

ChatGPT Version 5.2

January 3, 2026

You said:

I need help with translation from medieval Latin. I transcribed this myself and so some normalization or correction might be necessary. I do think that my transcription is over 95% correct, but I am not sure about the commas separating phrases. This letter is sent by Joan to the Comte de Cardona, who I think is a trusted friend, but I am not sure. I would like you to attempt to find more information about the connection between Joan and the Comte de Cardona as you decide on a translation. Also, I believe that at this time Joan is sick and delayed in his journey to Barcelona at the start of his reign. Please take this into account in your translation and interpretation of this short Latin letter. Here is my transcription: Cum nos pro aliquibus ardius negotis curie nostre vos sumen necessarium hemanimus dicimus et mandamus vobis expresse quam visis presentum onmibus aliis negotis postponits ad nostram presencia personaliter accedatum horam nullatum, mutetis seu eius differatis cum periculum sic, in mora datum in loco de Granollers.

ChatGPT said:

This is a very good transcription overall, and your instincts about **context (illness, delay near Barcelona, urgency, trusted relationship)** are exactly right and help resolve the rougher edges of the Latin.

Below I'll proceed in four steps:

1. **Careful normalization & light correction of the Latin**
2. **Annotated translation**
3. **Interpretive translation (smooth English)**
4. **Joan and the Count of Cardona: political relationship & why this tone makes sense**

1. Normalized Latin (minimal intervention)

Your text (with likely corrections in **bold**):

*Cum nos pro aliquibus **arduis** negotiis curie nostre vos **summe** necessarium **habemus**, dicimus et mandamus vobis **expresse**, quod visis presentibus **omnibus aliis negotiis postponitis**, ad nostram **presentiam** personaliter accedatis **hora nulla, nec mutetis seu id differatis**, cum periculum sit in mora. Datum in loco de Granollers.*

Notes on corrections

- **ardius** → **arduis** (common formula: *ardua negotia*)
- **negocis** → **negotiis**
- **sume(n)** → **summe**
- **hemanimus** → **habemus** (this is the biggest fix, but a very common paleographical slip)
- **expresse** → **expresse**
- **onmibus** → **omnibus**
- **postponits** → **postponitis**
- **presencia** → **presentiam**
- **horam nullatum** → **hora nulla** (fixed formula = *without delay*)
- **mutetis seu eius differatis** → **nec mutetis seu id differatis**
- **periculum sic** → **periculum sit**
- **in mora datum** → **in mora. Datum**

What you had was absolutely within the range of chancery Latin variation; this is essentially formulaic royal command language.

2. Close, annotated translation

Since, on account of certain arduous matters of our court, we have you as most necessary, we say and command to you expressly that, once these present letters have been seen, all other business having been set aside, you are to come personally into our presence without any delay, nor are you to alter or defer this in any way, since there is danger in delay. Given at the place of Granollers.

Key phrases:

- **ardua negotia curiae** → serious, urgent business of government

- **vos summe necessarium habemus** → *you are indispensable to us*
 - **hora nulla** → immediately, without delay
 - **periculum sit in mora** → delay itself creates danger (very strong language)
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3. Interpretive translation (historically sensitive)

Taking into account Joan's **illness**, his **delay near Barcelona**, and the **start of his reign**, a more historically faithful English rendering would be:

Because of certain urgent and weighty affairs of our court, for which we consider your presence absolutely essential, we expressly order and command that, upon seeing this letter, you set aside all other business and come to us in person at once, without any delay whatsoever. You are not to change or postpone this, for delay itself entails danger. Given at Granollers.

This is not polite correspondence — it is **urgent royal summons**, softened only by the assumption of loyalty and trust.

4. Joan and the Count of Cardona: why this tone fits

The relationship

At the beginning of his reign (1387), **Joan I of Aragon** relied heavily on **trusted magnates**, especially those with:

- military authority
- territorial control near Catalonia
- experience in royal governance

The **Counts of Cardona** were among the **most powerful noble houses in Catalonia**, often acting as **royal counselors, military captains, and political stabilizers**. If the addressee is **Hug II of Cardona** (or his immediate successor), then the language here makes excellent sense.

Why summon him *personally and immediately*?

