure, as befits that of a good standing Andorran family. Their social and economic situation allowed them to acquire pieces of great value, that today form part of this important collection.

The bibliographic collection is made up of a large number of serialised publications, as well as more than 5,000 monographic volumes, that cover the period from the 16th to 20th century. The oldest surviving work is a treatise on Canon Law, printed in 1522, entitled *Opera Fellini: Secunda Pars*.



The works are bound in a variety of materials. Most are in parchment or leather, though there are also a number of documents with plateresque bindings. Amongst the most curious examples is an edition entitled *Japanese pictures of Japanese life*, published in Tokyo in 1895

and printed throughout on crêpe paper, which contains scenes of everyday life in the Japanese society of the time.

The collection does not have a single defined theme and covers very varied fields, the result of the different professional and leisure interests of the members of the family. Thus, we find subjects as diverse as religion, medicine, industry or literature, amongst many others. It should also be noted that some of these books are the work of members of the family itself. These include various treatises on magic and conjuring by Xavier d'Areny, who was the President of the *Asociación Española de Ilusionismo* (the Spanish Conjurers Association), or the manuals on taxidermy by Dr. Pau d'Areny-Plandolit.



The objects, furnishings and portrait collection (MPP)

Most of the objects in the collection of the **Casa d'Areny-Plandolit Museum** were gathered by the family over the centuries they inhabited the house. During the years the house was abandoned some of these objects were damaged and in the process of creating the museum other objects were incorporated to complete the museological discourse.

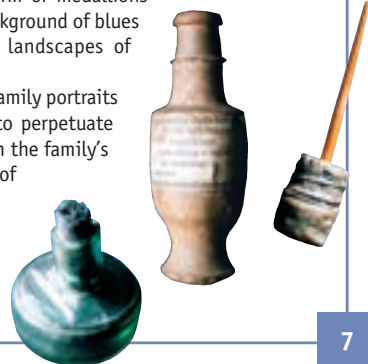
Among all the objects that make up the collection, some stand out in terms of their importance, such as the series of curtains that covered and decorated the windows and balconies of this mansion. These are five cloth pieces from the 19th century that are unique in Andorra, being their function to decorate the window apertures of the Areny-Plandolit house, as well as to filter the sunlight

to create a pleasant atmosphere in the various rooms and salons. The decoration takes the form of medallions with floral and geometric compositions on a background of blues and ochres, depicting romantic and bucolic landscapes of waterfalls, parkland and springs.

Mention should also be made of the gallery of family portraits that decorate the Great Hall in an attempt to perpetuate the presence of the most important figures in the family's history. Particularly outstanding are those of the Baron de Senaller, Guillem d'Areny-Plandolit, his second wife Carolina Plandolit i Pelati, as well as those of other illustrious religious and military personages.



(AT).



“...as heir and equally zealous in his service to His Catholic Majesty, so is he worthy of having conferred on him noble status by the grace of H.R.H.”

ANA/AXAP., Certificate in favour of Guillem Areny Gallart, signed by Bishop Simeó de Guinda, 14/04/1737.

The family and their alliances

Before obtaining their first **noble titles**, the descriptions of their professions used by the Arenys when signing notarial documents constitute a good illustration of the fortunes evolution of the of the family. During the 17th century, the first form used was “farmer”; later, from the 1630s onwards, the signatory was described as “trader” while in the last third of the century the term “notary” appeared. However, the description most often used until the beginning of the 18th century was that of “livestock farmer of Ordino”. The alliances contracted by the family confirm this evolution. At the beginning of the 18th century the Arenys were related to the most influential farming families in the valleys (Joan Antoni de Mosquera, Guillemó d’Andorra, Molines de Sant Julià, Teixidor de Sispony, etc.).

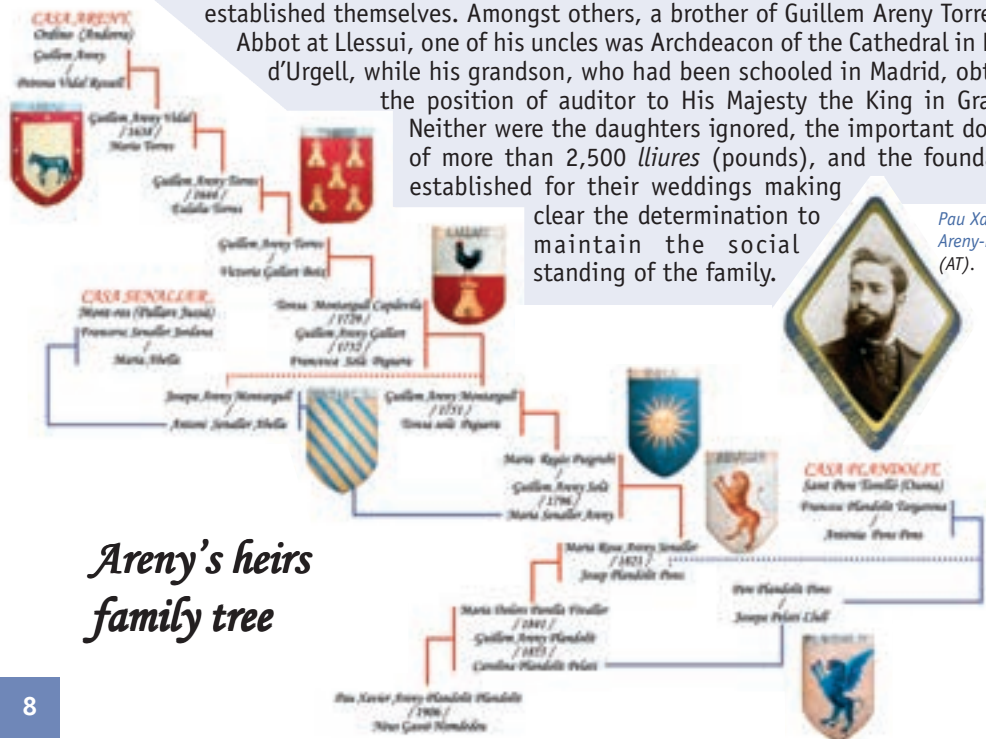
The union with Victòria Gallart Boix marked a change in the matrimonial policy of the family. Now, the choice of consorts was no longer limited to the daughters of Andorran families. From then on, with the growing social status of the lineage, matches were sought from within the ranks of the Catalan nobility (Senaller, Jordana, **Plandolit**, etc.). This type of choice did not apply to the younger sons, though their lot was not ignored.

The eldest sons were required to maintain them until they came of age and established themselves. Amongst others, a brother of Guillem Areny Torres was Abbot at Llessui, one of his uncles was Archdeacon of the Cathedral in La Seu d’Urgell, while his grandson, who had been schooled in Madrid, obtained the position of auditor to His Majesty the King in Granada.

Neither were the daughters ignored, the important dowries, of more than 2,500 *lliures* (pounds), and the foundations established for their weddings making

clear the determination to maintain the social standing of the family.

Pau Xavier Areny-Plandolit (AT).



Areny's heirs family tree

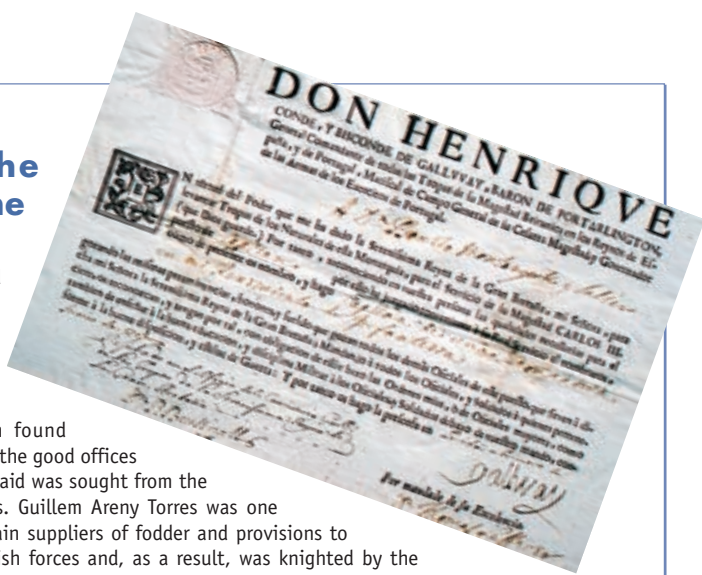
Noble titles and the drawing closer to the nobility

In 1719, the French troops entered Catalonia through Cerdanya and installed themselves in the fortress of Castellciutat. The following year, the soldiers of Prince Francisco Pio of Savoy laid siege to the stronghold and drove out the invaders. However, the troops of Felipe V soon found themselves without supplies and, through the good offices of the Bishop of Urgell, Simeó de Guinda, aid was sought from the



Josep Antoni Senaller Jordana, last abbot of Serrateix (JP).

Andorrans. Guillem Areny Torres was one of the main suppliers of fodder and provisions to the Spanish forces and, as a result, was knighted by the King. In the following generation, his son underwent a test of his nobility and managed to retain the title. However, the ennobling of the lineage was also achieved through marriage. Firstly, an alliance was made with Benet Montargull i Saltor, an **Honourable Citizen** of Barcelona, whose daughter married into the Areny family, while in the following generation, marriage was contracted with the daughter of the Baron of Senaller. In 1821, the granddaughter of Guillem Areny Montargull, Maria Rosa, was married to Josep Plandolit Pons. Gradually, generation by generation, the families of rural squires who had provided the early matrimonial alliances of the Arenys were replaced by the Catalan aristocracy and, by the mid-19th century, the Areny-Plandolit family formed part of the “polite society” of Barcelona.



The Areny-Plandolit marriages

In 1806, Guillem Areny Montargull, at the age of 76, modified his will to take account of the death of his eldest son, Guillem Areny Solà (1805), who he had named as his sole heir in 1777. To avoid disputes with the sons of his second daughter, he modified the terms of the will in favour of his granddaughter, Maria Rosa, who, in 1821, contracted marriage to Josep, the eldest son and heir of the Plandolit family of Sant Pere de Torelló. One unusual clause, included in the matrimonial contract deserves special attention: the normal order of the surnames of the offspring of this union was to be inverted, that is, that the name Areny should come before that of the Plandolits. Thus, it is evident that, despite the relative magnitude of the Plandolit property, it was considered that the contribution made by the female heir of the Arenys was greater than that of the eldest son and heir of the Plandolits. The two estates passed into the hands of Guillem Maria Areny-Plandolit, “don Guillem”, who, after a first marriage to Maria Dolors Parella, the daughter of French manufacturers installed in Torelló, contracted a second marriage to his first cousin Carolina Plandolit Pelati (1855). Once again, then, the destinies of the two families were bound together. However, though this period was one of the highpoints in the history of the family, the disagreements that appeared when it came to sharing out the inheritance he left, and the debts his widow had to deal with, marked the beginning of the break up of the family estates.



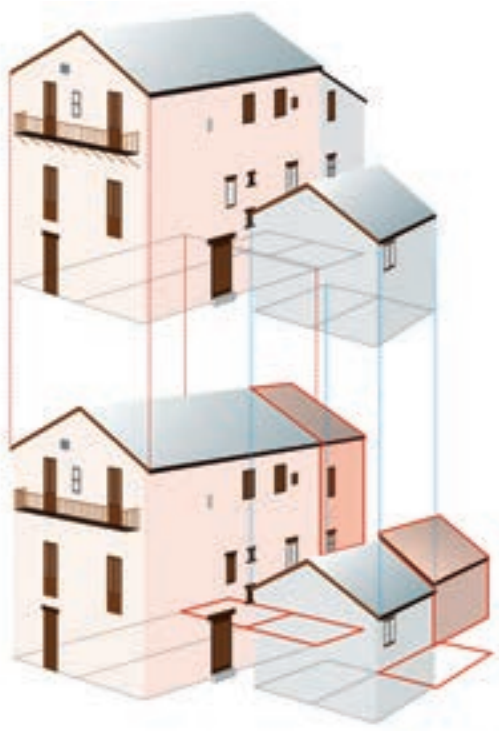
Table-service made at the “Sèvres” manufacture (JP).

SUMMARY

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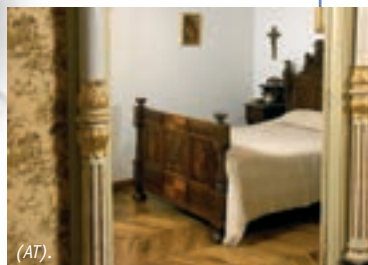


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metric evolution (XVII-XX centuries)



The 19th century and don Guillem

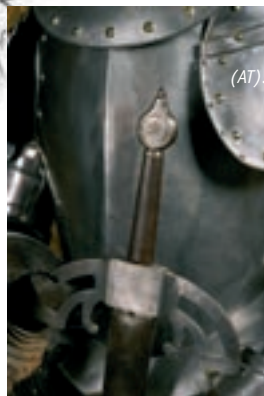
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From manor house to noble residence

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(AT).

