

Royal Executory Mandate of Joan I to Francesc Palasol, *parator* of the Town of Perpignan

Stage 3 Scholarly Edition — Transcription, Translation, and Annotation

Document Summary

Field	Detail
Archive	Arxiu de la Corona d'Aragó (ACA), Cancillería
Register / folio	reg. [?], f. 161r (register and folio to be verified)
Date	Barcelona, 4 June 1387 (<i>iiii^a die Junij, anno a nativitate Domini M^o CCC^o lxxx^o septimo</i>)
Language	Latin (chancery), Gothic secretarial hand (<i>lletra bastarda</i>)
Issuing authority	Joan I of Aragon (acc. January 1387)
Addressee	Francesc Palasol (Franciscus Palasol), <i>parator ville Perpiniani</i> — an officer of the town of Perpignan
Document type	Royal executory mandate (<i>manament</i>) on supplication, with a five-day compliance term and a penal clause; summons to appear before the <i>Mestre Racional</i>
Principal parties	The supplicant Blay, knight (<i>Blay miles</i>), assignee of 88 ll.b.; Berenguer Mar[n]sa[?] , his procurator; Bernat/Berenguer de Magola , former <i>procurator regni</i> ; the <i>Magister Racionalis</i> (Mestre Racional)
Subject	The king orders Palasol either to issue and confirm the <i>apocha</i> (quittance) for 88 lliures of Barcelona owed to Blay, or to appear within five days before the Mestre Racional to show cause, on pain of 200 gold morabatins
Eschatocol	<i>ffranciscus ça Costa</i> (Francesc ça Costa), vice-chancellor

Reconciled Latin Transcription

Orthography preserved as in the manuscript; abbreviations expanded silently except where

flagged. Uncertain readings marked [?]; editorial supplements in square brackets. Lineation follows the folio.

¹ Johannes Dei gracia [et cetera]. Fideli nostro Francisco **Palasol**, paratori¹ ville **Perpiniani**,² salutem et gratiam. Supplicatu[m] est nobis humiliter per fidelem [et] de Consilio nostro **Bñ [Berengarium/Bernardum] de Magola**, olim ³ procuratorem **regni**,² quod cum [comptarum (?) ...] [???] / ut cum nobis ⁴ super hoc [registris (?) requisiti (?)] ****noluerit[is]****³ [+++] ducere, sibi apocha[m] ⁵ facere et firmare de **octuaginta octo libris Barchin[onensium]**,⁴ quas nobis, ut asseritur, in ⁶ cessione et assignacione habenti, assignacionem **Blay**, scilicet⁵ [Blay] **militi**,⁶ in **civitate** ⁷ maiori,⁷ super redditibus et juribus pertinentibus ipsi procuratori, quoslibet ⁸ dicte ville, propter plure[m] [?] summe anno preterito [misso (?)] [+++], nulla apocha ⁹ predicta opportuna, per ****Berengarium Mar[n]sa[?]****⁸ procuratorem et nomine supplicantis predicti, ¹⁰ qui adhuc ante temporis procuratoris jamdictum officium possidebat, asserendo ¹¹ ut fecit quod usque dictam apocha[m] faceretis, nisi jus vobis restare ¹² quantitas persolvat / quod cedit in magnum dampnum supplicantis ¹³ predicti, cum oporteat quod tunc reddunt in posse nostri **Racionalis magistri**⁹ ¹⁴ absque dicta apocha [comode (?) diffiniri] non possunt. Dignaremur super ¹⁵ hijs providere de remedio congruenti. [Quare] dicimus et **mandamus vobis** expresse, ¹⁶ sub pena **ducentorum morabatorum auri**,¹⁰ quod si est ita, facientes et fir- ¹⁷ mentes, visis presentibus, supplicanti predicto dictam apocha[m] super dicta [re], vel ¹⁸ infra **quinque dies** a presentacione huiusmodi computandos **compareatis**, per vos ¹⁹ seu per vestrum procuratorem legitimum coram dicto nostro **Rationali magistro**, ²⁰ proposituri¹¹ casus et rationes justas si quas habetis, quibus non teneamini ²¹ ad premissa / alioquin, lapsis dictis quinque diebus, **procedetur confestim**¹² ²² ad exaccionem pene jamdicte, et alia [at(ia)] contra vos ut juris fuerit, rationis [?] et ²³ juste. ****Datum Barchinone iij^a die Junij, anno a nativitate Domini M^o CCC^o lxxx^o septimo.****¹³ ²⁴ [eschatocol:] **ffranciscus ça Costa** [vicecancellarius].

