

## Claude Opus 4.6

May 2, 2026

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

Claude finished the response

**You said: I have a document in Catalan from 1387, written in fourteenth century Gothic Secretarial hand.**

I have a document in Catalan from 1387, written in fourteenth century Gothic Secretarial hand. Please do your best to transcribe for Stage 1.

6:42 AM

**Claude responded: I'll examine the manuscript image closely now.**

Meticulously analyzed medieval Latin manuscript despite Catalan attribution

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I'll examine the manuscript image closely now.

Meticulously deciphered medieval Latin manuscript despite paleographic ambiguities

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A first observation: despite your note that this is in Catalan, the document is in Latin throughout. It's a royal mandate from Joan I to the procurator of revenues in Roussillon and Cerdanya, protecting a life grant of a baiulia. Here is my Stage 1 transcription:

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### Document Identification

Field	Reading
Register	ACA, Cancillería, Reg. 1751 [presumed], f. 6r

Field	Reading
<b>Document type</b>	Royal mandate ( <i>manament / compulsòria</i> )
<b>Issuer</b>	Joan I of Aragon
<b>Addressee</b>	Procurator of royal revenues in the counties of Roussillon and Cerdanya; Guillelmo Impren[?] or his lieutenant
<b>Petitioner</b>	Bartholomeo Sirvent, secretary of Queen Violant de Bar
<b>Subject</b>	Protection of a life concession of the baiulia of Enbanya against interference (arrendament) by the procurator
<b>Date</b>	April 6, 1387
<b>Place of issue</b>	Barcelona
<b>Language</b>	Latin
<b>Subscription</b>	Francesc ça Costa (vice-chancellor)

### Transcription

Johannes et cetera ffideli procuratori reddituum nostrorum in comitatibus Rossilionis et Ceritanie · Guillelmo Impren[?] ut eius locumtenenti · Salutem et gratiam · Exponente fideli secretario Illustris yolandis Regine Aragon Conjugis nostre preclare[?] Bartholomeo Siruent de Duran[?] quod lutz[?] Enbanya baiuli primam[?] cum omnibus suis iuris fructibus emolumentis / iuribus quasque[?] sibi [blank?] pertineat pleno iure ex concessione facta eidem ad vitam per Illustrissimum dominum Petrum Regem Aragon bone memorie proavum[?] nostrum · Et de ipsa Enbanya fuerit est · in plena et pacifica possessione seu quasi · Vos tamen in his diebus petrum[?] omnes notarios tenentes[?] ex arrendamento ipsius Bartholomei / Enbanyam predictam sub prestacione dicte annue pensionis cogitis et facto[?] / nulla iusta causa preambula · ad respondendum vobis dicta quantitate pensionis iamdicte · et in preiudicium atque dampnum exponentis predicti et sue concessionis possessionis a[c?] iuris non modicam lesionem · Et est[?] non contentus premissis companyam[?] sicut fertur ad arrendandum Enbanyam eandem nostro nomine et nobis · Volentes super huiusmodi inoportunitate[?] remedium ita que adhiberi · Quia dicta concessio gracia[osa?] facta fuit · nobis exponente priora fides[?] debite attendens[?] gravissimum[?] est per violentiam subtrahere quod est datum munificencia principali · Oportet[?] nullus absque ratione eius[?] sua est possessione privandus sit tuendus pocius in eadem · Dicimus et mandamus vobis dicta[?] de[?] et certa fira[?] accepisse[?] quod[?]

quando[?] supplicatum predictam concessionem eandem[?] / super[?] sui[?] per[?]  
pleniorem ac manutenendo eundem in possessione qua est de premissis restituitis sibi  
concessum seu dictum per omnes nomine suo epurge[?] compensone · et receptis  
quibusdam[?] nec amodo presumatis ad dictum arrendamentum fiendum procedere · nec  
alium[?] facere in predictam concessionis possessionis super contentariam[?] · Datum  
Barchinone sub nostro sigillo p[en]d[en]to[?] · Sexta die Aprilis[?] anno a nativitate domini  
Millesimo CCCo LXXXo septimo :— ffranciscus ça Costa[?] :—

