

ACA, Cancillería, Reg. 1751 [?]: Joan I to the Deputy Governor of Ibiza

Document Summary

Field	Details
Archive / Reference	ACA, Cancillería (register and folio TBD)
Document type	Royal mandate (<i>manament</i>)
Language	Catalan
Date	14 April 1387 [?]
Place of issue	Barcelona
Issuer	Joan I of Aragon
Recipient	Orimano [?] de Campartells [?], <i>gerentis vices Gubernatoris in insula Eivisse</i> (deputy governor of Ibiza)
Authentication	Privy seal (<i>segell secret</i>), countersigned with the king's small ring-seal (<i>petit anell</i>)
Scribe / Vidit	Pere de Beviure (<i>P. ff. Beviure</i>)
Subject	Two-part mandate: (1) intelligence-reporting and defense of Ibiza against Barbary corsairs; (2) instructions to exercise the governance personally pending the arrival of the newly appointed governor, Francesch Miró

Reconciled Transcription

Lo Rey

Governador. Vostra letra havem rebuda e entesa ço que haurets [?] escrit. Vos responem e vos manam que de tots ardots que haurets d'aquestes parts que diuen [?] que s'armen en Barberia per desservir [?] nres [?], nos certifiquets axí com los sabrets, e que vos vetlets [?] e entenats diligentment a bona guarda e defensió d'aquesta ysla que no pusca encorrer algun sinistre. Ítem, és de la provisió que deuts [?] que havem feta d'aquesta Governació a·n Ffrancesch Miró: responem vos que és ver, mas com ell no sia en nostra cort, cové que vos donets aquell recapte e regiment que pertany en d'aquesta Governació e en tot ço que sia bon estament d'aquesta ysla. E

axí volem que ho façats, e del dit regiment no·n esperets [?] ni·l lexets [?] per fins que·l dit Francesch sia aquí personalment ab aquelles provisions que ha necessàries [?] per raó del dit offici. Dada en Barchinona sots nostre segell secret a xiiij [?] dies d'abril, del any M CCC LXXX VII. Subsignada ab nostre petit anell.

[Iussio:] Fuit missa Orimano [?] de Campartells [?], gerentis vices Gubernatoris in insula Eivisse.

[Vidit:] Dominus Rex mandavit mihi, P. ff. Beviure.

Annotated English Translation

The King.

Governor:¹ We have received your letter and understood what you have written to us. We respond to you and command you that, concerning all the intelligence² you will have from those parts about those who, they say, are arming in Barbary to harm [?] our [interests],³ you inform us just as you learn of it; and that you watch and attend diligently to the good guard and defense of this island,⁴ so that it may not suffer any disaster.

Likewise, regarding the provision⁵ that you [say/mention?]⁶ we have made of this Governorate to Francesch Miró:⁷ we respond to you that it is true; but since he is not at our court,⁸ it is proper that you provide that attention and governance⁹ that pertains to this Governorate, and to everything that concerns the good order of this island. And thus we wish that you do so, and that you neither wait for nor abandon¹⁰ the said governance until the said Francesch is here personally with those provisions¹¹ that are necessary [?] for the said office.

Given in Barcelona under our privy seal, on the fourteenth [?] day of April, in the year 1387.¹²
Countersigned with our small ring-seal.¹³

[Iussio:] It was sent to Orimano [?] de Campartells [?],¹⁴ lieutenant governor on the island of Ibiza.¹⁵

[Vidit:] The lord King commanded me, P. de Beviure.¹⁶

Footnotes

Unresolved Ambiguities

1. **The word after *per* on line 4** (*per* _____ *nres*): The key verb or noun describing hostile Barbary intentions remains unresolved. The manuscript includes the abbreviation for *ser* but no *t*, eliminating *destruir*. Proposed readings include *desservir* (to do disservice/harm)

and *desservici* (disservice, detriment), but neither matches the visible letter forms with full confidence. The contextual meaning — hostile action against Aragonese interests — is not in doubt. **Flagged for archival verification.**

2. **The verb form on line 7** (*que deus/dents que havem feta*): The word immediately before *que havem feta* is unclear. If a form of *dir* (to say), it introduces reported speech: "that you mention we have made." If related to *deure* (to owe/must), the syntax is strained. Neither *dents* nor *deus* corresponds straightforwardly to a known Catalan verb conjugation. **Flagged for archival verification.**
 3. **The imperatives on line 12** (*no·n esperets ni·l lexets*): The two imperative verbs governing the clause "until the said Francesch arrives" are not fully certain. The proposed reading *esperets* (wait) and *lexets* (leave/abandon) fits the syntax and context, but the letter forms — particularly the second verb — are difficult. An alternative reading, *escriurets ni leters* ("write nor send letters"), was proposed by the HTR but is less convincing syntactically. **Flagged for archival verification.**
 4. **The word after provisions on line 13** (*necessàries?*): The qualifier for the provisions Francesch Miró is expected to bring is uncertain. Competing readings include *necessàries* (necessary), *notàries* (notarial), and *notables* (notable). *Necessàries* best fits the administrative context but is not paleographically certain. **Flagged for archival verification.**
 5. **The recipient's first name in the iussio** (*Orimano? Oriniano?*): The personal name of the deputy governor has not been identified. The manuscript shows a name with a macron, approximately *Orimano* or *Oriniano*. Further prosopographic research in Balearic administrative records and other registers from Joan I's reign is needed. **Flagged for prosopographic research.**
 6. **The date numeral** (*xiiij?*): The day of the month appears to read *xiiij* (14), but the numeral is not entirely clear. **Low-priority; tentatively accepted.**
1. The letter is addressed simply to "Governador," without a personal name in the salutatio. The iussio identifies the recipient as Orimano [?] de Campartells [?], who is styled *gerentis vices Gubernatoris*, i.e., a lieutenant or deputy exercising the functions of the governor of Ibiza. Joan I addresses him with the full title "Governador" despite his technically subordinate status, which is standard practice for the acting holder of the office. ↩
 2. *Ardits*: intelligence reports, news, or dispatches — particularly concerning military or security matters. The term is common in Catalan chancery correspondence relating to frontier defense and naval threats. ↩

