

ACA, Cancillería, Reg. 1751, f. 98v — Compulsory Mandate of Joan I regarding Bernadona Vines

Document Summary

Field	Details
Archive	Arxiu de la Corona d'Aragó (ACA), Cancillería
Register	Reg. 1751, f. 98v
Document type	Compulsory mandate (<i>compulsòria</i>)
Language	Catalan
Issuer	Joan I of Aragon
Addressees	Mossen Garcia de Loriz and en Francesc Vives, bailiffs (<i>batlles</i>) [?]
Subject	Command to deliver Bernadona, <i>pubilla</i> (minor ward), daughter and heiress of the late Bernat Vines, resident of Valencia, to the Governor of Valencia; the addressees are accused of concealing her (<i>tenits amagadament</i>)
Date	Barcelona, April 3, 1387
Subscription	El Rey En Johan

Reconciled Transcription

[Rubric:] Bernadona filla d'en Bernat Vines q[uon]d[a]m

[Body:]

En Johan als amats e feels nostres mossen Garçia de Loriz e en Ffrancesch Vives b[at]lles [?] de part [?] salut e dileccio. Havets sabut per d'altres lletres nostres com vos haja molt recomanada [?] e ab grans prec[s] [?] instat [?] l'on[ra]t [?] al Governador de València na Bernadona pubilla filla e hereva de [en] Bernat Vines q[uon]d[a]m habitador de València la qual vosaltres tenits amagadament no contrastant q[ue] d'[i] respon[guéss]ets [?] aquella si[ats?] p[er] [pro]curar [?] de lo dit de guarda al qual vos dits fermam[en]t e vos cada any fats [?] tot d'enguany empesa [?] ab p[er]s[on]a o ja per res[ti]tu[ir] aquella vostre vegada d'enguany

no fossets empero tro [si no?] d'aquells [?] volgu[ess]en [?] la [dita?] pena e ali[s?] [?] pe[n]s [?] d'uns [?] d'[uns?] [?] comayo [?] E com en [?] [nits?] promet[ey]s no reguardant [?] res alguna cosa q[ue] per [?] q[ue] [la nostra?] obidiença e nostres manam[en]ts perdits e mana [?] trespas[eu?] e d'[ací a una?] s[e]t[mana?] per a encorriment de la nostra ira q[ue] a [?] e indignació e pena de [mil?] morabatins [?] d'or vista la present lliurets la dita Bernadona al dit Governador o a qu[e]n ell voldrà y a [la?] [d'altra?] mana [?] certificat [?] vos q[ue] nos mandem al dit Governador per[a] per q[ue] per[a] la [?] car [si?] [d'?]ab[an]s vos fing[ue]s [?] e fés [?] e ffreus [?] e bé y guad[eu?] vos trists nos per man[ament?] q[ue] de vostra inobidiença portar[eu]ts la pe[n]a [?] q[ue] [n'esperts?] [?] Q[ue] nos mays [?] q[ue] vos te [?] peno o q[ue] d'ací sia remès [?] far[e?] [?] f[e]t [ab?] [en?] vos bens seus e ingressa [?] vergunya [?] E la d[ita?] [?] n[ost]re [?] [core?] [enada?] e [gua?]rda atrobar e d'al[tre] per[mès?] ne pen[a]t [?] [serve?] Dada en Barch[inon]a a III dies d'abril en l'any del naissam[en]t de nostre senyor M CCC LXXX VII. El Rey En Johan.

English Translation

Joan,¹ to our beloved and faithful mossen Garcia de Loriz² and en Francesc Vives, bailiffs [?]³ of [part?],⁴ greetings and affection.

You have known through other letters of ours how we have greatly commended [?]⁵ and with great entreaties urged the honorable [?]⁶ Governor of Valencia⁷ [concerning] Bernadona, ward,⁸ daughter and heiress of the late Bernat Vines,⁹ resident of Valencia, whom you hold in hiding,¹⁰ notwithstanding that you should have answered [?] concerning her [and that you] are [to be] held accountable [?] for the said guardianship, to which you said firmly [that you are bound], and you each year do [?] all of this year's [obligations] [...]¹¹ with [some] person or [at least] to restore [?] her in your turn this year — you were not [willing?]; however, until those [same obligations?] wished [?] the said penalty and other penalties [?] [...]¹²