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### Paleographic Notes and Uncertainties

1. **Guillelmo Impren[?]** (l. 1–2): The procurator's surname is difficult. I read an initial "I" or "m" followed by "pren" or "preni." The name is unfamiliar to me in a Roussillonais context. This needs archival verification.
2. **preclare[?]** (l. 3): The word modifying the queen's secretary or the queen herself. Could be *preclare*, *precare*, or *predilecte*. The letterforms are ambiguous.
3. **de Duran[?]** (l. 4): Uncertain whether this is part of Bartholomeo Sirvent's name (a toponym of origin, "de Duran") or a separate word. The reading is not fully clear.
4. **lutz[?] Enbanya baiuli primam[?]** (l. 4): This is the most difficult crux in the document. I cannot confidently parse this phrase. Possible readings include: (a) "lutz Enbanya" as a composite place name for the baiulia; (b) "loci Enbanya" (*loci* = of the place), with "tz" being a misread of "ci"; (c) "baiuli primam" as "baiuliam primam" (the first/primary baiulia) with "baiuli" as an abbreviated form. The place "Enbanya" presumably lies in Roussillon or Cerdanya but I cannot securely identify it.
5. **proavum[?] nostrum** (l. 6–7): Literally "our great-grandfather." Historically problematic: Pere IV el Cerimoniós was Joan I's *father*, not great-grandfather. If this refers to Pere III el Gran (d. 1285), the grant would predate Joan I by a century, which is possible but unusual for a life concession still active in 1387. The word could alternatively be *progenitorem* or *predecessorem* (both meaning "predecessor"), but *proavum* is what the letterforms suggest. Alternatively, *proavum* may be used here loosely for "ancestor/predecessor," which is attested in some chancery usage.
6. **petrum[?] omnes notarios tenentes[?]** (l. 8): Uncertain verb or construction. Possibly *petitis* (you seek/demand) or *per...tenentes* (through/via all notaries holding...). The passage describes the procurator's interference with the tenants of the arrendament.

7. **cogitis et facto[?]** (l. 10): The word after *et* is unclear — possibly *facto*, *foro*, or *faro*. The sense requires something like "you compel and cause/force."
8. **companyam[?] sicut fertur** (l. 13): Possibly "companyam" (a leasing partnership/company), meaning the procurator has formed or is forming a company to lease out the baiulia. The reading is uncertain but contextually plausible.
9. **The dispositio** (ll. 17–21): This section is the most densely abbreviated and difficult to read. The formula should follow standard mandate language — "Dicimus et mandamus vobis de certa sciencia et expresse quatenus..." — but I cannot confidently recover several words. The passage beginning "dicta[?] de[?] et certa fira[?] accepisse[?]" likely contains the formula "de certa sciencia" (from certain knowledge), but the abbreviations resist confident resolution. Similarly, "epurge[?] compensone" in the operative clause is unclear.
10. **sigillo p[en]d[en]to[?]** (l. 21): The seal type — *pendenti* (pendant), *secreto* (secret), or *protecto* (protected)? The abbreviation is difficult. For a mandate of this type, *sigillo secreto* or *sigillo pendenti* are both possible.
11. **Aprilis[?]** (l. 21): The month name is heavily abbreviated and the letterforms are ambiguous. April 6 is the most likely reading given the dating formula, but I am not fully confident.
12. **franciscus ça Costa** (l. 22): The vice-chancellor's subscription. Reasonably confident reading, consistent with Francesc ça Costa's known role in validating Joan I's early documents. There may be additional notation (a *vidit* mark or *iussio* clause) after this, but it is difficult to discern.

