

A blue-tinted portrait of Camilo de Seide, a man with a mustache and wavy hair, wearing a suit and tie. The portrait is the background for the entire page.A small white crown icon positioned above the letter 'C' in the name 'Camillo'.

Camillo

Rotas do Escritor

A Literary Tour

São Miguel
de Seide

Famalicão





**To the Camilo House, where
all of Portugal resides.**

José Saramago – *Journey to Portugal*.
Author's dedication.

Camilo Castelo Branco
House and Museum, south
elevation (c. 1900).

**The present itinerary seeks to
provide the visitor with an
overview of the historical
centre of the village of São
Miguel de Seide in Famalicão,
including the traces that
remain there of the memory of
Camilo Castelo Branco.**



The novelist's study in the
House in São Miguel de
Seide. Camilo wrote some
of his most important
works at this desk.

41°23'48.9"N
8°27'49.1"W

Camilo Castelo Branco

Lisbon, 16 March 1825
São Miguel de Seide
(Famalicão), 1 June 1890

The writer and his immediate family moved to this quiet village at the gateway to the Minho region in the winter of 1863. The yellow house in Seide came to occupy a position of fundamental importance in the life of the novelist up until his suicide on 1 June 1890, and his study has an extraordinary symbolic value within the universe of Portuguese literature. One specific consequence of Camilo's residence in São Miguel de Seide was that it enabled his great familiarity with the human panorama of the area, as well as with the physical landscape of the Minho. He drew on those experiences regularly in the construction of his fictional universe.

Jorge Camilo Castelo Branco (1863-1900). He suffered from serious mental disturbances, although in his moments of lucidity he showed great flair for drawing and music.



The old, leafy tree located on the left side of the stone staircase that goes from the yard to the first floor was planted by Camilo's "mad" son when he was eight years old. This fact gave rise to the name by which it is known: "Jorge's Acacia Tree". The novelist referred to the tree on several occasions, making special mention of it in the poem, *Durante a febre*. The tree has survived inclement weather and a fire that consumed the building in 1915, and it continues to bloom, seemingly granting Camilo's desire year on year: "When *Jorge's Acacia* flowers once more / Call me, for I'll return in the auras of April."

At an opening in the wall that faces the street, Ana Plácido's Lookout may be found. She would often sit there, smoking her cigar and chatting with the villagers who passed by on the dirt track in front of the house. It is commonly held that some of the stories that were made into fiction by the novelist were based on conversations held at that lookout between Ana Plácido and some of the passers-by whom she knew.



Ana Augusta Plácido (1831-1895). An erudite woman with a strong personality and great sensitivity, whose own literary career was hindered by her unconditional dedication to Camilo and by significant ups and downs within the family.



To the side of the lookout, there is a small granite column that was ordered to be placed there by Ana Plácido to commemorate the visit to Seide by Tomás Ribeiro and António Feliciano de Castilho in 1866. Vieira de Castro's name is also included in the inscription, although he was not actually present due to an unexpected, last-minute occurrence. Camilo pejoratively called it "the stone".

In the main village square, the visitor may sit on the steps of the cross, just as Ana Plácido or the writer would have done, giving out sweets and prattling with the children, or entertaining themselves with the chatter of the farm workers as they returned from their labours.



António Feliciano de Castilho (1800-1875). A prominent name in Portuguese romanticism, who gained the epithet of "Prince of Portuguese Poetry".

Cross in front of the Seide Parish Church.

In March 1925, on the occasion of the celebrations of the First Centenary of the Birth of Camilo Castelo Branco, the newspaper *O Comércio do Porto* presented the Municipal Council of Vila Nova de Famalicão with a bronze bust by the sculptor Henrique Araújo Moreira (1890-1979). It was placed in front of the Council Chambers. After a fire in 1952 that destroyed the offices of the Municipal Council, the bust was transferred in the early 1960s to the square in front of the Church of São Miguel de Seide. The rebuilding of the São Miguel de Seide Parish Church on the site of the original, much smaller church, was funded by



Image of the Archangel Saint Michael, patron saint of the Seide Church.

The novelist's family tomb.



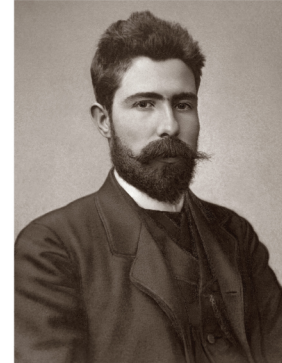
Joaquim José de Sousa Guimarães, an emigrant returning from Brazil who had been born in the parish. Camilo made numerous references to the parish church, oscillating between the humorous and melancholic tones that characterise his writing.

In the São Miguel de Seide parish cemetery, the mortal remains of Camilo Castelo Branco's immediate family are laid to rest: Ana Augusta Plácido (Viscountess of Correia Botelho), their children Jorge Camilo Plácido Castelo Branco and Nuno Plácido Castelo Branco (Viscount of São Miguel de Seide), his daughter-in-law Maria Isabel da Costa Macedo Castelo Branco (the first wife of Nuno), granddaughter Maria Camila (the daughter of Maria Isabel and Nuno), and his friend and the father of Maria Isabel, António Joaquim da Costa Macedo.

The building that now houses the administrative headquarters of the Parish Council of Seide is known as the "Silva Pinto Chalet", or "Nuno's Chalet". It was commissioned in 1882 by António José da Silva Pinto, a well-known writer, journalist, and polemicist, and a close friend of Camilo. Silva Pinto intended to make it his residence, for he wanted to be near Camilo. After he gave up on the project, the house was acquired and the construction completed by Nuno, Camilo's youngest son and the first Viscount of São Miguel de Seide. In the final years of their lives, Camilo and Ana Plácido

lived in the attic rooms of the Chalet, which have since been demolished; the author's wife eventually died there.

The local council has a firm awareness of the value and richness of Camilo Castelo Branco-related heritage in Famalicão, and of the potential benefits for tourism and culture in the region. It also wishes to promote and support research in the field of Camilo Castelo Branco studies, and to create the conditions that enable scholarship, as well as to offer a warm welcome to all those who wish to develop their research in this area, or find out more about Camilo and his work. To this end, the Municipal Council of Vila Nova de Famalicão inaugurated the Centre for Camilo Castelo Branco Studies in 2005. The building was designed by the architect Álvaro Siza Vieira, and provides exceptional conditions for the realisation of activities related to documentation and information management, curating and museography, research and scholarship, cultural events, and tourism.



Nuno Plácido Castelo Branco (1864-1896). He had a reputation for being turbulent and unruly. He became rich through his marriage to, and the death of, his wife Isabel da Costa Macedo, but he wilfully squandered the great wealth that he inherited. After becoming a widower, he began a relationship with Ana Rosa Correia, with whom he had seven children.

Main atrium of the building housing the Centre for Camilo Castelo Branco Studies.



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