

## Claude Opus 4.6

April 14, 2026

[Fourteenth Century ACA Transcriptions and Translations/](#)

I have another document in Catalan from 1387, written in fourteenth century Gothic Secretarial hand. Please do your best to transcribe.

5:33 AM

Examined medieval Catalan manuscript and prepared transcription

Examined medieval Catalan manuscript and prepared transcription

Here is my Stage 1 transcription:

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**Document type:** Royal mandate/letter from Joan I to a governor concerning defense of Sardinia and the appointment/conduct of a certain Francesc Miró.

**Language:** Catalan

**Date:** April 1387 (specific day to be confirmed at reconciliation)

**Principal actors:** Joan I ("Lo Rey"), a governor ("Governador"), Francesc Miró

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### Transcription:

Lo Rey

Governador. Per les letres [que] havem reebuda e entre ço que hauets scrit vos responem loch / es manam que de tots ardots que harats [?] daquets [?] parts que dents [?] que armen en Barberia per destruyr nres [nostres] nos cern [?] ffiats [?] tapi [?] com los galeres [?] e vos verdrs [?] e entrenats de ligurment [?] a bona guarda e defensio daqpa [daquesta] ysla que no pusqua [?] encorrer algu sinistre. Jtem es dita [dela] purso [?] que dents [?] que have [havem ?] feta daqpa [daquesta] Governacio an ffrancesch miro responem loch / que es ver / a yas [?] com ell no sia en nra [nostra] cort cove que vos donets agll [aquell] recapte e regimer [regiment] que ptany [pertany] en daqpa [daquesta] Governacio e en tot ço que sia bon estamer [estament] daqpa [daquesta] ysla. E aço volem que ho façats e dit

regiment nag [no·n hag-?] esperes / ni lepets [?] per fins ql [que·l] dit ffrancesch sia aguy [aquí] psonalment [personalment] ab aqltes [aquelles] provisions [?] que ha notaries [?] per rao del dit offici. Dada en Barchna [Barchinona] sots nre [nostre] segll secret a poy [?] dies dabril. del any M ccc lxxx vij. Sub- signada ab nre [nostre] pnor [?] antl [?] . 2 [?].

[Iussio line:] ffuit missa Oristano de camparelles [?] Gent [Gerentis?] vices Gubernatoris e insula Eius [?]

[Vidit notation, right margin:] dñs Rex ma- m · p · ff beuiure [Beviure]

p [?]

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### Key uncertainties and observations:

1. **Line 2–3: "hauets scrit / ... harats daquets parts"** — The reading of *harats* and *daquets* is uncertain; possibly *haurets* ("you will have") and *daquestes* ("of those"). The passage seems to concern intelligence reports about enemies arming in Barbary (*Barberia*).
2. **Line 4–5: "cern ffiats tapi com los galeres"** — This passage is quite difficult. I suspect *certificats* or similar, but the letter forms are unclear. *Galeres* (galleys) fits the naval/defense context.
3. **Line 6: "purso" / "provisio"** — Possibly *provisió* ("provision/appointment"), referring to the appointment made of the governorship to Francesc Miró.
4. **Line 7–8: "Governacio an ffrancesch miro"** — This is clearer: the governance (*Governació*) granted to Francesc Miró.
5. **Lines 11–12: "nag esperes / ni lepets"** — Difficult. Likely something like "do not wait for him nor delay" — *no·n esperets ni·l esperets* or similar imperative construction. The sense is that the governor should exercise the regiment himself without waiting for Francesc Miró to arrive in person.
6. **Date: "a poy dies dabril"** — The day numeral is hard to read; possibly *poch* or a Roman numeral. The year M CCC LXXX VII = 1387.
7. **Iussio: "ffuit missa Oristano de camparelles"** — Sent to Oristano (Sardinia), confirming this is addressed to the governor of Sardinia. *De camparelles* may be a personal name or place.
8. **Vidit: "dñs Rex ma- / m · p · ff beuiure"** — Standard vidit notation: "Dominus Rex mandavit mihi, P. ff. Beviure" — Pere de Beviure, a known chancery scribe.

This is a mandate to the governor of Sardinia instructing him to take active defense measures against Barbary corsairs and to exercise the functions of the *Governació* himself, without waiting for Francesc Miró to arrive in person with his letters of appointment. Ready for HTR reconciliation whenever you have it, Jonathan.

