

# ACA Cancillería — Joan I: Mandate on Batlle General Jurisdiction over Jews and Saracens

## Document Summary

Field	Value
Archive	ACA, Cancillería (register TBD)
Document type	Royal mandate ( <i>provisio</i> )
Issuer	Joan I of Aragon
Addressee	García López de Sesse, knight, majordomo, Batlle General of the Kingdom of Aragon
Subject	Revocation of miscellaneous commissions to vicars and commissioners regarding Jews and Saracens; reaffirmation of the Batlle General's exclusive jurisdiction
Date	Barcelona, xxiii [?] April 1387
Language	Latin

## Stage 2: Reconciliation

### (A) Where HTR Corrects Claude

1. "**vicariis quam comissariis**" for Claude's "diuersis [?] commissarys" (lines 2, 5). The HTR's reading is almost certainly correct. "Tam vicariis quam comissariis" (both to vicars and to commissioners) is a formulaically perfect pairing for this kind of jurisdictional complaint — royal *veguers* were exactly the officials who might receive ad hoc commissions encroaching on the Batlle General's competence. Claude's attempt to read "diuersis" was driven by inability to identify the letter forms for "vicariis" in this hand; the initial 'v' was misread as 'd' and 'ic' as 'ue'. The word recurs identically in both lines 2 and 5, and the HTR reads it consistently. **HTR preferred.**
2. "**Idcirco**" for Claude's "Nos [?]" (line 4). Standard transitional formula in legal *dispositiones*: "Therefore, wishing to preserve the said office..." **HTR preferred.**
3. "**nostrique iurium detrimentum**" for Claude's "propriaque iurium detrimenta" (line 4). HTR reads "nostrique" (and of our) where Claude had "propriaque" (and of its own). Both

are semantically plausible — the BG administers the king's rights over Jewish and Saracen communities, so the infringement affects both the office's jurisdiction and the king's revenues. HTR's reading is supported by the graphic form: 'n' (two minims) vs 'p' (descender) should be distinguishable. Also "detrimentum" (singular) vs "detrimenta" (plural). **HTR tentatively preferred; verify at ms.**

4. **"premissos ambos conturbet"** for Claude's "comissus [?] pretextu [?] ambo conturbent [?]" (line 4). HTR gives a more coherent reading: "lest it disturb both the aforesaid [officials]." However, the grammar is unusual — "conturbet" is 3rd singular with no explicit subject. An alternative parsing: "ne officiales premissi ambo conturbent [officium]" (lest the aforesaid officials both disturb [the office]) would require nominative "premissi" and plural "conturbent." **HTR preferred as the better reading, but flag for ms verification of the verb ending and case of "premissos/premissi."**
5. **"vobis"** for Claude's "Nobili [?]" (line 7). Direct dative address to the Battle General: "To you, our beloved councillor..." This is standard in mandates addressed to a specific official and makes the second-person constructions later in the document ("vestrum officium," "vos intromittatis," "vos curetis") grammatically coherent. **HTR clearly preferred.**
6. **"dicimus et mandamus"** for Claude's "unum [?] et mandamus" (line 7). "Dicimus et mandamus" (we say and command) is a valid *dispositio* formula. Claude's "unum" was uninterpretable. **HTR preferred.**
7. **"vestrum officium"** for Claude's "unum [?] officium" (lines 8, 12). Consistent with direct address: "your said office." **HTR preferred.**
8. **"retroactis temporibus"** for Claude's "uertamus [?] ipso [?]" (line 9). Standard legal phrase: "in past times." Formulaically impeccable: affairs that "customarily pertained [to the office] in past times." Claude's reading was garbled. **HTR preferred.**
9. **"preteriti usi fuerunt"** for Claude's "predin [?] cos [?] fuerint" (line 9). "Alii baiuli generales preteriti usi fuerunt" = "other past Battles General exercised [jurisdiction]." Clean formulaic sense; Claude's reading was fragmentary. **HTR preferred.**
10. **"vos intromittatis"** for Claude's "nos intromitat [?]" (line 9). Second person, consistent with the "vobis" address. The BG is commanded to involve himself in these affairs. **HTR preferred.**
11. **"Nos enim per hanc eandem mandamus ac etiam inhibemus"** for Claude's "Nos enim plane eandem indignacionem [?] ac ecia membreos [?] / oderimus [?]" (lines 10–11). This is the single largest correction. The HTR gives a completely standard formula: "For we by this same [letter] command and also prohibit." Claude's reading — involving "indignacionem" and "oderimus" — was a fabrication born of misreading, projecting an imagined *sanctio* clause where none exists. The formula "per hanc eandem" (by this same [letter]) recurs

later in the same document ("iniungendo per hanc eandem"), confirming the pattern. **HTR clearly preferred.**