And since [...] not regarding anything [pertaining to?] our obedience and our commands aforesaid, and [you] transgress [our mandate?], and [within?] [one week?]¹³ [in order] to [avoid] incurring our wrath and indignation and a penalty of [one thousand?]¹⁴ gold morabatins,¹⁵ upon seeing the present [letter], deliver the said Bernadona to the said Governor or to whomever he wishes, and [in any other manner?]¹⁶

[We] certify [?] to you that we [shall/will] command the said Governor [on his part?] [to?] [...],¹⁷ for if before [now] you feigned [compliance?] and did [?] [...] and well you [know?] [...], wretched [as you are],¹⁸ do not [think?] that from your disobedience you will bear the penalty, [for those who are experienced know?] that [...] we shall act [?] upon her said goods and [enter into?]¹⁹ [...]

shame [?]. And the said [...] our [...] guardianship to find/recover [?] and otherwise [?] [...] shall not [be] unpunished [?].

Given at Barcelona,²⁰ the third day of April in the year of the birth of our Lord one thousand three hundred eighty-seven.²¹ The King, En Joan.

Footnotes

Unresolved Ambiguities

1. **"batlles de part [?]" (L2):** The office or jurisdictional designation of the addressees remains unclear. Is *de part* a truncated place name, a jurisdictional qualifier, or an error? If *batlles* is itself correctly read, what specific bailiff's office is intended? Archival verification needed.
2. **"recomanada... prec... instat" vs. "expressament... penes... manat" (L2-3):** The rhetorical register of the prior communications is uncertain. Were the addressees previously *entreated* or *commanded*? This affects interpretation of the escalatory structure. Resolvable at the manuscript.
3. **"l'onrat" (L3):** If correctly read, who does this honorific modify — the Governor, or another party? The syntax of L3-4 could support either reading.
4. **Narrative middle section (L6-10):** The circumstances of non-compliance remain substantially illegible. Both readings are garbled through this stretch. Archival verification is essential for any attempt to reconstruct the specific legal and procedural narrative.
5. **Penalty denomination (L13):** *Morabatins d'or* or *lliures monedes d'or*? The amount (*mil* = 1000, if correctly read) is plausible in either case, but the denomination affects our understanding of the fine's real value.
6. **Enforcement provisions (L16-20):** The specific enforcement mechanisms and the closing provisions remain partially illegible. The threat of property seizure (*bens seus*) and shame (*vergunya*) is discernible, but the full legal content of these clauses cannot be reliably reconstructed from either reading.
7. **Identity of the Governor of Valencia (April 1387):** The governor to whom Bernadona is to be delivered requires prosopographical identification. This figure's identity may illuminate the political context of the wardship dispute.
8. **Bernat Vines — prosopographical identification:** Beyond his status as a deceased resident of Valencia and father of an heiress requiring a formal *pubilla* wardship, nothing further is known from this document. His social position and the nature/value of Bernadona's inheritance could shed light on why the addressees are actively concealing her.

1. Joan I of Aragon (r. 1387–1396). The abbreviated intitulation "En Johan" without the full royal style ("per la gràcia de Déu Rei d'Aragó, de València...") is typical of less formal mandates and internal administrative correspondence. The HTR supplied the full titulature, but the manuscript does not appear to contain it — likely a hallucination from trained formulaic expectations. ↵
2. Garcia de Loriz. The toponym "Loriz" (or "Lorís") likely refers to a lineage from the Aragonese locality of Lorís/Lóriz. The name Garcia is standard in Aragonese-Catalan nomenclature of the period. The honorific *mossen* (from Fr. *monseigneur*) marks him as a knight. ↵
3. The word here is tentatively read as *batlles* (bailiffs), following the HTR. The reading is not fully certain from the manuscript. If correct, Garcia de Loriz and Francesc Vives hold a bailiff's office with custodial jurisdiction — which would explain their authority over Bernadona as ward. ↵
4. The phrase "de part" remains unresolved. It could indicate a jurisdictional subdivision (*batlles de part* = bailiffs of a *part* or district), or it could be an abbreviated place name. The formulation *batlle de part* does not correspond to a standard Valencian office title that I can identify. Flag for archival verification. ↵
5. The verb in this clause is uncertain. The reconciled transcription tentatively reads *recomanada* (commended/entrusted) following the HTR, but the alternative reading *expressament ... manat* (expressly commanded) is also formulaically plausible. The distinction matters: "commended" implies Joan I previously *requested* compliance, while "commanded" implies a prior direct order. The escalatory structure of the document — moving from prior communications to a now-explicit command with penalties — is consistent with either reading. ↵
6. The syntax of this passage is difficult. The role of *l'onrrat* (the honorable), if correctly read, is unclear — it may modify the Governor or may be part of a longer phrase describing the circumstances of the prior communication. ↵
7. The Governor of Valencia (*Governador de València*) was the Crown's chief representative in the kingdom of Valencia, exercising broad judicial and administrative authority including jurisdiction over wardships and the protection of minors. The governor in April 1387, early in Joan I's reign, requires prosopographical verification. ↵
8. Catalan *pubilla*: a minor female heir who inherits in the absence of male siblings. The term carries specific legal implications under Catalan civil law (*dret civil català*), including mandatory guardianship and restrictions on alienation of the patrimony until majority. ↵

