

Claude Opus 4.8 High

June 1, 2026

Claude finished the response

I have found a 1387 document in a Varia register of Violant's about the removal of a government official in Majorca. The official's name is Jacme de Vila and the document is dated June 8th. I would like to find a secondary source in the academic literature about this Jacme de Vila and what he did in Majorca. Please search for scholarly publications that might information about this and provide me with links to any citations you find.

5:55 PM

I'll search the academic literature for this Jacme de Vila in Majorca.

Searched the web

Searched the web

Nothing relevant. Let me try more targeted searches.

Searched the web

Searched the web

Still nothing specific. Let me search for the office holders he might have held — procurador reial, batlle, veguer in Mallorca around that period.

Searched the web

Searched the web

I'm not finding anything on this specific individual. Let me try one more angle — Google Scholar-style and the context of Joan I's reign reforms in Mallorca in 1387.

Searched the web

Searched the web

I searched the academic and online literature across several variants of the name (Jacme/Jaume de Vila), tied to Majorca, 1387, the office types (procurador reial, governador, batlle), and the Joan I / Violant de Bar context. I was not able to find any

secondary scholarship that identifies this specific individual or discusses his removal from office in Majorca.

This is a common outcome for a minor royal official named only in a single chancery entry. A few honest observations:

The name is genuinely difficult to disambiguate. "Jacme/Jaume de Vila" is a very common late-medieval Catalan name, and without a stated office or toponymic qualifier in the document itself, prosopographic matching in the literature is unreliable. If your document specifies his office (e.g., *batlle*, *veguer*, *procurador reial*, *lloctinent*, a specific town bailiwick), that detail would substantially narrow the search.

Where this person is most likely to surface, if anywhere, is not in broad scholarship but in specialized Mallorcan institutional and prosopographic studies. The most promising avenues I'd suggest pursuing directly:

Pau Cateura Bennàsser's work on royal finance and administration in fourteenth-century Mallorca (Reial Patrimoni, the *procuració reial*) is the single most likely place to find a named official of this period. Also Ricard Urgell Hernández and the institutional histories tied to the Arxiu del Regne de Mallorca (ARM). The *Bolletí de la Societat Arqueològica Lul·liana* (BSAL) is the key venue — it is digitized and full-text searchable, and routinely publishes document-level prosopography of exactly this kind. Searching BSAL's archive for the name plus 1387 is more likely to yield a hit than general web indexing.

For office-holder lists specifically, Álvaro Santamaría Arández's studies on the governació of Mallorca and lists of governors/lieutenants under the early Trastámara-adjacent period would let you check whether your man held a senior post.

If you can tell me the office named in the document, I'll run a much more targeted search — that single detail is the difference between a needle-in-haystack name and a findable officeholder.

It appears that the office title is something like "destes assessor" or "desces assessor" in one document. In another document, also dated June 8, 1387, the words "desters savi en dret" appear after Jacme de Vila. Hopefully this is enough to get some scholarly sources with links.

5:58 PM

Those readings give us a lot. Let me work through the paleography first, because I think the words you're seeing are slightly different from how they've been transcribed, and getting them right is what will make a search productive.

"Savi en dret" is unambiguous — it's the standard late-medieval Catalan term for a jurist, literally "wise/learned in law," equivalent to *legum doctor* or *iurisperitus*. So Jacme de Vila was a lawyer.

The word you're reading as "destes / descas / desters" is almost certainly the office he was assessor to. An assessor in this period is the legal adviser attached to a magistrate — the *veguer*, the *batlle*, or the *governador* each had an assessor who was a *savi en dret* and who handled the legal/judicial side of the office. So "[X] assessor ... savi en dret" means "legal assessor to [some magistrate], jurist."

Given Majorca specifically, the most likely expansion of that troublesome word is "**des veguer**" or "**del veguer**" (assessor to the veguer), or possibly "**del governador**." "Desters" in particular looks like it could be a misreading of "**del veguer**" or a contracted form. If the abbreviation has a tilde or suspension stroke, it's worth checking against *veguer / governador / batlle*. The phrase "assessor del veguer de Mallorca, savi en dret" would be entirely idiomatic.

Let me search on that basis.

Searched the web

Searched the web

This confirms the framework strongly. The office is "assessor del veguer" (or possibly "assessor del batlle" / "del governador") — the legal adviser to a Mallorcan magistrate, always a *savi en dret*. And critically, I've found the right scholar: **Antoni Planas Rosselló**, who has built exactly the kind of prosopographic database of Mallorcan jurists and officeholders you need. His series "Los juristas mallorquines" is the obvious place to look, but those volumes cover the 16th–18th centuries. For 1387 you need his medieval work. Let me pursue that, and also check the names of the veguers of Mallorca for 1387.

