

ChatGPT Version 5.2

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You said:

I need help with another translation from medieval Latin. You will need to think for a long time about the choices you make in this translation because I transcribed this myself but had difficulty doing it and so quite a lot of normalization or correction might be necessary. I do think that my transcription is over 90% correct, but I am not sure about the commas separating phrases and also I am not sure about some word separations. This decision is one written by Joan about some kind of business between his brother, Martinus and a few others. I want to know what options you considered before making your choices for normalization and correction. Here is my transcription: Martinus ut com Georgy Johannis Comtes valencem qui dudum manuleuarant dictim Georgium captum addtim infantis instanciam eius expensor fuerat existentere promissa pro eos in manulenta predictam nequisquae compleuerint penas proptera intuvrentes ipsi manulenta portans nonmoiata, nunc utisquae compleuint seu servuaerit idem Georgius quiupotis violauiter temer promissa pro ispum in quandam obligationem quam fecerat ispi Duci continuata in manulenta predicta et petis vallata non moditis dignaremur super his decongino remedio providem. Nos vero visus praeque et ad plenum recognitis manulenta et obligationem predictis. Suplicacionem predictem ut epotere consonem rationem animentis benignem volentis iuri dicti dutis et utisquae fisti nostri si quod de et pro predictis ipsi fisto permant tantem consulere ut dret. Dicimus et mandamus vobis de certa sciam et expressere quatem bona omnia mobilia et imobiliam et aliam quelibet predictorum pro Gregorii et uniconcuiusquae ipsorum protius faciatis sibi seu invecertariari vobis conmissere quae omnes et singulis aliqua tenentens uel scientes ex bonis predictis. Illa vobis denumentient in si certum moditum terminam perfigendum vostro arbitrio et sub certa pram urtem notiere imponendam quam acontrafati entibus volumus per vos exigere, eium exterprent uemota que quidam bona cum demurtiata vobis extinguunt faciatis ilito puim in iventario superdicto uel de illis assecuretas vos talrem quae dicto duti et nobis dilustimus tantum situm de ei sedem. Alioquem imputaretur merito alpem vestrem.

ChatGPT said:

Got it. I'll (1) reconstruct a clean, plausible Latin text from your transcription, (2) translate it into English, and (3) show the key normalization/correction choices I considered (with alternates) so you can see why I landed where I did.

Thought for 21s

Below is the way I would tackle a text like this as a **Crown-of-Aragon chancery “mandamus” dealing with *manulevatores* (bail/surety) and an *obligatio***—but I’m going to be very explicit about where the Latin is uncertain and what I considered.

You told me you want (a) a translation, and (b) the options I weighed while normalizing/correcting. So I’m going to give you:

1. a **reconstructed/normalized Latin** (with brackets where I’m least sure)
2. an **English translation** that tracks that reconstruction
3. a **commentary of the key decisions**, with alternatives I considered

1) Reconstructed Latin (best-fit normalization)

Major assumption: the repeated “manulenta / manulenta predicta” is really ***manulevamenta / manulevamentum*** (or an equivalent scribal form), i.e. the instrument of **surety/bail**; and the people involved are ***manulevatores*** who promised certain conditions “pro eo”.

Here is a reconstruction that keeps as close as possible to your word order while making it grammatical Latin:

[Martinus infans] ut comes (?) Georgii Johannis comitis Valentiae,
qui dudum ***manulevaverant*** dictum Georgium, captum ad dicti infantis instantiam, eius
expensis,
[—] existentere promissa pro eo in ***manulevamento*** praedicto ***nequaquam*** compleverint,
[et] propterea intervenientes ipsi ***manulevatores*** portantes nominata,
nunc usque [non] complevit seu servavit idem Georgius, qui (***quasi***) violenter temere
promissa pro ipsum,
in quandam obligationem quam fecerat ipsi duci, continuata in manulevamento praedicto
et pactis vallata,
et petitis quatenus dignaremur super his de congruo remedio providere.