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## Summary of Document Content

Joan I commands the procurator of revenues in Roussillon and Cerdanya (Guillelmo [surname]) to cease interfering with a life concession of the baiulia of Enbanya, originally granted by King Pere to Bartholomeo Sirvent (secretary of Queen Violant de Bar). The procurator has been compelling the tenants of Sirvent's lease (*arrendament*) to pay the annual pension to the procurator rather than to Sirvent, and is reportedly forming a company to lease the baiulia himself in the king's name. Joan I invokes the principle that possessions granted by royal munificence should not be violently taken away, and orders the procurator to maintain Sirvent in his possession and not proceed with any counter-lease.

**You said: Thank you for catching that I erroneously labeled this document as Catalan and that it is actually in Latin.**

Thank you for catching that I erroneously labeled this document as Catalan and that it is actually in Latin. Here is the other HTR output for Stage 2: Johannes dei gratia rex etc. fideli procuratori reddituum nostrorum in comitatibus Rossilionis et Cerdanie. Dilecto nostro vel eius locumtenenti Salutem et gratiam. Exponere fecit nobis fidelis secretarius Illustris yolandis Regine Aragonum Conjugis nostre preclare Bartholomeus siruvent dicendo quod licet scribania bajulie perpinyani cum omnibus suis lucris fructibus emolumentis et iuribus qua sit et sibi pertineat pleno iure ex concessione facta eidem ad vitam per Illustrissimum dominum Petrum Regem Aragonum bone memorie patrem nostrum. Et de ipsa scribania fuerit ipse in plena et pacifica possessione seu quasi. Vos tamen his diebus petrum ornos notarium tenentem ex arrendamento ipsius bartholomei scribaniam predictam sub preteritu cuiusdam annue pensionis cogitis de facto sine ulla iusta causa preambula ad respondendum vobis de ipsa quantitate pensionis tandem in preiudicium atque dampnum Exponentis predicti et sue concessioni possessioni et iuris non modica lesionem. Et etsi non contentus premissis compellatis sicut fertur ad arrendandum scribaniam eandem iure novo ipse vobis. Nobisque supplicavit humiliter pro remedio circa hec adhiberi. Quia ad concessiones gratiasque per nos et nostros precessores factas fides debet attendi gravissimumque esse periculum subtrahi quod est contra munificentiam principalem. Quia nullus absque cognitione cause sua est possessione privandus sed tuendus potius in eadem. Dicimus et mandamus vobis et ita fieri volumus quod faciendo supplicanti predicto concessioni iamdicte vim sufficienti pleniorum ac manutenendo eundem in possessione qua est de premissis restituatis sibi concessum seu dicto petri ornos nomine suo quicquid expense pro recepistis iamdicta nec amodo presumatis ad dictum arrendamentum faciendum procedere nec aliud facere in preiudicium concessioni et possessioni supra contentarum. Datum Barchinone sub nostro sigillo secreto. Sexta die mady anno a nativitate domini Millesimo CCC LXXX septimo. Rex Johannes.

Show more

1:42 PM

**Claude responded: Thank you.**

Systematically reconciled manuscript readings against HTR output, adjudicating textual variants

Systematically reconciled manuscript readings against HTR output, adjudicating textual variants

Thank you. Let me go through this systematically, returning to the manuscript image for each divergence.

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## Stage 2: Reconciliation

### (A) Where the HTR corrects Claude's reading

The HTR is substantially superior on several critical passages:

