

Chat history ChatGPT Version 5.2

January 2, 2026

You said:

I have another medieval Catalan transcription that I would like you to help me translate. I will paste the transcription here. It is my original transcription of a 1387 letter from Violant, three days after she becomes queen, to the Governor of Majorca, a Mossen Fransesch. I might have been wrong about a few letters here and there, but the transcription is at least 90% accurate. Please help me make corrections where needed. Then help me translate and contextualize the information, especially if you can find more information about the governor of Majorca at this time. Here is the transcription: Lo Rey ha a nos scrit que deguessem a nos scriure que trametessets de perte de ça Mossen Pere d'Amaniyo pere que vos pregam e manam que per la primera fusta obligacio en quel tingats. Et d'aço nos farets al dit senyor e a nos plaher.

ChatGPT said:

This is a very nice, tightly written chancery letter, and you are right that your transcription is already quite solid. Below I'll proceed in three stages:

1. **Careful philological correction of the Catalan**
2. **English translation (literal → smoother)**
3. **Historical and administrative context**, including what we can and cannot say about the governor of Majorca in early 1387 and the individuals named

I'll keep the tone at the level of late-fourteenth-century Crown of Aragon epistolary practice rather than over-normalizing it.

1. Revised transcription (with minimal, justified corrections)

Your original:

Lo Rey ha a nos scrit que deguessem a nos scriure que trametessets de perte de ça Mossen Pere d'Amaniyo pere que vos pregam e manam que per la primera fusta obligacio en quel tingats. Et d'aço nos farets al dit senyor e a nos plaher.

Proposed corrected reading

**Lo rey ha a nós scrit que deguéssem a vós scriure que tramatéssets de part de ça
Mossèn Pere d'Amaníyo, per çò que vos pregam e manam que, per la primera fusta,
obligació en què·l tingats. E d'açò nos farets al dit senyor e a nós plaer.**

Notes on corrections

- **a nos scriure → a vós scriure**

This is the most important syntactic correction.

“that we should write *to you*” is formulaic; “to write to ourselves” would be diplomatically nonsensical.

- **de perte de ça → de part de ça**

A very common phrase; *perte* is almost certainly *part* with a scribal confusion of *r/t*.

- **pere que → per ço que**

Standard chancery connective meaning “therefore / for which reason.”

- **fusta**

This is correct as written. In administrative Catalan it refers to a **ship / vessel**, not literal wood.

- **obligacio en quel → obligació en què·l**

Normal normalization of clitic + relative.

Everything else is stylistically and orthographically plausible for 1387.

2. Translation

Literal translation

The king has written to us that we should write to you that you should dispatch, on behalf of those here, Mossèn Pere d'Amaníyo; for which reason we ask and command you that, by the first vessel, you hold him under obligation. And in this you will give pleasure to the said lord and to us.

Smoothen diplomatic translation

The king has written to us instructing that we write to you, requesting that you send, on behalf of those here, Mossèn Pere d'Amaníyo. Therefore, we ask and command you to place him under obligation and send him by the first available ship. In doing so, you will give satisfaction to the said lord and to us.

Key phrases worth flagging

- “**per la primera fusta**”
= *by the first ship to depart*, i.e. no delay.
- “**obligació en què·l tingats**”
This does **not** mean arrest. It normally means:
 - holding someone to a duty,
 - binding them formally to appear,
 - or placing them under a recognized administrative obligation (often travel, testimony, or service).

This phrasing is consistent with royal logistics, not punishment.

3. Context and interpretation

3.1. Violant’s role (3 days after accession)

Three days after becoming queen, **Violant de Bar** is already:

- issuing commands jointly framed with the king,
- relaying royal instructions,
- exercising authority over island governance (Majorca),
- using full chancery imperative language (*pregam e manam*).

This is strong evidence for **immediate political activation**, not ceremonial queenship.

3.2. The Governor of Majorca: “**Mossèn Fransesch**”

Your addressee (“Governor of Majorca, Mossèn Fransesch”) aligns well with known practice, but **pinning down the exact individual requires care**.

What we can say confidently:

- In 1387, Majorca was governed by a **royal governor (lloctinent or governador)**, not an autonomous local lord.
- The governor would normally be:

- a knight (*Mossèn*),
- Catalan-Aragonese,
- directly responsible to the king and queen,
- in charge of maritime logistics and personnel movements.

There are **several plausible Francescs** active in royal service in the 1380s, but without a surname in this letter, identification must come from:

- the **ACA reg. Cancelleria**, early Joan I registers,
- Majorcan administrative registers (often copied separately),
- or cross-references where *Mossèn Fransesch* appears with an office title.