RUTA DEL FERRO

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"I believe, from the rain that has fallen here, that it must have snowed and that the animals will have come down by now... If Rosella... can look after them until Macià gets there, she will... use Fiter's sign, Nicolau's old sign... Tell the shepherds to say... that the ewes have gone on to Call and the tegs are to be wintered in different places in Andorra"

ANA/ACAP. Doc. 1070. From Guillem Areny d'Ordino to Joan Antoni Torres d'Encamp, 14/10/1691.

Livestock farming

Livestock farming was the main economic activity of the Areny family. Two different types of animals were kept, and administered differently: flocks of sheep, and herds of horses and mules. The first were managed by the **Sheep Companies** that could bring together up to 8,000 animals, though generally the flocks contained from 2,000 to 4,000. Most of these sheep were destined for butchering (Barcelona or Lleida) and the by-products (cheese and wool) had become of only secondary importance. However, when it came to the **mules**, the management was done much more directly and the animals were not subject to **vertical transhumance**.



(ANA/ACAP-62AP25).

them paid workers, who took advantage of their employment to add their own animals to those of the company. Finally, there was a third group of farmers whose only participation was in adding their animals to the flocks. They paid a fixed price for each animal that was wintered on the lower plains and then returned safely to Andorra. Any animals that were lost (through storms, theft, etc.) were not paid for.

Along the route, various pastures were hired so as to make a staged descent to the plains. For security reasons, the flock was never moved as one single bloc, instead being divided into smaller groups by sex, age (**tegs**, **yearlings**, **wethers**) or final destination. Each of these flocks moved along different **driveways**, or else followed the same route but on different dates. The animals to be returned to Andorra needed feeding until May, while those that were to be sold only had to be fed until the date of the fair they were going to (autumn, winter or spring). By dividing the flock in this way, the company avoided paying any unnecessary rents on pastureland.

(ANA/ACAP-62AP25).

The Sheep Companies

These organisations brought together the livestock farmers to organise the vertical transhumance that took their flocks down to winter on the plains of Catalonia and Aragon. Participation in the companies was structured on three levels. Firstly, there were those who put up the capital and took part in the managing of the transhumance cycle. Secondly, there were shepherds, **shepherd boys** and **head shepherds**, all of



(ANA/31CR30).

In the early 18th century, an adult **mule** was worth between 35 and 82 *lliures*, the equivalent of 21 to 50 **wethers** or 27 to 65 ewes. The interest of the Arenys in the breeding of equines remained constant throughout the 17th century and, between 1735 and 1755, they had some sixty breeding animals, making them the leading breeder in the Valleys. At that time, the value of these animals at the sales in the Fairs in Verdu or Santa Coloma de Queralt was equivalent to that of their entire flock of sheep.



The steady growth in their livestock rearing activity led to an increase in profits. However, to be able to maintain and sell the animals, the family also needed a large number of workers and other associates. This network of relationships that extended from Ariège to the Catalan coast was to prove of decisive importance when it came to developing the family's other economic activities - **metallurgy** and **trade**.

(ANA/31CR32).

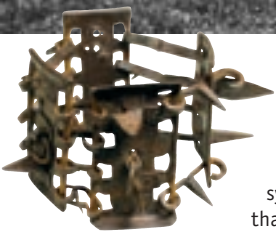


The mules

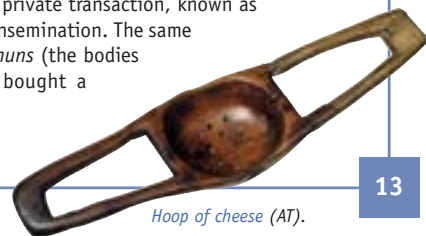
The organisation of the equine livestock was conditioned to a large extent by **horizontal transhumance**. Generally, unless they were sent to a fair, the animals did not leave the Pyrenees. Consequently, it was necessary to possess sufficient land to be able to feed the animals throughout the year, the herd being moved as necessary from the valley bottoms to the high mountain pastures. In practice, the Areny family had an extensive **estate in Andorra** and land in **Urgellet**.

Overall, the family had one **jack** (male donkey) for every 10 **mares**. The animals were monitored individually in order to avoid excessively high levels of consanguinity, for this would affect the quality of the herd. While the sheep were dealt with *en masse*, the owners of horses,

donkeys and mules knew all of their animals by name. Large livestock farmers frequently exchanged their stud animals for the season. The small farmers, who only had two or three animals, made use of a private transaction, known as *garonatge*, for which they paid for each proven insemination. The same system was used with cattle and, thus, some *Comuns* (the bodies that represented and administered the Parish) bought a communal bull that could be hired.



Dog collar to protect against wolves (AT).



Hoop of cheese (AT).



“...It is agreed between the two parts that they should build a equip a forge for smelting iron at their own expense, jointly, and in equal parts until its completion...”

ANA/ANMV. Book 92. Agreement between Guillem Areny Gallart and Joan Antoni Picart d'Encamp, 15/06/1742.



Ordino valley, 1717 (ANA/ACParis).

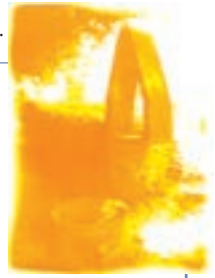
Andorra, 1874 (ANA/FC).



Metallurgy

The first connection between the Arenys and the iron working industry dates back to the early 17th century. In association with the Rossells of Ordino, they built two forges: one at El Serrat (1609) and the other in Puntal (1619). These establishments worked uninterruptedly until the severe economic crisis caused by the War of the *Segadors* (1640), the consequent collapse of the market for Pyrenean iron leading to their closure. Iron working activity was restarted in two phases. Firstly, in 1669, Guillem Areny Torres acquired the sledgehammer in Ordino. He employed smiths to work the ingots bought in Ariège, with the products they made being sold in Andorra and the neighbouring regions of Catalonia. In a second phase, the association with the Rossells was resumed and a **new forge** was built at **El Serrat**.

However, the most active member of the family in the promoting of iron working was Guillem Areny Gallart. Between 1742 and 1753, he first made an alliance with Picart d'Encamp to raise a forge below the village of Els Bons in Encamp, then obtained the



Forges at El Serrat

Technologically, the first forge to be established at El Serrat (1609) was similar to the *molines* of the County of Foix which were of medieval design. However, the second workshop (1687) incorporated a new and much improved system of production. The bellows used to blow air into the **shaft furnace** were replaced by **air-water-jet pump** and the furnace made larger so as to be able to work a greater quantity of iron ore. As a result, the time required to work a **bloom** was longer. Instead of the four hours used before, the workers now needed six in order to carry out the **reduction** of the ore, the **purifying** of the mass of metal and the finishing of the ingots of iron. The adopting of these innovations made the El Serrat workshop the first example of a **Catalan forge** to be built in Andorra.

It was also to become the longest working forge, since its furnace was not definitively shut down until 1845. Having suffered heavy wear in its century and a half of work, the forge needed a lot of work to restore it to full working order. However, the Areny family refused to invest in this operation and their associates decided to close it down and to build a completely new installation: the Rossell forge.



The Rossell forge power hammer.

The Areny Forge

Built in 1753, the forge at first had just one water-powered **powerhammer**. Gradually, as the workers were required to compact larger and larger **blooms**, this first contraption (which weighed 350kg) was found to be insufficient. To resolve this problem, it was replaced by another whose head weighed 600kg, more powerful but less precise, which made it difficult to do the finishing work on the bars of iron. To overcome this, a new building was erected alongside the forge where a second, smaller hammer (**sledgehammer**) was installed to carry out the finishing work on the ingots. The workers were able to adapt to meet the demands of the iron merchants and, what was more, the new organisation allowed them to diversify their production and make finished products. However, the family's trading network proved too specialised to be effective at distributing these products. In addition, the forge was now competing with its main customers, the blacksmiths, who worked the ingots into tools and other implements. Thus, the decision was taken to abandon this path and, until its closure in 1876, the Areny forge limited itself essentially to the sale of iron ingots to the Catalan market.



The Areny forge, 1886 (old stock E. Palmitjavila).

rights to set up another at La Massana, leased the communal workshop at Ransol in Canillo and, finally, built the **Areny forge** in Ordino. The opening of the latter marked a fundamental change in the fortunes of the Areny family for, from this moment on, they controlled almost 45% of Andorran iron production. This represented, every year, a commercial value of some 16,000 **Barcelona lliures**, with roughly half this figure being profit. As a result, in the second half of the 18th century, iron working overtook livestock farming in the economy of the family.



"...I do confess to owing and wishing to pay S^{rs} Deguillhem and Aimée Faure, merchants of Tarascó, the sum of 800 lliures, which are to meet all outstanding accounts I have with their companies until this day..."

ANA/ACAP. Book 3. Acknowledgement of a debt signed by Guillem Areny Torres, 04/09/1661.

Commerce and the Arenys

Much of the family's trade and commercial activity was based on livestock rearing and metallurgy. The animals had provided the capital to invest in the forges and the livestock fairs were also useful for selling the iron. In addition, the iron was exchanged for goods that were destined for the Pyrenean market. Imported goods such as salt-fish, fruit, clothing, pots and pans, and weapons, were sold through the family's shop, and at the forges. Andorran products were also for sale (cheese, ham, pitch, wool, **burel** cloaks, cereals, etc.). Apart from this local commerce, every time that the border crossings between the French and Catalan markets were closed or made dangerous to use (the War of the *Segadors*, the War of Succession, etc.), a much larger trade was done. Then, the Pyrenean passes took the place of the more traditional coastal routes and trade was brisk as long as the unrest lasted. The main products imported from France were fine textiles, haberdashery, spices and salt-fish. From the south came salt (Gerri and Cardona), but what most interested the merchants of Languedoc were the wool from Andorra and the gold and silver coins minted in the peninsula.



Sant Julià de Lòria (ANA/1236-FHG).

Three factors allowed the Areny family to play an active role in this traffic of goods: the **network of carriers**, the very close relationship maintained with dozens of traders and the capital they possessed. At first (1630-1650), the family's stores in Ordino, Sant Julià, La Seu and Ponts were used. Later, a **shop** was opened in **Tàrrega**. The profits that flowed from this business equalled, for a while, those obtained from all the family's other economic activities.

The textile shop in Tàrrega

In 1686, Guillem Areny Torres, in collaboration with Lluís Lavèrnia of Tarascó, opened a shop in Tàrrega. The investment in material was not very great: a wooden **counter**, various scales, some pots and pans and a mattress and bedding that, in total, cost some 122 *lliures*. On the other hand, the goods that passed through the shop were much more costly; the stock of the shop was valued at 2,626 *lliures*, the equivalent of the sale of 2,000 sheep. The development that began with the opening of this shop should be differentiated from earlier commercial ventures.

Trading companies had specialised in the sale of textiles and haberdashery. Only a small proportion of the produce was destined for the Pyrenean market and few goods were returned. The valleys of Andorra were simply a point of transit for the cloth acquired in Toulouse and sold on into the Catalan market. When it comes to evaluating the overall commercial volume, it should be remembered that the shop was just one of the means the family had of distributing produce.

Between 1780 and 1789, even though not all the accounts have survived, we know that more than 20,000 *lliures* worth of goods were bought and their resale more than doubled their value.



(AT).



(JP).



The network carriers

The Valleys of Andorra were not connected to the neighbouring regions by any **road** capable of taking wheeled traffic, and as a consequence, the carriers were the only connection with the outside world. Some carriers made a charge for each journey while others had the benefit of an annual contract. However, there was also a third group who took charge of both the transport and sale of the products. They financed one third, or one half of the value of the goods and in exchange received a proportional part of the profits. The carriers often banded together to make their journey safer, which also made it possible for them to cover a wider geographical area. For the Arenys, this task was made easier by the large number of carriers they employed. For example, in May 1706, Isidre d'Andorra loaded 15 quintals (15 hundredweight) of iron to exchange it for salt from Gerri. He did not sell all the metal and, on the way back, what remained was deposited in Noves, at the foot of the Cantó Pass. From here, Germà Casamajor who was on his way to collect wine, took the iron to Peramola. Finally, it was delivered to the blacksmith in Agramunt by the carrier who had come down to collect the shepherds clothing in Urgell. The different depositories made it possible to segment the transport and, thus, avoid the expense of unladen journeys. By combining several operations based on the family's different commercial activities, it was easy to optimise the use of the distribution network.



(ANA/ACAP-62AP15).

