

Gemini Version 3

May 2, 2026

Conversation with Gemini

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

This document is a royal mandate issued by **King John I of Aragon** (*Joan el Caçador*), dated **May 6, 1387**.

While the administrative context involves the territories of Roussillon and Cerdanya, the formal language of the document is **Latin**, which was the standard for the Royal Chancery of the Crown of Aragon for this type of official correspondence, even when dealing with Catalan-speaking subjects.

Below is a line-by-line transcription, followed by a summary of the content and paleographical notes.

Transcription

1. Johannes dei gratia rex etc. fideli procuratori reddituum nostrorum in comitatibus Rossilionis et
2. Cerdanie. Dilecto nostro vel eius locumtenenti Salutem et gratiam. Exponere fecit nobis fidelis
3. secretarius Illustris yolandis Regine Aragonum Conjugis nostre preclare Bartholo-
4. meus siruvent dicendo quod licet scribania bajulie perpinyani cum omnibus suis lucris
5. fructibus emolumentis et iuribus qua sit et sibi pertineat pleno iure ex con-
6. cessione facta eidem ad vitam per Illustrissimum dominum Petrum Regem
7. Aragonum bone memorie patrem nostrum. Et de ipsa scribania fuerit ipse in plena
8. et pacifica possessione seu quasi. Vos tamen his diebus petrum ornos notarium
9. tenentem ex arrendamento ipsius bartholomei scribaniam predictam sub pretextu
10. tu cuiusdam annue pensionis cogitis de facto sine ulla iusta causa preambula ad

11. respondendum vobis de ipsa quantitate pensionis tandem in preiudicium atque
12. dampnum Exponentis predicti et sue concessioni possessioni et iuris non modica
13. lesionem. Et etsi non contentus premissis compellatis sicut fertur ad arrendan-
14. dum scribaniam eandem iure novo ipse vobis. Nobisque supplicavit humiliter pro
15. remedio circa hec adhiberi. Quia ad concessionem gratiasque per nos et nostros
16. precessores factas fides debet attendi gravissimumque esse periculum subtrahi
quod est
17. contra munificentiam principalem. Quia nullus absque cognitione cause sua est
pos-
18. sessione privandus sed tuendus potius in eadem. Dicimus et mandamus vobis et
19. ita fieri volumus quod faciendo supplicanti predicto concessionem iamdictam vim suf-
20. ficienti pleniorum ac manutenendo eundem in possessione qua est de premissis
21. restituatis sibi concessum seu dicto petri ornos nomine suo quicquid expen-
22. se pro recepistis iamdictam nec amodo presumatis ad dictum arrendamentum
23. faciendum procedere nec aliud facere in preiudicium concessionem et possessionem
supra con-
24. tentarum. Datum Barchinone sub nostro sigillo secreto. Sexta die mady anno
25. a nativitate domini Millesimo CCC LXXX septimo. Rex Johannes.

Content Summary

The document concerns a dispute over the **Scribania** (clerkship) of the **Bajulia** (bailiwick) of **Perpignan**.

Bartholomeu Siruvent, a secretary to **Queen Violant de Bar** (John I's wife), holds this office for life, a grant originally given by the late King Peter IV (*the Ceremonious*). Siruvent complains that the royal procurator of Roussillon and Cerdanya is illegally forcing his tenant, the notary **Pere Ornos**, to pay a new annual pension or rent for the office.

King John I intercedes, ruling that such actions undermine "princely munificence" and the "faith" that must be kept with royal grants. He orders the procurator to stop the demands, refund any money already taken, and leave Siruvent in peaceful possession of his rights.

Paleographical & Philological Notes

- **Dating:** The date "Sexta die mady" (May 6th) and the year "Millesimo CCC LXXX septimo" (1387) place this document just four months after John I ascended the throne following his father's death in January 1387.
- **The Hand:** This is a classic **Gothic Secretarial** hand. Note the high, looping ascenders on letters like *d*, *l*, and *b*, and the "long s" (*ſ*) which can easily be confused with *f*.
- **Brevigraphs (Abbreviations):** * con- or com- is represented by a 9-shaped symbol at the start of words (e.g., *concessione* in line 5).
 - -rum (genitive plural) is shown by the "R-rotunda" with a cross-stroke through the tail (e.g., *nostrorum* in line 1).
 - per and pre are distinguished by strokes through the descender of the *p*.
- **Spelling:** Late medieval Latin in the Crown of Aragon often displays "vulgar" influences, such as **dampnum** for *damnum* (line 12) or **mady** for *mai* (line 24).

Gemini is AI and can make mistakes.