English Translation

Joan, by the grace of God [etc.]. To our faithful **Francesc Palasol**, *parator*¹ of the town of **Perpignan**, greeting and grace. It has been humbly set forth to us by our faithful councillor **Berenguer (or Bernat) de Magola**, formerly **procurator of the kingdom**,² that whereas [in the matter of the accounts (?) ...], although in regard to this you have **refused**³ [to enter (?) in the registers] [...] to proceed — [namely] to make and confirm for him a quittance (*apocha*) for **eighty-eight pounds of Barcelona**,⁴ which (as is asserted) are due to us under a cession and assignment held by the assignee, that is, the assignment to **Blay**,⁵ **knight**,⁶ in the **chief city**,⁷ upon the revenues and rights pertaining to the said procurator, [namely] whatsoever [revenues] of the said town — on account of [the larger part (?) of] the sum, in the past year [remitted (?)] [...], no such quittance has been duly issued, [though it was sought] through **Berenguer Mar[n]sa[?]**,⁸ procurator and in the name of the aforesaid supplicant, who even before this

held the said office of procurator, [the supplicant] asserting (as he did) that you would [not?] make the said quittance until the sum that remains owing as his right be paid in full — which redounds to the great injury of the aforesaid supplicant, since it is necessary that the sums then rendered into the keeping of our **Mestre Racional**⁹ cannot be [properly] settled without the said quittance;

[and asking] that we deign to provide a fitting remedy in these matters:

[Therefore] we say to you and expressly **command you**, under penalty of **two hundred gold morabatins**,¹⁰ that — if it is so — making and confirming, upon sight of these presents, the said quittance for the aforesaid supplicant in the matter aforesaid, or else within **five days** counted from the presentation of this [letter], you are to **appear**, in person or through your lawful procurator, before our said **Mestre Racional**,

intending to put forward¹¹ the circumstances and just reasons, if you have any, by which you are not bound to the foregoing. Otherwise, the said five days having lapsed, **proceedings shall be taken forthwith**¹² to the exaction of the penalty already named, and otherwise against you as shall be in accordance with law, reason, and justice.

Given at Barcelona, the 4th day of June, in the year of the Lord's Nativity 1387.¹³

[Subscribed:] **Francesc çà Costa** [vice-chancellor].

Footnotes

1. **paratori / parator ville**. The office-title given in your line-1 reading. *Parator* is not a high chancery dignity and is unusual in this position; in a Perpignan / Roussillon context it most plausibly denotes a local administrative or fiscal functionary of the *villa* (a town officer charged with preparing or expediting business), rather than a *batlle* or *veguer* proper. The exact competence of a *parator ville Perpiniani* in 1387 merits a targeted check against the Roussillon municipal and royal-patrimony records, since the man's authority to issue the *apocha* (and hence his standing as addressee of an executory mandate routed through the *Mestre Racional*) turns on it. Flagged below.
2. **olim procuratorem regni — not regium**. The manuscript carries the superscript *-i curl* (*regni*ⁱ), giving *regni*, "procurator of the kingdom," a territorial office — against the HTR's normalized *procuratorem regium* ("royal procurator," adjectival). The distinction is substantive: it is the *procurator regni* whose *redditus et iura* (line 7) are the security for Blay's assignment, and the office recurs at line 10 (*procuratoris... officium possidebat*). The reading *regni* is therefore confirmed both palaeographically and by the internal logic of the grant. **Which** kingdom (Valencia, Mallorca, or — given the Perpignan setting — the patrimony of Roussillon-Cerdanya administered under the Crown) is unresolved; see Unresolved Ambiguities.
3. **noluerit[is], not voluerit[is]**. The initial is **n**, yielding *nolle* ("to refuse"), not *velle* ("to wish") — the opposite sense. This is the *narratio* of grievance: the addressee has **refused** to act. The HTR's *voluerit[is] maliciose formter ducere* is a fabrication; *maliciose* and *formiter*

are not on the page. The precise object of the refusal (something touching the *registra* / the accounts) is not recoverable remotely and is left open.