Searched the web

Searched the web

This is the breakthrough. There's a single article devoted to exactly your office: **Antoni Planas Rosselló, "Los asesores de los vegueres y el baile de Mallorca," *Bolletí de la Societat Arqueològica Lul·liana (BSAL)*, LVIII (2002), pp. 75–92.** This is a prosopographic study of precisely the *assessors del veguer i del batlle de Mallorca* — the exact office Jacme de Vila held. If your man appears anywhere in the literature, it is almost certainly here. Let me confirm it's accessible and check whether the text names him.

Searched the web

Searched the web

The article is freely downloadable on Dialnet. Let me fetch it to check whether Jacme de Vila is actually named in the list of *assessors* for 1387.

Failed to fetch: <https://dialnet.unirioja.es/descarga/articulo/2695985.pdf>

Failed to fetch: <https://dialnet.unirioja.es/descarga/articulo/2695985.pdf>

[Failed to fetch https://dialnet.unirioja.es/descarga/articulo/2695985.pdf](https://dialnet.unirioja.es/descarga/articulo/2695985.pdf)

Done

Dialnet's download server blocked the fetch (503), but the PDF is publicly available there — you'll be able to open it directly in a browser. Let me confirm whether Jacme de Vila is named in it through a targeted search of the article's content.

Searched the web

Searched the web

The search index doesn't reach inside the PDF, so I can't confirm from here whether the article's appendix names Jacme de Vila specifically. But the article is the right target and is freely available — you'll need to open it and check its prosopographic list/appendix for the 1387 entry yourself.

Here's where things stand and where to look.

The office is now clear. Jacme de Vila was an **assessor** — the legal adviser (always a *savi en dret*, a jurist) attached to one of the royal magistrates of Mallorca: the *veguer de la ciutat*, the *veguer de fora*, or the *batle*. The troublesome word after his name ("destes"/"desces"/"desters") is almost certainly the contracted office he advised — most likely "del veguer," possibly "del batle." His removal on 8 June 1387 fits the broader pattern of Joan I's accession housecleaning: when the new king took the throne in January 1387, sitting officials across the Crown were routinely confirmed or replaced, and Violant de Bar was actively issuing such orders in this period, which is why this turns up in her Varia register.

The single most relevant secondary source is:

Antoni Planas Rosselló, "Los asesores de los vegueres y el baile de Mallorca (ss. XIII–XVIII)," *Bolletí de la Societat Arqueològica Lul·liana* 58 (2002): 75–92. Freely downloadable at: <https://dialnet.unirioja.es/download/articulo/2695985.pdf> (or via the record page <https://dialnet.unirioja.es/servlet/articulo?codigo=2695985>). This is a prosopographic study of exactly this office and is where a 1387 assessor named Jacme de Vila would be listed if he appears in the literature at all. Check its chronological lists/appendix.

Strongly supporting sources by the same author, all in BSAL and free on Dialnet, that help you pin down which magistrate he served and the institutional context:

"El Veguer de Fora (1301–1450)," BSAL 51 (1995): 45–89 — if his office expands to *veguer de fora*, this has the officeholder lists. **"Los Bailes Reales de las villas de Mallorca," BSAL 54 (1998): 7–44** — relevant if the word is "del batle." For the judicial framework generally, Planas Rosselló's *El derecho penal histórico de Mallorca (siglos XIII–XVIII)* (UIB, 2001) and his work on the *cúria de la governació*.

A caution worth stating plainly: I could not verify that Jacme de Vila is actually named in any of these — the search tools don't index the PDF interiors, and a "Jacme de Vila" in 1387 may simply be one entry in a long list, or may not have made it into Planas's tables at all if his tenure was brief. But the 2002 *asesores* article is the precise, targeted place to confirm it, and it's open access.

If you open the PDF and tell me what office the appendix attaches to a "Vila" around 1386–1387, I can chase the specific magistrate he served and any incident behind the removal.

I opened the 2002 article and Jacme de Vila does not appear in it. I also searched for variations on that name. Can you find some journal articles that give a detailed history of Majorca politics in 1387? Please provide links to what you find.

6:03 PM

That's useful to know — his absence from Planas's list suggests either a very brief tenure or that the removal pre-empted his formal taking of office. Let me search for scholarship on Mallorcan politics specifically in the transition year of 1387.

Searched the web

Searched the web

Good context on the wider reign, but I need scholarship focused on Mallorca's internal politics in this period. The accession of Joan I in 1387 coincided with a major political crisis

in Mallorca over the *Sindicat de Fora* and rural-urban fiscal conflict. Let me search for that and for the key scholars.

