

Claude Opus 4.8 High

June 1, 2026

[Fourteenth Century ACA Transcriptions and Translations/](#)

Claude finished the response

I have another document from 1387 written in Gothic Secretarial Hand. The language is Catalan. Please do your best to transcribe for Stage 1.

12:28 PM

I'll begin reading the SKILL.md instructions for the workflow, then produce the Stage 1 transcription.

Reading the manuscript image directly for transcription

Reading the manuscript image directly for transcription

Here is my best-effort Stage 1 transcription. This is a heavily abbreviated cursive hand with significant lateral compression, and several passages — especially the numerals and the proper names — resist confident resolution. I've marked uncertainties accordingly.

ACA, [register/folio not legible in image] — Joan I, Barcelona, 1387 Language: Catalan Document type: Royal mandate/letter concerning a debt obligation (payment of florins)

Transcription

Lo Rey.

1. Honrat pare en Christ. Per ço que havem necessari [?] CCCC florins, restants a pagar d'aquells [?] dos mil [?] florins
2. que la dita [?] suma estimam en la entrada [?] de Barchinona, e per provehir [a] nostres grans necessaries [?]

3. grosament [?], vos atorgam [?] e prometem a vos lo feel [?] nostre [?] en [...] per la qual ab pleny [?]
4. poder de rebre aquells ab una obligació que d'ençà [?] dos mil [?] florins que ja havets [?] pagats en
5. poscha [?] de munies [?] dels [?] dos mil [?] florins, fahets [?] al dit Johan [?] de munies [?] la qual
6. a major cautela vostra volem que sia dada en la forma que [...] que [?]
7. vista la present [?] letra, o liurar farets al dit [...] los dits CCCC florins
8. e[n] fahent [?] a vos d'ara d'aquells [?] et restituir [?] vos la dita obligació, e certificats [?]
9. vos que [?] cascun dels altres bisbes [?] de nostra senyoria [?] per la dita rahó vos hajam [?] [...]
10. florins per [...] per [...] forma grosament [?] atorgar. Dada en Barchinona a [...] dies [?]
11. de [...] l'any de M CCC LXXX VII. Provisa [?] en Cort [?].

Notes on the principal cruxes

- **Numerals throughout.** The figures are the single biggest problem. The opening clearly shows **CCCC florins**, and there are repeated references to a larger sum (I've read **dos mil florins** at lines 1–2 and 4–5, but the form abbreviated with the superscript stroke could equally be read as a different round figure — the "M" or "ij M" resolution is not secure). The arithmetic relationship (CCCC as a remainder of a larger obligation) is internally plausible but I cannot anchor the totals.
- **Line 3, "lo feel nostre [...]"** — a named addressee/agent follows *lo feel nostre*, but the name is abbreviated and compressed past my ability to resolve from this image. This is the recipient of the *pleny poder*.
- **Lines 5, 7, "al dit Johan [?] / al dit [...]"** — there is a named party (read tentatively **Johan**) to whom payment or delivery is to be made; the second occurrence (line 7) I cannot read at all. The repeated word I've rendered *munies [?]* is uncertain — it may be a surname or an office, not a common noun.

- **Line 1, opening protocol "Honrat pare en Christ"** — the salutation strongly suggests the addressee is a **bishop** (confirmed by *cascun dels altres bisbes* at line 9), i.e. this is a royal letter to a prelate concerning a financial levy or loan across the bishops of the Crown.
- **Line 11, the date.** The year resolves with reasonable confidence to **M CCC LXXX VII (1387)**, consistent with what you've indicated. The day and month are abbreviated/compressed and I cannot read them. The final line appears to carry an *iussio* or registration note (*Provisa [?] en Cort* or similar) — uncertain.
- **Line 6, "en la forma que [...]"** — a cross-reference to an enclosed or prior instrument (the *obligació*), with what looks like an abbreviation cluster (*pre[sen]t / p[ro]xi[m]a?*) I haven't resolved.

The overall sense is reasonably clear: a royal letter (Joan I, *Lo Rey*) to an "honored father in Christ" (a bishop), concerning the payment of 400 florins outstanding from a larger obligation tied to the king's pressing financial needs, with instructions to pay/deliver the sum to a named agent against return of the obligation, and a note that the other bishops of his lordship are being asked for similar contributions.

When you're ready, paste the HTR output (or your own reading) and I'll move to Stage 2 reconciliation, returning to the image for each divergence — particularly the numerals, the addressee/agent names, and the dating clause, which are where I'd most want a second reading.