- 1. Central subject — scribania, not baiulia.** My reading "lutz[?] Enbanya baiuli primam[?]" was badly garbled. The HTR correctly reads "**licet scribania bajulie perpinyani**" — *although the scribania of the baiulia of Perpignan*. Returning to the image, I can now see how the "li-" ligature in *licet* produced my false "lu-," and how *scribania* broke apart into my phantom "Enbanya." This transforms the document entirely: it concerns a **notarial office**, not a baiulia itself.
- 2. "patrem nostrum" not "proavum nostrum."** The HTR's **patrem** resolves the historical absurdity I flagged in Stage 1. Pere IV was Joan I's father; the grant is a standard life concession from the previous reign.
- 3. "Exponere fecit nobis fidelis secretarius... Bartholomeus Siruent dicendo quod"** — standard formula. My ablative absolute construction ("Exponente fideli secretario") and ghost toponym "de Duran" were misreadings. The HTR's nominative construction with *dicendo quod* introducing the narratio is formulaically correct.
- 4. "Petrum Ornos notarium tenentem"** — identifies a specific individual, the notary Petrus Ornos, who holds the scribania via arrendament from Bartholomeus. My "petrum omnes notarios tenentes" was a plural misreading of a personal name + title.
- 5. "lucris" not "iuris"** — *cum omnibus suis lucris fructibus emolumentis et iuribus* (profits, fruits, emoluments, and rights) is the standard enumeration.
- 6. "sub pretextu cuiusdam annue pensionis"** — "under the pretext of a certain annual pension." My "sub prestacione dicte" was a misreading. The *pretextu* is significant: it frames the procurator's action as bad faith.
- 7. "cogitis de facto sine ulla iusta causa preambula"** — "you compel in fact, without any just cause preceding." My "cogitis et facto / nulla iusta causa" broke the formula incorrectly. HTR is clearly right.
- 8. "compellatis sicut fertur"** — "you compel, as is reported." My "companyam" was a misreading of *compellatis*.

9. **"absque cognitione cause"** — standard legal formula ("without cognizance of cause"). My "absque racione eius" was wrong.

10. **"sed tuendus potius"** — "but rather should be protected." My "sit tuendus pocius" broke the adversative construction.

11. **"Dicimus et mandamus vobis et ita fieri volumus"** — standard reinforcement formula. My reading of this entire dispositio section was garbled.

12. **"Nobisque supplicavit humiliter pro remedio circa hec adhiberi"** — standard petition-to-dispositio transition. My "Volentes super huiusmodi inoportunitate remedium" was a misreading.

13. **"sigillo secreto"** — confirmed as secret seal, appropriate for this type of mandate.

14. **"Sexta die madii"** — **May 6**, not April 6. The HTR's "mady" is a scribal rendering of *madii* (May). Returning to the image, I can now see the *m* + abbreviation more plausibly as *madii* than *Aprilis*.

15. **"nec aliud facere in preiudicium concessionis et possessionis supra contentarum"** — HTR's reading is grammatically and formulaically correct. My reading was garbled.

16. **"dicto Petro Ornos nomine suo quicquid"** — identifies Ornos again in the restitution clause, making the operative command clear: restore to Sirvent or to Ornos acting in his name.

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## **(B) Where Claude's reading is preferred or HTR is questionable**

1. **"nostro nomine" vs. HTR's "iure novo ipse vobis."** In the clause about the procurator's counter-lease, the HTR reads "ad arrendandum scribaniam eandem iure novo ipse vobis," which doesn't parse well syntactically. Returning to the image, I believe I can see **"nostro nomine"** — the procurator is leasing the scribania *in the king's name (nostro nomine)*, which is the standard complaint in these disputes: an official claims royal authority to override a prior concession. The words following ("et nobis" or "ipse vobis") remain uncertain.

2. **"datum munificencia principali" vs. HTR's "contra munificentiam principalem."** The legal maxim requires that what has been *given (datum)* by princely munificence should not be taken away. HTR's "contra" (against) disrupts the maxim. Returning to the image, I read **"datum munificencia principali"** — ablative of means, "given by princely munificence." However, I'm not fully confident; the abbreviation is tight.

**3. HTR's "tamdem" (l. 10 of HTR)** — this is likely a misreading. Looking at the manuscript, I believe the correct reading is "**iamdicte**" (aforesaid), referring back to the pension. The HTR may have misread the *iam* as part of *tamdem*.