If you want, next step would be:

- a **targeted prosopographical sweep** of Majorcan governors c. 1385–1390,
- or matching this letter against a **response or compliance record**.

3.3. Mossèn Pere d'Amaníyo

This is the most intriguing figure in the letter.

What the letter implies:

- He is **physically in Majorca** at the time.
- The king wants him **sent elsewhere immediately**.
- His movement requires:
 - gubernatorial authority,
 - maritime transport,
 - and formal obligation.

This profile fits someone who is:

- a royal agent,
- a messenger,
- a witness,

- or a functionary needed urgently at court or in another jurisdiction.

It does **not** read like:

- exile,
- punishment,
- or coercive arrest.

The tone is logistical and cooperative.

4. Why this letter matters (historiographically)

This short letter is valuable because it shows:

- **Queenly command language** (*pregam e manam*) used without hesitation
- **Direct queen → governor communication**
- **Rapid mobilization of personnel across the Mediterranean**
- **Violant acting as a conduit of royal will**, not merely echoing it

In other words, this is exactly the kind of evidence that supports an interpretation of Violant as:

- administratively competent,
- politically active from the first days of the reign,
- and structurally embedded in governance.

5. If you'd like to go further

I can help you next with any of the following:

- Compare this phrasing with **earlier queenly letters** (e.g. Maria de Luna later on)
- Locate **parallel formulae** in Joan I's chancery
- Draft a **critical apparatus note** for an edition
- Attempt a **prosopographical identification** of Pere d'Amaníyo
- Situate this within **Majorca–Barcelona maritime rhythms**

Just tell me which direction you want to push this.

You said:

Please do a targeted prosopographical sweep of Majorcan governors c. 1385–1390, and contextualize that with information about what was happening with Majorca-Barcelona relations at this time.

ChatGPT said:

Thought for 1m 35s

Here's a targeted sweep for **Majorcan royal governors c. 1385–1390**, plus what that implies about **Mallorca–Barcelona relations** in exactly the years you're working in.

1) Who is the governor in 1385–1390?

The “Mossèn Fransesch” in your 1387 letter is very likely Francesc (Ça/Sa) Sagarriga

For the entire window you specified (1385–1390), the best-supported identification is:

- **Francesc de Sagarriga / Francesc Ça (Sa) Sagarriga** — *governador (general) de Mallorca* (in office from the mid-1370s into the early 1390s in most reconstructions). ca.wikipedia.org+2ca.wikipedia.org+2

Why this fits your letter especially well:

- Contemporary narrative and later scholarship-based discussions explicitly refer to “**el governador, Francesc de Sagarriga**” in the crisis of **1391**, showing (a) the title and (b) that he was the acting governor in this same political cycle. ibdigital.uib.es
- Lists of governors used in modern reference compilations place **Francesc de Sagarriga** as the standing governor through **Joan I's accession (1387)**—meaning your “three days after she becomes queen” letter lands squarely inside his tenure. ca.wikipedia.org+1

Practical upshot for your edition: unless another “Mossèn Francesc” with a different surname appears in the rubric or address line of your register copy, you can annotate him as *very probably Francesc de Sagarriga (governor general)*, while flagging the missing surname as the only caveat.

2) What the office tells you (and why your “first ship” wording is so normal)

Pau Cateura Bennàsser's work on Mallorcan royal administration is extremely useful for explaining what governors *did* and how they interacted with the other islands and the crown:

- By the later 1300s the governor is effectively the **supreme royal officer** on Mallorca, coordinating authority across the “**regne de Mallorca e illes adjacents**” (including Menorca and Ibiza through subordinate officials/portavoces). ifc.dpz.es
- Cateura gives a vivid example of how governors handled **inter-island logistics and constraints**—missions requiring movement of persons/animals, time-limited permissions, and disputes over exports (grain/livestock), precisely the kind of administrative world that makes “*per la primera fusta*” (“by the first vessel”) feel like everyday government language. ifc.dpz.es

So your 1387 instruction to send someone “**by the first ship**” is not merely rhetorical urgency—it matches the governor's core role as a **maritime administrator**, not just a judge or military commander.

3) Prosopographical “cluster” around the governorship (what names tend to appear with it)

Even when a letter gives only “Mossèn Francesc,” you can often triangulate identity by the social/administrative network that appears around the governor in adjacent documentation.