Ok, here is the HTR output for Stage 2: Lo rey Governador vostra letra havem rebuda i entesa ço que haurets escrit responem vos / que manam que de tots ardots que haurets d'aquesta fist? [part] que deute es armen en Barberia p[er] deffensio n[ost]ra nos certifiquets axi com los sabrets i que vos vetleu a entenents di- ligitment a bona guarda i defensio d'aque]lla isla que no pusca encorrer algun sinpre [dan?]. E d'açò es la questio que deute es haurets feta d'aque]sta Baixaria ab Françí Miró responem vos / que es cert / mas com ell no sia en n[ost]ra cort conegut que vos donets aque]ll recepte i regiment que p[er]tany en aque]sta Baixaria e en tot ço que sia bon estament d'aque]sta isla. E axi volem que ho fassats e de dit regiment nos escriure / ni leters p[er] lo fins que dit Françí sia aqui p[er]sonalment ab aque]lles p[re]sones que ha notables p[er] raó de dit offici. Dada en Barchelona sots n[ost]re segell secret a xiv dies d'abril. El any MCCCLXXXVII. Sub-signada ab n[ost]re petit anell. (Lower left corner) Fuit missa d'ordinacio de Campertellis gentihos Gubernatoris in insula Eivisse

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5:36 AM

Meticulously reconciled manuscript readings against flawed HTR transcription

Meticulously reconciled manuscript readings against flawed HTR transcription

Here is the Stage 2 reconciliation. There are some substantive divergences, and the HTR has made several significant errors alongside a few genuine corrections.

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### (A) Where HTR corrects Claude

1. **"vostra letra"** — HTR reads *vostra letra* where I had *per les letres*. Returning to the ms., I can see abbreviated forms *vra lra* with standard suspension marks. HTR is correct; this is the standard opening formula.
2. **"entesa"** — HTR reads *entesa* where I had *entre*. "Havem rebuda e entesa" is formulaic ("we have received and understood"). HTR correct.
3. **"nos certifiquets"** — HTR reads *nos certifiquets* where I had the garbled *cern ffiats*. Returning to the ms., I can now read this clearly across the line break. Standard chancery imperative: "inform/certify us." HTR correct.

4. **"axi com los sabrets"** — HTR reads *axi com los sabrets* ("just as you learn of them") where I had *tapi com los galeres*. HTR is clearly right; my reading was driven by contextual guessing about galleys.
  5. **"E axi volem"** — HTR reads *axi* where I had *aço*. Looking again at the ms., *axi* (thus) is correct.
  6. **"Subsignada ab nostre petit anell"** — HTR reads *petit anell* ("small ring," i.e., the privy seal) where I had the garbled *pnor antl*. This is a known chancery formula for authentication with the king's privy seal. HTR correct.
  7. **"in insula Eivisse"** — HTR reads *Eivisse* (Ibiza) where I had *Eius*. Returning to the ms., I can now see *Euysse* or similar at the end of the iussio line — a Latin rendering of *Eivissa*. This changes the document's context significantly: it concerns the island of **Ibiza**, not Sardinia. HTR correct.
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#### **(B) Where Claude's reading is preferred**

1. **"sinistre"** — I read *sinistre* (disaster/misfortune); HTR has the garbled *sinpre [dan?]*. The ms. clearly shows *sinistre*, standard Catalan.
2. **"Governació"** (×3) — I read *Governació* throughout; HTR has *Baixaria* throughout. Returning to the ms., the initial *G* with its distinctive descender is clear in all three instances. "Baixaria" is an HTR fabrication — probably a misread of the letter sequence, and it would be a highly unusual term in this administrative context. *Governació* fits perfectly: Joan I is writing about the governance of Ibiza.
3. **"a·n Francesch Miró"** — I read *an* (= *a en*, "to"); HTR has *ab* ("with"). In the context of "la provisió que havem feta d'aquesta Governació a·n Francesch Miró" ("the provision we have made of this Governorate to Francesch Miró"), the preposition *a·n* is clearly correct. Also, I see *ffrancesch* with the standard doubled Catalan initial, not the HTR's *Françí*.
4. **"cové que"** — I read *cové* ("it is fitting/proper"); HTR has *conegut* ("known"). The syntax demands *cové que vos donets* ("it is proper that you provide"), a standard impersonal construction. *Conegut* is ungrammatical here.
5. **"recapte"** — I read *recapte* (attention, care); HTR has *recepte*. *Recapte* is the standard Catalan form.

6. **"provisió"** — I read *provisió* ("provision/appointment") on line 7; HTR has *questió* ("question"). The king is not raising a question — he is responding about an appointment he has made. *Provisió* fits the diplomatic context.
7. **"gerentis vices"** — I read *gerentis vices* ("exercising the functions of") in the iussio; HTR has the garbled *gentilhos*. *Gerentis vices Gubernatoris* is standard chancery Latin for a lieutenant-governor.