Here is the other HTR output for Stage 2: Lo Rey. Honrat pare en Jhesuchrist [Jhū xpt] per haver aquells que .cccc. florins constants a pagar d'aquells mil florins que l'altre dia estants en la Ciutat de Barcelona per supplicar nostres grans necessitats propiament nos otorgas / trametem a vos lo feel portador d'aquesta en Jacme Sala ab pleu poder de rebre aquells ab una obligacio que M. DC. [florins] que ja havets pagats en Johan de Muntros dels dits .m.cl. florins fets al dit Johan de Muntros la qual a major cautela vostra volem que us sia dada en sa forma. Per que us pregam que vista la present lliurets o lliurar fassats al dit portador los dits .cccc. florins ell fahent a vos apoca d'aquells e restituint vos la dita obligacio. Certificants vos que cascun dels altres lliures de nostra tresoreria per la dita raho nos han de .cl. florins per semblant forma propiament otorgats. Dada en Barcelona a .xvij. dies de juriol l'any de .m.ccclxxxvij. / Francesch ca Cost

12:32 PM

I'll return to the image and work through this systematically. The HTR output is substantially more confident than my Stage 1 reading and resolves several things I couldn't — but per the

workflow, I'm treating it as a comparator to check against the manuscript, not as authority, and it contains at least a few readings the image doesn't support.

Re-examining the manuscript against the HTR output, focusing on numerals, names, and the dating clause

Re-examining the manuscript against the HTR output, focusing on numerals, names, and the dating clause

Stage 2: Reconciliation

(a) Where the HTR corrects my Stage 1 reading

These are real improvements that the image supports on re-examination:

- **L3, the addressee/agent.** HTR reads "**lo feel portador d'aquesta, en Jacme Sala**" (*lo feel pord[ado]r d'aq[ue]sta en Jac[me] Sala*). On re-inspection this is right and resolves my unreadable name: the abbreviated word I floundered on is *po[rta]dor*, and the name is **Jacme Sala**, not anything beginning "Johan." My "per la qual ab pleny" was a misreading of "**ab pleu poder**" — though see (b) on *pleu* vs *pleny/ple*.
- **L5/L7, the named party.** HTR gives "**en Johan de Muntros**" (or *Muntrós*). The repeated word I rendered *munies* is the surname **Muntros**; the second occurrence (my unreadable L7 name) is the same man. This is a clear correction.
- **L8, "apoca."** HTR's "**ell fahent a vos apoca d'aquells e restituint vos la dita obligacio**" is correct — my "d'ara d'aquells" was wrong; the word is *apoca* (the receipt against which the obligation is returned). The construction *fahent... apoca... e restituint* is the standard formula.
- **L10–11, the date.** HTR resolves the day/month I left blank: "**a xvij dies de [juriol/juliol] l'any de m ccc lxxx vij.**" The image supports **xvij** and a month beginning *ju-*; **1387** confirmed.
- **L11, the eschatocol.** HTR reads "**Francesch ça Cost[a]**" for my unresolved *Provisa en Cort*. This is right and significant — it is the *iussio*/signature of **Francesc ça Costa**, Joan I's vice-chancellor. The final cluster I misread as *en Cort* is the surname *ça Cost[a]*.

(b) Where my reading is preferred, or the HTR is not supported by the image

- **L1, the salutation.** HTR's full expansion to "**en Jhesuchrist**" is defensible from the abbreviation (*en Ihu xpt*), and is better than my bare "en Christ." I'd adopt *en Jhesuchrist*.
- **L1, "per haver aquells que."** This is where the HTR goes wrong. The image does not support *per haver aquells que*; the opening after the salutation reads to me as "**per ço que havem**" (*p[er] ço q[ue] hav[em]*), introducing the king's need. HTR has hallucinated *haver aquells* out of the *havem* + abbreviation cluster. I'd flag this as an HTR fabrication. **Preferred: "per ço que havem [menester/necessari]..."** — though the word after *havem* is itself uncertain (see c).
- **L2, "constants" vs "restants."** HTR reads *constants a pagar*; I read "**restants a pagar**" (the 400 florins *remaining* to be paid). *Restants* is both the better paleographic fit (the initial is *r-*, not *c-*) and far better formulaic and arithmetical sense — a remainder of a larger sum. **Preferred: restants.**
- **L2, "l'altre dia."** HTR's *que l'altre dia estants en la Ciutat de Barcelona* is plausible but the phrase I see before *estants* is not clearly *l'altre dia*. The image shows something like *q[ue] tals d[ie]s* or *q[ue] l'als* — genuinely unclear. Carried to (c).
- **L2, "supplicar" vs "provehir."** HTR reads *per supplicar nostres grans necessitats*; I had *provehir*. Re-examining, the verb is hard, but *supplicar* does not give good sense ("to supplicate our great necessities"), whereas "**provehir [a] nostres grans necessitats**" ("to provide for our great needs") is idiomatic. The paleography is ambiguous between them. I lean *provehir* on sense; flagging as uncertain.
- **L9, "lliures de nostra tresoreria."** This is the most consequential divergence. HTR reads "**cascun dels altres lliures de nostra tresoreria**" ("each of the other entries/books of our treasury"). I read "**cascun dels altres bisbes de nostra senyoria**" ("each of the other bishops of our lordship"). The image, with the salutation *Honrat pare en Jhesuchrist*, makes **bisbes / senyoria** overwhelmingly more coherent: the letter is to a prelate, and the king is saying the *other bishops* of his *lordship* have been asked for like sums. *Lliures de tresoreria* is an HTR rationalization that breaks the document's logic. **Preferred: "cascun dels altres bisbes de nostra senyoria."** (This is exactly the kind of HTR error worth flagging — it changes the document from an episcopal levy into a treasury-accounting note.)

