

that we know of from the different counts are all those that were born; it is possible

15. The original dates from 863-874; the document of restitution is from 29 January, 879, (CC VI: 139, 165-166, docs. n° 86, 121): *interpellante eos Sesenando, mandatario de Mirone comite, de cella vel ecclesia Sancti Vincenti cum adiacentias suas, qualiter sua hereditas esse debet per successionem abii sui Bellone* (Abadal, Ramon. *Els primers comtes...*: 19); A few years prior, in a document of Sisenand, the parents of the count Miró I receive mention, specifically his father: *et servitium fecerunt domno Suniefredo comite, genitore seniore meo* (CC VI: 135-136, doc. n° 81; 25 March 874).

16. However, in an analysis of the familial terminology, Le Jan, Régine. *Famille et pouvoir...*: 159-177, demonstrates how the normal, though not exclusive, use of *avus* occurred in reference to the *paternal grandfather*.

17. *a comitibus hisce nominibus Wifredo et fratre eius Mirone et comitibus Olibano et fratre eius Aifredo, comitum [...] nos predicti comites pro Dei amore et remedio animarum nostrarum seu parentum nostrorum*. Here, Wilfred I appears with his brother Miró I of Cerdanya, Oliba II and Acfred of Carcassonne, who are cousins in that they are all common grandchildren of Bello of Carcassonne (CC VI: 133, doc. n° 79).

18. On the patterns and standards of naming, see: Le Jan, Régine. *Famille et pouvoir...*: 179-223, which has an ample bibliography. The uncertainty concerning the older familial relations and the genealogical trees prevents the full use of this methodology in the case of the *Marca Hispanica*. The *Marca* also deserve a new work of synthesis beyond the attempts of Ponsich and Vajay.

19. However, these are names which appear widely in the Catalan counties; see: RAC: I, *Bellus* after 834, and *Wiscafredus* after 870 (the variant *Gisclafredus* appears only once in 812). For example, in a trial presided over by Servusdei, Bishop of Girona (15 March 893), two men named Wifredo and Bellone appear as vassals to count Dela of Empuries (CC V: 120-121, doc n° 84).

20. This is so despite such detailed studies as: Settipani, Christian. *La noblesse du Midi carolingien. Études sur quelques grandes familles d'Aquitaine et du Languedoc du IX^e aux XI^e siècles: Toulousain-Périgord-Limousin-Poitou-Auvergne*. Oxford: Unit for Prosopographical Research, Linacre College, 2004.



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that some did not survive, dying in childhood or adolescence without leaving a documentary trace. In general, we know even less about the maternal families. Consequently, at least for the ninth century, any argument based on transmission and presence of family names must be used with caution.

In this way, we also need to question the observation, formulated by historians contrary to the Abadal hypothesis, that is Ermessenda, the wife of Sunifred I, who must have been the daughter of Bello, because we find the name later in the same Carcassonne family.²¹ Making this claim only displaces, but does not resolve the origin of family names. The fact that the wife of Ramon Borrell is Ermessenda of Carcassonne does not mean that the name would be typical of the family line already at