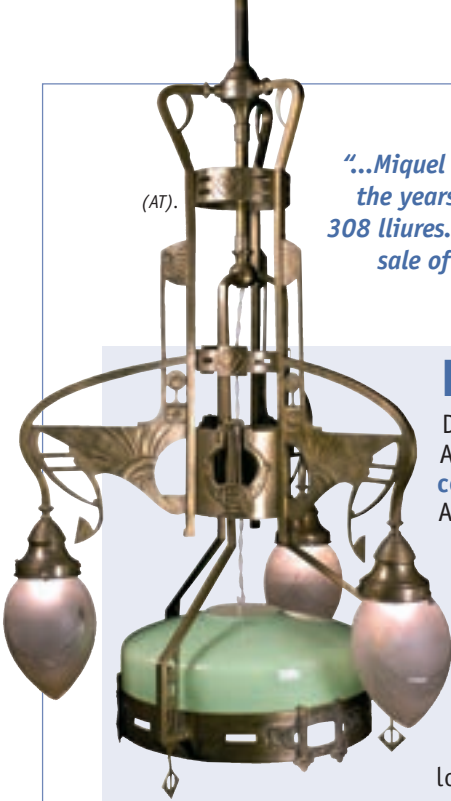
(AT).



“...Miquel Adellach of Canillo owes the annuities for the years 1685 to 1700, at 385 sous, which makes 308 lliures... To him is owed the part that is his from the sale of the house and outbuildings of Jaumet, 125 lliures; that leaves 183 lliures...”

ANA/ACAP, doc. 1086, accounts of Guillem Areny Torres, s. d.

(AT).



From traders to rentiers?

During the 17th century the family economy grew strongly. All profits made from **livestock rearing**, **metallurgy** and **commerce** were invested in the purchase of property. Alongside this, the family also became important moneylenders. On the one hand, they delivered goods on credit, while on the other, they lent money to individuals and to the local authorities. In both cases, the debt was consolidated in the form of **centsals**, which gave a fixed return of 5%. Since the term of these loans was indefinite, no date was stipulated for the return of the capital, and thus annuities were paid for decades on end. In 1716, the total received by the family from the loans added up to more than 1,700 *lliures* a year, representing an investment of more than 34,000 *lliures*.

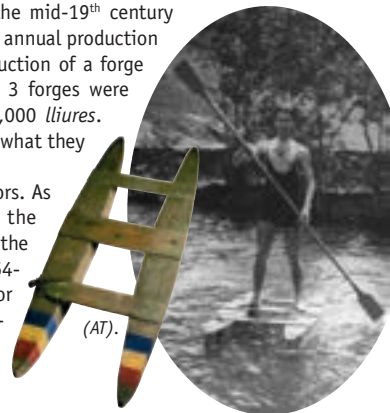
In addition, when the interest payments proved too much for the debtor, the family was entitled to oblige the debtor to sell part of their property to make good the outstanding payments. This mechanism, which could lead to a formal act before a notary ending in the sale, either redeemable (**sale with option of repurchase**) or definitive (**lluïsm** or **unredeemable sale**), of property to meet unpaid debts, accounted for much of the

Income from the forges and their management

The productive infrastructure the Arenys owned remained stable until the mid-19th century (Serrat, Encamp and Ordino). On the other hand, output increased and the annual production periods were extended. Between 1750 and 1830, the average daily production of a forge went from 445 to 665kg of iron. Taken as a whole, around 1830, the 3 forges were producing 230 tonnes per year and the capital generated exceeded 58,000 *lliures*. However, increases in production costs had reduced profits to just half of what they had been in the 18th century.

The day to day management of the forges was undertaken by administrators. As with their farming interests, the family sought to divest itself of the responsibilities for the direct overseeing of the forges and for the sale of the iron. One way of doing so was through the leasing out of the works (1764-1769 and 1805-1819), while another was the employing of an administrator for the Ordino estates, a post occupied by the Reverend Joan Puy (1783-1805). After a period in which the forges were once again managed directly, the last option to be pursued was that of establishing partnerships. In 1845, Seferino Riba of Ordino bought in with 25% of the working capital and in return received a quarter of the production.

(AT).



Playing on the dam (ANA/ACAP-75AP7).



(JP).

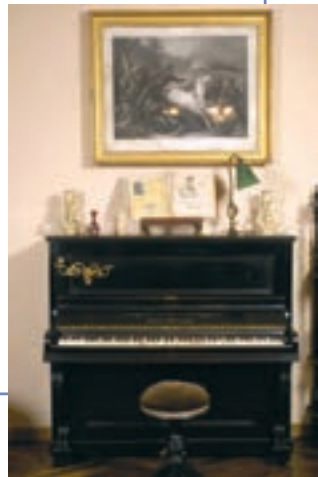
enlargement of the **family estate**. To the dynamic created by its lending, another factor should also be added that tended to accentuate the *rentier* nature of the family's finances. From the mid-18th century onwards, when it came to the exploitation of its lands, the family tended to adopt a system of leasing, thus ensuring a financial income while at the same time distancing itself from the direct working of the land.

Taxes and the abandoning of the Valley of Andorra

In the middle of the 18th century the family established themselves all year round in la Seu d'Urgell. The effects of this change, and the economic weight of the Areny family in terms of Andorra, can be glimpsed in the records of the payment of taxes, that is, the payments of the *quèstia* (the tribute levied in the name of the two co-rulers). In 1677, the family paid 1,562.5 *sous*, which represented 35% of all the tax paid in the parish of Ordino. That same year, the payments by the Arenys in Canillo amounted to 40% of the *quèstia*. With the 169 houses they owned in the two parishes, the family paid 19% of all taxes. In total, the family had paid 8.7% of the taxes paid by the inhabitants of the Valleys. It should be remembered that these payments only reflected the farming interests of the family, since the commercial and iron working activity was not subject to tax.

From 1750 onwards, the family's contribution to the public coffers diminished substantially, paying only 58 *sous* in 1778, 10 *sous* in 1787 and just 6 *sous* in 1793. Even though its **Andorran estates** continued to grow, the family ended up paying less than 1% of the Ordino *quèstia*. This was the result of the changes in the forms of estate management: the family rented out its property and the tenants had to bear the associated expenses, including taxes.

The baroness room (AT).





“...The mules have been at Arinsal, on the pastures of Guiem d’Erts, 16 days (69 Qu 1 ro). The day after St Thomas they went to the Molines house, they were there until St. Julian, 19 days (80 Qu 3 ro). On 10 January they go to the bank barn in la Bastida (180 Qu 3 ro)...”

ANA/ACAP. Book 24. Accounts of the mules and foals, 10/01/1639.

The Andorran estates

The Areny family was one of the largest landowners in Ordino and, from the second half of the 17th century onwards, pursued a policy of investing in all the Andorran parishes. In general, the properties that made up the **Ordino estate**, and those in the **other parishes** that were used by the family’s herds, were the only ones to be directly administered. The other lands they owned were subject to private contracts (**share cropping**, *mig guany* sharecropping or leasehold). The direct working of lands involved employing quite a substantial number of workers. Thus, around 1700, the Arenys employed about 100 people

in agricultural and livestock rearing tasks. For the seasonal work of sowing and harvesting, **fixed prices** were set that were applicable to a series of farms. For example, in 1715, Serni Ambros of la Seu d’Urgell and his team took the wheat from the farms in Ordino (Any de la Part, Segudet, Casamanya, Ordino) and Canillo for 70 *lliures*, 3 ewes and 24 cheeses. This, despite not including the other eight farms the family possessed in Ordino, represented a total of 582 working days for the reapers. The same type of arrangements were made with respect to the mowing, the maintenance of the outbuildings and, on occasions, the harvesting of the legumes. In terms of the

Encamp, Valira d’Orient valley (ANA/ACAP-66AP1).

leaseholds, the production of grass was subject to a specific clause. The tenant retained ownership of the wheat and legumes but, in return, had to mow the meadows with the hay being made available to the Arenys. The Andorran estate grew steadily right up to the 19th century, even though, from the late 17th century onwards, a profound change took place that led to the development of a very large **estate outside the Valleys**.

The Ordino estate

Ordino was the focus of much of the family's investments with more than 82 hectares of land belonging to them. They owned a series of properties at different points up the valley, from Any de la Part to Escobar de Puntal. Unlike other Andorran landowners, the aim of the family was not to centralise their possessions around the main house but rather that the house was their home and the nerve centre for the distribution of goods. Two types of livestock farms should be distinguished according to the use to which they were put. At Puntal and l'Ensegur, there were dairies that produced cheese and the sheep remained there until the *Comú* allowed them to go up to the high mountains. On the other hand, in the lower part, 9 cottages with their pastures were used to produce the grass that the herds of mules ate from the autumn onwards. Alongside this, each of these properties also had some fields of cereals, the grain from which was sent to the mills in Ordino and Sornàs. In the case of the vegetable



The Areny house facade (AT).

gardens, unlike the rest of the family's properties, the lands bought for this purpose was concentrated around the village of Ordino; while the family lived in Andorra, these were used to produce food for the family and their servants.

The Areny estates in other Andorran parishes

Despite the size of the estate, the lands in Ordino were not sufficient to provide for all the family's livestock. When the sheep returned from wintering on the plains, part of the flock was sent to the dairy farms in Erts and Anyós before coming on to Ordino. The rest of the flock passed through Encamp before going on to Mereig and Montaup, places where, despite not being residents of



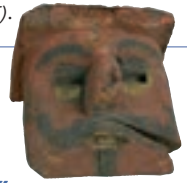
The Areny's house dovecote and garden (AT).

the parish of Canillo, the Arenys had obtained pasture rights. During the summer, they combined the exploitation of these properties with the rights of access to the communal land of Ordino on the eastern flank of Casamanya, and with the *conlloch* of hundreds of animals that were joined to the flocks of the livestock farmers of Canillo who were associated with the **Sheep Company**.

On the other hand, for the equines, the need for winter grass greatly exceeded the production of the Ordino pastures. Gradually, the family acquired pieces of land in Sant Julià, Andorra and La Massana that allowed them to feed the herd throughout the whole year. Just as happened in Ordino, most of these properties had part of the land, administered indirectly, devoted to arable use. By the 18th century, the family had become one of the largest wheat producers in the Valleys.

Orris river sheep dairy farm (AT).





“...When the carriers pass going up or coming down [to/from Andorra] they must be taken in, and given grain and grass for the mules and warmth and shelter for the men...”

ANA/ACAP. Doc. Clause in the contract of lease for the bank barn in Noves cottage, 19/12/1804.



Urgellet plain (XET).

The Catalan estates

From the late 17th century onwards, the family began to invest outside the Valleys. One of the first places they did so was in the area known as Noves de Segre. When the family moved their home to c/del Carme in La Seu d’Urgell, they set out on a policy of extending their ownership of land around the city. They purchased three farms known as “de la Seu”, “de la Torre” and “de les Costes”. The enlarged property in Urgell ended up equalling the productive capacity of those in Andorra. In 1812, the rent paid for the lands in Ordino, Canillo, Encamp, Andorra and Sant Julià produced 2,564 *lliures*, 69 capons and 119 bushels of wheat. For the land in Noves they received 800 *lliures* and 88 bushels of wheat, but much of the land in **Urgellet** was leased out under the *mig guany* sharecropping system. In the 19th century, the acquisition of Mas Blanc, near Puigcerdà, gave even greater importance to the estate outside Andorra since it yielded more than 440 bushels of wheat a year. In addition to all these, the family had also, through marriage, acquired properties in **Osona** and **Pallars**. From the surviving historical documents, it is impossible to estimate the total value of the estate. However, even though the records are incomplete, their evolution makes it very clear that the family had achieved what it set out to do - it had become a very substantial landowner and the rents and other payments it received as a result were very considerable.



Seu d’Urgell (CG).

Urgellet and Cerdanya

In June 1685, Guillem Areny Torres bought a property in Noves for the price of 3,130 *lliures*. This farm, with its house and livestock sheds, fitted into the family's plans for enlarging the Ordino estate. While the pastures increased the land suitable for feeding the mules, the outbuildings, which stood alongside the tracks that ran down to the plains of Urgell and Pallars, could be used as stores by the family's carriers. The other extension to the family estate was achieved by the purchase of la Torre, whose lands bordered the River Segre. In 1782, from these two farms the family received 300 bushels of cereals, 13 of legumes and 94 casks of wine. The latter had two destinations: one part was sent to la Seu, and the other was imported into Andorra. In the valleys, the wine was sold retail as well as being used to pay the forge workers, each of whom received around 10 litres a week. In the 19th century, with the acquisition of the farms of les Costes, below the village of Calbinyà,

and Mas Blanc, near Puigcerdà, the family's agricultural production was doubled. Urgellet produced

more than 200 casks of wine and the farms in Alt Urgell-Cerdanya, taken together, produced 1,320 bushels of cereals. However, much of this production came in the form of rent and was not sold directly by the Arenys.