A good example comes out of a detailed 2022 *BSAL* study that narrates the 1391 crisis and shows how the governor interacted with Majorcan elites:

- In 1391, during violence in the city, **Governor Francesc de Sagarriga** retreats to the **Almudaina**, calls for armed support, and a long list of **cavallers/prohoms** gather (Febrer, Zaforteza, Santiscle, Rubert, Valentí-Sestores, Umbert, Oms, Torrella, Tagamanent, etc.). ibdigital.uib.es
- In 1392 (immediately after), Majorcan authorities send an **embassy to Joan I** to explain events—again showing the “Mallorca ↔ royal court” communications channel in action. ibdigital.uib.es

Why this matters for your 1387 letter:

- It strengthens the reading of your note as part of a **routine court-island personnel pipeline**, with the governor acting as the crown's shipping/logistics “switchboard.”

- It also hints where “your” Mossèn Pere d’Amaníyo might turn up: in lists of envoys, witnesses, or officials moving between **Palma–Barcelona/València** via royal orders.

4) Mallorca–Barcelona relations c. 1385–1390: what’s actually “live” in these years?

A) Mallorca is politically *inside* the Crown—yet legally sensitive about being “under Catalonia”

One of the most useful contextual points (and it maps onto how letters are worded) is that Mallorcans repeatedly insist on **juridical separateness** from the Principat, even while being deeply connected to Barcelona economically and administratively.

Cateura quotes a later Mallorcan argument to the crown that is basically the long-term ideology in miniature:

- Mallorca is “**apartat**,” with its **own franchises**, and “**not subject to the Principat of Catalonia nor to the observance of its constitutions/usatges**,” especially because those were made in Catalan courts where Mallorcans were not summoned. ifc.dpz.es

But at the same time, Cateura notes that Mallorcan representatives did at points seek to **benefit from Catalan legal-economic privileges** (e.g., requesting inclusion in certain Catalan constitutions from the **Corts of Monzón 1376**). ifc.dpz.es

Translation into your 1387 letter-world: You often see an administrative tone that treats Mallorca as a **kingdom with its own institutions**, while still obeying royal command; that’s why orders are routed through the governor and implemented locally rather than treating Mallorca as a mere Catalan “district.”

B) The relationship is also fiscal and financial—and Barcelona is a major node

By the late 1380s you’re entering what Majorcan historians routinely frame as an intensifying “finisecular” crisis.

Ricard Urgell Hernández explicitly frames the relevant period as beginning in **1387** (death of Pere the Ceremonious; reigns of Joan I and Martí I), with consequences for “govern and treasury.” ICE Publications

He also shows concrete mechanisms tying Majorcan finance to Barcelona, including arrangements denominated in **lliures de Barcelona** and paid *in Barcelona* through a Barcelona banking table (Gualbes). ICE Publications

So even when a letter looks purely “logistical,” it lives in a system where:

- personnel travel by ship,
- embassies are dispatched to court,
- money and credit instruments are handled through Barcelona channels,
- and the governor sits at the junction of political control and maritime movement.

C) 1387 specifically: a succession moment that heightens traffic between court and island

Your letter's timing—**immediately after Joan I's accession and Violant's queenship**—is exactly when:

- offices are reconfirmed,
- trusted agents are summoned or reassigned,
- and the crown wants rapid compliance “by the first ship.”

This is not a speculative “maybe”; it follows directly from how the governor's office functions as described by Cateura (supreme officer, coordinating islands, handling missions) and from the documented pattern of Mallorca communicating with Joan I via embassies and urgent mobilizations in this same reign-cycle. ifc.dpz.es+1

5) A tight working timeline (1385–1390) you can drop into notes

- **1385–1390:** Governor in practice is best identified as **Francesc (Ça/Sa) Sagarriga**, the long-serving governor of the later 1300s. ca.wikipedia.org+2ca.wikipedia.org+2
- **1387:** Start of Joan I's reign; Urgell Hernández treats this as the start of the period whose political/fiscal dynamics shape the following decades. [ICE Publications](#)
- **Late 1380s:** Intensifying fiscal entanglements and obligations that often route through Barcelona financial mechanisms. [ICE Publications](#)
- **1391 (just outside your window but crucial context):** Major crisis in Palma; governor Sagarriga's defensive retreat to Almudaina; shows the governor's centrality and the elite networks that respond. ibdigital.uib.es
- **1392:** Embassy to Joan I to explain events—demonstrates the Mallorca ↔ court pipeline that your 1387 letter participates in. ibdigital.uib.es

If you want the next step (most useful for your specific letter)

If you paste the **address line / dating clause / witness or sign-manual line** from your register copy (even just the first and last 2–3 lines), I can help you build a very “edition-ready” annotation that:

1. identifies “Mossèn Fransesch” as **Francesc de Sagarriga** with a confidence statement, and
2. suggests where to look in ACA/ARM series for **Mossèn Pere d’Amaníyo** as a movable royal agent (often the easiest way is to search for him in *letters of summons, safe-conducts, or procurations* clustered around accession weeks).

ChatGPT can make mistakes. Check important info.