**4. Orthographic forms.** The scribe writes "**Ceritanie**" (not *Cerdanie*), "**graciam**" (not *gratiam*), and "**ffideli**" with double-f. The HTR normalizes several of these; the manuscript forms should be preserved.

**5. HTR's "precessores"** — likely the manuscript has "**predecessores**" (predecessors). Need to verify, but *precessores* is an unusual form, possibly an HTR truncation.

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### (C) Where both readings remain uncertain

**1. The dispositio operative clause** — "quod faciendo supplicanti predicto concessionem [?] iamdictem [?] vim sufficientem [?] plenioram ac manutenendo eundem in possessione qua est de premissis..." This passage is the most densely abbreviated section. The HTR offers "concessioni iamdicte vim sufficientem plenioram," which I tentatively accept as the better reading, but *vim sufficientem* is unusual phrasing. The sense should be: "that, giving the aforesaid supplicant sufficient fuller [enforcement/effect] regarding the aforesaid concession and maintaining him in the possession he holds..." The exact wording needs archival verification.

**2. The restitution clause** — "restituatis sibi concessum seu dicto Petro Ornos nomine suo quicquid expen[?]... recepistis iamdicta [?]." The HTR reads "quicquid expensione recepistis" or similar. The passage should command restitution of whatever the procurator has received from the pension, but the exact reading is uncertain. I tentatively read: "restituatis sibi ... quicquid expen[sione?] ... recepistis iamdicta" — "you shall restore to him ... whatever you have received of the aforesaid [pension payments]."

**3. "Quia ad concessionem gratiasque per nos et nostros predecessores factas fides debet attendi"** — The HTR's reading is superior to mine, but I want to flag "gratiasque" vs. "gracias que" — is this *gratiasque* (and grants) or *gracias que* (grants which)? The former is more likely. Also "attendi" vs. possibly "attendere" — need to verify the infinitive form.

**4. The subscription.** The HTR reads "**Rex Johannes**" — a royal *iussio* indicating the king commanded the document. I read "**ffranciscus ça Costa**" — the vice-chancellor's *vidit*. Returning to the image, the final line is difficult. I see what appears to begin with "ff" — which strongly favors a personal name like *ffranciscus*. However, the HTR's "Rex Johannes" could represent a separate element (a *iussio* clause above or beside the validation). Both

elements may in fact be present — a *iussio* "Rex Johannes" with a validation "ffranciscus ça Costa" — but I cannot confirm from this image alone. **This needs archival verification.**

**5. "qua sit et sibi pertineat"** — Both readings agree on substance but the exact parsing is uncertain. Possibly "quibus sit et sibi pertineat" (by which right it is and pertains to him) or "qua sibi et sit pertineat."

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### (D) Reconciled Transcription

Johannes et cetera ffideli procuratori reddituum nostrorum in comitatibus Rossilionis et Ceritanie · Dilecto nostro vel eius locumtenenti · Salutem et gratiam · Exponere fecit nobis fidelis secretarius Illustris yolandis Regine Aragonum Conjugis nostre preclare Bartholomeus Siruent dicendo quod licet scribania baiulie Perpinyani cum omnibus suis lucris fructibus emolumentis et iuribus qua sit et sibi pertineat pleno iure ex concessione facta eidem ad vitam per Illustrissimum dominum Petrum Regem Aragonum bone memorie patrem nostrum · Et de ipsa scribania fuerit ipse in plena et pacifica possessione seu quasi · Vos tamen his diebus Petrum Ornos notarium tenentem ex arrendamento ipsius Bartholomei scribaniam predictam sub pretextu cuiusdam annue pensionis cogitis de facto sine ulla iusta causa preambula ad respondendum vobis de ipsa quantitate pensionis iamdicte [?] · in preiudicium atque dampnum exponentis predicti et sue concessionis possessionis ac iuris non modicam lesionem · Et etsi non contentus premissis compellatis sicut fertur ad arrendandum scribaniam eandem nostro nomine [?] · Nobisque supplicavit humiliter pro remedio circa hec adhiberi · Quia ad concessionem gratiasque [?] per nos et nostros predecessores [?] factas fides debet attendi gravissimumque esse periculum [?] subtrahi quod est datum munificencia principali [?] · Quia nullus absque cognitione cause sua est possessione privandus sed tuendus potius in eadem · Dicimus et mandamus vobis et ita fieri volumus quod faciendo supplicanti predicto concessionem iamdicte vim sufficientem [?] pleniorum ac manutenendo eundem in possessione qua est de premissis restituatis sibi concessum seu dicto Petro Ornos nomine suo quicquid expen[?] recepistis iamdicta [?] · nec amodo presumatis ad dictum arrendamentum faciendum procedere · nec aliud facere in preiudicium concessionis et possessionis supra contentarum · Datum Barchinone sub nostro sigillo secreto · Sexta die madii anno a natiuitate domini Millesimo CCCo LXXXo septimo :— ffranciscus ça Costa [?] :—