The Areny's house properties distribution (XVII-XIX centuries).



Osona, Pallars and Barcelona

These properties had come into the family estate through marriage. With the alliance with the Senaller de Mont-ros family, had come the properties and the baronial rights of the estate of Senaller over the villages of Montfornit, Serraspina, Sellui, Paüls and Pobellà in Pallars Jussà. In 1791, this estate was valued at 12,409 Barcelona *lliures*, thus equalling the value of the lands in Urgellet. On the other hand, through their connection with the Targaronas, the family assumed control over the Saltor and Targarona farms near Sant Pere de Torelló in Osona. The part of these estates the family exercised usufruct over was always managed through leases or partnerships. In general, these arrangements were stipulated by the wills under which the family inherited the properties, or else through clauses in the marriage contracts and they were always arranged in accordance with the members of the family who originated in the properties concerned. As happened with the half share in the house in Barcelona, which came into the family through its union with the Plandolits, these properties were used to finance or deal with the rights of inheritance that corresponded to the close members of the family. The estates of each branch of the family were not mixed, and thus the domain of the Arenys has always been considered to be the lands in Andorra, Alt Urgell and Cerdanya.



"...The individual who is to transport the goods arrived only yesterday... these are his conditions, 20 francs per quintal carried to Soldeu, the first village in Andorra, and loaded in Ax..."

From Clastres to the Marquis of Orgeix, a deal to smuggle goods to the Carlists, ADA, 19J66, 7/01/1837.

"Ros d'Eroles" and Andorra

In the summer of 1835, the Scottish traveller James Erskine heard that four Carlist officials had been murdered in Ordino by a group of **Cristinos**. In retaliation, the Carlists looted the cottages in Envalira, above Soldeu. Around these events, on July 26 1835, Bartomeu Porredon i Cirera, "Ros d'Eroles", an important Carlist leader, issued a threat to the Syndic, Josep Picart. He declared the Andorrans to be enemies of the nation until such time as the safety of the Carlists in the valleys was once again established. In 1834, he led a detachment of some 200 men who used guerrilla warfare techniques in Alt Urgell, el Pallars and la Noguera. The valley of Andorra was a place of refuge and, above all, offered safe passage to Languedoc where, in 1830, the Carlist *Junta* of Toulouse had been formed, with more than a thousand members. In 1837, "el Ros" took part in the royal expedition to Barbaste and when the 1st Carlist War came to an end, he took refuge in France. Later, he was again very active in the second Carlist campaign, the War of the *Matiners* (1846-1849). Finally, the supporters of Isabel killed him at Borelles de Clariana (Solsonès) and, the following day, his corpse was seated on a bench in the Solsona Fair to attend the execution of his fellow rebels.



Carlos María de los Dolores from Bourbon house (1848-1909).

Carlism

The abdication of Napoleon brought Louis XVIII to power in France (1814) and made possible the return of Fernando VII to Spain. The evolution of the two neighbouring countries had important repercussions for Andorran diplomacy in the 19th century since it was necessary to deal with two nation states that, at that time, were governed by diametrically opposed political ideals. In Spain, with the promulgation of the "Pragmatic Sanction" (1830), Fernando VII broke with Salic Law and distanced his brother, Carlos Maria Isidre, from power in favour of his daughter, Isabel. Apart from the opposition from within the Bourbon dynasty that this decision generated, there were also



"Detente bala", amulets de la sort dels carlistes.



Bishop leniency, 1825.



Margaret of Parma (1847-1893) (ARH).

profound political differences between the two sides. The Queen-Regent, Maria Cristina of Bourbon-Two Sicilies, set about pursuing a strategy of approximation to the Liberals. Thus, on one side were the defenders of the *Ancien Régime*, and on the other, the Reformers. In the Basque Country, Navarre and Catalonia, a further component was added to the revolt: Carlism was a way of claiming allegiance to the Constitution and traditional feudal rights that the centralised vision of the Spanish Liberals refused to recognise. For the people of Andorra, every outbreak of war, from the Rebellion of the Aggrieved (1827-1828) to the third Carlist campaign (1872-1876), produced a very delicate situation since to maintain the Catalan border open, it was necessary to deal with Madrid, but also with the local armed bands, such as that of **Ros d'Eroles**. The Catalan Pyrenees, and more precisely Alt Urgell were one of the principal focus of unrest. The waves of refugees, whose political affiliations varied according to the moment, could compromise the neutrality of the country, and thus could affect the good relations with the co-princes according to whether the refugees were in favour, or not, of their government.



The Areny family, Carlism and religiosity

The social evolution of the Arenys predisposed them to lend their weight to the Carlist cause. The family had close ties with the Episcopal Palace in la Seu d'Urgell, one of the main pillars of support for the cause of "don Carlos" in Catalonia. The entrance into the family of Josep Plandolit accentuated these sympathies even more. His brothers had been active in the rising of 1833 and he, in order to avoid any possible repercussions arising out of their involvement, had fled for a time to Ax. In 1836, Josep made an interest-free loan of 32,000 *reals* (3,000 *lliures*) to the *Junta* of Catalonia. The properties in Urgellet and, above all, the house in Ordino offered refuge to the Carlists. In retaliation, the family's property in the province of Lleida was confiscated by the Constitutional authorities and not returned until 1843. During the last Carlist campaign, these houses once again offered refuge. In the house at Mas Blanc, situated on the French side of the border, Carolina Plandolit received General Lizárraga as he made his way into exile. The profound religiosity of the Arenys was another of the factors that led them to distance themselves from the Liberals. The chapel on the first floor of the house, wherein the family heard daily mass (1844), bears witness to these religious feelings.

Areny house chapel (JP).



(AT).



“...the members of the illustrious Consell... do promise... that they shall pay annually on behalf of the state of Andorra, and in coin, 1,800 Catalan lliures, that is 4,500 francs, for the commutation of the payment of the tithe...”

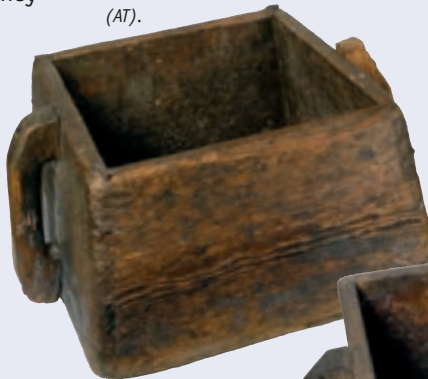
From the General Council to Pope Pius IX, ANA/ASV, Papal Nuncio in Madrid 487, 2, 13/12/1875.

The tithe system and Andorra

The system of tithes was a form of tax paid by all producers that was shared, essentially, between the Chapter and the Bishopric of Urgell. As the analysis of the accounts for **one particular year** shows, this tax represented quite a substantial burden. However, it should be noted that, in general, it was not the landowners who made the majority of taxpayers complaints, but rather their tenants who had to pay tithes to the tithe collectors. The latter were accused of abusing their position.

Abolished in France by the Revolution, the tithes were finally done away with in Spain in 1837. This decision, together with the expulsion of the Jesuits, the suppression of the Inquisition and the disentanglement of the property of the religious orders, formed the basis of the anticlerical policies of the Liberals. The latter were determined to weaken the power of the church, which, in its turn, was equally determined to resist the dismantling of the *Ancien Régime*. In Andorra, a first reform was introduced during the time that Bishop Simeó Guardiola spent in exile in France (1842). The prelate was forced to ratify the commutation of the tithe levied in kind for a monetary tax. This modification, accepted with very ill grace by the traditionalist Bishops, became a permanent source of discord. For the people of Andorra, eliminating the system of tithes was doing away with a feudal tax that was no longer acceptable in the 19th century. However, for the Bishops, any initiative of this kind was construed as an act of aggression against their authority since they considered the tithe system to be part and parcel of their rights as co-princes by which they also received the payment of another tax: the *quèstia*. Up until the end of the 19th century, the preservation of the tithe system was one of the central elements of the strategy of the Bishops. However, in the end, in 1903 the General Council managed to finally suppress the tithes.

(AT).



(AT).



(AT).

Grains measures



(ANA/31CR1a).

The tithe payments for one particular year

In 1658, the valley of Andorra paid a tithe of 3046 bushels of wheat, 33.4 quintals of wool, 416 lambs, 479 cheeses and 912 *sous* in coin. The payment was estimated to be worth 2,750 *lliures* and represented what the Bishop would have received in almost 12 years of *quèstia*. When it comes to analysing this tax, two aspects should be borne in mind that put into proportion the real impact of the tithe. Firstly, livestock production, which generated the greater part of the wealth of the valleys, was less heavily taxed than arable farming: 75% of the tax was paid on cereal production. The production of an arable farmer was subject to a tithe of 12%, while livestock farmers only paid on wool and lambs. No tax was levied on the sale of

adult animals and, above all, no contribution was paid for the production of grass. In 1658, the tax paid on the Andorran sheep flocks amounted to just 1.7% of their commercial value (46,000 Catalan *lliures*). Secondly, despite what might appear to be the case from some of the complaints made by the taxpayers, the tithe did not in fact reduce the volume of cereals in the local market since the grain was sold in Andorra and only the money paid through leases left the country. That same year (1658), 25% of the grain was purchased, at a reduced price, by the *Comuns*, and the rest was sold to various private individuals in the valleys. Thus, the tithe did not reduce the quantity of grain available for consumption in Andorra.



(ANA/31CR21).

The Areny family and the tithe system

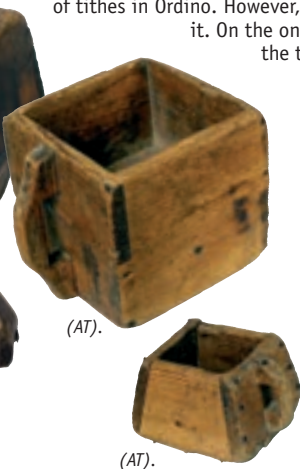
Being the producer of almost a quarter of all the cereals in the parish, the Areny family was the largest payer of tithes in Ordino. However, the Arenys were not simply payers of the tithe, they also obtained benefits from it. On the one hand, throughout the 17th and 18th centuries, on various occasions they leased

the tithe collecting rights. Since the price per bushel paid to the producer was fixed

before the harvest and the sale was made, at the best price, when the landlord chose, the rents generated important profits. On the other hand, the second source of income produced by the tithe system came from the acquisition of the tithe gathering rights over some villages. In Andorra they acquired the tithe of the castellany of Andorra, that is, half of the tithe of the tithe district of Santa Coloma. In the same way, at the beginning of the 18th century, they bought the tithe rights of the castellany of Noves.

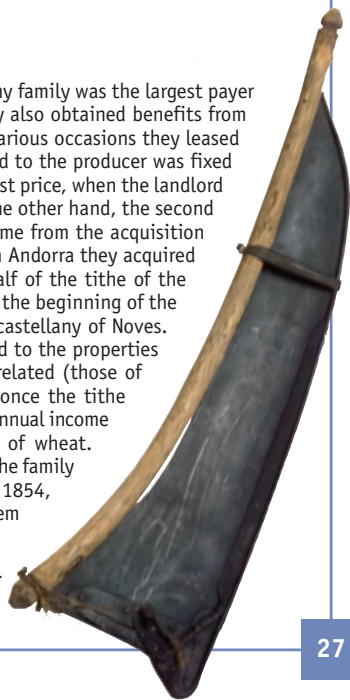
They then went on to add those that corresponded to the properties of the Catalan families to which they were now related (those of Senaller, Targarona, etc.). In 1846, in Andorra, once the tithe had been commuted into a tax, this produced an annual income

of 249 *lliures*, the equivalent of 145 bushels of wheat. However, given the difficulties in getting paid, the family decided to divest itself of these rights and, in 1854, the *Comú* of Andorra paid 4,850 *lliures* to redeem its part of the tithe.



(AT).

(AT).



(AT).



“...1st All heads of households in the Valleys shall have the Right to Vote to elect the twenty-four individuals who shall form the General Council.”

The beginning of Point 1 of the proposal of the New Reform, ADA 1Z100, N°. 3, 31/05/1866.

