

ACA, Cancillería, Reg. 1751 (?), fol. 52r — Judicial Commission

Document Summary

Field	Details
Document type	Judicial commission (<i>comissio</i>)
Issuer	Joan I of Aragon
Recipient	Jacobo Solleva (Jaume Solleva), jurisperito, auditor of the royal curia
Subject	Reassignment of a lawsuit from Johan Petri de Casseda to Solleva, concerning a dispute between the royal fiscal procurator, Jamila La Botarra, and Haçon el Juponero (acting jointly or severally) on one side, and Salomon Abnalazar on the other — all Jews of Zaragoza
Date	15 [?] April 1387, Barcelona
Language	Latin
Hand	Gothic Secretarial (<i>lletra bastarda</i>)

Reconciled Latin Transcription

Johannes dei gracia Rex Aragonum Valencie Maioricarum Sardinie et Corsice Comesque Barchinone Rossilionis et Ceritanie. Ffidei auditori curie nostre Jacobo Solleva jurisperito Civitatis Cesarauguste salutem et gratiam. Cum [?] in causis seu questionibus que vertuntur seu verti sperantur inter procuratorem nostrum ffiscalem Jamilam la Botarram ac ffaçon [?] el Juponero Judeum dicte Civitatis coniunctim seu divisim ex parte una et Salamonem Abnalazar Judeum Civitatis predicte ex altera racionibus in processibus inde actitatis contentis celeri per [?] justitiam finis debitus imponatur eo quod iam de meritis ipsarum cognouistis amoto ex causa a cognitione earum ffidei nostro Johane Petri de Casseda jurisperito cui ad supplicacionem ipsius Salamonis easdem comissimus vobis harum serie ducimus committendas mandantes et committentes vobis quatenus dictas causas vocandis partibus partium racionibus auditis resumptisque processibus inde actitatis in eo puncto quo sunt quos per eorum detentores vobis tradi volumus et jubemus de meritis ipsarum cognoscatis easque decidatis et fine debito terminetis et super eisdem et qualibet ipsarum faciatis et deliberatis [?] quod de jure et racione fuerit faciendum procedendo in hiis breviter simpliciter summarie et de plano sola facti veritate

attenta maliciis omnino [?] propulsis. Iam [?] nos vobis super predictis omnibus et singulis cum incidentibus dependentibus emergentibus et connexis vices nostras plenarias committimus cum presenti quibusvis provisionibus in contrarium emanatis quas presentibus quo ad hoc revocamus in aliquo non obstantibus.

Dat Barchinone xv [?] die Aprilis Anno a nativitate domini M^o CCC^o lxxx^o septimo.

[Endorsement marks uncertain.]

Annotated English Translation

Joan, by the grace of God King of Aragon, Valencia, Mallorca, Sardinia, and Corsica, and Count of Barcelona, Roussillon, and Cerdanya. To our faithful auditor of the court, Jacobo Solleva,¹ jurist of the city of Zaragoza, greetings and favor.

Since² in the cases or questions that arise or are expected to arise between our fiscal procurator,³ Jamila La Botarra,⁴ and Haçon el Juponeru,⁵ Jew of said city, jointly or severally on one part, and Salomon Abnalazar,⁶ Jew of the aforesaid city, on the other — [in order that] a due end be imposed swiftly through justice upon the matters contained in the proceedings arising therefrom — and because you have already taken cognizance of the merits thereof, [the case] having been removed for cause⁷ from the cognizance of our faithful Johan Petri de Casseda,⁸ jurist, to whom at the supplication of said Salomon we had committed the same [cases] — by the tenor of these [letters] we deem [them] to be committed to you, ordering and committing to you that, with parties to be summoned, with the arguments of the parties heard, and with the proceedings arising therefrom resumed at the point where they stand — which we wish and command to be handed over to you by their holders — you shall take cognizance of the merits thereof, decide them, and conclude them with due finality, and concerning the same and each one of them do and determine⁹ what must be done by law and reason, proceeding in these matters briefly, simply, summarily, and de plano, with attention only to the truth of the facts, and with malice entirely rejected.¹⁰

For¹¹ we commit to you by the present [letter] our full delegated authority¹² concerning all and singular the aforesaid matters with their incidents, dependents, emergents, and connexities, notwithstanding any provisions issued to the contrary, which we revoke by the present [letters] for this purpose, [these] not standing in the way in any respect.

Given at Barcelona, the 15th [?] day of April, in the year of the Nativity of the Lord 1387.¹³

Notes

1. **Jacobo Solleva** (Jaume Solleva). Identified in the editorial summary as both auditor of the royal court (*auditor curie*) and a judge of Zaragoza. The surname was read as "Sollena"

(Claude, Stage 1) and "Polleua" (HTR); the editorial summary confirms "Solleva." The form "jurisperito" (*jurisperitus*) designates a professional legal expert, standard for royal judicial appointees in this period.