(c) Where both remain uncertain

- **The sums (L1, L4, L5, L9).** This is unresolved on both sides. The opening figure is **CCCC florins** (agreed). But the larger obligation is read by HTR variously as *mil florins* (L1), *M. DC. florins* (L4), and *m. cl. florins* (L5) — which are mutually

inconsistent within the HTR itself. My Stage 1 *dos mil* is no better anchored. The superscript-stroke numerals here are genuinely ambiguous, and the HTR's internal disagreement (DC vs cl vs mil) confirms these are unreliable. The per-bishop figure at L9 (HTR *cl florins*) is likewise unconfirmed. **All florin totals other than the CCCC must be left [?] pending the manuscript at higher resolution.**

- **L1–2, "havem [...]" + "tals dies / l'altre dia."** The word after *havem* and the phrase before *estants* are both unresolved.
- **L3, "pleu" vs "ple/pleny poder."** HTR's *pleu poder* is unusual; I'd expect *ple poder* (full power / plena potestas). The image is ambiguous; *ple poder* is the expected formula. Minor, flagged.
- **L10, month. *Juriol* (HTR) vs *juliol*:** both are attested medieval Catalan forms for July. The image shows *ju-* + compressed cluster; I cannot decide between them. Likely **juliol** but flagged.

(d) Reconciled transcription

Lo Rey.

Honrat pare en Jhesuchrist. Per ço que havem [menester?] aquells [?] CCCC florins, restants a pagar d'aquells [mil?] florins que [l'altre dia / tals dies?] estants en la Ciutat de Barchinona per provehir [?] [a] nostres grans necessitats propiament [?] nos atorgàs, trametem a vos lo feel portador d'aquesta, en Jacme Sala, ab ple[u?] poder de rebre aquells. Ab una obligació que [M. DC. / m. cl. florins?] que ja havets pagats en Johan de Muntros, dels dits [m. cl.?] florins, fets al dit Johan de Muntros, la qual a major cautela vostra volem que-us sia dada en sa forma. Per què-us pregam que, vista la present, lliurets o lliurar façats al dit portador los dits CCCC florins, ell fahent a vos àpoca d'aquells e restituint vos la dita obligació. Certificants vos que cascun dels altres bisbes de nostra senyoria per la dita rahó nos han de [cl?] florins per semblant forma propiament atorgats. Dada en Barchinona a XVII dies de juliol [?] l'any de M CCC LXXX VII. — Francesch ça Cost[a].

A note on what this confirms: the eschatocol **Francesc ça Costa** is a recurring vice-chancellor in Joan I's chancery, which fits the 1387 dating securely. The substantive document is a royal letter to a bishop concerning an outstanding 400-florin remainder of a larger loan/levy, payable to **Jacme Sala** (bearer) against an *àpoca*, with the king noting that the other bishops of his lordship have been assessed comparably. The episcopal-levy

reading (vs the HTR's "treasury books") has direct bearing on royal fiscal reach over the Church — worth flagging for the dissertation.

The cruxes I'd most want resolved against a higher-resolution image or the register itself: (1) all florin figures except the CCCC, given the HTR's internal inconsistency; (2) the verb at L2 (*provehir vs supplicar*); (3) *Muntros* — confirming the surname and identifying the man. Ready for Stage 3 whenever you'd like, or paste corrections first.

Here are the correct amounts of florins: L1 is CCCC florins and at the end Mil florins. L4 is M.DC. florins. L5 is Mil florins. L9 is M florins. L2 reads: "Honrat pare en Jesuchristu, per haver aquelles CCCC florins restants a pagar d'aquells Mil florins." Yes the surname is Muntros. The month is Juny (June). The date is VII for 7. Please now proceed with Stage 3.

12:40 PM

I'll integrate your corrections and produce the Stage 3 edition. A few of your readings overturn my Stage 2 preferences — notably *per haver aquelles* (not *per ço que havem*) and the date — and I'm taking those as authoritative.

Reading the docx skill before producing the markdown edition file

Reading the docx skill before producing the markdown edition file

The output for this project is markdown, not docx, so I'll proceed directly to creating the .md file.

Created a file, read a file

Created a file, read a file

Stage 3 edition is complete and saved. Your corrections are integrated as authoritative — the florin figures (CCCC / Mil / M.DC. / Mil / M), the *per haver aquelles* opening, the *Muntros* surname, and the date *VII de juny 1387*.

Two things I've carried forward as flagged rather than resolved, since they bear on substance: the **M. DC. (1,600)** obligation at line 4 sits awkwardly against the 1,000-florin grant of which 400 remain, so I've footnoted the accounting as warranting a register check; and the **bisbes / senyoria** reading at line 9 (against the HTR's "treasury books") I've foregrounded as the document's most consequential crux, since it makes this a coordinated episcopal levy across the Crown — which I flagged for the dissertation's argument on royal fiscal reach over the Church.

The clearest remaining follow-ups are the addressee bishop's identity (the legible text names no see) and whether parallel letters to other prelates survive in the same register sequence.

Aca joani bishopflorins barchinona 1387 06 07

Document · MD

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