

## Claude Opus 4.8 High

June 1, 2026

Claude finished the response

I am looking for academic articles about bullfighting in the Crown of Aragon in the fourteenth century. Please search for secondary literature published by journals or academic presses about this topic and provide links to any sources you find.

11:27 AM

I'll search for academic literature on this topic.

Searched the web

Searched the web

Let me search more specifically for academic scholarship.

Searched the web

Searched the web

I found the most relevant scholarship is by María Luz Rodrigo-Estevan, who works specifically on Aragonese material. Let me search for her work directly.

Searched the web

Searched the web

Here's what I found. The honest picture: there is very little academic literature specifically on bullfighting in the fourteenth-century Crown of Aragon as such. The scholarship clusters around the fifteenth century and around Castile, with the fourteenth-century Aragonese material appearing mostly as background or as a documented "first" rather than a sustained object of study. You'll recognize the relevant terrain immediately—the 1387 Barcelona event under Joan I, and Daroca/Zaragoza.

The most directly useful scholar is María Luz Rodrigo-Estevan, who works on festive culture in late medieval Aragon:

"Juegos y festejos en la ciudad bajomedieval: sobre el correr toros en la Daroca del siglo XV," *Aragón en la Edad Media* 10–11 (1993): 747–762. Full PDF is open

access: <https://dialnet.unirioja.es/descarga/articulo/108475.pdf> — and the record page is <https://dialnet.unirioja.es/servlet/articulo?codigo=108475>. Despite the "siglo XV" title, the article reaches back into earlier Aragonese fuero material (the *Fueros de Aragón*, Tilander) and the chronicle tradition (Zurita, Blancas) on the *alanceamiento de toros* at coronations, so it's the closest thing to a scholarly treatment touching the fourteenth-century Aragonese context.

Her later piece extends the same line: "La fiesta de los toros en Zaragoza: de la Edad Media a la cultura del Barroco," in *El Coso de la Misericordia de Zaragoza (1764–2014)* (Diputación de Zaragoza, 2014), 23–40.

A recent peer-reviewed synthesis with a substantial bibliography is José Manuel Romero Pérez, "Una mirada a los orígenes medievales del toreo a pie: el paso del rito al espectáculo lúdico a partir del siglo XIII," *Anales de la Universidad de Alicante. Historia Medieval* 26 (2025): 381–399, <https://doi.org/10.14198/medieval.28730> (open access at <https://revistes.ua.es/medieval/article/view/28730>). It's Castile-weighted but situates the thirteenth–fourteenth century shift and cites the Aragonese literature.

Two caveats worth flagging given your work. First, the widely repeated claim that the 1387 Barcelona corrida in the Plaça del Rei under Joan I was documented in the ACA circulates mostly through Wikipedia and popular taurine writing; I did not find it anchored to a specific peer-reviewed citation in these searches, so it would be worth verifying against the register itself rather than trusting the secondary echo. Second, much of what exists on medieval Iberian *toros* is antiquarian or folklorist (Álvarez de Miranda, Caro Baroja) rather than archivally grounded modern scholarship.

Want me to dig specifically for the documentary basis of the 1387 Barcelona event, or for anything on Navarrese/Aragonese *lidiadores* (the 1385 Pamplona contract hiring two from Zaragoza appears in the contaduría records of Roncesvalles)?

I was not aware of the 1387 Barcelona event, so please explain the known history of that event and any academic sources about it.

11:29 AM

I'll dig into this specifically, since it sits right in your period and the secondary echo needs checking against something more solid.

Searched the web

Searched the web

This confirms my caution from the first message, and now there's a real contradiction worth flagging. Let me search for the scholarly source the popular accounts are presumably (mis)reading.

Searched the web

Searched the web

That search drifted. The popular accounts all trace back to the same unsourced claim without a scholarly citation. Let me look at the academic taurine bibliography (Cossío is the standard reference work) and check whether the date is actually 1387 or possibly a misreading.

Searched the web

Searched the web

I found the scholarly anchor — a peer-reviewed article in *Revista de Estudios Taurinos* (University of Seville). Let me fetch it to see exactly what it says about 1387 and how it handles the documentation.

Searched the web

Searched the web

I now have enough to give you a careful answer. Here's the known history and, more importantly, an honest assessment of how solid it actually is.

### **What the "1387 Barcelona event" claim says**

The story that circulates is this: in 1387, in honor of (or during the reign of) Joan I of Aragon, a bull event was held in the Plaça del Rei in Barcelona; three bulls were brought to the city along with two *matatoros* ("bull-killers," the medieval term for the men hired to dispatch the animals); and a written record of it survives in the Arxiu de la Corona d'Aragó. This is repeated almost verbatim across Spanish Wikipedia (both the *Tauromaquia* and *Tauromaquia en Catalunya* entries), popular taurine blogs, and bullring-history pages, and it's consistently framed as the earliest written evidence of a bull spectacle in Catalonia.

You'll immediately notice the detail that makes this plausible for your period: 1387 is the first year of Joan I's reign (he succeeded Pere IV on 6 January 1387), and the *matatoros* terminology and the "three bulls" specificity have the texture of a chancery payment or provisioning record rather than a chronicle flourish — exactly the kind of document one would expect to find in the ACA registers or a municipal/treasury source.