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### Revised Document Summary

Joan I commands the procurator of royal revenues in Roussillon and Cerdanya to cease interfering with a life concession of the **scribania of the baiulia of Perpignan**, originally

granted by Pere IV to Bartholomeus Sirvent (secretary of Queen Violant de Bar). The procurator has been compelling Petrus Ornos — the notary who holds the scribania via lease (*arrendament*) from Sirvent — to pay the annual pension to the procurator rather than to Sirvent, under the pretext of a certain annual pension and without just cause. The procurator is also reportedly attempting to re-lease the scribania in the king's name. Joan I invokes two legal principles: that faith must be given to concessions made by the crown and its predecessors, and that no one should be deprived of possession without cognizance of cause. He commands the procurator to maintain Sirvent in his possession, restore whatever has been received, and not proceed with any counter-lease.

Ready for your corrections before Stage 3.

**You said: At the end of the document, after the year ends with "septimo," what follows is "Francescus ca Costus."**

At the end of the document, after the year ends with "septimo," what follows is "Francescus ca Costus." For the dispositio operative clause, I am going to transcribe from the end of line 18: "Dicimus et mandamus vobis de certa sciencia et expresse quatenus servando supplicanti predicto concessionem iamdictam nixer siu serviem pleniorum ac mamitenendo eundem in possessione qua est de permissis restituatis sibi confestrim seu dicto Petro Ornos nominem suo quitquod expensione et recepistis iamdictam net amodo presumatis ad dictum arrendamentum fiendum procedere nec aliud facere in prejudicio concessionem et possessionem superius contentarum. Now that you have my best effort at that sentence, please proceed to Stage 3.

Show more

2:07 PM

**Claude responded: Now let me integrate your corrections into the final reconciled transcription and produce the Stage 3 edition.**

Determined output format and proceeded directly

Determined output format and proceeded directly

Now let me integrate your corrections into the final reconciled transcription and produce the Stage 3 edition.

Acknowledged document receipt and awaited transcription processing instructions

Acknowledged document receipt and awaited transcription processing instructions

A few notes on integrating your corrections:

I adopted your readings throughout the dispositio, with two small normalizations I want to flag. First, your *confestrim* — I translated as "forthwith" following the standard *confestim*, but preserved your reading in the transcription and flagged it in the unresolved ambiguities. Second, *quitquod* — clearly *quicquid* in function, but I kept your form in the transcription.

The hardest remaining crux is "**nixer siu serviem pleniorem.**" The formula slot expects something reinforcing the command — typically "with fuller force" or similar — but those three words resist parsing as standard Latin. I've left a bracketed gap in the translation and flagged it as the primary item for archival verification. If you can get a better look at those letterforms, it would resolve the most significant remaining uncertainty in the document.

Aca joani scribaniaperpignan 1387 05 06

Document · MD

Want to be notified when Claude responds?

[Claude is AI and can make mistakes. Please double-check responses.](#)