Several converging factors in **late 1387**:

- Joan had just succeeded **Pere III**

- He was **physically unwell**
- He was **delayed near Granollers**, not yet formally installed in Barcelona
- The court needed **rapid consolidation of authority**
- Potential instability: factions, succession anxiety, administrative paralysis

Hence:

- *vos summe necessarium habemus* → not flattery, but **political necessity**
- *periculum sit in mora* → delay could embolden opposition or stall governance
- *hora nulla* → this is emergency language

This is exactly the sort of letter one sends to a **trusted ally**, not a marginal noble.

5. Summary judgment

- Your transcription is **excellent**
- The letter is a **high-urgency royal summons**
- The Count of Cardona is being treated as **indispensable**
- Joan's illness and delay explain the **compressed, almost anxious tone**
- This document fits perfectly into the **fragile opening weeks of Joan's reign**

If you'd like, next steps could include:

- locating **parallel summons letters** from 1387 for comparison
- analyzing whether this language escalates over time
- mapping Cardona's movements to see how quickly he responded

Just tell me how far you want to push it.

You said:

I would like more information about Hug II of Cardona. Please try to locate any scholarly articles or monographs about the connection between Hug II of Cardona and Joan I of Aragon.

ChatGPT said:

Thought for 1m 13s

Here's what I was able to locate in **scholarly / academic-facing publications online** that *explicitly* connects **Hug II (Hug Folc II) de Cardona (1328–1400)** with **King Joan I (r. 1387–1396)**—plus a few strong “next places to look” that usually pay off for this pairing.

Sources that directly mention Hug II's standing under Joan I

1) *Gran Enciclopèdia Catalana* (biographical entry: “Hug de Cardona”)

Not a journal article, but it's a **high-quality reference work** and gives the cleanest one-sentence summary of the relationship: Hug II was a favored counselor under Pere III and **“conservà aquesta privadesa durant el regnat de Joan I”** (kept that privileged access during Joan I's reign), even despite his friendship with Queen Sibila de Fortià; it also flags the **almirallat** being tied to the family. [enciclopedia.cat+1](#)

2) *Història de la Generalitat de Catalunya i dels seus presidents* (entry on Berenguer de Cruïlles)

This is a serious institutional-history venue (Enciclopèdia.cat umbrella) and contains a very relevant detail: it states that **in 1387 Joan I granted Hug II the admiralty across “all the realms,” as a life appointment** (and notes later replacement by his son). That's a concrete, Joan-I-specific patronage link. [enciclopedia.cat+1](#)

3) Andreu Galera i Pedrosa, “Senyoriu, sal i safrà...” (IEC / publicacions.iec.cat) — article-length study

This is a fully scholarly PDF (Institut d'Estudis Catalans platform). It's primarily economic/regional, but it includes **politically useful narrative** about the Cardona house's court connections, including the **admiralty** background (rooted in the fall of Bernat de Cabrera) and later integration of Cardona figures into royal affairs after Joan I's death. It's not *only* Joan I, but it gives you court-service context you can cite. [Publicacions IEC+1](#)

4) A. Galiana (2018), RACO-hosted PDF touching the office-history that leads to Hug II's promotion

This piece (hosted at RACO) is focused on naval command structures (capità general → admiralty). It explicitly notes the sequence by which the crown moved toward **elevating Hug II de Cardona to almirall**—useful for framing *why* Joan I would need him and rely on him. [RACO+1](#)

5) “Cort General de Motsó 1382–1384” (Parlament.cat PDF)

This is an edited documentary volume (parliamentary/cortes records) with indexing that places **Hug [II] comte de Cardona** and **Joan [I]** in the same documentary ecosystem. It's not a narrative monograph, but it's very handy for **prosopographical triangulation** and for

finding where Hug appears in governmental business in the 1380s (i.e., immediately pre-accession and early Joan I context). [Parlament de Catalunya+1](#)

6) Dissertation-level evidence of Joan I → Hug II gift/relationship (UAB thesis PDF)

A UAB dissertation (“El secret carmesí de la corona...”, 2025) includes a passage indicating distributions/entries in **Joan I’s chancery registers** that mention **the count of Cardona, Hug**, and his wife (in a list of recipients). This is not a dedicated Hug-II/Joan-I study, but it’s a **very promising modern secondary** that’s already mining the registers you care about. [Dipòsit Digital de Documents](#)

What I did not find (open-web limitation, but important)

I did **not** turn up a clearly titled, dedicated article/monograph like “Hug II de Cardona i Joan I” that is readily accessible online. That doesn’t mean it doesn’t exist—only that it’s not surfacing cleanly in open search results.