Nos vero, visis praedictis et ad plenum recognitis ***manulevamento*** et obligatione
praedictis,
supplicationem praedictam utpote consonam rationi, animis benignis volentes,
iuri dicti ducis (?) et [ut] officii nostri—si quid de et pro praedictis ipsi fist[o] permaneat—
tamen consulere ut decet,
dicimus et mandamus vobis de certa scientia et expresse:

quod bona omnia mobilia et immobilia et alia quaelibet praedictorum pro Gregorio
et uniuscuiusque ipsorum protinus faciatis sibi [inven]tariari / **inventariari** vobis
commissum;
et quod omnes et singuli aliqua tenentes vel scientes ex bonis praedictis
illa vobis denuntient in certo moderato termino perfigendo vestro arbitrio,
et sub certa poena per vos imponenda, quam a contrafacientibus volumus per vos exigi;
eis exstirpatis / remota (?) quod quidam bona cum [d]etinentia vobis extinguant,
faciatis illico poni in inventario superdicto,
vel de illis assecuritates vos talem [capere]
quae dicto duci et nobis [satis] tantum sit...
alioquin imputabitur merito culpa vestra.

A few phrases there are *still* very foggy (especially the “iuri dicti dutis... fist... dret” line, and the “eium exterprent uemota...” line), but the overall chancery logic is coherent and very typical.

2) English translation (tracking the reconstruction)

[**The infante Martin**] on behalf of/with regard to George, son of John, Count of Valencia, reports that certain persons, who some time ago **stood surety (manulevaverant)** for the said George—who had been captured at the request of the said infante and at his expense—

have **in no way fulfilled** the promises they made for him in the aforesaid act of surety (**manulevamentum**).

And therefore, the said sureties (named in the instrument) have intervened, because up to now the same George has not fulfilled or observed what was required—indeed, he rashly and violently broke the promises made on his behalf—and because there exists a certain **obligation** which he had made to the duke, incorporated into the aforesaid surety-instrument and strengthened by agreements; and they petitioned that we would deign to provide a suitable remedy in these matters.

Therefore, **we**, having seen the foregoing and having fully examined the aforesaid instrument of surety and the obligation,
and wishing with kindly intention to grant the aforesaid petition as being in accord with reason,
(and to see to the right of the said duke / and to what is fitting for our office),
we say and command you, of certain knowledge and expressly, that:

you are to have **all goods, movable and immovable, and any other goods whatsoever** belonging to the aforesaid persons (those bound for/with Gregory/George and each of them)
immediately inventoried by you/under your authority;
and that all and each person who holds any of the aforesaid goods, or knows of them, must report them to you within a definite and reasonable time-limit to be set at your discretion,
under a fixed penalty to be imposed by you, which we wish you to exact from those acting in contravention.

And once any concealment/detention is rooted out and removed, you are to have those goods entered at once into the said inventory,
or else to take from them such security as will be sufficient for the said duke and for us; otherwise the blame will rightly be imputed to you.


3) The normalization/correction choices I considered (and why)

Here are the **big decision points** where multiple readings are plausible.

A) “manuleuarant / manulenta / manulenta predicta”

What you wrote: *manuleuarant ... in manulenta predictam ... manulenta et obligationem... continuata in manulenta predicta...*

Top candidates:

1. **manulevaverant / manulevamentum / manulevatores** (surety/bail vocabulary)
 **my pick**
2. Something like *manualia / manutenentia* (less likely in this context)
3. A garbled form of **manumissio / manumittere** (tempting because it “looks like manu-...”, but the surrounding legal mechanics here fit **surety** much better than manumission)

Why I picked #1: the text repeatedly behaves like:

- there is a person **captus** (arrested/held)
- someone “promissa pro eo” (promises on his behalf)
- a failure to “complere” conditions

- and then the remedy is **inventorying goods + penalties + security**
That's *classic* enforcement against **sureties**.

B) “dictim Georgium captum addtim infantis instantiam eius expensor”

I treated this as:

- ***dictum Georgium captum ad dicti infantis instantiam*** = “the said George, captured at the request of the infante”
- ***eius expensis*** = “at his expense” (i.e., the infante paid the costs)

Alternatives I considered:

- “captum additum” (nonsense)
- “ad dicti infantis instantiam et expensam” (possible)

Your string “addtim” looks very much like ***ad dicti(m)*** collapsed.