Anfochs, casalers and the reform

The political organisation of the valleys was based on a distinction being made between

two types of households: the *anfochs* and the *casalers*. The heads of the households of the first group formed the *Comunal Council*, had the right to vote and, by obtaining the position of Consul, could participate in the General Council. The second group, the *casalers*, had rights of usufruct over the **commons** but did not participate directly in their management. Throughout the modern period, the changes in the population had exacerbated the inequalities inherent in this system. In Ordino, for example, while the proportion was 40 *anfochs* to 34 *casalers* at the beginning of the 17th century, this had reached 23 to 63 by the end of the 18th century and, three years before the Reform (1866), there were just 19 *anfochs* to 120 *casalers*. The population had almost doubled while the Council now represented only 13% of the census. Then, at a time of economic recession, various factors led to the growth of political opposition that crystallised in the demand for institutional change. On the one hand, there was a middle class that had expanded with the economic development of the 1700s, and who wished to be represented on the Councils. On the other, the people in general had suffered the effects of the



“Portail du palais des Vallées”, Gaston Vuillier, Le Val d’Andorre, 1888 (Fons E. Palmitjavila).

abuses committed by the authorities, and were now calling for new mechanisms of control to be established. This underlying dissatisfaction was tapped by the various groups of reformers to fuel their demands for a **New Reform** but the motivations of the **protagonists** were very diverse. 19th century Liberalism was the driving force behind some of them, while for others, changes were necessary in order to push through radical new projects (the building of a **road**, the opening of a **casino**, etc.).



Joseph Caixal Estradè, Urgell bishop, coprince of Andorra (1803-1879) (JP).

The protagonists

A simplistic reading of the events of 1866 might be summarised in a confrontation between conservatives, led by the Syndic Joaquim de Riba, and reformers, headed by Guillem Areny-Plandolit. However, in fact the situation was more complex. Firstly, the head of the pro-reform movement, the so-called "Party of the Young Men", was not Guillem Areny but Anton Maestre "Molines". The political alliance between these two men was the result of a series of circumstances and not founded on any shared ideology. Secondly, the confrontation between Riba and Areny was not one of conservative versus liberal but rather conservative versus ultra-conservative. However, whether in response to popular pressure or out of personal convictions, both men fought against the misappropriation of funds that fuelled the complaints of the people. Riba's position was based on the tradition of the "good *paterfamilias*": the heads of the richest families, whose wealth was the proof of their abilities at husbanding their resources and who would therefore have no need to raid the public coffers, should be charged with managing public affairs. Diametrically opposed was the position of

Guillem Areny, who considered that the electoral base should be widened in order to increase control over public bodies. Apart from these parties, there existed a third group, representing the majority of the *anfachs*, who did not define themselves politically but tended to take an essentially traditionalist position.

Guillem Maria Areny-Plandolit (1822-1876).



The New Reform

In 1866, faced with the refusal of the General Council to accept the changes demanded by the people to reduce the abuses perpetrated by the Councillors, Anton Maestre called a series of meetings to draw up the basis for a reform. The right to vote for all heads of households, a four-year mandate, the prohibiting of simultaneously holding positions in the General Council and the *Comuns*, or the creation of the post of People's

Commissioner to oversee public accounts were just some of the 16 measures set out in the plan. The proposal won the support of the majority of the population. The document, presented by 12 delegates, was given the seal of approval by Bishop Josep Caixal on 22 April. However, one week later, the Councillors, in an extraordinary session, refused to

accept it. Then, under pressure from the supporters of the Reform who had gathered in the vicinity of the Casa de la Vall (the Andorran Parliament building), the Council was dismissed and a Provisional Council established. Immediately, the outgoing Syndic, Joaquim de Riba, took the matter before the Prefect of Ariège. He also proposed a counter-reform, but failed to obtain the support of the French authorities. In May 1866, in the first elections held after the Reform, the party of the reformers obtained a majority in each of the six *Comuns* of Andorra and Guillem Areny-Plandolit was appointed Syndic. The following November the plan was presented to Napoleon III and, finally, two years later, the Emperor ratified the text of the Reform presented by the Council.



Councillors gathered outdoors, Avenue de Vallées. Capture non photographique de M.F. Reynaud.

Regnault, 1896 (FBN).



"...this country finds itself incommunicado by virtue of the actions of the Carlists in impeding the circulation of mail; the Council has determined... to establish a mail to carry, two days a week, all correspondence to l'Hospitalet..."

Temporary solution to re-establish communication with the outside world, ASB Book 11, nº 29v, 16/06/1873.



*"Las Escaldas", Gaston Vuiller,
Le Val d'Andorre, 1888 (Fons E. Palmitjavila).*

(ANA/ACAP-76AP17).

Casinos and roads

The need to improve the access routes into and out of Andorra was one of the recurring themes throughout the second half of the 19th century. In this respect, Napoleon I, had ordered the building of a road to connect Ariège with Cerdanya via the pass at the Coll del Puimorent (1811). The works between Ax and the pass were started in 1847. Two years later, Louis Langlois presented a project to set up a Gaming House near the road at la Solana at Pas de la Casa. This project, inspired by the nearby casino on the French-Catalan border at Pont du Roy in the Vall d'Aran, was approved by the *Comuns* of Encamp and Canillo. However, the combined opposition of the Prefect of Ariège, the Bishop and the General Council effectively

The support of Guillem Areny

In October 1866, Syndic Areny-Plandolit, with the support of his Deputy Anton Maestre, obtained approval from the Council for the Duvivier concession, a decision that was not opposed by the Bishop. The decision to site the casino at la Solana did not alter his position. However, Maestre, who defended the option of les Escaldes, was categorically against this change. To put pressure on the Council, the Syndic brought in groups of armed men, who gathered near the Casa de la Vall to try to ensure that the works were not stopped. The attitude of Guillem Areny might seem very surprising since this avowed defender of traditional ideas had allied himself with a popular reform movement. Though an overall vision of the need to modernise the society undoubtedly played a part, to understand Guillem's position it is also necessary to take into account more pragmatic matters. For the Areny family, the stagnation of the traditional markets was having a grave impact on their fortunes and it was becoming necessary to find other forms of income. The option chosen by Guillem was the casino and, as an offshoot, tourism. By obtaining the support of the people, he sought to impose his will on a Council that was considered hostile and obstructionist. This personalising of the conflict and the breakdown of national cohesion that flowed from it led to a grave **political crisis** in 1868.



(AT).

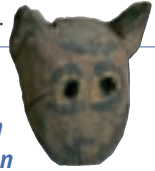
The financing of the project

The preliminary work had been done by Henri Duvivier and Syndic Areny-Plandolit. For the French investors, the project had two different facets that had to be seen to be linked in order to satisfy French law, under which they intended to undertake the project so as to avoid the veto of the French co-prince. The law stated that the Prefects of the French police could allow a casino to be built so long as it formed part of a Spa. On a financial level, a company was set up, "la Société Anonyme Andorrane", which issued shares to the value of 2,000,000 francs. Alongside this, 30,000 francs in the form of shares were passed to the Syndic to ensure the beginning of the works. That is, in practice the costs, in terms of investment, to the promoters was almost nothing. In Andorra, two factors had generated high expectations: on the one hand, the prices paid for the expropriation of lands for the works had been fixed at double the market value, encouraging speculators. On the other, for the day workers in the forges, this operation was seen as an opportunity with new jobs being created at a time when the forges no longer offered work. The halting of the project for lack of money, the starting of legal proceedings that created opposition amongst the investors, and the replacement of the director Duvivier, who had fled to London, by M. Crabbé were, amongst others, the elements that intensified the opposition of the Council and heightened Guillem Areny's loss of political credibility.



(AT).

blocked the project. In any case, the plan took no account of the pace of the road building, completion not coming until 1870. The option of la Solana re-emerged as a result of the modification of another project, this time presented by the Parisian banker Henri Duvivier (1866). Initially, the complex he proposed, including hotel, casino, spa, theatre, etc. was to be built at Escaldes, with a connecting road to be built as far as the French border. Road building started in 1867, but it proved impossible for the company to **finance**. As a result, a temporary solution was proposed involving the construction of a Gaming Room on the border (1868), the profits from which would allow the original project to be completed. Despite the **support of Guillem Areny**, there was general opposition to the modified project and work came to a halt.



“...with the exception of the flocks of the Republic, all other products from the Valley of Andorra are subject to the payment customs duties on entering the Kingdom...”

Letter from the Governor of the Province of Lleida to the Director of the Customs Post at La Farga de Moles, ANA/ACR 20/04/1865.

The crisis and Andorra

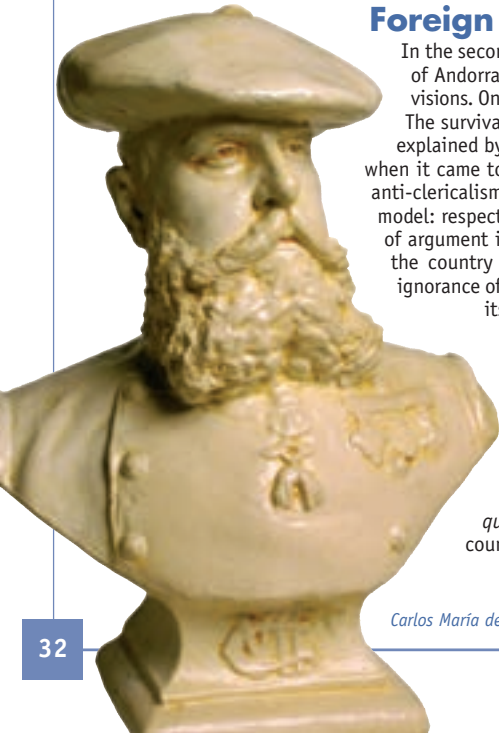
Overall, for Andorra, the 19th century was one of economic hardship. Crises were not new but, this time, there was an additional structural component: two of the pillars of the economy of the country, metallurgy and livestock farming, had declined drastically. In the decade 1860-1870, the total sheep flock was down to just one third of what it had been a hundred years earlier while the production of the forges had fallen to just one fifth. During the same period, the population of the valleys had doubled and thus the supply of labour was increasing at a time when the demand for workers was stagnant. On the other hand, the customs privileges, fundamental for the commerce of the valley were being questioned.

Foreign perceptions of Andorra were changing: the Andorrans were accused of using the customs exemptions to promote smuggling and, as a result, changes were sought in the Customs Treaties. The negotiations, begun in 1862, were successfully concluded under the mandate of Syndic Areny-Plandolit (1867). His efforts were recognised by the General Council and by the governments of Spain, which awarded him Cross of the Commander of the Royal Order, and France, which made him an Officer of the Legion of Honour. However, in the valleys the period of calm that followed was but short-lived; the following year, the

Foreign perceptions of Andorra

In the second half of the 19th century, to many foreign observers the Principality of Andorra seemed like a throwback to earlier times. There were two opposing visions. On the one hand, for the Liberals, its mere existence was an anachronism. The survival of a political system that was based on feudal rights could only be explained by the ignorance of the people, an analysis that was often completed, when it came to discussing the role of the Bishop of Urgell, with a strong whiff of anti-clericalism. On the other hand, for the traditionalists, the valleys constituted a model: respect for tradition and order had ensured its survival. In fact, both lines of argument included conceptualisations that had little to do with the reality of the country and, with some exceptions, both discourses betrayed a profound ignorance of the true situation in Andorra. It should be remembered that, despite its peculiarities, the legal framework in which the pre-Revolutionary Andorran statute was inscribed was not so singular. In the modern world, the existence of local feudal rights alongside royal decrees was fairly general. However, the century of the nation-state generated a current of thought that considered, in the question of Customs Duties, that Andorra should be treated like any other foreign country, with some people even arguing for the annexing of the valleys. In this climate of tension, the abilities of the Andorran politicians were put to the test in maintaining the *status quo*, the balance between tradition and modernity, that enabled the country to preserve its independence.

Carlos María de los Dolores from Bourbon house (1848-1909) (AT).



crisis of 1868 broke out, the result of the modifying of the casino project. In addition, on a general level, the return to the customs regime that existed prior to 1862 had not resolved the situation. Some years later the problem resurfaced and, this time, the customs conflict grew into the so-called 'Andorran question', a controversy in which the very sovereignty of the country was put in doubt.

"Entre douaniers et contrebandiers: un combat à la frontière d'Andorre", s.d. (FBN).

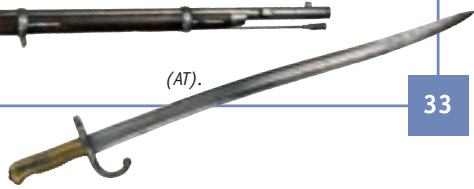


The gendarmes at the Farga de Moles border (1933) (ANA/F.Vehils-26-VE).