12. **"presentibus et futuris"** for Claude's "ipsius [?] et suus [?]" (line 11). Standard formula: "present and future [officials and subjects]." **HTR preferred.**
13. **"se nullatenus intromittant"** for Claude's "se illat [?] intromittat [?]" (line 12). Standard prohibition formula: "in no way involve themselves." Claude had tentatively suggested "nullatenus" in the Stage 1 notes; HTR confirms. **HTR preferred.**
14. **"quarumcumque comissionum... factarum"** for Claude's "quascunque commissionis... factarum [?]" (line 12). Correct genitive plural throughout. **HTR preferred.**
15. **"seu literarum in nostra curia / obtentarum"** for Claude's "explicitis [?] suis [?] mera cura / obseruare [?]" (lines 12-13). Completely different and far superior: "or of letters obtained in our curia." This is a standard legal formula — the king revokes not only commissions but also any *literae* (letters patent or similar instruments) obtained from the royal court. Claude's reading was unintelligible. **HTR clearly preferred.**
16. **"necnon Iusticie Aragonum"** for Claude's "nostro Iusticie [?] Aragonum" (line 14). "Necnon" (and also) introduces the Justicia of Aragon as a separate addressee, syntactically parallel with the governor general and his viceregent. Claude had the right identification of the institutional figure but wrong connective. **HTR preferred.**
17. **"nostris quibusuis"** for Claude's "rere [?] quibusque" (line 14). "Comissariis nostris quibusuis" = "our commissioners whatsoever." Claude's "rere" was a misreading. **HTR preferred.**
18. **"qualescumque sint"** for Claude's "quacunque sint" (line 8). "Qualescumque sint" = "of whatever kind they may be." Stronger formulaic phrasing. **HTR tentatively preferred.**
19. **"quatenus"** for Claude's "quod" (line 8). "Quatenus" is standard in Aragonese chancery documents after "mandamus." **HTR tentatively preferred.**
20. **"factas"** for Claude's "siue" (line 6). "Sub quacumque verborum forma factas de negociis..." = "made under whatever form of words regarding affairs..." Provides a clearer syntactic anchor for the clause. **HTR preferred.**
21. **"huiusmodi serie"** for Claude's "huic serie" (line 5). Standard formula: "by this present series/instrument." **HTR preferred (expansion of abbreviation).**
22. **"ut premittitur"** for Claude's "ut prefertur" (line 13). Both mean "as stated above," but "premittitur" is more standard in Aragonese chancery. **HTR tentatively preferred.**

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## (B) Where Claude's Reading Is Preferred or HTR Requires Correction

1. **"domestico nostro"** vs HTR's "domo nre [nostre]" (line 7). The abbreviation in the ms

should expand to "domestico nostro" (dative, agreeing with "dilecto consiliario"), not "domus nostre" (genitive, which would give incorrect syntax). The graphic form "doño nño" is a standard abbreviation for "domestico nostro" in this chancery. **Claude's expansion preferred.**

2. **"concessionones et ordinaciones"** (plural) vs HTR's "concessione[m] et ordinacione[m]" (singular) (line 15). HTR reads singular accusatives, but the subsequent adjectives "nostras predictas firmas" are unambiguously feminine accusative *plural*. The nouns must be plural to agree: "concessionones et ordinaciones nostras predictas firmas habeant et obseruent." **Claude's plural reading preferred (HTR's singular is a grammatical error).**
3. **"Cum sic ex certa sciencia"** vs HTR's "Cum sic ex causa de certa sciencia" (lines 15-16). The standard *clausula* is "Cum sic de/ex certa sciencia et expresse fieri mandamus/concedimus." HTR inserts "ex causa" before "de certa," creating a redundancy ("from cause, from certain knowledge") that is not formulaically attested. Most likely HTR has doubled a reading: the correct text is probably "Cum sic ex certa sciencia" or "Cum sic de certa sciencia," not both. **Claude's reading preferred; "ex causa" is likely a HTR artifact.**
4. **Subscription/mandate clause:** HTR reads "+d[omenicus] mascho / i off[uit] arag[onem]" (lines 17-18). This appears garbled — "Domenicus Mascho" is not a scribe I can readily identify in Joan I's chancery in April 1387, and "i offuit aragonem" is not a recognizable formula. The ms likely has a standard iussio clause (e.g., "+Dominus Rex mandauit mihi [scribe name]+" or "+Per mandato+") followed by a scribal mark or *vidit* notation. **Both readings uncertain; flag for archival verification.**

