

## ChatGPT Version 5.2 Thinking

April 10, 2026

I need help with finding information about two military leaders in 1387 in the Crown of Aragon. One is Galceran de Villaneuva and the other is Ximen Perez d'Arenos. I have a document from King Joan I of Aragon that places one or both of these men in Castile and/or Sardinia. Can you find any mention of them in the historical record in academic secondary sources?

I'm checking both names in academic and archival-oriented scholarship, and I'll focus on sources that either mention them directly or place them in the 1386–1388 Castile/Sardinia context. If you have the exact wording or ACA reference from Joan I's document, that could help pin down which campaign or embassy the letter refers to, but I can still proceed without it.

I've already found one strong lead: Ximen Pérez d'Arenós appears in Sardinian scholarship as a royal lieutenant in January 1387, with a direct ACA chancery citation. I'm now trying to triangulate that with more conventional academic publications and to see whether Galceran de Villanueva appears in the same military or administrative network.

Thought for 2m 5s

Yes. I found solid academic-secondary evidence for **Ximen Pérez d'Arenós** in **Sardinia**, and good evidence that your "**Galceran de Villaneuva**" is very likely **Galceran de Vilanova / Villa Nova**, also active in **Sardinia** in the same period. I did **not** find equally solid secondary evidence yet for either man in **Castile** specifically in 1387.

For **Ximen Pérez d'Arenós**, the clearest result is that modern Sardinian scholarship places him in royal command on the island in 1387. Alessandro Soddu's 2024 article on the peace of 1388 states that Joan I entrusted the negotiations to "**il governatore Ximén Pérez d'Arenós**" and adds that he had been **appointed governor on 16 January 1387**. The same article shows him acting as the king's chief representative in the peace process with Eleonora d'Arborea and Brancaleone Doria.

A second, independent scholarly confirmation comes from Fabio Cocco's article on the royal lieutenancy in Sardinia, which lists the royal lieutenants of the kingdom and includes "**Ximen Perez de Arenos**" with a direct archival citation to **ACA, Canc., reg. 1939, f. 112, 16 January 1387**. That makes the Sardinian identification very strong.

For **Galceran de Villaneuva**, the most plausible scholarly match is **Galceran de Vilanova**. Angelo Castellaccio's study of justice in Alghero states that **Galceran de Vilanova** took over as **vicario of Alghero on 24 August 1387**, citing ACA fiscal-administrative material. Soddu's 2024 article then places Galceran de Vilanova directly inside the 1388 Sardinian peace settlement: he appears among the men involved in the exchange surrounding Brancaleone Doria's release, and he and Rodrigo Lançol are specifically described as receiving the money paid by Eleonora under the peace terms.

So, based on the secondary literature I could verify, the strongest reconstruction is this: **Ximen Pérez d'Arenós was Joan I's governor / chief royal representative in Sardinia beginning in January 1387**, while **Galceran de Vilanova was also in Sardinia by late 1387 and involved in the administration and implementation of the 1388 settlement**. That fits very well with a Joan I document that places one or both men in a Sardinian military-political context.

The best sources to consult are:

#### **For Ximen Pérez d'Arenós**

- Fabio Cocco, *La luogotenenza regia nel regno di Sardegna in età aragonese* (Acta historica et archaeologica mediaevalia, 2005).
- Alessandro Soddu, *Il trattato di pace tra Giovanni I d'Aragona ed Eleonora d'Arborea del 1388–1390* (Pandemos, 2024).

#### **For Galceran de Vilanova**

- Angelo Castellaccio, *L'Amministrazione della giustizia nella città di Alghero durante il dominio aragonese* — for the notice that Galceran de Vilanova became vicario of Alghero on 24 August 1387.
- Alessandro Soddu, *Il trattato di pace...* again, for Galceran's role in the hostage/money arrangements tied to the peace.

My main caution is on the spelling: your document's "**Villaneuva**" is very likely a vernacular or scribal form for **Vilanova/Villa Nova**, not necessarily a different person. Also, while I found strong Sardinian evidence, I did not uncover a comparably strong academic citation connecting either man to **Castile** in 1387 from this search.

If you paste the exact line from Joan I's document, I can help identify whether it points to the **Sardinian war**, a **Castilian mission**, or a **transit between the two**.

I'm going to paste in the letter from Joan I of Aragon to Juan I of Castile. The transcription is mostly correct, but I am confused about who Joan is asking Juan to send. Please help me figure out what is happening in regard to Galceran Vilanova and Ximen Pérez d'Arenós. Rey muy caro hermano Nos el Rey Daragon vos embiamos mucho a saludar como aq[ue]ll pa q[ui]en querriamos q[ue] dios diesse tanta vida salut e honrra q[ua]nta vos mesmo q[ue]riades Rey muy caro hermano. Por q[ue] segund nos hauemos s[ab]ido mosen Galda[n] de villanueva ha ayr en Cerdanya co don ximen perez darenos el qual embiamos alla co ciertas gentes darmas neccessariame[n]t e no q[ue]m sino porel d[i]c[h]o mosen Galdan Rogamos vos Rey h[er]ma[n]o muy affectuosame[n]t q[ue] luego nos lo embiedes e le pagades mediant[r]e q[ue] Jornadas continuadas vienga a quy de guisa q[ue] no tome escusacio[n] por algun embargo q[ue] le sea feyto de p[ar]t v[uest]ra. Et si algunas co[s]as Rey muy caro hermano vos plazen q[ue] fagamos por honrra v[uest]ra embiad nos lo a dezir e complir lo hemos de buen talent. Dat[a] en Barc[elon]a dez n[uest]ro siello s[e]c[re]to a.xv. dias d'abril del Anyo 1387.