The crisis of 1868

In July 1868, at the request of M. Crabbé, Syndic Areny-Plandolit called a meeting of the General Council to discuss the project to create a casino a la Solana. The majority of the Councillors did not attend and the Bishop's *Veguer* (Magistrate), Manel Arnalot,

demanding instead that the Syndic dissolve the armed groups that had gathered to put pressure on the Council. In response, the Syndic dismissed him and replaced him with a man of his confidence: Pere Dalleres. This appointment, though recognised by Bishop Caixal, was not accepted by the Council. As a result, the Syndic resigned and withdrew to La Seu before disappearing from the political scene having lost the support of the Bishop. He then declared himself hostile to the casino. For the Prelate, the disobedience of the Councillors was an attack on his sovereign rights, in line with the trend begun with the modification of the tithe system, and he dissolved the Assembly. On the other hand, for the French government it was the rebels who to blame, having risen against the legitimate authorities of the country and, thus, the French opposed the dissolution. The Bishop did not receive the support of the Spanish government who had no wish to be embroiled in a confrontation with the administration of Napoleon III, and he was thus unable to enforce his decision. The Council was confirmed in its functions and finally, in 1869, a **Tribunal de Corts** was opened to judge those responsible for the disorder of 1868: Guillem Areny and Pere Dalleres.





“...The members of the Council... may put the said properties up for lease at public auction, take any monies or returns that result from the said properties and allocate the corresponding part to each parish to be used for its benefit or for that of the Valley...”

Session of the General Council to administer the Areny properties that were adjudicated to it in payment of the deposit made by the Duvivier company. ASC Book 11, f° 33r, 09/03/1874.

The succession to Guillem Areny



Carolina Plandolit Pelati (AT).

Guillem Areny-Plandolit was married twice. His first wife was **murdered in Barcelona** in June 1855 and, three months later, he married his first cousin, Carolina de Plandolit i Pelati. When his will was read, a conflict broke out between Josep, eldest son and heir from the first marriage, and his stepmother, Carolina. His objections covered various questions. On the one hand, Josep opposed the bequeathing of the house in Andorra to Canon Peyró Caixal. Secondly, he refused to recognise the inheritance of the children of his father's second marriage, who had been left, in equal parts, the estate of the farm in Targarona, the la Torre farm and various properties belonging to the house in la Seu. Finally, he argued that the farmhouse and cottage of Ansalonga, left to Carolina to cover her dowry, should instead be included in his inheritance. Carolina appealed against a first ruling in favour of Josep and, finally, it was decided that she should retain the properties. In exchange, Josep would not be required to pay her the 30,000 *lliures* that corresponded to her dowry. Apart from the house in Andorra, whose donation to Canon Peyró was confirmed, the rest of the

estate in Andorra was to be divided amongst 10 heirs. The will brought about a second division of the property of the family since, as a result of his role in the crisis of 1868, Guillem Areny had been tried by the **Tribunal de Corts** and the family estate had been

affected by the Court's rulings. On 23 February 1876, Guillem Areny died in exile in Toulouse, leaving an estate in ruins and without having achieved the economic diversification he had sought.





EL CORREO ESPAÑOL

DIARIO TRADICIONALISTA

AÑO I	PERIODO DE PUBLICACION Desde el 1.º de Mayo de 1881 hasta el 1.º de Mayo de 1882. Precio de suscripcion, 12 reales. Adm. L. A. GARCIA DE MADRUGA. PUBL. A. GARCIA DE MADRUGA.	Madrid 6 de Octubre de 1881	PERIODO DE PUBLICACION Desde el 1.º de Mayo de 1881 hasta el 1.º de Mayo de 1882. Precio de suscripcion, 12 reales. Adm. L. A. GARCIA DE MADRUGA. PUBL. A. GARCIA DE MADRUGA.	NUM. 10
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Murdered in Barcelona

On 19 June 1855, towards 8 o'clock in the evening, Colonel Blas de Durana murdered Guillem Areny-Plandolit's first wife, Dolors Parella i Fivaller. She was on her way to the Liceu to listen to Giuseppe Verdi's *Il Trovatore*, which had opened on 20 May that same year. When she reached the drinking fountain nearby Santa



Maria Dolors Parella Fivaller.

Margarida, Durana emerged from the shadows and stabbed her sixteen times. The victim died on the spot and the murderer gave himself up to the authorities. Colonel Durana had, for some months, been laying siege to the gentlewoman, who had refused his advances. Guillem

Areny had obtained, from the Captain General of Catalonia, an order banishing Durana from the city, under the terms of which he was required to live in Lugo (Galicia). Taking into account the threats of revenge issued by the prisoner, the Court recognised the pre-meditated nature of the murder and Durana was condemned to death. To escape the disgrace of a soldier being executed by being **garrotted**, Durana committed suicide the night before his execution. Nevertheless, faced with the public pressure of those who had travelled to see the execution, his body was brought out and the sentence was carried out on his corpse.

The Tribunal de Corts of 1869 and the pecuniary sentences

In August 1869, the French *Veguer* opened the Trial that was to judge Guillem Areny-Plandolit and Pere Dalleres. Charged with having attempted to compromise the freedom of the Council, Guillem was sentenced to banishment for 6 yeras and to a fine of 22,000 francs by a Court that the ecclesiastical authorities of the Court of the Mithra refused to recognized. Despite the protests of those involved and the attempts by the Bishop to halt the proceedings, in March 1870, the properties embargoed to cover the fine were auctioned. Further, as of 1871, the General Council claimed the 30,000 francs that had been deposited by the Duvivier company in the hands of the Syndic Areny-Plandolit. Once again, some of the family's properties were embargoed to pay the debt. In the 1870s, new speculators stepped in and took the place of the Duvivier company. Carolina Plandolit tried to take advantage of this favourable turn to have her husband's trial reopened but events soon overtook her in this. This time, she came up against the opposition of both co-princes. These troubled times came to a climax during the "Revolution of 1881", when the Revolutionary Council, established by force of arms, took a position that was clearly opposed to the two co-princes and the French government closed the border. Neither in this episode, nor in the resolution of the conflict, initiated with the Treaty of el Pont dels Escalls, did the Areny family play a significant role.

With the disgracing of Guillem, the family had lost its political influence.



ANDORRA - Cuestión progresiva y retrospectiva, "El loro", 1881 (Fons E. Palmijavila).

CHOCOLATE-JUNCOSA
 DE BARCELONA
 Hecho en las mejores condiciones, con leche y cacao de primera calidad. Se que tiene que el chocolate perfecto en cualquiera de sus AGRADABLE, EXQUISITO Y CONFORTABLE DESAYUNO.
 SE VENDE en las principales farmacias y droguerías de España.

EMULSION de SCOTT
 DE AZUFRE Y HIGADO DE BACALAO.
 El mejor remedio para el TUBERCULO, la ANEMIA, la FIEBRE, el RAQUITISMO, el CONSUMO, la GONORRREA, el SIFILIS, etc.

PARFUMERIE-ORIZA L. LEGRAND
 12 OLORES
 Hecho en la Granja de L'Escuria y Parfumería.
 Hecho en la Granja de L'Escuria y Parfumería.
 Hecho en la Granja de L'Escuria y Parfumería.

VOSOR de CAROLLO de Dr. AYER
 Hecho en la Granja de L'Escuria y Parfumería.
 Hecho en la Granja de L'Escuria y Parfumería.
 Hecho en la Granja de L'Escuria y Parfumería.

“...On the grounds that the said noble of Areny is unable to reside continually in the Valleys of Andorra, by dint of the fact that the house wherein he spends the greater part of the year is not in this place...”

ANA/ACAP, Doc. 17,211 Notarial document on the employment of the Reverend Joan Puy, 10/04/1783.



The house and the family

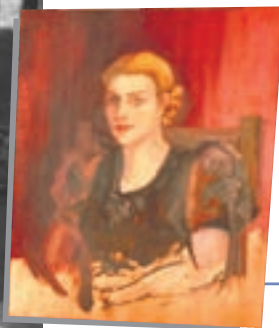
Shops, stores and rooms on the upper floors comprised the house of the Areny family during the 17th and the first half of the 18th centuries. Despite being a large house, it is not particularly different from other fortified houses in the valleys. The move to la Seu d'Urgell meant that the evolution of the building came to a stop. Apart from the occasional stays of the heads of the family, the building was used as the home of the estate administrator and the servants. No money was spent on the house except for the regular maintenance work. This change can be clearly seen in the wills of the family. Prior to the move to la Seu, the eldest sons of the family had always requested to be buried in the family vault in the Chapel of Sant Guillem in the parish church of Ordino. Once established in la Seu, however, they asked to be interred beneath the altar of the Chapel of la Pietat in the cathedral cloister. Later, when the family returned to Ordino, this disposition was abandoned. Since the house was now once more the family residence, important works were set in train in order to confer on it a more aristocratic appearance as befitting the status of the family.

The gardens. A leisure space

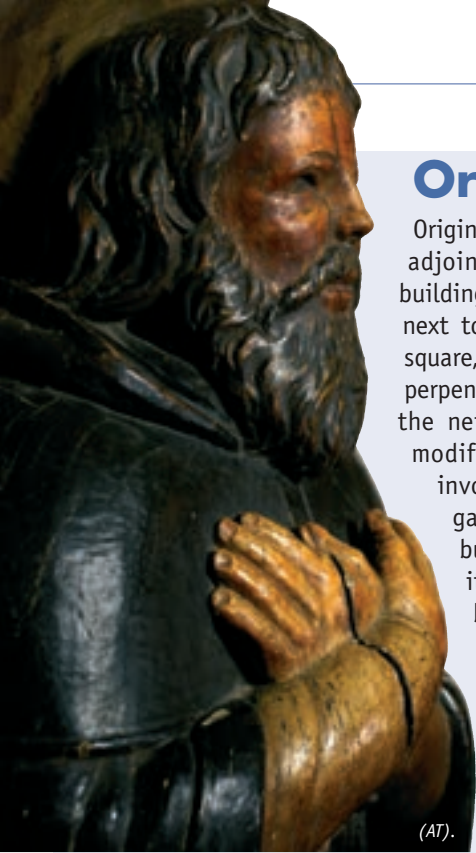
The gardens of the Areny house have one characteristic that is unique in Andorra: they were the first gardens to be conceived of as being merely decorative. The transformation of the space behind

the house involved the area that had previously been vegetable garden, alongside the track to Segudet. The garden was structured in two parts. The first integrated the house into its immediate surroundings and access was gained from the armoury on the first floor. The second, known as the “box garden”, was conceived of as a continuation of the first. Despite a certain linear regularity in the planting, this part of the garden aimed to recreate the “English style”. Its irregular order, the way in which the shape of the garden adapted to the forms of the flanks of the hill and, above all, the creation of spaces that, suddenly, opened up extensive views, as if the valley was a natural extension of the garden, were its main characteristics. Most of the plants used were native to Andorra though mention should be made of the imported plane trees. The present garden is an adaptation of the original project. Amongst other additions, the pieces of iron from the tilt hammers of the forges (hammerheads and pivot rings) were installed as decorative elements.

(ANA/ACAP-34AP25a).



(JP).



Organic architecture

Originally, where the Areny house stands there were two adjoining buildings and an outbuilding. One of the buildings, large and with a rectangular floor plan, stood next to the road, while the other, smaller and almost square, was behind. On either side, two alleys running perpendicular to c/Major separated the two buildings from the neighbouring constructions. The first large-scale modification, at the beginning of the 17th century, involved extending the house northwards (into the garden) following the line of the roof. The larger building absorbed the smaller one, while respecting its construction: the ground floor remains, with its barrel vault ceiling, now the oil cellar and firewood store for the existing house. On the other side, in the angle formed by the two buildings, was a dead space, to which access was gained through a trapdoor in the floor of the first storey. This closed, windowless space, the subject of many legends (that it was a private prison or a hiding place used to escape the followers of Isabel),

was probably used to store the more sensitive goods which could not be left on view.

Each of the lateral façades had its own main door. One of these, that on the eastern side, gave access to the public areas of the house, the stores and the shop. The other, facing the original door of the outbuilding, led to the staircase and the private family areas. Inside the house, a strong wooden door barred the way between the two parts of the house. The **new interior distribution**, effected in the 19th century, makes it impossible to appreciate the organisation of the old building on the other floors of the house. The only remains are to be found in the loft where the niches of the inside dovecote survive, similar to that to be found in the Rossell house.



House first dovecote remains.

"1849"

This is the year that appears on the wrought iron railings of the main façade of the house. The date probably marked the end of the rebuilding works in the 19th century.



(AT).