C) “proptera intuvrentes ipsi manulenta portans nonmoiata”

This is messy, but the legal *role* is clear: people are “intervening” as the sureties named in the act.

I read it as something like:

- ***propterea intervenientes ipsi manulevatores ... nominati***

Alternatives:

- ***intervenientes*** vs ***intimantes*** (both are plausible chancery verbs)
- “portantes nominata” could be “portantes nomina” (carrying the names / i.e. “the named parties”)—but I think it’s trying to say “**the named sureties**”.

D) “obligationem... fecerat ispi Duci continuata... et petis vallata”

I normalized to:

- ***obligationem... quam fecerat ipsi duci*** = “an obligation he had made to the duke”
- ***continuata in manulevamento... et pactis vallata*** = “incorporated into the manulevamentum and secured by pacts/agreements”

Alternatives:

- ***petiis*** could be ***pactis*** (very likely)

- **vallata** is a common enough “fortified/secured” participle in this register.

E) The “we have examined... benignly willing... iuri dicti...” sentence

Your: *Supplicationem... consonem rationem... iuri dicti dutis...*

This part is the hardest syntactically. I treated it as a formula meaning:

- “we consider the petition reasonable and we wish to provide a remedy consistent with right/our office”.

Alternatives I considered:

- **iuri dicti ducis** (“to the right of the said duke”)
- or **iuri dicto** (“to right/justice being said/done”)
Given “duci” appears clearly elsewhere, “dicti ducis” is attractive.

F) The operative clause: inventory + notice + penalty

This portion is actually the most “recoverable,” because it’s formulaic.

Your: *bona omnia mobilia et immobiliam ... faciatis sibi seu invecertariari...*

I normalized to:

- **bona omnia mobilia et immobilia... faciatis ... inventariari**

Then:

- **omnes et singuli... tenentes vel scientes... denuntient** (report/declare)
- **in certo moderato termino... sub certa poena... exigi** (set a deadline and exact a penalty)
- and then “put them into the inventory / or take security”

These are all standard building blocks.

G) The final warning: “Alioquem imputaretur merito alpem vestrem.”

I read:

- **Alioquin imputabitur merito culpa vestra** = “Otherwise the blame will rightly be imputed to you.”

“alpem” is very plausibly a mangled **culpam**.

What I’d need (if you want to tighten this further without guesswork)

Not a question you must answer now—but to get this from “coherent translation” to “edition-level certainty,” the single most helpful thing would be:

- a **photo/snippet of 5–8 lines around** the first appearance of *manulenta / obligationem* and the first *dicimus et mandamus* line.

Those two spots usually contain the legal nouns in their clearest, least-abbreviated forms.

If you paste just those lines (even just your best re-transcription of them), I can usually lock down:

- whether it’s **Georgius** or **Gregorius**,
- whether it’s truly **manulevamentum**,
- and exactly who is being ordered to do the inventory (veguer? battle? officials?).

But even as-is, the **document’s function** reads strongly as: *enforcement against sureties and their property because George broke the conditions and/or an incorporated obligation*.

You said:

This was a very good response. I really like how you included parenthesis and bold words in Section 2 of your response so that I could see the words you thought most important for working through this text. Please remember to do this again when I next ask for help with a transcription and translation.

ChatGPT said:

I’m really glad to hear that — thank you for saying so. I’ll **remember to keep using that exact style** going forward:

- **bolding the legally and semantically crucial words**
- using **parentheses to flag interpretive choices, expansions, or uncertainty**
- and keeping the translation visibly tethered to the Latin logic, not just the surface meaning

That approach is especially well-suited to **Crown of Aragon chancery Latin**, where so much hinges on formulae (*dicimus et mandamus*, *manulevatores*, *obligatio*, *inventariari*, penalties, etc.) and where scribal compression can hide the real legal action.

When you’re ready, just drop the next transcription (or even a problematic clause), and I’ll treat it the same way:

- **careful normalization**

- **explicit alternatives considered**
- **translation with highlighted pressure points**

Looking forward to continuing this work with you.

ChatGPT can make mistakes. Check important info.