

Gemini Version 3 Flash Pro

May 19, 2026

Conversation with Gemini

I have another document from 1387 written in Gothic Secretarial Hand. The language is Catalan. Please do your best to transcribe.

This is a beautifully preserved example of a late 14th-century royal administrative hand (cursiva gòtica). The text is written in Old Catalan, emanating from the royal chancery, and deals with a grievance regarding a member of the royal household (domestich nostre).

Here is the diplomatic transcription, maintaining the historical orthography, abbreviations (expanded in brackets where necessary for clarity), and lineation.

Transcription

Line 1: . Reisb[re]entes hanch q[ue] vos tenits pres en Castllu[m] n[un]c[io] de p[re]pinyra

Line 2: lo qual es domestich n[ost]re e al qual diu[e]n q[ue] fo s[er]enament contra **Line 3:**

ell / mas p[er] jnstigacio d'alcuns quj lj porten jngvjntat que no p[er] **Line 4:** justic[i]a de la

qual cosa sj deua es nos marauellam molt / p[er]que[n] v[os] diu[e]m **Line 5:** e ma[n]ma[m]

que en lo dit fet fassets justic[i]a e no als / Certifica[n]t vos **Line 6:** q[ue] sj lo contrarj

faheets co que no creem faryets cosa dezonesta a nos **Line 7:** desplaent[er] majorment co

lo dit . G. sia n[ost]re domestich segons dit es / **Line 8:** Dada en Barchel[o]na a . xxi . dia de

maig / El any dlla nat[ivitat] de n[ost]re senyor **Line 9:** . m . ccc . lxxxvii . Sjnale[m] en cofty .

Paleographical & Orthographical Notes

- **Abbreviations:** * The characteristic elongated p-stroke is used consistently for **p[er]** (e.g., p[er] jnstigacio, p[er] justic[i]a).
 - Standard horizontal tildes/macrons indicate missing nasal consonants or syllables, such as **n[ost]re** (with the n over-tilde long stroke) and **ma[n]ma[m]** (manam).
 - The relative pronoun que is abbreviated with the standard **q[ue]** (q with a diagonal slash through the descender).
- **Letterforms:** * Notice the typical tall, looped vertical ascenders on **b**, **h**, and **l**.

- The long **s** (f) and **f** are highly elongated and drop well below the baseline, particularly visible in words like *fassets*, *justicia*, and *desplaent*.
- The initial letter of the first word looks like a stylized **R** combined with a capital **B** form, typical of the decorative initials used to open chancery mandates (*Reisbreenentes* / *Rebents*).
- **Dating Formula:** The document concludes with a classic Catalan chancery closing: *Dada en Barchelona a . xxi . dia de maig / El any dlla nat de nostre senyor . m . ccc . lxxxvii .* (May 21, 1387).

Please translate this letter into English

Here is an English translation of the letter, capturing the formal, urgent, and authoritative tone of the 14th-century royal chancery.

Modern English Translation

"[We] have received word that you are holding prisoner in the Castle of Perpignan a certain [person] who is a member of our royal household, and against whom they say action was taken—not out of justice, but rather through the instigation of certain individuals who bear ill-will toward him. We marvel greatly at this matter, if it is indeed true. Therefore, we tell and command you to do justice in the said matter and nothing else, assuring you that if you do the contrary—which we do not believe you will—you would be doing a dishonorable thing displeasing to us, especially since the said G. is a member of our household, as has been said.

Given in Barcelona, on the 21st day of May, in the year of the Nativity of Our Lord 1387. By royal command [or countersigned]."

Key Historical & Contextual Notes

- **"Domestich nostre" (Member of our household):** This is the core of the letter's legal weight. Members of the royal household (domestics) enjoyed special legal protections and privileges. By arresting this individual, the local official was potentially infringing upon royal jurisdiction.
- **The Identity of ". G.":** In line 7, the text refers to the individual as **. G.** (isolated by dots, which was standard medieval practice for highlighting initials or proper names). This is a placeholder abbreviation or initial for the specific household member being defended (e.g., Guillem, Grau, etc.).
- **"Castllum de prepinyra" (Castle of Perpignan):** Perpignan was a major strategic and administrative center for the Crown of Aragon (specifically within the County of

Roussillon). The conflict here highlights the typical friction between local judicial authorities and royal prerogative.

- **Chancery Formula:** The phrase "co que no creem" (which we do not believe [you will do]) is a polite but firm rhetorical device common in medieval royal reprimands. It gives the official an honorable way to comply while leaving no doubt that disobedience will incur the King's displeasure.

Gemini is AI and can make mistakes.