Given your project, the “highest-yield” move is usually to pivot from name-search to **office + reign** searches:

- *almirallat + Joan I + Cardona*
 - *consell reial / privat + Joan I + Cardona*
 - *Sibil·la de Fortià + Cardona* (because several sources explicitly juxtapose them) [enciclopedia.cat](#)
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Fast, practical leads for your next round of digging (especially ACA-friendly)

1. Track the 1387 admiralty grant in the chancery registers

You now have multiple secondary statements that **Joan I confirms/grants Hug II’s admiralty in 1387**. [enciclopedia.cat+1](#)

That’s an ideal anchor to:

- locate the register entry,
- see witnesses/councilors listed nearby,
- and then build the “connection dossier” from clustered documents.

2. Use the “privadesa/conseller” phrasing as a keyword strategy

The Enciclopèdia wording (“privadesa... durant el regnat de Joan I”) is a clue to how

Catalan historiography frames him. enciclopedia.cat

Searching that exact phrasing in library catalogs / Google Books previews often pops monographs that don't show up under English queries.

3. Mine the IEC and RACO ecosystems around Cardona scholarship

The Galera i Pedrosa IEC piece demonstrates there *is* a modern scholarly micro-field working from **Cardona archival fonds and municipal archives**. [Publicacions IEC](#)

Once you identify 2–3 recurring authors in that ecosystem, you can usually pull a web of related articles (even when none are explicitly titled for Joan I).

If you want, paste the **exact date** (or reg./fol.) of your Granollers summons letter, and I'll tailor a targeted bibliography hunt around that moment (1387 travel/illness + urgent summons) and around Hug II's court roles (especially admiralty/council). That tends to surface the *real* Joan–Cardona linkage literature faster than generic biography searching.

You said:

Ok, let's give that a try. The exact date is January 12, 1387. The archival reference is Register 1952 folio 8r.

ChatGPT said:

Thought for 1m 38s

Here's how I'd *normalize* your Latin (mostly punctuation + a couple of likely scribal/ear-of-the-transcriber fixes), then translate it, and then what we can responsibly say about **Hug (Folc) II of Cardona's** relationship with **Joan I**—especially in the first days of the reign.

1) Likely normalized Latin (with minimal intervention)

Your text is extremely close to a very standard chancery “urgent summons” formula. I'd punctuate and normalize it like this:

Cum nos, pro aliquibus arduis negotiis curiae nostrae, vos summum necessarium habeamus, dicimus et mandamus vobis expresse quod, visis praesentibus, omnibus aliis negotiis postpositis, ad nostram praesentiam personaliter accedatis; horam nullatenus mutetis seu eius [= id] differatis, cum periculum sit in mora. Datum in loco de Granollers.

Notes on the tweaks:

- **ardius** → **arduis** (very common; *arduus* = “arduous/pressing”)

- **negocis** → **negotiis**, **curie** → **curiae**, **exprise** → **expresse**, **presentum** → **praesentibus**, **onmibus** → **omnibus**, **postponits** → **postpositis**, **presencia** → **praesentiam**, **accedatum** → **accedatis**, **nullatum** → **nullatenus**, **in mora datum** → **periculum sit in mora; datum...**
- Your “**horam ...**” line reads like a *do not delay by even an hour* clause. Chancery Latin often uses *nullatenus + differatis / procrastinetis* type verbs in exactly this spot.

2) Translation (English)

Since, for certain difficult/pressing matters of our court, we consider you very necessary, we tell and expressly command you that, once you have seen these present letters, setting aside all other business, you are to come to our presence in person. You are not to delay even by an hour, nor postpone it, since there is danger in delay. Given at Granollers.

Tone/implication: This is not a “friendly invitation”—it’s an *urgent royal summons* that presumes (a) the recipient’s importance and (b) his availability/obligation to drop everything.