The new restructuring of the house

Surviving documents tell of two important periods of building work between 1821 and 1849. On the one hand, in front of the outbuilding a new three-storey building was erected, resting partly on the earlier construction. To connect this new building to the old house, a gallery was built that contained the chapel, and that connected with the library and the Baron's chamber. The symmetry of the two buildings was achieved through the similarity of the heights and orientation of the roofs, as well as by the balcony on the new building which mirrored that on the main façade of the old house. Later, at the opposite end of the façade, the alleyway that separated the building from its neighbour was closed. In its place, a three-storey construction was put up that extended the old building. The view of the house from c/Major had changed completely. From being a rectangular house, perpendicular to the street, it had become a large T-shaped building, whose main façade looked onto the road. In addition, on the first floor, a large wrought iron balcony was added running two thirds of the length of the frontage. The creation of this imposing façade closed off access to the property. Thus the doorway sited under the chapel was the only access to the estate and the **garden** became a closed space. The old manor house of the Arenys

had been transformed into the aristocratic residence of the Areny-Plandolits. However, the modifications did not stop in the 19th century, with the current interior of the house dating from around 1930. In the grounds two main phases of building work can be identified: the construction of the **Museum of Natural Sciences** and, later, once the house had been acquired by the General Council (1972), the work done to transform the property into the **Museum** we know today.



(ANA/ACAP-63AP9).

(AT).

The Museum of Natural Sciences

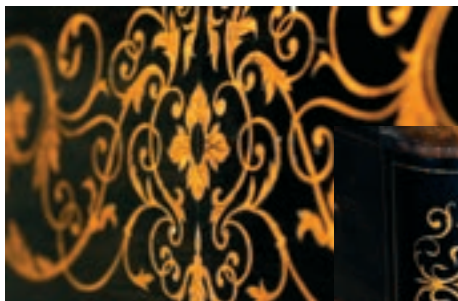
The project for a Museum of Natural Sciences was the brainchild of Pau Xavier, son of Carolina and Guillem d'Areny-Plandolit. Initially, the building projected for the lower end of the box garden, beside the track to Segudet, was to be a hotel. The original plans show a larger edifice with different finishes from that which was finally erected under the orders of the architect Francesc Pifarré. Instead of a hotel, the new building was to house a museum. Pau Xavier had trained as a doctor, practised gynaecology and worked as a dentist. One of his favourite pastimes was taxidermy. His collection was important and contained domestic animals, European species and numerous exotic specimens. This collection, which also included plants and minerals, was exhibited from the early 1930s onwards. Twenty years later, with the death of Pau Xavier, the family decided to close the museum and the collection was sold to the Museum of Anthropology in Barcelona. Subsequently, the building was used as a grain store and for the drying of tobacco before being transformed into the **National Auditorium**.



(ANA/33CR10a).

The laboratory and the photographic collection (IE)

On the second floor of the Areny house there was a study and a photographic laboratory. The first of these has now been transformed into a bedroom, while in the second, it is still possible to see the photographic material that dates back to the first half of the 20th century. Some of the photographic images in the Areny Collection, kept now in the National Archives, came from this laboratory. Most of the photographs were taken by Ramon d'Areny-Plandolit i Gassó and by his father, Pau Xavier. The collection consists of 4,000 negatives, dating from the period 1920-1945, of which 2,000 are on glass plates, mainly passport size portraits, and the rest on cellulose nitrate and diacetate. One of the curious things about the portraits is the way in which the glass plate was put to the greatest possible use. Each one contains the images of at least two people, and on occasions there are four, who were photographed together. When the photos were printed, each portrait was printed separately. The images were captured at the *Farmàcia Internacional* in

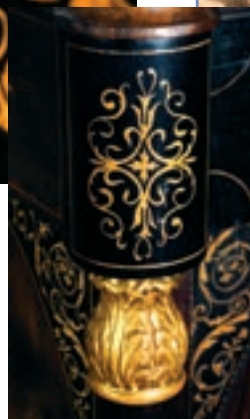


(AT).

Andorra la Vella and the façade of this building is often used as a backdrop. In terms of the rest of the collection, the family, the customs of Andorra, more specifically of Ordino, landscapes, excursions, and travels are the most frequently photographed. The cameras used were one that took 9x12cm plates and another half-plate camera. Most of the photographs taken by Ramon d'Areny-Plandolit i Gassó were captured using the latter.



Inside the Areny museum
(ANA/ACAP-36AP2).



"...it is agreed to acquire the Estate of don Guillem de Plandolit in Ordino..."

Acquisition of the Areny d'Ordino house by the General Council, Agreement of 23/05/1972.

The restoration

The Areny house, which had not been lived in since 1953, was acquired by the General Council of the Valleys of Andorra on 23 May 1972. The house, gardens, the building housing the **Museum of Natural Sciences**, the furniture, furnishings, archives and the works of art, valued at 13 million pesetas, became part of the national heritage. The house and its contents were to be used as the basis for a museum. The first phase of the rehabilitation of the building was undertaken by the Andorran architect Albert Pujal Trullà (1979) and, finally, the works were completed in 1985. The following year, the **Casa d'Areny-Plandolit Museum** was opened. The project drew on a certain romantic tendency and set out to provide the visitor with a vision of the evolution of the house. Various architectural measures were adopted in order to do this. Amongst others, to recreate the two original volumes, the roof of the main wing was divided and the northern part reduced in height. Thus, the main roof level coincided with that of the first building while the

other part corresponded to the extension made in the 17th century. In addition, and following the same logic, an external walkway was opened alongside the lateral façade recalling the old entrance that gave



Areny house (AT).

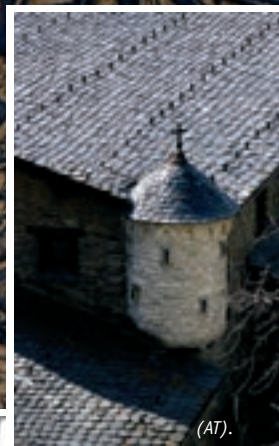
directly onto the street. With this operation, the second entrance to the house, the doorway that had been closed off in the 19th century, was recovered. Apart from the other interventions in the house and its various architectural elements, the dividing walls in the loft space were removed so as to create a single volume that was used to display dioramas showing various landscapes in the Valley of Andorra.



(JC).

The National Auditorium

In 1983 the *Comú* of Ordino organised a festival of classical music that was staged in the parish church. The festival swiftly became consolidated and within a few years the church proved too small for the number of people who wished to attend. Consideration was then given to the possibility of converting the former **museum of natural**



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sciences into a concert hall. The architect José García de Paredes, who had undertaken similar projects in Madrid, Valencia, Zaragoza and Granada, was commissioned to carry out the work. To ensure that the building blended harmoniously with its historic setting, it was decided to preserve the outer walls of the old building. To the outside was added a balcony that ran around all four sides. The spirit of the Ordino festivals is what determined the work done to the interior, with a space being created for small or medium-sized orchestras and soloists. The result is a concert hall with exceptional acoustics and an aesthetic that is minimalist yet intimate and warm. Inaugurated in 1991, the Auditorium is home to the National Chamber Orchestra of Andorra. The half-yearly programmes allow for practically all types of music, including the Narciso Yepes International Festival. Apart from international events, the Auditorium also hosts performances by musicians from the Principality and offers a superb stage for the musicians and singers of the valleys.



(ANA/ACAP-70AP4).



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The Postal Museum (MPM)

Following the success of the exhibition on the history of the postal service of the country, which the Government of Andorra organised in 1982, the possibility was raised of creating a permanent display. Five years later, the Postal Museum opened on the upper floor of the Casa de la Vall, the display being designed by a team from the *Musée de la Poste* in Paris. This installation stayed open until the space it occupied was turned into a meeting room for use in the drawing up of the Andorran Constitution (1991-1993). The Museum was then moved to the Borda del Raser d'Ordino. The building, on the edge of the Areny estate, was not part of the historical group of constructions

that made up the house. Nevertheless, the Museum, opened in 1998, operates in conjunction with the Casa d'Areny-Plandolit Museum. Conceived of as a local museum, it sets out to explain the peculiarities of the postal service in Andorra within the general context of the evolution of communications. In terms of Andorra, the display ranges from the early distribution of messages on foot or horseback to the beginning of the stamped letter service. It also includes themes that are specific to Andorra such as the building of the roads (1916) or the issuing of the first postage stamps (1928-1930). An audio-visual presentation reflects the history of the postal service and contemplates its future as one form of transmitting messages alongside those other new means of communication that reduce distances (telephone, fax, e-mail). It also displays a philatelic collection that includes all stamps issued in Andorra from 1928 to the present day.

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"Museums are here defined as being those permanent, non-profit making, cultural institutions, at the service of the community and its development, that bring together, acquire, conserve, investigate, document, exhibit and disseminate material data on human beings and their surroundings, and elements of our cultural and natural heritage for the purposes of study, education and enjoyment".

Law 9/2003, dated 12 June, on the Cultural Heritage of Andorra (Art. 33, point 1).

The Casa d'Areny-Plandolit Museum (MP)

Following its external restoration, and prior to its opening to the public on 31 March 1986, work was carried out to restore the day rooms and bedrooms of the Museum. The museological project centred on the idea of showing the house of the Areny-Plandolit family as it was remembered by the surviving members, and as it had been seen by their neighbours. The display is intended to illustrate the mid-19th century, at some time around 1866, the year in which Baron Guillem Areny became Syndic of the Valleys of Andorra. The result is a space that creates a very real atmosphere, in which a glimpse can be gained of the noble past of a wealthy family, and of their bourgeois way of life, very different from the norm in Andorra, and only comparable with that lived by the neighbouring Riba family from the Rossell house in Ordino. An example of this can be seen in the sheer number of different rooms the house contains, far from necessary in a rural society. Some of these spaces reflect the hobbies or professions of members of the family while others evoke the intense bourgeois social life the family kept up in Barcelona (music room, Great Hall or ballroom, library, chapel, photographic dark room, dispensary, armoury, games room and bedrooms). Visitors are surprised by the enormous quantity of objects and furniture accumulated by the various members of the family down the centuries, from very different periods and in very diverse styles. These demonstrate the social status of the family and their interests in collecting or in the noble sports (hunting, fencing, boxing). The house is included in the cultural itineraries the **Iron Route** and the **Rural Habitat**, together with the Rull house in Sispony, the Cristo house in Encamp and the Rossell Forge.



Rull house in Sispony.



The Rural Habitat Itinerary and the Iron Route (CY)

The Andorra we know today has lost some of its charm in the face of modernisation, industrialisation, advances in communication and progress in general. Significant changes have been wrought on the landscape and it has become difficult to appreciate the relationship between cultural monuments and their immediate surroundings, affecting in this way our understanding of our heritage. Yet, in addition to preserving this heritage, it is also necessary to manage the flow of tourists. The result is a complicated exercise in maintaining a precarious balance. In an attempt to do this, to preserve and recover those parts of our heritage that are associated with rural life and with iron working while, at the same time, making them more widely known, two initiatives have been taken in recent years: the creation of the Rural Habitat Itinerary and the Iron Route.

The Rural Habitat Itinerary sets out to display the lives of the inhabitants of three Andorran houses, those of a small peasant farmer, a large prosperous farmer, and a noble family, showing how their lifestyles reflected their economic situation and the context within which they lived. The Iron Route offers the visitor the chance to discover the surviving relics associated with the extraction of iron ore, its transformation into metal and its sale. The two itineraries converge at the Areny house, since this was the home of a family of large landowners who, in addition, owned one of the most important forges in the country: the Areny forge. The two routes also form part of longer, cross-border itineraries that run through the Pyrenees.



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Jordi Casamajó,
Great iron truck with splitter (2005) (AT).

Cultural Activities (MPM)

It is indisputable that the function of museums has changed very substantially in recent years. They have gone from being spaces reserved for scholars to living cultural institutions that are at the service of society. Today, they are dynamic places where one can find a wide range of cultural activities on offer for both children and adults. The Casa d'Areny-Plandolit Museum has progressively extended its activities, offering various different ways of enjoying your visit. Guided tours, nocturnal visits, school visits and the school workshops are some of the options now available. Dramatised visits and story readings are some of the newest and most successful products.

The visit enables you to discover the peculiarities of a house, and a noble family, in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and to identify the differences, similarities and the nature of their relations with the rest of Andorran society at that time. The visitor can catch a glimpse of the lives of the Areny-Plandolits and enter into the private world of a family that is both strange to us, yet forms part of our past. Schoolchildren continue to be one of our most loyal groups of visitors. The Educational Workshops are a tool to help them to discover and learn about our heritage. They also allow the children to work all their senses, experiencing aesthetic, affective and intellectual pleasures, as well as making them aware of the importance of preserving our heritage.



(AT).

(AT).

(JP).



Hospital



Noble room

(JP).



Wine cellar

(JP).





Toys room



Library

(JP).



House's hallway

(AT).

KEY WORDS

Air-water-jet pump (cast. Trompa, cat. Trompa, fr. Trompe) Water-powered device, and an element thereof, used in the Catalan forges and some smithies to produce a flow of air blown across the hearth.