2. **"Cum [?] in causis":** The opening conjunction is uncertain. The manuscript letterforms suggest *d*- (supporting HTR's "Dictis") rather than *C*- ("Cum"), but "Cum in causis" is the standard formulaic opening for judicial commissions of this type. "Dictis in causis" would presuppose prior reference to the cases. Tentatively reading "Cum."
3. **Fiscal procurator** (*procurator fiscalis*): The unnamed royal attorney, representing the crown's fiscal interests. His presence as a co-party alongside private Jewish litigants suggests the dispute may involve matters touching royal revenues — debts, communal tax assessments, or offenses with fiscal implications. The formula "coniunctim seu divisim" (jointly or severally) indicates each party on this side may press claims independently.
4. **Jamila La Botarra:** Jamila (Arabic: جميلة, "beautiful") is well attested as a Jewish woman's name in the medieval Crown of Aragon. "La Botarra" is a surname or epithet; the etymology is uncertain but may relate to Catalan/Aragonese *botarra* (a type of large sausage, or figuratively a stout person). In the manuscript, the name was initially misread as the common noun "familiam" — the similarity of *Jamilam* and *familiam* in this hand is nearly total, and only the editorial summary resolved the confusion.
5. **Haçon el Juponero:** The first name likely represents Hebrew *Ḥazan* (חזן, cantor or prayer leader), here used as a personal name. My Stage 1 reading "ffaron" was likely "ffaçon," with the cedilla-*c* misread as *r*. "El Juponero" is a vernacular trade surname meaning "the doublet-maker," from Aragonese/Castilian *jupón* (doublet, a close-fitting garment for the upper body). The HTR's reading "el Iupono" captured the root but dropped the agentive suffix *-ero*.
6. **Salomon Abnalazar:** A Judeo-Arabic surname, likely *Ibn al-'Azar* or *Ibn Lazar* (cf. the biblical Eleazar). Neither Claude's original reading ("Abnalagar") nor the HTR's ("Abnalyaz") was correct; the editorial summary confirms "Abnalazar." Salomon is the opposing party in the lawsuit and — notably — had himself originally petitioned for the case to be assigned to Casseda.
7. **"amoto ex causa":** Removal of a judge "for cause" (*amotio ex causa*) is a formal judicial procedure requiring stated grounds, as opposed to voluntary recusal. The document does not specify the grounds for Casseda's removal. The irony is notable: Salomon had originally petitioned for Casseda's appointment (*ad supplicacionem ipsius Salamonis*), and now the case is being transferred away from him. This suggests either a procedural irregularity, a conflict of interest, or that one of the other parties objected to Casseda's jurisdiction.
8. **Johan Petri de Casseda:** The previous judge (*jurisperitus*), from whose cognizance the case has been removed. Casseda is a town in Navarre; a jurist of Navarrese origin active in

Zaragoza would not be unusual given the proximity of the two kingdoms.

9. "**faciatis et deliberatis** [?]": The second verb is uncertain: possibly *deliberetis* (determine/deliberate) or *declaretis* (declare), both attested in this formula.
 10. **Summary procedure clause**: The formula "breviter simpliciter sumarie et de plano, sola facti veritate attenda, maliciis omnino propulsis" authorizes summary judicial procedure, dispensing with the full formalities of ordinary process (written pleadings, formal interrogatories, etc.). The formula derives from Clement V's decretal *Saepe contingit* (1306), which codified summary procedure for ecclesiastical courts; by the late fourteenth century it had been widely adopted in secular jurisdictions across the Crown of Aragon and elsewhere. "Maliciis omnino propulsis" (with malice entirely rejected) warns the parties against dilatory or vexatious tactics.
 11. "**Iam** [?] **nos**": The opening of the delegation clause is uncertain. The HTR reads "Iam" (= "Now/Already"); Claude's Stage 1 reading was "Per" (= "By/On behalf of"). Neither is a standard opening for this formula, where "Nos enim" or "Nos autem" would be expected. The manuscript letterforms tentatively favor "Iam" (initial *I*- with descender).
 12. "**vices nostras plenarias**": The king's full delegated judicial authority (*vices*), allowing Solleva to act with the complete jurisdictional power of the crown in this matter. A standard delegation formula in royal judicial commissions.
 13. **Date**: The HTR reads "xv die Aprilis" (15 April); Claude's Stage 1 reading was "xvi" (16 April). A faint stroke after "xv" may or may not represent an additional *i*. The endorsement marks following the date are illegible or heavily abbreviated; the HTR offered "Dominus Maschom" while Claude read "Eyprimo + P. de Mas. exp. 3." Neither is satisfactory and the endorsement requires archival verification.
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Unresolved Ambiguities

1. **Opening conjunction** ("Cum" vs. "Dictis"): Neither reading is paleographically secure. The formulaic expectation favors "Cum"; the visible letterforms may favor "Dictis." Archival verification needed.
2. "**ffaçon** [?]": The Latinized rendering of the name "Haçon/Hazan" is uncertain. The initial double-f is clear, but whether the medial consonant is ç (cedilla-c) or *r* cannot be determined with confidence from the digitized image.
3. "**celeri per** [?] **justitiam**": The word between "celeri" and "justitiam" is uncertain. HTR reads "per"; Claude's Stage 1 had "et presto." The standard formula typically runs "celeri justicie finis debitus imponatur" without an intervening preposition. Further examples from this register may clarify.

4. "**faciatis et deliberatis** [?]" vs. "**declaretis**": Both verbs are formulaically attested; the letterforms are ambiguous.
5. "**Iam** [?] **nos**": Unusual opening for the delegation clause. Possibly a scribal variation or a misreading.
6. **Date: "xv" vs. "xvi" die Aprilis**: The possible presence of a final minim stroke is ambiguous in the digitization.
7. **Endorsement marks**: Entirely uncertain. Both Claude's and the HTR's readings appear garbled. Standard iussio and vidit formulas are expected but cannot be securely recovered without direct archival consultation.
8. "**Judeum**" (**singular**): The manuscript appears to use the singular *Judeum* after "el Juponero," modifying only Haçon. The editorial summary identifies all parties — including Jamila — as Jews, but the Latin text does not explicitly apply *Judea/Judeam* to Jamila La Botarra. Whether this is a scribal convention (her Jewish identity being implied by her name and the legal context) or a grammatically loose use of the singular for both parties is unclear.