3) Context that supports your interpretation (illness + delay near Barcelona)

Your dating (**12 January 1387**) and place (**Granollers**) fit the well-attested situation right after Pere III’s death (5 Jan 1387): Joan I is *not immediately settled in Barcelona* and is associated with **Granollers** in these opening days, described in scholarship as convalescing there. Jaume Riera i Sans, discussing the first weeks of 1387, explicitly situates **Joan at Granollers “convalescent”** and notes major court business being conducted there in mid-January. [RACO+1](#)

So reading your letter as part of a moment when the new king is **physically delayed** but needs key magnates at hand is historically coherent.

4) What we can say about Hug II of Cardona ↔ Joan I (with sources)

Even without a dedicated monograph titled “Hug II and Joan I,” multiple reference works and court-focused studies treat Hug II as a **top-rank court actor** whose ties to the monarchy persist into Joan’s reign:

- **Royal councillor / court insider:** The *Gran Enciclopèdia Catalana* entry on Hug II (Hug Folc II) characterizes him as a favored counsellor of Pere III and says he **retained that closeness under Joan I**, despite being personally connected with Queen Sibila de Fortià (which mattered politically in 1387). [Enciclopedia](#)

- **High office (admiralty) connected to Joan I's reign:** Another *enciclopedia.cat* biography (in the Generalitat history series) states that **in 1387 Joan I granted Hug II the admiralty (almirallat) for life**, and notes succession of that office to his son later. [Enciclopedia](#)

Taken together, those points explain why Joan would write in this register-and-folio zone with a “drop everything and come” order: **Hug II was exactly the sort of magnate who could be required immediately for “ardua negotia curiae.”**

Why this matters for interpreting *your* letter

If the recipient is Hug II, the document reads less like “I’m sick; come visit” and more like:

- “The new reign is being stabilized”
- “Key personnel/policy decisions must be made now”
- “You are required in person—urgently—because delay is dangerous.”

That aligns well with the broader picture of **early-reign crisis-management** (post-Pere III, aftermath of Sibila’s faction, rapid appointments, etc.), which Riera i Sans also frames as intense court activity in precisely this window. [RACO](#)

5) Scholarship you can use immediately (and what each is good for)

Here are **credible starting points** you can cite or mine for footnotes and further bibliography:

1. **Jaume Riera i Sans**, “*El delfinat de Girona (1387–1388)*” — not about Cardona specifically, but very useful for **where the king is, what court business is happening**, and how the opening of 1387 is narrated from chancery traces (incl. Granollers context). [RACO](#)
2. **Enciclopèdia.cat (GEC)** entry on **Hug II de Cardona** — quick scholarly-reference overview emphasizing **court preeminence** and continued closeness under Joan I. [Enciclopedia](#)
3. **Enciclopèdia.cat (Història de la Generalitat...)** (biographical article that mentions Hug II) — useful for the claim about **Joan I granting the admiralty in 1387**. [Enciclopedia](#)
4. **Andreu Galera i Pedrosa**, *Senyoriu, sal i safrà... Cardona a l'alba del 1400* — later-focused (1390s/1400), but strong for **Cardona's comital power**, household, resources, and how the lineage functions politically as Joan I → Martí I transitions. [Publicacions IEC+1](#)

6) A practical next step (so you can tighten “Hug II ↔ Joan I” with precision)

Because you already have the *exact* archival pointer (**ACA, Canc., Reg. 1952, fol. 8r; 12 Jan 1387**), the fastest way to turn this into a rock-solid prosopographical datapoint is:

- extract the **recipient address line** and any **witness/notation** on fol. 8r (even just the first 2–3 lines), and
- confirm whether the letter is in the king’s voice as **Joan rex** (post-5 Jan) and whether the addressee is named *Hugo/Folco comes Cardonensis* (or similar).

If you paste the **address line** (even imperfectly), I can (a) lock the addressee form, (b) adjust the “horam” clause with higher confidence, and (c) suggest the most likely *kind* of “ardua negotia” in that specific week (appointments, security, factional trials, etc.) using parallels from other January 1387 letters.

If you want, paste just:

- the **salutatio/address** (often starts with *Dilecto/Perdilecto...*), and
- the **final dating line** as it appears on the folio.

ChatGPT can make mistakes. Check important info.