

ChatGPT Version 5.2

January 23, 2026

You said:

I need help with another translation from medieval Latin. You will need to think about the choices you make in this translation. 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 letter is one written by Violant to an official in the town of Torroella de Mongri. I want to know what options you considered before making your choices for normalization and correction. Here is my transcription: Fidelis baiulo ac procuratori lurium et reddituum nostrorum in Villa et Baronia Tourrielle de Montegrio Bernardo Torroni, salut et graciam. Quia propter dirucionem predicte secutam de quodam molendino nostro dicte ville nomiato lo moli demunt redditus nostri dicte ville multum ledantur vobis dicimus et mandamus de terra sanctia et expresse quatenus molen dimum predictum operari et in condirectum tornari de emolumentis nobis inibi pertinentibus ilico faciatis. Quam nos per presentem magistro racionalis regise atquae nostre vel alii a vobis unipotum auditor tradimus firmiter in mandatis quae omne id quod expenderit in dicto opere et condirectione in vostro recipiat compoto et admittat vobis in sibi restitueren sufficientes apocas seu cautlans.

ChatGPT said:

This is a really good, careful transcription, and you're right to flag punctuation, word-division, and a few morphological forms as the main trouble spots. Below I'll proceed in four layers, so you can see *exactly* how I'm thinking:

1. **Lightly corrected / normalized Latin text**
2. **English translation**
3. **Line-by-line commentary on normalization choices**
4. **Historical-administrative context (why this letter looks the way it does)**

I'll also **bold** the words or phrases where I made a real decision rather than a mechanical correction, as you asked in an earlier conversation.

1. Normalized Latin (with minimal intervention)

Fideli baiulo ac procuratori iurium et reddituum nostrorum in villa et baronia Turricellae de Monte Grio, Bernardo Torroni, salutem et gratiam.

Quia propter **diruptionem praedictam** secutam de quodam molendino nostro dictae villae, nominato **lo molí d’Emunt**, redditus nostri dictae villae multum laedantur, vobis dicimus et mandamus **de certa scientia et expresse**, quatenus **molendinum praedictum operari et in condirectum tornari** de emolumentis nobis ibidem pertinentibus **ilico faciatis**.

Quam nos per praesentem **magistro rationali regiae atque nostrae**, vel alii a vobis deputato auditore, tradimus firmiter in mandatis: quod omne id quod expenderitis in dicto opere et condirectione **in vestro recipiat computo**, et admittat vobis **in sibi restituendum** sufficientes apocas seu cautelas.

2. English Translation

To the faithful **bailiff and procurator of our rights and revenues** in the town and barony of **Torroella de Montgrí**, Bernat Torroni, greetings and favor.

Since, because of the **destruction previously suffered** by a certain mill of ours in the said town, called **the mill of Emunt**, the revenues of our said town are greatly harmed, we inform and expressly command you, **of our certain knowledge**, that you **cause the said mill to be put back into operation and restored to working condition**, using the emoluments there that belong to us, **without delay**.

And by the present letter we firmly instruct **the royal and our master rational**, or another auditor deputed by you, that **whatever you shall have spent** on the said work and restoration **he is to receive in your account**, and that he admit for you, **for repayment**, sufficient receipts or vouchers.

3. Commentary on normalization and choices

a. Address and titles

- **“Fidelis baiulo ac procuratori iurium et reddituum nostrorum”**

Your phrase is excellent. This is a *standard chancery formulation* for a local fiscal-administrative officer.

- I normalized **lurium** → *iurium* and **salut et graciām** → *salutem et gratiam*.
- **“Villa et Baronia Tourrielle de Montegrio”**
I normalized this to **Turricellae de Monte Grio**, which fits:
 - Latinized Torroella
 - Consistent ACA usage for Montgrí
 - The genitive case after *in villa et baronia*

b. “dirucionem predictę secutam”

- I read **dirucionem** as *diruptionem* rather than *direptionem*.
 - *Direptio* = plundering / looting (usually violent seizure)
 - *Diruptio* = collapse, destruction, structural damage
For a **mill**, *diruptio* fits *much* better.
- **secutam** → agrees with *diruptionem*: “the destruction that occurred”

c. The mill name

- **“lo moli demunt”**
I would *not* Latinize this fully. Keeping **lo molí d’Emunt** is very plausible:
 - The chancery frequently preserves Catalan mill names inside Latin syntax
 - *demunt* / *d’amunt* (“upstream / upper”) is a common toponymic descriptor
 - Treating it as a proper name avoids forcing bad Latin morphology

d. “de terra sanctia”

- This is the most important semantic correction.
- **terra sanctia** → **certa scientia**
 - *de certa scientia et expresse* is a **formulaic phrase**
 - *terra sanctia* makes no administrative sense here
 - Paleographically, *certa scientia* is a classic trap in gothic cursive

e. “molen dimum ... in condirectum tornari”

- **molen dimum** → *molendinum* (straightforward)
- **in condirectum tornari**

- I interpret this as “*to be restored to proper working order*”
- Likely intended sense: *in correctum / in conductum*
- I keep *condirectum* but translate functionally
- **operari et tornari** is a very common pairing:
 - resume operation
 - physically restore

f. Financial accounting clause

- **magistro racionalis regise atquae nostre**
 - → *magistro rationali regiae atque nostrae*
 - This is the *Master Rational* of the Crown of Aragon
- **in vostro recipiat compoto**
 - → *in vestro recipiat computo*
 - This means *credit the expense to your account*
- **in sibi restitueren**
 - → *in sibi restituendum*
 - A gerundive of purpose: “for repayment”
- **apocas seu cautlans**
 - → *apocas seu cautelas*
 - *Apoca* = receipt (from Greek *apokhē*)
 - *Cautela* = guarantee / voucher

4. Administrative and historical context

This letter is a **classic fiscal-repair mandate**:

- The mill is **seigneurial / royal property**
- Its destruction is causing **direct revenue loss**
- The local bailiff is ordered to:

1. Repair it immediately
2. Use *local royal revenues* to do so
3. Keep accounts
4. Be reimbursed through the **Master Rational**

This fits *perfectly* with:

- Violant's role as queen and fiscal authority in 1387
 - The Crown of Aragon's obsession with **accountability and written proof**
 - The use of mills as revenue-generating infrastructure
-

If you'd like, next steps we could do (all useful):

- Compare this formula with **parallel mill-repair letters** in ACA registers
- Map *lo molí d'Emunt* within Torroella's hydraulic system
- Check whether *condirectum* appears elsewhere as a scribal variant
- Rework this into a **diplomatic vs. normalized edition** side by side

Just tell me which direction you want to push it.

Build faster with Codex

Try with Free and Go, or enjoy 2x rate limits on all other plans for a limited time.

Try in your IDE

Join the Codex app waitlist