Bank born (cast. Borda, cat. Borda, fr. Borde) Building for storing hay, manure, tools and implements, etc. This word is also used to describe an isolated cottage that forms part of a farm.

Bloom (cast. Masa de hierro, cat. Masser, fr. Loupe) Spongy mass of iron and slag produced in the furnace that was then purified by the use of the tilt hammer.

Burel (cast. Burel, cat. Burell, fr. Bure) Coarse woollen cloth.

Castellany (cast. Castellania, cat. Castlania, fr. Châtellenie) The office of the castellan (the governor and administrator of a castle; the land or other property over which the castellan has jurisdiction).

Catalan forge (cast. Ferreria a la catalana, cat. Farga a la catalana, fr. Forge à la catalane) Name given to both a type of forge and the techniques used therein, that was introduced into the eastern Pyrenees in the second half of the 17th century. The basic characteristics were the use of air-water-jet pump to blow air into the furnace, the latter being partially constructed of iron plate, a water-powered tilt hammer for the purifying, and a system of work based on 6 men who produced 4 blooms per day.

Censal mort (cast. Censo muerto, cat. Censal mort, fr. Cens mort) Rights to receive a loan and the consequent obligation to pay, in perpetuity, a fixed annuity to a person and to their descendants in exchange for the capital received.

Commons (cast. Comunal, cat. Comunal, fr. Communaux) Land whose production and use corresponded to all those who resided in the village to which the lands belonged.

Conlloch (cast. Invernil) Contract between a livestock farmer and the owner (or tenant) of pastureland, under which the latter gave access to the herds of the farmer in exchange for a payment per animal.

Counter (cast. Contador, cat. Comptador, fr. Comptoir) Table used by the moneychangers and merchants for the counting of money.

Cristinos Supporters of Maria Cristina of Bourbon-Two Sicilies, the widow of the Spanish King Fernando VII, who opposed the Carlists in the dispute over the succession to the Spanish throne. As Queen-Regent, she acted in the name of her daughter, the future Isabella II, and the brother of the king, Carlos Maria Isidro of Bourbon.

Driveways (cast. Cañada, cat. carrerada, fr. Draille) Track along which the flocks were driven during the transhumance.

Forge (cast. Ferreria, cat. Farga, fr. Forge) Workshop in which the smelting, refining and shaping of iron into bars was undertaken.

Garrotte (cast. Garrote, cat. Garrot vil, fr. Garrot vil) Iron collar that, by means of a screw, can be tightened. This was the means used to execute those who had been condemned to the death penalty.

Head Shepherd (cast. Cabeza de ganado, cat. Cap de ramada, fr. Gardien de troupeau) The overseer of all the shepherds, charged with driving the flock and acting as representative of the owner.

Honourable Citizen (cast. Ciudadano honrado, cat. Ciutadà honrat, fr. Bourgeois honoré) Privilege awarded by some Catalan cities (Barcelona, Perpignan, Vic, etc.) under which the recipient was awarded a statute similar to that of a noble.

Horizontal transhumance (cast. Trashumancia horizontal, cat. Transhumància horitzontal, fr. Transhumance horizontale) Short-distance movement of animals between the valley bottoms (Pre-Pyrenees and Pyrenees) and the high mountain pastures.

Jack (cat. Gorà, fr. Baudet) Male donkey used to cover the mares.

Lluïсме (cat. Lluïсме, cast. Laudemio) Right of the overlord, owner of property subject to leasehold, to receive payment when the leaseholder sells, pledges or mortgages the possessions leased.

Mig guany (cat. Mig guany, fr. Demi-lucre) Agricultural or livestock sharecropping contract under which a person works the land of another, in exchange for half the production.

Molina (cast. Molina, cat. Molina, fr. Mouline) Type of water-powered forge that was used in the eastern Pyrenees until the beginning of the 17th century. In Andorra, this type of installation typically used bellows to blow air into the furnace which was constructed entirely of stone and clay, and a production system using 5 workers who turned out 6 blooms a day. This term was also used for a water-powered sawmill.

Mule (cast. Mulo, cat. Matxo, fr. Bardot) The hybrid offspring of a jackass and a mare.

Piecework (cast. Destajo, cat. Preufet, fr. Tâche -à la-) Work where the price to be paid for a job was fixed in advance.

Pivot ring (cast. Boga, cat. Boga, fr. Hurasse) Large iron ring fitted two thirds of the way along the shaft of the tilt hammer that, thanks to the lugs on either side, served as the rocking axis of the hammer.

Power hammer (cast. Mazo, cat. Mall, fr. Mail) Large water-powered hammer used to purify the bloom of iron.

Purifying (cast. Depuración, cat. Depuració, fr. épuration) Action of working the bloom with the tilt hammer to separate the slag from the iron.

Quèstia Feudal tax. It was introduced in Andorra under the first *Pariatge* (the establishment of the joint sovereignty of the Bishop of Urgell and the Count of Foix) in 1278.

Reduction (cast. Reducció, cat. Reducció, fr. Réduction) Chemical operation that involves eliminating the oxygen in metal oxides in order to obtain pure metal.

Sale with option of repurchase (cast. Carta de gracia, cat. Carta de gràcia, fr. Vente à réméré) Contract of sale under which the seller reserves the right to recover that which has been sold with the obligation to reimburse the fixed price, the costs of the contract and the costs of any improvements made.

Shaft furnace (cast. Horno bajo, cat. Baix forn, fr. Bas foyer) Structure of stone covered with clay, sometimes partially made from iron sheet, used for the smelting of iron ore by the direct process.

Share cropping (cast. Aparceria, cat. Masoveria, fr. Métayage) Métayage contract by which one person is obliged to work the land of another, live on the property, hand over the agreed proportion of its production and act as administrator or representative of the owner.

Shepherd boy (Cast. Rabadán, cat. rabadà) Driver of one or more flocks at the orders of the Head Shepherd.

Sledgehammer (cast. Martinete, cat. Martinete, fr. Martinet) Small water-powered tilt hammer used by the blacksmiths to shape the tools they produced from the iron they bought from the forges. The same name was used in the forges for a water-powered hammer that was smaller than that used to form the metal ingots from the iron obtained through the purifying of the bloom

Teg (cast. Borrego, cat. Borrec) Young sheep, less than one year old, which still has all its milk teeth.

Tithe district (cast. Era, cat. Erada) In the tithe accounts, the area that corresponded to one tithe collector.

Transhumance (cast. Trashumancia, cat. Transhumància, fr. Transhumance) In the Pyrenees, seasonal movement of flocks or herds of animals from the summer grasslands to the winter pastures, and back again at the end of the spring. Two different types of transhumance can be distinguished vertical and horizontal.

Tribunal de Corts Supreme body of the Andorran justice system.

Unredeemable sale (Vendas perpetuas, cat. Vendes perpètuas, fr. Vente perpétuelle) Sale contract under which the seller did not reserve any rights to recover that which was sold.

Vertical transhumance (cast. Trashumancia vertical, cat. Transhumància vertical, fr. Transhumance verticale) Long-distance movement of animals between the high

mountain pastures and the wintering grasslands of the plains.

Wether (cast. Carnero, cat. Moltó, fr. Mouton) Castrated ram, fattened for meat.

Wind box (cast. Caja de aire, cat. Caixa de vent, fr. Caisse à vent) Wooden box, circular or trapezoidal in shape, where the mixture of air and water carried by the air-water-jet pump is separated before the air is blown into the furnace.

Yearling (cast. Primal, cat. Primal) Young sheep or goat, between one and two years old, which has lost its first pair of milk teeth.

Younger (cat. Cabaler, fr. Puîné) Son who is not the heir, normally the second-born who, on marrying or on the death of his parents, receives his inheritance in the form of a sum of money or property.

CHRONOLOGY

1599 First entry in the Account Books of the Areny d'Ordino house, now held in the National Archive of Andorra.

1609 Opening of the first forge at el Serrat (Ordino).

1619 Construction of the forge at el Puntal (Ordino).

1640-1652 War of the *Segadors* (the Reapers).

1669 Guillem Areny Torres buys the Ordino tilt hammer.

1686 Textile shop opened in Tàrrega.

1687 Construction of the second forge at el Serrat.

1702-1714 War of Succession.

1719 French troops take the fortress of Castellciutat.

1720 Guillem Areny Torres knighted by the King of Spain.

1742 Construction of the Picart forge (Encamp).

1750 approx. The Areny family move to la Seu d'Urgell.

1753 Construction of the Areny Forge (Ordino).

1768 As Syndic, Guillem Areny Gallart negotiates the maintaining of Andorran customs privileges.

1788 Carlos IV of Spain comes to the throne.

1789 Abolition of the tithe system in France.

1793-1795 The Great War.

1806 Decree by Napoleon I re-establishing co-sovereignty over Andorra.

1808 Abdication of Fernando VII and Carlos IV, Napoleon names his brother, Joseph, as King of Spain.

1808-1814 War of the French (the Peninsular War).



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1812 Catalonia annexed by France.

1814 Louis XVIII of France comes to power, the first French Restoration.

1815 The “Hundred Days” of Napoleon; return of Fernando VII, introduction of Absolutism in Spain.

1816 Beginning of the second French Restoration.



1817 Fernando VII confirms the Andorran customs privileges.

1820-1823 Constitutional Triennium.

1822 Expedition of the “100,000 Sons of Saint Louis”; royalist insurrection: occupation of la Seu d’Urgell and the constituting of the Regency of Urgell.

1823 Beginning of the “Ominous Decade”.

1827 Revolt of the “Aggrieved”.

1830 Fernando VII of Spain promulgates the “Pragmatic Sanction”; the Revolt of “The Three Glorious Days” and proclamation of the July Monarchy in France (Louis Philippe)

1833 Isabella II crowned in Spain (with Maria Cristina as Queen-Regent)

1837 Abolition of the tithe system in Spain.

1833-1840 First Carlist War.

1842 Reform of the tithe system in Andorra.

1845 Definitive closure of the el Serrat forge and the opening of the Rossell forge.

1847 War of the *Matiners* (the Early Risers) (2nd Carlist War)



1848 Government of the Second Republic formed in France.

1849 First project for the building of a casino in Andorra (Solana del Pas de la Casa).

1852 Beginning of the Second Empire in France (Napoleon III).

1853 Isabella II of Spain confirms Andorran privileges.

1866 Adoption of the *Nova Reforma* (the New Reform). Guillem Maria Areny-Plandolit appointed Syndic. Approval of the Duvivier project for a casino in les Escaldes.

1867 Royal Edict issued by Madrid revoking Andorran customs privileges.

1868 “The Glorious Revolution” and the beginning of the “Six Democratic Years” in Spain. Institutional crisis in Andorra. Napoleon III ratifies the New Reform.

1869 Carlist rising in la Seu d’Urgell.

1872-1876 Third Carlist War.

1871 Paris Commune.

1870-1875 Restoration of the monarchy in Spain and the birth of the Third Republic in France.

1871-1873 Reign of Amadeo I of Savoy in Spain.

1873 Our Lady of Meritxell declared Patron Saint of Andorra by General Council.

1873-1874 First Republic in Spain.

1875 Accession to the throne of Alfonso XII in Spain.

1876 Closure of the Areny (Ordino) and Rossell (la Massana) Forges.

1881 Days of revolutionary unrest in Andorra; the casino concession is granted to Srs. Guibert and Roger.

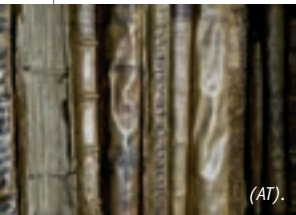
1903 Substitution of the tithe system by a Church Tax in Andorra.

1972 The General Council acquires the Areny-Plandolit house.

1986 Inauguration of the Areny-Plandolit House Museum.

1991 Inauguration of the National Auditorium.

1998 Inauguration of the Postal Museum.



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Casa d'Areny-Plandolit Museum and Postal Museum

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Central booking service:

Tel: +(376) 839 760, reserves.museus@andorra.ad

Opening Hours:

Tuesday to Saturday 9.30 to 13.30 and 15.00 to 18.30.
Sundays and Public Holidays 10.00 to 14.00. Mondays closed.

Public Holidays:

29 June / Festa del Roser d'Ordino (July) / Festa Major in Ordino (September) / 1 and 6 January / 14 March (Day of the Constitution) / 1 May (International Workers Day) / 8 September (Diada de Meritxell) / 25 and 26 December (Christmas Day and Boxing Day).

Services and Activities:

Casa d'Areny-Plandolit Museum: Guided Visits Only (advance booking recommended). School Workshops, Shop.
Postal Museum: Unaccompanied Visits / Guided Visits by prior arrangement / School Workshops / Access for Disabled / Shop.

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