**(C) Where both are uncertain or neither is satisfactory**

1. **Line 3, "haurets" vs "hauets"** — HTR has *haurets* (future perfect); I initially had *hauets* (present perfect). Looking at the ms., the verb form is hard to pin down. *Haurets* fits better with the forward-looking mandate ("all the intelligence you will have"), but the letter forms could support either. **Tentatively accepting** haurets.
2. **Line 4, "per destruir" vs "per deffensió"** — I read *per destruir* ("to destroy"); HTR reads *per deffensió* ("for defense"). Contextually, the enemies are arming in Barbary to attack — *destruir* makes more sense. But the letter forms after *p* are genuinely ambiguous. The word preceding *nos certifiquets* could be *nres* (nostres) or could belong to the next clause. **Tentatively reading** per.destruir.nres **but flagging as uncertain**.
3. **Lines 3–4, "que diuen que s'armen"** — I had *que dents que armen*; HTR has *que deute es armen*. Neither is satisfactory. Returning to the ms., I now read something like *que dieu[n] qs armen* = "que diuen que s'armen" ("who they say are arming"). This makes excellent contextual sense. **Proposing** que.diuen.que.s'armen, **but the exact letter forms remain uncertain**.
4. **Line 5, "vetlets e entenats"** — HTR has *vetleu a entenents* (grammatically awkward). I had the garbled *verdrs e entrenats*. Returning to the ms., I now propose *vetlets e entenats* — both 2pl present subjunctive forms, matching the mandate syntax. **Uncertain but plausible**.
5. **Line 7, "que dients [?] que havem"** — HTR has *que deute es haurets*; I had *que dents que have*. Neither parses cleanly. The sense requires something like "that you say/mention we have made" — possibly *que dehíts que havem* or *que dients que havem*. **Flagging for archival verification**.

6. **Line 8, "ver" vs "cert"** — I read *ver* (true); HTR has *cert* (certain). Both are semantically equivalent. The ms. shows a short word — I lean toward *ver* (3 letters vs. 4) but this is marginal.
7. **Line 12, "no·n esperets / ni·l lexets"** — I initially had *nag esperes / ni lepets*; HTR has *nos escriure / ni leters*. Returning to the ms., I now propose *no·n esperets / ni·l lexets* = "do not wait for it / nor leave/abandon it." The HTR's "write to us / nor letters" is a possible but less convincing alternative. The imperative construction with *per fins que* ("until") strongly favors a "do not wait/delay" reading. **Tentatively preferring** *no·n.esperets.→ni·l.lexets* **but flagging.**
8. **Line 13, "provisions que ha necessàries [?]"** — I initially had *provisions... notaries*; HTR has *presones... notables* ("notable persons"). Returning to the ms., the abbreviated word after *aquelles* starts with *p* and has a suspension mark — either *provisions* or *presones* is possible. The following word is similarly ambiguous: *necessàries*, *notàries*, or *notables*. Contextually, *provisions que ha necessàries* ("provisions necessary for the office") makes the most sense — Francesch would need to arrive with his letters patent. **Tentatively reading** *provisions.que.ha.necessàries* **but flagging.**
9. **Iussio, first word after "missa"** — I read *Oristano*; HTR reads *d'ordinació*. With the island now identified as Ibiza (not Sardinia), *Oristano* as a Sardinian toponym doesn't fit as a destination — but it could be a personal name (a surname of Sardinian origin for the deputy governor). *D'ordinació* doesn't work as standard chancery Latin in this formula. **Flagging: the first element of the recipient's identification is uncertain.**
10. **"de Campartells / Campertellis"** — Both readings are close. This appears to be a personal name. The exact form of the surname is uncertain; I tentatively read *de Campartells*.

## (D) 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 destruir [?] nres [?], nos certifiquets axi 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 dients [?] 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 Ffrancesch 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 Oristano [?] de Campartells [?], gerentis vices Gubernatoris in insula Eivisse.

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

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Ready to move to Stage 3 whenever you are, or if you want to adjudicate any of the flagged readings first.

For line 4, there is no "t" in the word causing trouble but instead the word includes the abbreviation for "ser." The phrase might be "per desserivi" or "per defenserini" but those options are also problematic. Line 7 ends with either "que dents que havem" or "que deuts que havem." You are correct about "ver" starting line 8. Line 12 ends with "ab aquelles provisions." The word after missa has a macron and is "Orimano" or "Oriniano." I do not have a good guess about which name this corresponds to, but it is the first name of the recipient. With that feedback please now proceed with Stage 3.

5:49 AM

Thought for 1m 19s

Thought for 1m 19s

Thank you for those clarifications. Let me integrate them and produce the Stage 3 edition.

Acknowledged corrections and prepared to advance transcription analysis

Acknowledged corrections and prepared to advance transcription analysis

Now let me create the Stage 3 edition:

Acknowledged corrections and prepared to advance transcription analysis

Acknowledged corrections and prepared to advance transcription analysis

A nice document from the very first months of Joan I's reign. The two-part structure is interesting: coupling a standing intelligence-and-defense mandate about the Barbary

threat with a pointed instruction to the deputy not to suspend governance while waiting for Miró to show up. The tone is diplomatically firm — *cové que vos donets aquell recapte* reads as a polite but unmistakable order to keep governing.

The trickiest outstanding problem is that word on line 4. Your observation about the *ser* abbreviation without a *t* is helpful — it definitively rules out *destruir* and narrows the field. *Desservir* remains my best guess contextually, but I agree the letter forms don't lock it in. The recipient's name (*Orimano/Oriniano de Campartells*) is the other real puzzle; if you turn up Balearic officeholder lists from 1387, that would be the place to confirm it.

Aca joani mandate governoribiza barbary 1387 04 14

Document · MD

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