I've got the core syntax now. The key issue is that the letter is not asking Juan I to send both men; it is almost certainly asking him to send back **one** man, and the grammar strongly suggests that man is **Mossèn Galceran/Galdan de Vilanova**.

Thought for 8s

What Joan is asking for is most likely this:

**He wants Juan I of Castile to send back Mossèn Galceran de Vilanova immediately, because Joan has sent Ximen Pérez d'Arenós to Cerdanya with troops and needs Galceran there with him.**

The crucial part is this passage:

**mosen Galdan de villanueva ha ayr en Cerdanya co don ximen perez darenos el qual embiamos alla co ciertas gentes darmas neccessariame[n]t e no q[ue]m sino porel d[i]c[h]o mosen Galdan Rogamos vos ... q[ue] luego nos lo embiedes**

A normalized reading would be roughly:

*...mossèn Galceran de Vilanova has to go to Cerdanya with don Ximen Pérez d'Arenós, whom we are sending there with certain men-at-arms, necessarily, and we want none other than the said mossèn Galceran [for that purpose]. Therefore we affectionately ask you ... that you send him to us at once...*

### How the grammar works

The hardest point is the antecedent of “**el qual**.”

In context, “**el qual**” most naturally refers to **don Ximen Pérez d'Arenós**, not to Galceran.

So the syntax is:

- **mosen Galdan de villanueva ha ayr en Cerdanya co don ximen perez darenos**  
= “Mossèn Galceran de Vilanova has to go to Cerdanya with don Ximen Pérez d'Arenós”
- **el qual embiamos alla co ciertas gentes d'armas**  
= “whom we are sending there with certain men-at-arms”

That makes excellent sense if **Ximen** is the commander already being dispatched by Joan.

Then:

- **e no q[ue]m sino porel d[i]c[h]o mosen Galdan**

This is the trickiest phrase, but the sense is something like:

- “and [we want] no one except / none other than the said mossèn Galceran [for this]”
- or idiomatically: “and we want specifically the said Mossèn Galceran [to accompany him]”

The next line confirms that **Galceran** is the man being requested from Juan:

- **Rogamos vos ... q[ue] luego nos lo embiedes**  
= “We ask you ... that you send him to us at once”

The singular **lo** points to one person just mentioned as the object of the request, and that is best understood as **Galceran**, because Ximen is already someone Joan says **he himself is sending**.

### Best overall interpretation

Here is the most plausible translation of the operative section:

Because, as we have learned, Mossèn Galceran de Vilanova must go to Cerdanya with don Ximen Pérez d'Arenós, whom we are sending there with certain men-at-arms out of necessity, and we want no one other than the said Mossèn Galceran [to accompany him / serve in that matter], we affectionately ask you, very dear brother, that you send him to us at once, and pay him meanwhile, so that by continuous stages he may come here, in such wise that he may take no excuse on account of any hindrance done to him on your part.

### **What is happening politically**

The letter seems to imply this sequence:

1. **Joan I is sending Ximen Pérez d'Arenós to Cerdanya** with armed men.
2. **Galceran de Vilanova is presently with, or under the control/service of, Juan I of Castile.**
3. Joan wants **Galceran released and sent back immediately.**
4. Joan emphasizes that **Galceran is specifically needed to go with Ximen.**
5. Joan even asks Juan to **pay him in the meantime** so that he can travel back without delay:
  - **“e le pagades mediantre”** = likely “and pay him in the meantime”
6. The phrase about “no tome escusacion” means Joan wants no administrative or financial obstacle to delay him.

### **Two important paleographic/linguistic notes**

First, I suspect your “**ha ayr**” is basically “**ha a ir**” or “**ha d'anar / ha de ir**” in sense:

- “has to go”

Second, “**no q[ue]m sino porel d[i]c[h]o mosen Galdan**” is probably the most corrupt or uncertain part of the transcription. But even if a few letters are off there, the broader logic of the sentence is still pretty clear:

- **Ximen is being sent by Joan**
- **Galceran is the one Joan is asking Juan to send back**

### **So, in direct answer to your question**

Joan is **not** asking Juan I to send **Ximen Pérez d'Arenós**.

He is asking Juan I to send **Galceran de Vilanova** back to him, because **Galceran needs to go to Cerdanya with Ximen Pérez d'Arenós**, whom Joan is already dispatching with troops.

If you want, I can next give you:

1. a fully normalized transcription of the whole letter, or
2. a polished English translation line by line.