4. **octuaginta octo libris Barchinonensium — 88 lliures barceloneses.** The *lliura (libra)* of Barcelona = 20 *sous (solidi)*, each *sou* = 12 *diners (denarii)*; the *lliura barcelonesa* was the standard money of account for the Principality. The sum is a money of account, not coin. The amount is legible and confirmed by both passes.
5. **scilicet.** Resolving the abbreviated *aꝓilicꝓ* cluster. It introduces the specification of the assignee ("namely, to Blay").
6. **Blay, militi (knight).** Per your adjudication, the word following *Blay* is *militi* (dative, "to the knight"), not *scilicet* repeated or *asilicet*. *Blay* is retained in the manuscript's vernacular form (cf. project convention; the Latin *Blasius* is **not** written, so the HTR's *Blasiy* is rejected). *Blay* is here a *miles* — a knight — which raises his social register and is worth pursuing prosopographically: a knight named *Blay/Blasi* assigned 88 ll.b. on the revenues of the Perpignan procuratorship in 1387. Identification flagged below.
7. **in civitate maiori.** "In the chief/greater city." In a Perpignan context this phrasing is slightly awkward (Perpignan is a *villa* throughout the document, not a *civitas*); *civitas maior* may denote a specific jurisdictional frame for where the assignment was constituted, or may be a chancery formula for the principal seat. Retained as written but noted.
8. **Berengarius Mar[n]sa[?]** — **the macron problem.** Per your reading, the procurator at line 10 is **Berenguer**, surname written *mārsa* with a macron over the body of the word. The suspension stroke admits a nasal that is not written out: candidate expansions include **Manresa** (*Mar[n]esa* / *Manresa*, the Catalan town and a well-attested surname) or a *Mar[n]sa* form. *Marsa* (the Priorat village) read flat, without honouring the macron, is the less likely resolution precisely because the macron signals an omitted nasal. **Manresa** is the strongest candidate but is not secure; flagged for verification against the notarial subscription or other chancery attestations of this procurator. Note the prosopographical knot: this Berenguer "even before this held the said office of procurator" (line 10), i.e. he is a former *procurator* now acting as *Blay's* procurator (in the agency sense) — the two senses of *procurator* (the territorial office vs. the legal agent) are deliberately in play and should not be collapsed.
9. **Racionalis magistri — the Mestre Racional.** The chief auditing magistracy of the Crown of Aragon, before whom royal accounts (and the *apocae* that discharge them) were rendered and cleared. The document's logic is exactly an audit-clearance problem: until *Palasol* issues the *apocha*, the sums paid into the king's keeping cannot be formally *diffiniri* (settled/quitted) in the *Mestre Racional's* accounts — hence the king's interest in compelling the receipt. This is the jurisdictional hinge of the mandate.
10. **ducentorum morabatinorum auri — 200 gold morabatins.** The *morabatí* (Lat. *morabatinus*, from Almoravid gold dinars) functioned as a standard high-value penal unit in Aragonese chancery mandates; here it fixes the coercive penalty for non-compliance. Its appearance is formulaic (penalty clause), not a sum actually owed.

11. **proposituri (future participle)**. "Intending to put forward" — governs the purpose of the summons: Palasol is to appear *in order to* allege any just defences. The future participle of purpose is standard chancery usage and not over-translated here.
 12. **procedetur confestim ad exactionem pene**. "Proceedings shall be taken forthwith to the exaction of the penalty" — the standard escalation formula. *Confestim* ("forthwith / without delay") is confirmed against the HTR's erroneous *asistente(?)*.
 13. **Datum... M^o CCC^o lxxx^o septimo**. 4 June 1387. The year is given *anno a nativitate Domini* (Nativity style), so no conversion is required: the historical date is 4 June 1387, in the first regnal half-year of Joan I (acc. January 1387).
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Unresolved Ambiguities (for archival follow-up)

1. **Register and folio**. Confirm the ACA Cancillería register number and the folio (cited provisionally as f. 161r). Note your observation that ornament/probatio bleed-through from the preceding document on the leaf interfered with the opening lines — worth recording in the apparatus.
2. **The office *parator ville Perpiniani* (footnote 1)**. Establish what a *parator* of Perpignan was in 1387 and what fiscal authority the office carried. This determines why Palasol — rather than a *batlle* or the *procurator reial* of Roussillon — is the officer competent (and compellable) to issue the *apocha*. Directly relevant to the dissertation's argument on jurisdictional reach and on household/territorial office combinations.
3. **"olim procurator regni" — which kingdom, and who is Berenguer/Bernat de Magola (footnote 2)**. Resolve the *Bñ* expansion (Berengarius vs. Bernardus) and identify this former *procurator regni*. Given the Perpignan/Roussillon setting, test whether *regni* here points to the procuratorship of the comital patrimony of Roussillon-Cerdanya or to a peninsular kingdom. The *regni* reading (vs. *regium*) and the layering of offices bear on the dual-officeholding thread.
4. **Blay, *miles* (footnote 6)**. Identify the knight Blay/Blasi who holds the assignment of 88 ll.b. on the Perpignan procuratorship's revenues. Check Roussillon and Barcelona notarial/council records for a knight of this name active c. 1386–1388.
5. **Berenguer Mar[n]sa / Manresa[?] (footnote 8)**. Resolve the macron'd surname — **Manresa** is the leading candidate but unconfirmed. Establish whether this is the same man who earlier held the procuratorship (the document says he did), which would make him both a former *procurator regni*-type officer and Blay's legal procurator. Important for the prosopography of the Perpignan procuratorship.
6. **Lines 3–4 and 8–9 (the *narratio*)**. The clauses surrounding *noluerit[is]... ducere* (the act refused) and *propter plurem summe anno preterito misso* (the prior-year sum) resist remote resolution and require autopsy of the manuscript. Marked [?]/[+++] throughout.

7. **Eschatocol.** Confirm *ffranciscus ça Costa* against the register hand and the *iussio* formula; the letters are clipped on the page (*ffraçast*) but the identification with the vice-chancellor Francesc ça Costa is secure on prosopographical grounds.