

# ACA, Cancillería, Reg. 1751 (?), fol. 147r

## Document Summary

Field	Details
Document type	Letter of intercession ( <i>littera deprecatoria</i> )
Issuer	Queen Violant de Bar, consort of Joan I of Aragon
Recipient	Unnamed ecclesiastical dignitary with collation rights (possibly a bishop or cathedral chapter officer)
Subject	Provision of an ecclesiastical portion ( <i>porcio</i> ) for Pascasius Servario, cleric of the queen's chapel
Date	Barcelona, 13 April 1387
Language	Latin (non-classical chancery register)
Scribe	V. de Ponte
Hand	Gothic secretarial ( <i>littera bastarda</i> ), rapid, heavily abbreviated

## Reconciled Transcription

Dudum benissimus et magnificus princeps ac dominus dominus Johanes dei gracia Aragon Rex dominus et vir nostre precarissimus et nos utiquae in favorem dilecti nostri Pascasii Servario clerio de sua Capella boniis nostris letris vobis scripimus [vob] quae vosquae deprecandum duximus quatenus de aliqua ex porcionibus Ecclesiae Bernardo Pere de Castellario suis et nostris intercessionibus et cetera et contemplacione Pascasio ipsi provideretorum. Vos non hoc facere disculistis utiquae et dilatatis quod nobis ad aliqualem dedecus reputamus cum vos de duatus vel pluribus ex ipsius porcionibus duobus picoris minus abilibus et in etate non pervectis post dictarum domini viri nostri et nostrarum letrarum recepcionem collacionem feceritis. Sane cum dicti Pascasiii proniocio multum insidat cordi nostro vos iteracio ducimus instatissimum deprecandum quatenus visis presentibus ob dei sui quae reverenciam meritum atquae nostram contemplacione prefato Pascasio in propio [?] obtentu de aliqua ex porcionibus tunc fieri vel de super nomine Pascasio mox providere velitis ita nempe quae magnum porcionum eidem fieri ostendat non sit eidem proprium compleri. Hoc quippe ipsi domino meo atquae nobis adveniet summe gratum per quo volumus exemplo suo casu ad gratiam nostram liberales at promptos nos

obligabimus ad ea quae vestris commodis et honore respiciant. Amplius nos temer quid nostri contemplacione super hiis egritis nobis vestris letris rescribatis. Data Barchinone xiiij die aprilis anno a nativitate domini Millesimo CCC<sup>o</sup> lxxx<sup>o</sup> septimo. Servata vostre reverencie per me V. de Ponte.

---

## Annotated English Translation

Previously, the most gracious and magnificent prince and lord, lord Joan, by the grace of God King of Aragon,(1) lord and our most dear husband, and we ourselves — both of us, indeed, in favor of our beloved Pascasius Servario,(2) cleric of his chapel(3) — wrote to you by our good letters, and we saw fit to beseech you that from some of the portions(4) of the church of Bernardo Pere de Castellario,(5) by his and our intercessions and by [our] regard, you should provide for Pascasius himself. You did not do this; indeed, you delayed and put it off, which we consider to be somewhat of a disgrace,(6) since you — from two or more of those same portions — made the collation to two persons of lesser [quality], less capable, and not advanced in age,(7) after having received the said letters of our lord husband and ourselves.

Since the advancement of the said Pascasius sits very much in our heart, we lead you again most insistently to beseech [you] that, upon seeing the present [letter], out of reverence for God and for his [Pascasius's] merit and our regard, you be willing to provide for the aforesaid Pascasius in his own right(8) [?] from some of the portions then to be made, or over and above [those], in the name of Pascasius, forthwith — provided, however, that it not appear that a great [number] of portions is being assigned to him, nor that it be his own to hold in full.(9)

This will indeed be most pleasing to my lord(10) himself and to us, on account of which we wish — by [this] example, in his case — to be generous toward our grace, and [you], ready and willing, shall oblige us toward those things which concern your advantage and honor. Moreover, we fear [to learn] what you will have done on account of our regard in these matters; write back to us by your letters.(11)

Given at Barcelona, the 13th day of April, in the year of the Nativity of the Lord one thousand three hundred and eighty-seven.(12) With respect to your reverence, by me, V. de Ponte.(13)

---

## Footnotes

1. Joan I acceded to the throne on 5 January 1387 upon the death of Pere III (IV). This letter dates from only three months into his reign. The form *Aragon Rex* without further territorial enumeration is notable — the full titlature (*Rex Aragonum, Valentiae, Maioricarum, Sardiniae et Corsicae, Comesque Barchinonae, Rossilionis et Ceritaniae*) is omitted, likely because Joan is being referenced rather than issuing the letter himself.