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### (C) Where Both Are Uncertain

1. **"in nullo" (HTR) / "ambo" (Claude)** (line 6). Neither reading is satisfactory. HTR's "in nullo ad officium baulie generalis predictae spectantibus" (in no way pertaining to the BG's office) *contradicts* the immediately following relative clause "et que spectare consueuerunt quouis modo" (and which customarily pertain [to it]). Claude's "ambo" is syntactically opaque in this position. A plausible alternative reading is **"omnino"** (entirely) — "omnino ad officium baulie generalis predictae spectantibus" = "entirely pertaining to the BG's office" — which resolves the logical contradiction and is paleographically possible (the *minim* sequence in "omnino" could be misread as either "ambo" or "in nullo"). **Flag for ms verification; "omnino" proposed as working reading.**
2. **"collectis" (HTR) / "collendis" (Claude)** (lines 2, 6, 8). HTR consistently reads "collectis" where Claude had "collendis." "Collectis" as a substantivized participle (= tax collections,

*collectae*) makes good administrative sense — the BG handles collections from Jewish and Saracen communities. "Collendis" (gerundive: things to be collected) is also plausible. The distinction matters for understanding whether the document refers to completed or prospective fiscal operations. **Flag for ms verification.**

3. **"et primitur" (HTR) / "et intromittimus" (Claude)** (line 9–10 boundary). HTR's "primitur" is not standard Latin. Possible alternatives: "pariter" (likewise), "primitus" (firstly), "similiter" (similarly). The word connects two imperative clauses addressed to the BG: "vos intromittatis et [X] / vos curetis non permitendo..." **Flag for ms verification.**
4. **"premissos ambos conturbet"** (line 4). As noted in (A.4), the grammar is unusual. If "officiales" is accusative (object), who/what is the singular subject of "conturbet"? If the reading is instead nominative "premissi" + plural "conturbent," the officials themselves are the disruptive agents, which fits the context better. **Flag for ms verification.**
5. **Date: "xxiii"** (line 16). HTR reads the 23rd; Claude read "xxij [or xxiiij?]." Minim-counting in this numeral is inherently difficult. **Flag for ms verification; adopt HTR's xxiii as working reading.**
6. **"de dictis negociis" (HTR) / "de omnibus negociis" (Claude)** (line 8). "De dictis" (regarding the said) vs "de omnibus" (regarding all). Both fit; "de dictis" provides tighter reference back to the affairs already mentioned. **Tentatively adopt HTR; flag for ms verification.**
7. **"per nos pro nunc [?] deputatis"** (line 14). HTR reads "per nos p[er] nunc deputatis" with two "per"s, which is unusual. Probably "per nos pro nunc deputatis" (presently appointed by us) or "per nos primitus [?] deputatis." **Flag for ms verification; adopt "pro nunc" as working reading.**
8. **"concessimus et uelimus" (HTR) / "concepimus [?] Volumus" (Claude)** (line 16). HTR's "concessimus et uelimus" has an awkward tense shift (perfect + present subjunctive). Could be "concedimus et volumus" (present + present), which is formulaically standard. **Uncertain; adopt "concedimus [?] et volumus [?]" as working reading.**

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## (D) Reconciled Transcription

Confidence levels: **[HIGH]** = both sources agree or one reading is clearly superior; **[MED]** = preferred reading is probable but ms verification desirable; **[LOW]** = genuinely uncertain, ms verification essential.