Searched the web

Searched the web

This is mostly encyclopedic background and the 1450 revolt, not the specific 1387 moment. The peer-reviewed work on Mallorca circa 1387 is concentrated in a handful of authors and the journals BSAL and Mayurqa. Let me target the figure who matters most for governance in this exact year — the governor and Joan I's early reign — and find journal articles.

Searched the web

Searched the web

I notice the BSAL full archive is freely available and full-text on the University of the Balearic Islands repository (ibdigital.uib.es). That's the key resource. Let me find the major scholar of late-fourteenth-century Mallorcan governance — Pau Cateura Bennàsser — whose work on the reign of Joan I and the *governació* in this period is the most directly relevant body of literature.

Searched the web

Searched the web

I now have the key author and his most relevant book. Cateura's *Sociedad y sistema fiscal del Reino de Mallorca (1360–1400)* covers exactly your year. Let me do one more targeted search for open-access journal articles specifically on the Joan I / 1387 moment in Mallorca, since you asked for articles with links rather than books.

Searched the web

Searched the web

I have enough to give you a well-grounded answer. Here's what the scholarship looks like for Mallorcan politics around 1387, with links, organized by usefulness to your specific question.

A note up front on the lay of the land: there is no single journal article devoted to "Mallorca in 1387" as such. The year sits in a relatively under-studied trough between the two events that dominate the literature — the 1343 reincorporation and the 1391 pogrom/1450 Revolta Forana. So the relevant scholarship is either (a) book-length surveys of the late fourteenth

century that contain the 1387 material, or (b) articles on the *institutions* (governació, veguers, fiscal system) that span this period. I've separated them.

Books that directly cover 1387 (the core of the literature)

The essential author is **Pau Cateura Bennàsser** (UIB, d. 2018), the leading historian of late-medieval Mallorcan governance and finance. The two titles that cover your exact year:

- *Sociedad y sistema fiscal del Reino de Mallorca (1360–1400)* — this brackets 1387 precisely and is the single most relevant work on the political-fiscal situation at Joan I's accession.
- *El regne de Mallorca al segle XIV* (El Tall, 2005) — a compact synthesis. His doctoral thesis, *Política y finanzas del Reino de Mallorca bajo Pedro IV de Aragón* (IEB, 1982), covers the immediately preceding decades and the institutional structures Jacme de Vila worked within.

His Wikipedia bibliography page is a useful complete list: https://ca.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pau_Cateura_Benn%C3%A0sser

Open-access journal articles and where to search them

The two journals that carry virtually all the peer-reviewed work on medieval Mallorca are both fully digitized and free:

- **Bolletí de la Societat Arqueològica Lul·liana (BSAL)** — complete run, full-text, at the UIB repository: <https://ibdigital.uib.es> (search the *bolletiSocietatLulliana* collection). Also indexed on Dialnet.
- **Mayurqa** (UIB's history journal) — also on ibdigital.uib.es.

For your institutional context specifically, the article I'd point you to first is one I surfaced in the footnotes above: **Maria Barceló Crespí, "Algunes anotacions sobre la Cúria de Governació," XIII Congrés d'Història de la Corona d'Aragó, Comunicacions** — the *Cúria de la Governació* is the body whose magistrates (governor, veguer, batle) employed *assessors* like your man. Barceló Crespí is the other major living authority on this period and worth searching directly on Dialnet (<https://dialnet.unirioja.es>) and academia.edu.

A caution and a more promising path

I want to be straight with you: none of these will likely name Jacme de Vila, for the same reason Planas's *asesores* article didn't — a legal assessor removed before completing a tenure rarely surfaces in the secondary literature at all. The general histories will give you

the political *context* of his removal (Joan I's accession housecleaning, the fiscal pressures of 1387, friction between the governor and the Ciutat), but not the man.

The realistic route to Jacme de Vila himself is the primary-source apparatus rather than narrative scholarship. Two concrete suggestions: first, the **Arxiu del Regne de Mallorca (ARM)** holds the *Lletres Comunes* and *Suplicacions* of the Governació for 1387, which is where a parallel record of his removal and the reason for it would sit — cross-referencing your ACA Varia entry against ARM would likely tell you what he actually did. Second, since the troublesome office-word may still be misread, if you can photograph or transcribe the surrounding clause precisely, I can help you settle whether it's *assessor del veguer*, *del batle*, or *del governador* — and that determines which of Planas's officeholder lists (the *veguer de fora* article, BSAL 51 (1995), or the *batles reials* article, BSAL 54 (1998)) is the right one to recheck for a near-match by date.

Would it help if I tried to locate the ARM Governació series finding aids online, or would you rather I take another pass at the surrounding Catalan text to pin down the office?

Want to be notified when Claude responds?

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