2. Pascasius Servario: a cleric of the royal chapel. His surname may alternatively be read *Seruano*. He does not appear to be otherwise well attested; further prosopographical investigation in the ACA registers may clarify his identity and career. The form *clerio* for *clericus* reflects the scribe's non-standard orthography throughout this document.
3. The manuscript reads *sua Capella* ("his chapel"), referring to Joan I's chapel rather than Violant's. This positions Pascasius as a member of the king's household clergy for whom the queen is also interceding — a characteristic example of the joint royal patronage exercised by Joan and Violant in the early months of the reign.
4. *Porcionibus*: ecclesiastical portions (*portiones*), i.e., shares of revenue attached to a church or prebend, distinct from full benefices. The term is consistently spelled *porcionibus* in this document rather than the more standard *portionibus*.
5. Bernardo Pere de Castellario: the person whose church or benefice has portions available for collation. The name is Catalan in form (*Bernat Pere de Castellar?*). He may be the incumbent or patron of the church in question. His precise identity and the church involved remain unidentified.
6. *Dedecus*: a remarkably strong term — "disgrace" or "dishonor" — rather than the milder *tedium* that might be expected in diplomatic correspondence. Violant is expressing sharp displeasure that the recipient ignored a joint royal-queenly request. This tone is consistent with other known examples of Violant's assertive epistolary style.
7. The passage is pointed: the recipient bypassed Pascasius and instead conferred the portions on two candidates whom Violant characterizes as inferior (*picoris minus abilibus*) and young (*in etate non pervectis*). The implication is that these were less deserving candidates who should have waited, while Pascasius — presumably older and more meritorious — was passed over despite royal intercession.
8. *In proprio obtentu*: the reading is uncertain. If correct, it means "in his own right" or "for his own benefit," distinguishing a personal grant from one held in commendam or vicarially.
9. This caveat is diplomatically interesting: Violant explicitly reassures the recipient that she is not seeking an excessive accumulation of benefices for Pascasius. This may address concerns about pluralism, or it may be a rhetorical softening of what is otherwise a very forceful demand.
10. *Domino meo*: "my lord" — Violant's reference to Joan I shifts here from the third-person titlature of the opening (*dominus dominus Johanes*) to the more intimate possessive. This is typical of queenly correspondence where the king is invoked both as sovereign authority and personal partner.
11. *Nos temer quid ... egritis*: "we fear [to learn] what you will have done." The future perfect *egritis* (for classical *egeritis*) combined with *temer* carries an implicit threat — Violant

wants a written reply and is signaling that continued non-compliance will have consequences.

12. 13 April 1387. The court is at Barcelona, consistent with the early months of Joan I's reign when the new king established himself in the Catalan capital.
  13. V. de Ponte: the scribe or notary who wrote or registered the letter. Possibly identifiable as Vidal de Ponte or a similar figure in the chancery staff. The formula *seruata vostre reverencie* ("with respect preserved to your reverence") confirms the addressee is a high-ranking ecclesiastic. The *per me* indicates V. de Ponte is the registering scribe rather than the authorizing official.
- 

## Unresolved Ambiguities

1. **Addressee:** The recipient is not named in the surviving text. The *seruata vostre reverencie* formula and the authority to collate portions indicate a bishop, archdeacon, or chapter dignitary. The identity of the church of Bernardo Pere de Castellario might help identify the addressee.
2. **Line 10, *in propio obtentu*:** The reading remains uncertain. Other possibilities include *in primo obtentu* ("at the first opportunity") or *in proximo obtentu* ("at the next [vacancy] obtained").
3. **Pascasius Servario:** The surname is not fully certain — *Servario*, *Seruano*, and *Servano* are all defensible paleographic readings. His further career and any subsequent provisions should be traceable in later registers.
4. **Bernardo Pere de Castellario:** Unidentified. The relationship between this figure and the church or portions in question is unclear — patron, incumbent, or former holder?
5. **Register and folio identification:** The register number is not confirmed in the image. The folio is tentatively identified as 147r based on the uploaded filename.
6. **Line 11, *magnum porcionum ... proprium compleri*:** The exact sense of the caveat remains ambiguous. It may mean (a) that the provision need not be a large one, (b) that it should not appear that Pascasius is accumulating multiple portions, or (c) that the provision need not be permanent/proprietary.
7. **Line 5, *disculistis*:** Unusual form. Likely a variant of *distulistis* ("you delayed/deferred"), but the orthographic shift *-st-* > *-sc-* is not standard and may warrant further checking against the manuscript.