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Nos Johanes dei gracia Rex Aragonum Valencie Maioricarum Sardinie et Corsice Comesque Barchinone Rossilionis et Ceritanie. **[HIGH]** Attendentes per nos fuisse factas comissiones

diuersas tam vicariis quam comissariis [HIGH] de negociis Judeorum et Sarracenorum collectis [LOW] administracionibus et aliis et tam ad inquirendum contra dictos Judeos et Sarracenos que spectant et spectare consueuerunt et debent ad officium Baulie Generalis in turbacione dicti officii baulie nostrique [MED] iurium detrimentum [MED]. Idcirco [HIGH] volentes dictum officium Baulie Generalis in sua integritate conseruare et ne officiales premissos ambos conturbet [LOW]. Reuocamus huiusmodi serie de certa sciencia et expresse [HIGH] quascunque comissiones quibuscunque personis siue vicariis comissariis ut aliis quibusuis sub quacunque verborum forma factas [HIGH] de negociis collectis [LOW] administracionibus uel aliis quibuslibet omnino [LOW] ad officium baulie generalis predictae spectantibus et que spectare consueuerunt quouis modo. Vobis [HIGH] dilecto consiliario et domestico [MED] nostro maiordomo Garsie Lupi de Sesse militi baiulo regni Aragonum generali dicimus [HIGH] et mandamus firmiter et expresse quatenus [MED] de dictis [MED] negociis causis collectis [LOW] administracionibus inquisicionibus et aliis quibuscunque et qualescunque [MED] sint ad dictum uestrum [HIGH] officium spectantibus et que ad ipsum spectare consueuerunt retroactis temporibus [HIGH] et de quibus alii baiuli generales preteriti usi fuerunt [HIGH] uos intromittatis [HIGH] et primitus [LOW] uos curetis non permitendo alium ut alios quoscunque de eisdem se intromittere quouis modo. Nos enim per hanc eandem mandamus ac etiam inhibemus [HIGH] uicariis comissariis et aliis quibuscunque officialibus et subditis nostris presentibus et futuris [HIGH] quod de predictis et aliis quibuscunque negociis pertinentibus uel spectantibus ad uestrum officium baulie generalis se nullatenus intromittant [HIGH] uigore quarumcunque comissionum eis quomodolibet per nos factarum seu literarum in nostra curia [HIGH] obtentorum quas ut premittitur [MED] penitus duximus reuocandas. Iniungendo per hanc eandem Gubernatori generali in regno Aragonum eiusque uicesgerenti [HIGH] in dicto officio necnon [HIGH] Iusticie Aragonum aliisque officialibus eiusdem Regni ac comissariis nostris quibusuis per nos pro nunc [LOW] deputatis et de cetero deputandis quod concessionem [MED] et ordinationes nostras predictas firmas habeant et obseruent et nullatenus contraueniant aliqua ratione siue causa. Cum sic ex certa sciencia [MED] et expresse fieri concedimus [LOW] et uolumus [LOW]. In cuius rei testimonium hanc fieri iussimus nostro sigillo munitam. Data Barchinone xxiii [LOW] die Aprilis Anno natiuitatis domini Millesimo CCC lxxx septimo. +[mandate clause: uncertain — possibly "Dominus Rex mandauit mihi" + scribe name]+ [LOW]

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## Notes

### On the Document

This is a significant jurisdictional mandate from the opening weeks of Joan I's reign (he acceded 5 January 1387). It addresses a systemic problem: the proliferation of ad hoc royal commissions to vicars (*veguers*) and special commissioners that fragmented the Batlle General's consolidated jurisdiction over Jewish and Saracen communities in the Kingdom of Aragon. The document performs three legal actions simultaneously: (1) it revokes all such commissions, (2) it

commands the Batlle General (García López de Sesse) to assert his exclusive jurisdiction, and (3) it prohibits (*inhibemus*) all other officials from interfering, backed by an *iniunctio* to the governor general, viceregent, Justicia of Aragon, and all other royal officials.

The formulaic structure — *revocamus... dicimus et mandamus... inhibemus... iniungendo* — builds escalating layers of enforcement. The inclusion of "seu literarum in nostra curia obtentarum" (or letters obtained in our curia) is notable: it closes a potential loophole by invalidating not just commissions but any written instruments obtained from the court that might be used to justify encroachment.

García López de Sesse as Batlle General of Aragon is the named addressee. His identification as "maiordomo" (majordomo) indicates he held dual office — a combination of household and territorial roles typical of Joan I's early administrative arrangements.