9. Bernat Vines, identified as *quondam* (the late) and *habitador de València* (resident of Valencia). The rubric confirms his status as deceased. His daughter Bernadona is his heiress (*hereva*). His precise social standing — whether a minor office-holder, merchant, or artisan — is not indicated by the document beyond his residency. Both the initial transcription and the HTR misread "Vines" as "Reus," confusing the V for an R in the secretary hand. ↵
10. Catalan *amagament*: secretly, in a concealed manner. This is the most striking word in the document. The king accuses the addressees — who are apparently the appointed guardians or custodial officials — of *hiding* Bernadona from the Governor's authority. This implies active concealment rather than mere bureaucratic delay, and suggests a contested wardship, possibly motivated by control over the pupilla's patrimony. ↵
11. Lines 6–9 of the transcription remain substantially garbled in both the initial transcription and the HTR output. The general sense appears to be: despite the addressees' acknowledged guardianship duties (which they affirm or renew annually), and despite opportunities to restore Bernadona to the Governor's jurisdiction, they have failed or refused to do so. The precise legal and narrative content of this passage requires archival verification. ↵
12. The passage from approximately "no fossets" through "comayo" (transcription lines 9–10) is the most opaque stretch in the document. Neither reading produces a fully continuous or parseable text. The sense appears to involve penalties and conditions that were previously imposed but not heeded. ↵
13. The reading *setmana* (week) is tentative. If correct, this establishes a one-week deadline for compliance from the date of receipt — a standard feature of escalated compulsory mandates. ↵
14. The amount of the penalty is uncertain. The HTR reads *mil lliures monedes d'or* (one thousand pounds in gold coin); the initial transcription read *morabatins d'or* (gold morabatins). One thousand morabatins (or one thousand lliures) in gold represents a very substantial fine, consistent with the gravity of concealing a royal ward from the Governor's jurisdiction. ↵
15. The *morabatí d'or* (gold morabatin, Lat. *morabetinus auri*) was a unit of account widely used in penalty clauses in Crown of Aragon documents. By the late fourteenth century it functioned primarily as a fine denomination rather than a circulating coin, with a standard equivalence to other monetary units established by local custom. ↵
16. The phrase tentatively read as "y a la d'altra mana" or similar likely conveys "and in any other manner [that may be required]" — a formulaic extension of the delivery command ensuring compliance by any means. ↵

17. The passage beginning "certificat vos que nos mandem al dit Governador" (we certify to you that we command the said Governor) appears to inform the addressees that the Crown is simultaneously instructing the Governor on his end — presumably to receive Bernadona and take custody. This parallel notification is standard in compulsory mandates involving multiple jurisdictional actors. ↵
18. The word *trists* (wretched, miserable) appears to be a rhetorical characterization of the addressees — a note of royal displeasure typical of escalated compulsory letters. The tone is admonitory: "wretched [as you are], do not imagine that your disobedience will go unpunished." ↵
19. The closing enforcement provisions (transcription lines 18-21) threaten action against the ward's goods (*bens seus*) and invoke *vergunya* (shame/dishonor). The full content remains partially illegible, but the overall sense is clear: continued non-compliance will result in seizure of property, public disgrace, and further penalties. The reference to recovering the guardianship (*guarda atrobar*) may indicate the Crown's intention to reassign custody if the addressees remain recalcitrant. ↵
20. Barcelona. Joan I's presence at Barcelona in early April 1387 is consistent with the early weeks of his reign; Pere III died on January 5, 1387, and Joan I's initial itinerary centered on Barcelona and its environs as he consolidated his succession. ↵
21. April 3, 1387. The dating formula uses the Nativity style (*any del naissament de nostre senyor*), with the year beginning on December 25. Under this reckoning, April 3, 1387 corresponds unambiguously to April 3, 1387 in the modern calendar (no adjustment needed, as April falls after both the Nativity and the Annunciation). ↵