## The scholarly anchor — and its limits

The one genuinely academic source that addresses this is:

Noa María Carballa Rivas and Beatriz Orgaz Sánchez, "Un recorrido por la fiesta de los toros en Cataluña. Origen y evolución," *Revista de Estudios Taurinos* 39 (Universidad de Sevilla / Fundación de Estudios Taurinos & Real Maestranza de Caballería de Sevilla, 2016), 69–102. The journal record is on Dialnet (<https://dialnet.unirioja.es/ejemplar/497791>) and in the University of Seville repository idUS; a PDF of the article circulates via Dialnet at <https://dialnet.unirioja.es/descarga/articulo/6560385.pdf>. The University of Seville's own copy at [institucional.us.es](http://institucional.us.es) blocks automated fetching, but the article is the same one.

The crucial distinction this article draws — and it's the one that should make you skeptical of the popular framing — is between the first bull event of which there is *notice* (1387) and the first *documented* one (given as 1585) in the secondary commentary about this study. In other words, even the scholarship that reports the 1387 date appears to treat it as a *received notice* rather than a securely verified archival document, reserving "documented" for a much later sixteenth-century event. That gap between "noticia" and "documentada" is the whole ballgame for your purposes. [Saltataulells](#)

I should be candid about two things. First, I could not read the Carballa–Orgaz article in full (the Seville host blocks crawlers and the Dialnet PDF I could only see in fragments), so I can't confirm whether they cite a specific ACA signatura for 1387 or are themselves passing along the claim from earlier taurine literature. Second, the deeper this claim is traced, the more it dissolves into citation-free repetition. The standard taurine reference work, *El Cossío (Los toros: tratado técnico e histórico)*, is where many of these origin-dates ultimately come from, but none of the popular sources actually pin the 1387 claim to a Cossío volume and page, let alone to a register.

## My honest assessment for your work

Given how close this sits to your dissertation, I'd treat the 1387 Barcelona event as an *unverified tradition* until you see the document. The warning signs are textbook: a precise-sounding detail ("three bulls and two *matadores*"), a prestigious archive named in the abstract ("conserved in the ACA") but never with a signatura, a tidy coincidence with a reign's inaugural year, and a chain of sources that all phrase it identically without footnotes. The competing "first documented = 1585/1587" date appearing in the same literature is a strong tell that the 1387 attribution is shakier than its confident repetition suggests.

If you want to run it down properly, the productive moves would be: (1) get the full Carballa–Orgaz article and check their footnote for the 1387 claim; (2) check *El Cossío*, tomo I (the historical-origins section), which is the likely ultimate source; and (3) if a signatura

surfaces, it would most plausibly be in the ACA Reial Patrimoni / Mestre Racional accounts or a Barcelona municipal source (the Consell de Cent / *Llibre del Consell*) rather than the Cancelleria registers proper, since a bull-provisioning expense reads like a treasury or municipal entry. Maria Luz Rodrigo-Estevan's work on Aragonese *correr toros* (from our earlier exchange) is also the best methodological model for how such municipal records actually look.

Want me to pull the full Carballa–Orgaz text to see exactly what they cite for 1387, or search the ACA/PARES finding aids and the Cossío origins chapter for a concrete signatura?

Can you find any mention, in academic sources or in general sources, for the month or day in 1387 for the Barcelona bullfight event?

11:43 AM

I'll search specifically for a more precise date within 1387.

Searched the web

Searched the web

Let me try a Catalan-language search, since a precise date (if one exists) is more likely to surface in Catalan municipal or chronicle sources.

Searched the web

Searched the web

No source gives a month or day. Every account that mentions a date stops at "1387." Let me make one more targeted attempt at the primary documentation, in case a signatura or precise date appears in older archival or chronicle literature.

Searched the web

Searched the web

I've now run searches across Spanish, Catalan, academic, and general sources, and the answer is clear.

No source — academic or general — gives a month or day for the 1387 Barcelona event. Every account that mentions a date stops at the year, "1387," and nothing more. The phrasing is consistent across all of them: the event "data de 1387" or took place "en 1387" during Joan I's reign, with no further temporal precision. Even the comparatively careful

versions (Spanish Wikipedia's *Plaça del Rei* entry, and the Luis Permanyer-derived account cited in the Bereshit/Barcelona blog) name only the year.

A few things worth noting from this round of searching that bear on your question:

The closest thing to a "source of record" that keeps surfacing in the general literature is the Catalan journalist and historian Luis Permanyer, who is cited (via a Barcelona-history blog drawing on his work) as attributing the first taurine event to Joan I in the Plaça del Rei in 1387. Permanyer was a popular chronicler of Barcelona, not a medievalist working from the registers, so this is another layer of secondary transmission rather than a route to the document itself.

The recurring "three bulls and two *matatoros*" detail — the only thing that gives the claim any documentary texture — never appears attached to a date more precise than the year, nor to a signatura. That combination (a vivid provisioning detail but no calendar date and no archival reference) is itself a bit of a red flag, since a genuine treasury or chancery payment record would normally be dated to the day, which is exactly the kind of thing that tends to get dropped when a claim passes through popular retellings.

So for your purposes: there is no published month or day, and the absence is uniform enough that I'd be fairly confident no widely circulated source contains one. If a precise date exists at all, it would be in the underlying document, which means the only way to recover it is to locate the actual record — most plausibly, as I mentioned before, in the ACA Reial Patrimoni / Mestre Racional accounts or a Barcelona municipal source rather than the Cancelleria registers. The Carballa–Orgaz article in *Revista de Estudios Taurinos* 39 (2016) remains the one peer-reviewed work to check first, since if anyone cites a dated archival reference, it would be there.

I should be straightforward that I could not get behind the paywall/crawler-block on that article in full, so I can't rule out that their footnotes contain a date I haven't seen. Want me to try once more to reach the full Carballa–Orgaz text through an alternative host, or to search the PARES catalogue and ACA finding aids directly for a 1387 entry that might carry the actual date?

Want to be notified when Claude responds?

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