3. The word following *per* in the manuscript is paleographically difficult. It includes the abbreviation for *ser* but no *t*, ruling out *destruir*. Possible readings include *desservir* ("to do disservice/harm") or a related noun form (*desservici*, "disservice, detriment"). The contextual sense is clear — hostile arming against Aragonese interests — but the exact word remains unresolved. See Unresolved Ambiguities, item 1. ↵
4. "This island" (*aquesta ysla*): Ibiza, as confirmed by the iussio (*in insula Eivisse*). Ibiza and Formentera were administered as part of the Crown of Aragon's Balearic territories, having been definitively reincorporated after the extinction of the Kingdom of Majorca in 1349. The island's exposed position in the western Mediterranean made it a recurring target of Barbary corsair raids, and the defense of the Balearic Islands was a persistent concern of Aragonese royal administration. ↵
5. *Provisió*: here in the technical sense of a royal appointment or grant of office — the formal provision of the governorship of Ibiza to Francesch Miró. ↵
6. The verb form preceding *que havem feta* is uncertain: possibly *deuts* or *dents*. If a form of *dir* ("to say/mention"), the clause means "that you say/mention we have made." If related to *deure* ("to owe/be obliged"), the syntax is more difficult. See Unresolved Ambiguities, item 2. ↵
7. Francesch Miró has not been identified prosopographically. He has been appointed governor of Ibiza but has not yet arrived on the island. The letter makes clear that Joan I has made the appointment (*havem feta*) but that Miró is not currently at the royal court and has not yet taken up his post in person. The situation — a newly appointed governor who has not yet arrived, leaving a deputy to manage in his absence — is a common administrative scenario in insular territories of the Crown of Aragon. ↵
8. "Not at our court" (*no sia en nostra cort*): Miró's absence from the court means the king cannot expedite his departure. This may reflect the practical difficulty of coordinating travel to Ibiza, or it may suggest that Miró is delayed by other business. ↵
9. *Recapte e regiment*: a pairing of related administrative terms. *Recapte* denotes attention, care, or stewardship; *regiment* is governance or administrative direction. Together they convey the full scope of the deputy governor's responsibilities. ↵
10. The verbs in this clause are uncertain. The proposed reading *no·n esperets ni·l lexets* ("neither wait for it nor abandon it") fits the imperative syntax and the governing conjunction *per fins que* ("until"). The king's instruction is unambiguous in sense: the deputy governor must continue exercising governance himself and must not suspend his activity pending Miró's arrival. See Unresolved Ambiguities, item 3. ↵
11. *Provisions*: here likely referring to the formal documents — letters patent, credentials, or commissions — that Francesch Miró would need to present upon taking up the office. The word following *provisions* is uncertain; the tentative reading *necessàries* ("necessary") fits the context but is not paleographically certain. ↵

12. 14 April 1387: barely three months into Joan I's reign, which began upon the death of his father Pere III (IV of Aragon) on 5 January 1387. This letter belongs to the earliest phase of Joan I's administrative activity, during which the new king was confirming, reappointing, or replacing officials across the Crown's territories. ↵
13. *Petit anell*: the king's small ring-seal, a personal signet used for authentication of less formal or more private correspondence, as opposed to the great seal (*segell major*) or the common seal. Its use here, together with the privy seal (*segell secret*), is consistent with a direct royal mandate on an administrative matter. ↵
14. The first name of the recipient is paleographically uncertain. The manuscript shows a word with a macron, reading approximately *Orimano* or *Oriniano*. Neither corresponds to a readily identifiable medieval Catalan or Aragonese given name. The surname *de Campartells* (or *Campertellis* in the Latin iussio) is similarly unattested in the secondary literature consulted. Further prosopographic research in registers of Balearic officeholders may clarify the identification. ↵
15. *Gerentis vices Gubernatoris in insula Eivisse*: "exercising the functions of the Governor on the island of Ibiza." The *gerens vices* was a lieutenant or deputy authorized to act in the governor's name and with his authority, typically during the governor's absence or a vacancy in the office. In this case, the deputy is governing because the newly appointed governor (Francesch Miró) has not yet arrived. ↵
16. Pere de Beviure (P. ff. Beviure): a chancery scribe (*scriptor*) active in Joan I's administration, attested across multiple registers from the early years of the reign. The *ff* preceding the surname is the standard Catalan doubled initial (*Ffrancesch*, *Fferrer*, etc.), here applied to the patronymic or surname form *Beviure* (possibly *Ffeviure* or a variant). The vidit notation confirms that the letter was drafted under Beviure's supervision on the king's direct authority (*Dominus Rex mandavit mihi*). ↵